



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

2nd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 40

Monday, November 27, 2006

Pages 2408 – 2476

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, November 27, 2006

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Joe Allen Evyagotailak, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Honourable 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): I would ask that Mr. Picco lead us in prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Premier, Ministers, especially Minister Brown, welcome back. Also on my left Mr. Alagalak, welcome. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister for Health and Social Services.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 126 – 2(3): Maternal Care Workers – Students Graduate**

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to announce that we have two graduates from the first Nunavut Maternity Care Worker Diploma Program: Diane Tiktak and Rachel Jones are the first to complete this innovative pilot project soon to be followed by the six students now enrolled in the one-year long program.

The second year program is being developed in consultation with an Inuit Advisory Committee. Once the second year of the program is finalized it will be possible to earn a Maternal Care Worker Diploma. Credits earned in Nunavut can be applied towards a four-year long degree in Midwifery offered by the Manitoba University College of the North.

Mr. Speaker, Rachel Jones and Diane Tiktak are the first in Nunavut to earn the Maternal Care Worker certificates. They are now formally qualified to provide culturally appropriate pre-natal and post-natal care. The department is making real progress in turning the dreams of a full-fledged Midwifery Program in Nunavut into reality.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Nunavut Arctic College as a partner in many of the training programs currently being offered to train Nunavummiut to work in the health and social services field. I commend Diane Tiktak and Rachel Jones for their dedication to their studies and their willingness to take a new path.

Mr. Speaker, I will also ask that the committee that started that Maternal Care Program; the founding mothers be recognized at this time: Rosie Oolooyuk, Rosemary Brown, Levinia Brown, Joyce England, and last, but certainly not least, Naujak Williams. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Congratulations to the graduates. Ministers' Statements.
Minister Brown.

Minister's Statement 127 – 2(3): Municipal Leadership Forums

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update the members of this House on the recent meetings of mayors and senior administrative officers in the three regions.

Community and Government Services, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut provide financial assistance to communities in order to enable them to take part of in these regional leadership forums on an annual basis.

In addition to financial support Mr. Speaker, Community and Government Services' staff in each region provide logistical and support services to each forum as well.

Mr. Speaker, these forums provide a venue in which mayors can discuss items of regional and common concerns in order to identify solutions as well as bring these issues to the attention of government.

Over the past six weeks leadership forums have taken place in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, and Rankin Inlet. In my capacity as Minister of Community and Government Services I have attended all three leadership forums this year.

>> *Applause*

My attendance allowed me to have open discussions with community leaders and has given me a bit of insight into the issues and challenges our communities are facing. The meetings also allowed me to convey to community leaders some of the challenges we as government must also face in our operations.

Mr. Speaker, leadership forums provide an excellent opportunity for Government of Nunavut officials to consult with municipal leaders on new and existing programs and issues.

I thank those departments that sent representatives to these meetings and I strongly encourage all government departments to be represented at future forums and actively participate in the meetings with community leaders.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Brown. Minister's Statements. Mr. Netser.

Minister's Statement 128 – 2(3): “Polar Bears: A Guide to Safety”

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut is experiencing unprecedented levels of community, industrial, and tourism development.

As human presence continues to rise, there is an increasing danger that both people and polar bears are being unnecessarily harmed. Each year polar bears are shot in defence of life and property.

In addition, although human injury is rare, it does occasionally happen. You may remember that following an attack by a polar bear in Katannilik Park, my predecessor, Minister Akesuk commissioned an independent review of the department's response to the incident and made several recommendations to enhance visitor safety.

Mr. Speaker, the recommendations included the development of a polar bear safety video that would be mandatory viewing for all visitors registering for a trip in a park. Since then, we have been working with the “Safety in Bear Country Society,” Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Parks Canada, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, as well as hunters and industry, to produce a polar bear ‘guide to safety’ video in DVD format.

Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to announce that with our partners we have completed the production of the DVD - the first ever information piece on polar bear and human behaviour. And Mr. Speaker, Mr. Akesuk is the star in this video. No he's not...

>>*Laughter*

In Inuktitut, English, and French, and later on this week, I will be tabling the DVD. The DVD has already been integrated into the Nunavut Parks Registration process for Katannilik Park and will be incorporated into registration programs for other territorial parks.

Copies will be made available to communities through our offices throughout Nunavut and visitor centres. We also encourage outfitters and guides operating in Nunavut to purchase the DVD from the Safety in Bear Country Society.

All proceeds go directly back into awareness and education programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 129 – 2(3): Qalattuq – 10-Year Educator Training Strategy 2006-2016

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that later today I will be providing Members the Assembly with the Qalattuq report. This strategy maps out a 10-Year Educator Training Strategy for Nunavut. There are six major objectives included for improving the cultural and linguistic foundation of our education system as well as providing and updating direction for a much needed revitalization and enhancements to the educator preparation program.

Mr. Speaker, these objectives which came out of the very hard work of an Expert Panel established this past spring are:

1. To establish a school of education
2. To strengthen partnerships
3. To renew the Nunavut Teacher Education Program
4. To support graduates and experienced teachers
5. To enhance other educational training
6. To revitalize teacher re-certification

We'll be moving forward developing a full implementation plan to address the recommendations of the strategy. This strategy will enhance the cultural and linguistic foundation of our education system through the preparation and support of our educators who will work towards a fully realized bilingual education strategy.

I would like to take this opportunity Mr. Speaker, to thank the co-chairs of the working committee Ms. Nellie Kusugak and Jacqui Bishop for their hard work and dedication for the past several months for working on this report.

Mr. Speaker, an update on the progress will be provided during the next session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 130 – 2(3): Heavy Equipment Operator Training

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues about the success of the heavy equipment operator training being provided to Nunavut residents through the Department of Education.

The Operating Engineers Training Institution of Ontario is located in Morrisburg. The institute has successful, quality training programs with the support and sponsorship of industry, Human Resources and Social Development Canada, the Ontario government, aboriginal and international organizations.

Nunavut residents selected to attend to this school receive training on two pieces of heavy equipment. All students receive training on the Tractor/Loader/Backhoe and then they are given the option of selecting their second piece of equipment, either on the excavator or the bulldozer.

Training consists of two weeks of theory followed by four weeks of practical training for each piece of equipment. Mr. Speaker, the two weeks of classroom consists of certification for safety training courses, pre-operational inspections, equipment, maintenance, and transportation of heavy equipment. These certifications are mandatory on many construction sites.

There are six students assigned to an instructor and students are evaluated on an on-going basis throughout the training program. More frequent evaluations are given if the student is experiencing difficulty. The OETIO arranges for interpreter-translators if any of our students require assistance.

Mr. Speaker, by the end of March 2007, the institute will have graduated over 60 heavy equipment operators from across Nunavut. The Department of Education is working in partnership with the Municipal Training Organization, Kivalliq partners and Kakivak Association to ensure that as many Nunavummiut as possible are able to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 320 – 2(3): Recognition of CBC Employees from Arviat

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to have finally made it to Iqaluit to join my colleagues; if I had a dog team I would have been here a long time ago but I don't have a dog team so I couldn't be here sooner.

I rise today to express my appreciation for the good work that is being done by two people from Arviat. It seems not just for the people of Arviat, but for the people of the Kivalliq region. Those two are Mr. John Main, and Mr. Kevin Kablutsiak. Both work for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, or CBC.

On behalf of the people of Arviat I would like to thank Mr. Main and Mr. Kablutsiak for their outgoing attitude and their delivery of the news. It is nice to hear the Arviat dialect, or *Arviarmiutatitut*, and it is very easy to understand what they are talking about on CBC radio.

I would like to encourage them to keep up the good work in bringing the news to the people of the Kivalliq and Nunavut. They're very professional at what they do and I wanted to thank them for doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 321 – 2(3): Government of Nunavut's Position on the Edward Horne Case

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about an impact that has touched the people of Sanikiluaq. The Nunavut Government and the Government of the Northwest Territories did a good thing in the past years when they made an agreement about the case of Edward Horne, and they were in agreement to do something about it.

This has hurt a lot of people in the North and it has had an impact on a lot of people, but we were happy that they were able to make a settlement without having to go to court. It was good to hear that the people in the communities that were abused were being helped.

(interpretation ends) The community does not understand why the government has now decided to dispute a more recent statement of claim that was brought up by a number of victims. I believe that the government owes a clear explanation to the community of Sanikiluaq on this issue. I believe that the government should have approached this situation in the same way that they did earlier and reach a settlement.

Mr. Speaker, I reviewed the statement of claim that has been filed with the government; it is a public document. In the statement of defense the government says, "There is no solid connection between the alleged assault, attentive pain, suffering, and anguish."

I did not understand how our government could say such a thing. I believe that I will be writing a formal letter to the Minister of Justice on this issue.

(interpretation) I would like to get consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. The member is asking for consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Go ahead, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues. (interpretation ends) I will be tabling the letter in this House, and I sincerely hope that he provides me with a reply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 322 – 2(3): Kugluktuk Arena Still Not Open

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update members on a situation faced by hockey players and the fans of Kugluktuk: there is still no ice in the Kugluktuk arena. This is a shame.

A year ago I rose in the House to tell members about the quality of ice in the arena. Hockey players were playing on slush. Many members have raised the issue of youth boredom and the damage that some youth cause in community's infrastructure and private property.

When the youth parliamentarians sat in this House earlier this month, they discussed the needs of recreation facilities to give the youth a place to go and activities to become involved in.

Mr. Speaker, the youth parliamentarian of Kugluktuk; Elaine Topilak, mentioned the many ways the Kugluktuk Grizzlies contribute to the community as a whole. The volunteer base exists in the community to fully use the arena and to create programs that contribute to the health and well-being.

In February I shared with members the work the Hamlet of Kugluktuk has done in getting quotes to complete the installation of the artificial ice system. It is estimated that it will cost \$230,000 to install the system.

Mr. Speaker, I was hopeful that new federal funding for community infrastructure would be used to finally get the Kugluktuk arena up and running. The 2007-08 capital plan includes several arena projects in other communities but there are no plans for completing the Kugluktuk arena.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to have unanimous consent to complete my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is asking for consent to conclude his statements. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my fellow members.

I encourage the Ministers of Community and Government Services and Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to find a solution to this problem.

Mr. Speaker, the 2007 Arctic Winter Games is being held in Whitehorse. It would be nice if the people of Kugluktuk would be on the ice practicing to be able to represent our Territory at the games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to welcome to the Gallery a well-known individual across Nunavut and indeed the circumpolar world, the star of her own cooking show, soap opera, singer, actress extraordinaire, and Emcee at the Annual Pangnirtung Music Festival at times, it gives me great pleasure to introduce that entrepreneur, and wonderful person; Oleepeeka Veevee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Alagalak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 361 – 2(3): Community Funding for Breakwaters

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was waiting for somebody else to raise their hand before I did. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the minister responsible for transport, wharfs, and breakwaters.

First I'd like to ask, in the five-year capital plan, what projects is the Government of Nunavut funding? Because it states there are seven communities. Which communities are those seven that will be assisted with wharfs in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister for Economic Development and Transportation. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The seven communities include Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Clyde River, Pangnirtung, Chesterfield Inlet. I'm not too sure on the other two. Let me check. I indicated four from Baffin region. Repulse Bay, Chesterfield

Inlet and community of Kugaaruk in the Kitikmeot. Those seven are mentioned where we've requested funding from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't too sure which communities were going to be assisted. In my community there are hunters, not just hunters...every time they come into community they go through great difficulty. I have mentioned this in the past: there are a lot of waves and rough waters.

I'd like to ask the minister again. It seems like we're ignoring the port that they started which was never completed. And it's not an exactly a shelter. And it's not being used. I wonder when this will be completed by the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding that we have is never enough and we have to request the funding and there are a lot of communities in Nunavut who request ports. This is often a request of the communities that I visit.

We have not forgotten about that. We want to, once we have better access for funding, we want to be able to supply them with ports. We will be asking for funding again from the federal government for those communities. We don't want to leave any community out, and how else we can get more funding for those projects that are not completed in their communities from our government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is always the case for the last three year years I have brought this up and the hamlet of our community keeps bringing it up too because they have to jump off their boats when they land because their boats might be damaged, especially in rough waters, if they don't do that.

There is usually some emergency funding that is under the responsibility of the minister, and we should have some access to those.

I wonder, before next summer, I wonder if this can be considered by next spring because we definitely have to have it done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated earlier, we are aware that all the communities are in need of those wharves, or ports and especially when they start losing their hunting equipment.

We are forever looking for funds because they would be very beneficial to the communities, as in my community of Cape Dorset, the waters can get quite harsh and we have great difficulty too.

So we will definitely try and come up with more funding to address this major concern in Nunavut. We try and lobby the federal government to provide us with the funding so they can be built in those communities. Thank you.

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

Question 362 – 2(3): Program Funding

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Economic Development. I think this government has gone on the record as part of their mandate that wants to try and boost the economy and help to develop the private sector economy in Nunavut and I think we all know that the government department itself can't do it by itself.

I know for example, here in the Baffin region, the government has an agreement with the Baffin Business Development Center to administer some of its programs for them. Is the minister aware, I'd like to ask him if he's aware who administers those programs on behalf of his department in the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We provide funding to Nunavut Business Credit Corporation to provide support for the private businesses in Baffin region and it's like, we would like to see the same system established in Kitikmeot and Keewatin region to provide support for all of the businesses. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I'll rephrase it a little bit differently to get an answer from the minister. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if the Kivalliq Partners in Development and Kivalliq or Keewatin Business Development Corporation or whatever is KDBC, administers programs on behalf of his department in Kivalliq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we work with them under Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So then is the minister saying that an agreement between KDBC and Kivalliq, KDIP, KPIP, I guess, Kivalliq Partners in Development, those agreements are between Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and those organizations and in fact not between himself as minister of the department, and those individual organizations individually? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The government is involved with Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, so therefore, we are involved. We provide funding as a government to Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, and we are responsible for it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister always seems to be referring to Nunavut Business Credit Corporation which I'm not asking about. He tabled their annual report. I think we all know about that.

My questions were on the Kivalliq Business Development Centre, I think it's called KBDC and Partners in Development.

My question for the minister is this: if they provide funding directly from their department to these organizations what mechanism do they have in place to allow that to happen? Is it a contribution agreement? Is it a memorandum of understanding? Is it just a separate contract in which they're going to deliver these programs and services for the department? Whatever the mechanism is that is in place, what mechanisms are in place to ensure that those funds are being dispensed properly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We have policies on how we allocate funding, and we have to treat everyone equally. We have policies, and we do work closely with these entities, and we want to work closely with those entities in the future.

We have to abide by the legislation and by the policies of the government. So, as a government, we have to abide by our regulations. Thank you.

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

Question 363 – 2(3): Funding to Build Cabins

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

Mr. Speaker, last summer, although I've asked this question a few times...while I was away on a boat last summer I had found a baby bowhead whale that floated up, and it burst up, and it was impossible to go to it because there were a lot of polar bears.

Around Repulse Bay all summer long and all spring long, the polar bears are very abundant, and they're all over the place. The hunters have been losing their equipment due to polar bear disturbances and they can't even camp overnight now because of the fear of polar bears. They were able to overnight previously, but they can no longer do that due to the abundance of polar bears.

My question is: do you have any funding available to provide support to hunters so that they can start building wooden cabins? I was wondering if the department can provide some kind of funding to build cabins for the hunters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have no funding at this time in regard to your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the equipment that has been lost by hunters because of the polar bears, whether they are tents or equipment, do you have any funding to compensate the hunters for that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think we have any funding at all for that sort of thing, but we do have, I could be wrong, but we probably have some for disaster compensation. We probably have disaster or for weather compensation but I cannot really tell you exactly what we have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that we hear that the polar bears are at risk, but they're all over the place. In view of that, could the minister look

into that because I know that the polar bear management involves a lot of other entities and we hear that polar bear management to be dealt with by many people and entities, and we hear that the polar bear population is declining, but it doesn't seem like that in our communities.

Could the minister consider setting aside some funds to be used by the hunters so that they could purchase wood to build cabins? That is the only way now that we can provide assistance to the hunters, especially when they're hunting for subsistence, especially when they have to hunt far from the community.

I was wondering if the minister can set up some funding for that kind. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Environment, Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we have to look for funding for those kinds of programs or services, we have to seek funding from Financial Management Board, so therefore I would be willing to ask Financial Management Board for some funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Or at least increase the quota so we can increase the quota for polar bear harvesting. I would like you to think seriously about this suggestion that I have because in the non-decentralized communities the majority of the men are full-time hunters in all of my constituencies, especially in Kugaaruk. There are a lot of polar bears in Kugaaruk, and a lot of polar bears in Repulse Bay. The majority of the men are hunters.

So I was wondering if the minister would seriously look into looking for funds to be used for those community hunter and trapper organizations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to tell my colleague that as soon as this funding is available, I will let him know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 364 – 2(3): Changes to Fuel Rebate for Hunters

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. On April 1, 2006 there was a gasoline fuel rebate instituted by the government, but of course, the hunters are having a hard time keeping up with the increasing price of fuel. They're having a very hard time, especially here in Nunavut.

Are you going to be making any changes to the fuel rebate rates for the communities?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We found that it was quite hard to get the rebate and we are in the process of making changes to the forms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Mr. Minister. The hunters sometimes don't get any receipts. If they do a community hunt they can only apply for 25 percent of the cost that they incur. Are you going to be making any changes to the 25 percent that the hunters are eligible to get these days?

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): We are making changes and our department is concerned about the 25 percent limit. We are in the process of making changes and they will be made available to hunters and anybody who is eligible. We'll do all we can to make the changes so that they it will be easier to apply.

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

Question 365 – 2(3): Cambridge Bay Health Centre

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

Mr. Speaker, in Cambridge Bay in October 2005 we opened the new health facility and many of us were there. Today, it is approximately 50 percent operational depending on who I ask on a particular day.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House when she expects the facility to be 100 percent or close to 100 percent operational to provide the broad range of services for which it was intended? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since that time we've made progress in our recruitment of staff for the new health centre. There are additional programs that are now being offered which started this summer. An example is the adult day program for the community.

We are moving slowly in the recruitment process for a number...a couple of things. First, in order to extend the full services of the health centre, we need a boarding home in Cambridge Bay. The funding for that was approved in the last capital budget and the renovation of the old high school student residence is starting, but it won't be completed yet. So parallel to that are the recruitment efforts underway for the Department of Health.

Some of the challenges that we are facing in expanding the services is the shortage of housing in the community so we are trying to address that in partnership with Nunavut Housing Corporation.

So we are looking at some time in 2007 to have full operations, but at this point in time I don't have specific dates in exactly when that will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. We have been hearing for years about housing; that Health and Social Services have trouble recruiting professionals due to housing. I know that for a fact that in Cambridge Bay the private sector has approximately 10 units available for lease to the Government of Nunavut including a three-plex that has sat vacant for over two years – a brand new facility that has never been lived in and would make quite nice accommodations for doctors.

My question for the minister is: can the minister tell the House how many houses are required for health professionals for Cambridge Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the opening of the new health center in Cambridge Bay, the number of new positions that will be going into Cambridge is, I would say an additional about 30, 40 positions. So we are short approximately 20 to 25 housing units for Cambridge Bay to staff up the positions there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. When I was Mayor of Cambridge Bay, back in the year 2003, I raised the issue of housing for health professionals. I was assured by the deputy minister at that time that housing would not be a problem, they were studying the issue. And I have her quote, and I pulled it off the media this weekend, her quote was to the media was, "It's not a concern."

My question to the minister: would the minister tell the House how the Government of Nunavut could build a multimillion dollar facility, but not plan to provide adequate housing to hire professionals needed to work in it? Is it a concern now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The housing situation and to staff up the positions for the Department of Health is a concern to me. We are trying to move forward in addressing the recruitment by working in partnership with Nunavut Housing Corporation to try and address the housing that we need to fill the positions, so it is an ongoing effort, or initiative of the department to staff up the facilities there and I am working with the Minister responsible for Housing to try and address some of those.

Recently, we had a request for proposal, I believe for all three regions around housing and that is still in the works so, it is a concern to, not just to the Department of Health, but other departments to try and fill some of these positions in the communities where there is no housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. I hope you agree with me, Mr. Peterson, I believe this is your final supplementary. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with you. I thank the minister for that answer. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the request for proposal that the Nunavut Housing Corporation put out, it was put out last summer. In fact, in Cambridge Bay, I don't think one, I think only one developer responded, that was the developer with the three-plex, and they have been quite frustrated for the last two years on that.

So no other developers responded for many reasons. Some of the reasons are they don't believe the Government of Nunavut is sincere when we put out these requests for proposals. In fact, the deputy minister in 2003 made the exact same statement about a request for proposal; nothing came of it.

So my question for the minister: would the minister tell the House if the current restraints on the Government of Nunavut budget will prevent the Department of Health and Social Services from hiring nurses and doctors for the health facility in Cambridge Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health, like any other department, is working with the other departments to move forward in establishing our targets for next year's main estimates process. As it is right now, we have provided the ongoing programs that are provided by the department.

We have moved forward in some new positions with the community of Cambridge. At the same time, at the Baffin Regional Hospital new positions there have gone forward, but we'll continue to work with Housing Corporation as an example, as well as Department of Finance to try and move forward in recruitment, and some of our challenges that we face. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

Question 366 – 2(3): Number of Polar Bears Tranquilized

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. Mr. Speaker, it's been quite a number of years in Nunavut and in the other territories that the polar bears have been tagged and if they're going to be doing any studies on the polar bears they are usually tranquilized. How many bears were tranquilized this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the numbers in front of me, and I will inform the members once I get the figures. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will thank you once I get the figures, but I would also like to know how many of these bears were harvested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once I get the information I will inform the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will also want to know how long the tranquilizer stays in the polar bear's system. As my last question: what is the Department of Environment going to do about a bear that has been tranquilized,

harvested, and then eaten? What kinds of effects does it have on an individual who eats that kind of meat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got the questions and I will inform the member once I get the information.

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

Question 367 – 2(3): Fuel Price Increases

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were informed about the increases in fuel prices, and I've been concerned about it ever since. The community of Sanikiluaq was affected tremendously by this increase.

I asked this question on November 15, 2005, when there was an increase the first time around. Almost a year has gone by and there is another increase. The people of Nunavut weren't given enough advance warning. I believe they were given four days advance notice the first time around, and then two days at the last increase.

The people of Nunavut weren't given enough advance notice. I would like to ask the minister if he will give more notice before hiking up the fuel prices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague who asked this question.

This question has been asked by a lot of people of Nunavut. I think the question is; will the Government of Nunavut give the people of Nunavut a longer heads-up, or a longer notice before they hike up the prices again.

I think the fuel prices started going up since 2003. What my predecessors used to do was to give notice at least a month in advance and sometimes we weren't able to do that. I am not sure what it's going to be like next year, but I would like to inform the member that this will be reviewed. And of course people who work in my department are listening to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not saying to give them a month in advance, but to give them at least more than three or four days in advance

would be a lot better to notify the customers of the gasoline hikes. Perhaps if I can ask another question: the gasoline that was delivered to the communities - when was that paid for by the government? When was the gasoline that was delivered paid for by the government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the member that we're not really sure exactly what's going to happen next year, but we will be prepared to at least give the customers an advance notice which is more than three or four days.

All the gasoline that was purchased for the whole of Nunavut was \$190 million and it was already paid for and together it was 169 million litres that were delivered to the communities, or to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Just go ahead and use your language, we have interpreters. Your second supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason for the price that went up for the gasoline was because of the world prices and at that time that was the reasoning behind it. At that time the government did not pay the world prices. Have we gotten a higher price since then?

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is the reason for the high cost for the gasoline is the price that was jacked up in the world. And we can't do really anything about it as Nunavut residents because we have to follow the world prices. Another reason is because of what's happening in Mexico and places where they're having war.

We're just following the price of world prices as well and it was very good our Nunavut government to be able to get that bulk gasoline and the price was jacked up to ten cents per litre. I bet it would've been a lot higher perhaps even 20 cents per litre, for example in northern Quebec and northern Manitoba the price of gasoline was about \$1.69 a liter, 40 cents more than Nunavut.

Here in Nunavut we had the lowest price of gasoline because of the government's subsidy that we experience here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate what the government has done in subsidizing the price of gasoline. Even though that happened the hunters have

a difficult time paying the higher prices. Perhaps if the government can lower the price of gasoline, would the communities, in turn, get lower pricing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking the question. Yes, I wish we could do everything to help the people out there, especially in regard to the price of gasoline.

In Nunavut we have a different system whereby what we do is we order gasoline while there are ships in the summertime and in the fall, and we have to buy bulk. For that reason, we cannot lower the price of gasoline per litre, but it'll stay the same at what we had proposed.

Next year when we get some more shipment of fuel, I'm not sure exactly how much it is going to be, but I will tell the member that we cannot lower the price of gasoline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 368 – 2(3): Gasoline Fuel Rebate

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Premier...there are three ministers that could probably respond to my question. It's in regard to Mr. Kattuk's question, but not quite the same. The reason is the price of fuel; the price goes up in a month, according to world prices. The cost goes up every year.

First of all, I would like to ask a question. The commercial establishments, whenever the price of gasoline goes up, they up the price too, as well. The hunters and the homeowners cannot get more money. They are having hardship.

I would like to ask the Premier if the government is going to try to ask the federal government to help out those people, to help out those people to get more money, the people that are experiencing the high price of fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The price of fuel affects everyone in Nunavut, especially this coming year. We tried to do as much as possible to try and assist those people out there, because we pay, as a government, 80 percent for the price of fuel. We cannot do anything about it, but what we're trying to do is to try to be prepared for next year.

I will say that after we have bought the bulk fuel, we will be able to subsidize the people out there. Last year we could not do that because we were a little bit too late and the cost

of fuel was very expensive. If we didn't buy it, we wouldn't have had it today. That is the reason why we had no choice but to pay the price that we did.

As members of this House, we discussed and approved the budget. I would also like to say that we want to be able to help the hunters and homeowners out there. If they can save their receipts, they can apply for a tax rebate with the government.

We're trying as much as we can to help the people out there, but that's as much as we can do at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I would like to thank the Premier for his answer. Do I understand him to say that during 2006-07, if the price of fuel was to go down, when we purchase it, will we be able to buy it right away, and just load it onto the ship as soon as one becomes available?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we're planning it that way. We don't know exactly when the price of fuel will go down, so as soon as the price goes down, we have someone working for us. We'd like to be able to buy it when the price is lower because we know now that the price goes up in the summer time.

We have to be able to watch to see if the price goes down so we'll be able to purchase it instead of buying it in the summer time, because the summer is the time when the price goes up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 369 – 2(3): Contribution Agreement Provided to Keewatin Business Development Corporation

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

I'll just start off by saying for the members' benefit that I know that he does have a contribution agreement between the Government of Nunavut and the Keewatin Business Development Corporation for providing those programs for the government.

My question this time to the minister: is he aware of how much money is provided through that contribution agreement from the department to Keewatin Business Development Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We provide \$275,000 to the Keewatin Business Development Corporation and they can borrow up to \$1 million for small business loans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. \$275,000, so \$1.2 million is authorized for them to administer on behalf of the government. I guess my next question to the minister is: what mechanisms within that contribution agreement do they have in place to ensure that those dollars are being spent appropriately? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we have on our procedures in our Community Initiatives Program is we use that mechanism for the development corporation in Keewatin. The KBDC can use up to \$1 million, but we have to scrutinize to make sure that they spend the money wisely. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated that they scrutinize it that they spend it wisely. I guess what I was trying to get at in my last question; what exactly do they have in place to do that, how do they do that. What do they scrutinize? What do they look at? Is it a requirement for the KBDC to provide the government with an annual report? Do they provide copies of motions and minutes of meetings and regarding loans that they are administering? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can check to make sure that the money was spent wisely and I can ask them for more information if I wanted more information, but if I feel that they will spend the money wisely, then we agree to that and I can also get more information as to exactly how they spend their money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I know that I believe under their contribution agreement they are required to provide an audited statement for the department to review on an annual basis, on finance on how they spend those dollars.

If you look at it, the whole purpose of providing that funding to them was for business development and small business loans, I wonder is that what that money is being spent on.

So I guess my question to the minister is; what they get from them to see if they are spending it wisely if he could also ask them to provide copies of their minutes and motions where they have approved or any actions that the board has taken on behalf of the government. Will he be able to provide that information as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am willing to do that. I will ask them if they want to release that information, but I will work diligently to make sure that we get that information as to what they have spent the money on in Keewatin for those small businesses or businesses in Keewatin. Thank you.

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

Question 370– 2(3): Location for Deep Sea Ports

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Mr. Speaker, last summer there was an announcement that the Government of Nunavut had recommended seven deep sea port sites to the federal government. The minister referred to those port sites in the House on November 23 just last week.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House which sites he recommended and how they selected them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister for Economic Development, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The deep sea port for ships we have been working on that and we have been working with the federal government as to which community would get the deep sea port. We looked at the advantages and where it would be best suited and the Nunavut Government wants to support this idea. If this deep sea port is built, then we will not be able to assist for the whole of Nunavut.

I know those communities that have been mentioned are very ideal, but at this time the federal government has not identified which community it will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I am going to have to read in the media to find out which of the seven port sites they recommended, if the minister won't provide that information.

Can the minister tell the House did the federal government provide the Government of Nunavut with criteria for a port site? If so, could he table those criteria in the House this week? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it would be ideal but they have not provided us with a list. We have communicated with them as to the advantages and disadvantages to the individual communities. I am willing to do that but they are not written. I'm sure he is aware as to which ones those might be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. At one time I think I read it in the media last summer, but the media sometimes get the information wrong, so I thought the minister would take this opportunity to make it official which seven communities the Government of Nunavut recommended to the federal government.

My question for the minister: did Economic Development and Transportation complete feasibility, economic, strategic, or environmental analysis of each proposed port site before he recommended them to the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are trying to work on this very closely, as to what kind of impact those different communities will have and what they have; and the wildlife surrounding those communities. Those are the things that we are trying to look at.

After the feasibility studies have been completed, then we will take a look at those, and how it would affect the land, or the surrounding area before the construction of the deep sea port. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I am aware that it costs millions of dollars to do all that kind of work. We spent close to six million,

maybe seven million in the Kitikmeot on the Bathurst Port work on all the studies, and we need another three million to complete the studies.

So when I heard that they recommended seven port sites, I did the math and my question for the minister is: would the minister table any documents, any letters, any reports, anything in the House this week that the Government of Nunavut sent to the federal government to support the seven port sites that the Government of Nunavut recommended to the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will look because it is very important to the Nunavut. I will make sure that it is provided.

I believe in 1999 or 2000 we had been working with the Kitikmeot in regard to the Bathurst Road and Port. And any other supporting documents or letters that we have, that came about from that project and yes, if there's any correspondence or letters I would definitely make them available to the House. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. To recognize the clock, Question Period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 005 – 2(3): Public Housing Rent Scale

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to present a petition today from the residents of Clyde River asking the Government of Nunavut to review the public housing rent scale and there are 159, now there are 160 signatures now, in this petition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. I haven't seen that before. Point well taken. (interpretation) Item 10. (interpretation ends) Petitions. (interpretation) Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 171 – 2(3): Correspondence to the Premier

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to, I mean I wish to table today, a letter that I have written to the Premier on the issue of Ed Horne, it says it is my sincere hope that

the Premier's reply to me and to my community will address the questions that we have on the government's handling of this tragic matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker (interpretation): Please bring the tabled document. Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Arvaluk, Member for Tununiq.

Tabled Document 172 – 2(3): Pond Inlet Breakwater Feasibility Study

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my member's statement on Thursday, I discussed a very real need that my community of Pond Inlet has for harbour development. The Hamlet of Pond Inlet has not sat idly by simply asking for assistance, they have taken the initiative to complete a breakwater feasibility study.

I would like to table that Pond Inlet Breakwater Feasibility Study today, and I would like to ask to have the minister review the documents and be prepared to answer questions in respect to the project when he is up there as a witness before the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Please bring the tabled documents. Tabling of Documents. Member Picco.

Tabled Document 173 – 2(3): Qalattuq – 10-Year Educator Training Strategy 2006-2016

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me very great pleasure today to table, as I said earlier in my statement, the Nunavut Teacher Education Program Action Plan, Qalattuq for 10 years, the 10-Year Educator Training Strategy 2006-2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Please bring the document. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Aglukkaq.

Tabled Document 174 – 2(3): 2005-06 Report by Nunavut's Medical Care Act

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the Annual Report for 2005-06 required by Nunavut's *Medical Care Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please bring the document. Thank you. Tabling of Documents.

Tabled Document 175 – 2(3): Audited Financial Statements of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2006

Members (interpretation ends) pursuant to Section 20(b) of the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, I wish to table today the Audited Financial Statements for the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Fund, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006.

Tabled Document 176 – 2(3): Audited Financial Statements of the Retiring Allowances Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2006

Further, honourable members, pursuant to Section 21(1)(b) and (c) of the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act*, I wish to table today the Audited Financial Statements of the Retiring Allowances Fund, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006.

Tabled Document 177 – 2(3): Pension Administration Report for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2006

Further honourable members, pursuant to Section 21(1)(d) of the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act*, and Section 20(b) of the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, I wish to table today the Pension Administration Report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006.

Thank you. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 23, 24, 25, and 26 with Mr. Evyagotailak in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:04 and Committee resumed at 15:29*

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

Chairman (Mr. Evyagotailak): Good afternoon, good evening still afternoon. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In the Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 23, Bill 24, Bill 25 and 26. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak: Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of Bill 26 and commence the review of the Capital Estimates for the Department of Environment. If time permits, we will proceed with the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Arreak. Are we in an agreement to deal with the Capital Estimates for the Department of Environment?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Netser for the Department of Environment to make his Opening Remarks. Mr. Netser.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today in front of the Committee of the Whole to present my Department's Capital Plan for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's proposed capital budget for 2007-08 is \$2,025,000.

My department has 21 capital projects for 2007-08 that focus on two key areas:

1. Parks and Special Places
2. Wildlife Management

Nunavut Parks have a crucial role to play in the protection and promotion of some of Nunavut's outstanding natural and cultural heritage, and in supporting positive recreation and tourism experiences. Our parks are developed for the benefits of Nunavummiut, and for both national and international visitors.

In November of 2000, the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development accepted a report, which summarized the status of facilities in our Territorial Parks. The report identified several facility deficiencies that needed to be addressed in the interests of public safety, visitor satisfaction and in ensuring these special places are appropriately maintained and safe for Nunavummiut and the general public.

With these in mind, we have structured our 2007-08 capital plan to include the completion of two new campgrounds in Resolute Bay and in Pond Inlet, and the installation of new interpretive signs and new park furnishings for Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Coral Harbour, and Gjoa Haven. It is also our intent to complete new facilities at Kekerten Historic Park in Pangnirtung and to continue park planning in non-decentralized communities such as Kugaaruk, Coral Harbour and Clyde River.

A substantial portion of the 2007-08 capital budget is within the Wildlife Management Division. The focus is on maintaining present offices, wildlife mobile equipment, and we plan to start and complete the wildlife office construction in Cambridge Bay.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, with the allocated capital resources available to us, the Department of Environment Capital Plan is focused in areas that clearly support the needs and priority of the government as well as the needs of communities throughout Nunavut. The department will continue to efficiently make use of the allocated capital resources.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Yes, I do. Thank you.

Chairman: For the record, please introduce your...I'm sorry. Does the committee agree to bring the witness?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Simon Awa, the Deputy Minister, and also to my left is, David Monteith, the Director of Parks and Special Places.

Chairman: Welcome to the Committee of the Whole. Does the chairman for the standing committee have any comments? Mr. Mapsalak, please proceed.

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* has reviewed the proposed capital estimates of the Department of Environment for the 2007-08 fiscal year, and I'm pleased to provide you with the committee's comments.

The committee notes that the department's proposed 2007-08 budget of \$2,025,000 is approximately 9.2 percent lower than its 2006-07 budget. Of this, \$775,000 is budgeted for a new wildlife office for Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Chairman, the department has made a number of internal budget transfers between projects over the past several months. These have impacted such projects as the Hall Beach Wildlife Office and the Sylvia Grinnel Park in Iqaluit.

Some members have been concerned that these transfers may have caused other projects to be delayed in their communities. Members urge the department to plan as carefully as possible when developing future projects. In all, several hundred thousand dollars in transfers affecting at least ten projects were made in the second quarter of the current 2006-07 fiscal year.

It is also important that municipalities receive clear information from the department when the timeline or scope of projects changes during the middle of the year so that they have a clear understanding of when the projects will be completed.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee supports the improvement of territorial park facilities and visitor centres. However, members remain concerned that our territorial tourism potential remains underdeveloped, and has expressed concern in the past that while the Department of Environment has responsibility for parks, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has responsibilities for tourism and visitor centres.

The committee was therefore pleased to hear that the two departments work closely together and that a departmental staff member sits on the Board of Nunavut Tourism and the Tourism Task Force, which includes Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Inuit Heritage Trust.

It is important that Environment, EDT and Nunavut Tourism work together to measure the success of investments in the area of parks and tourism, including their impact on employment opportunities in our communities.

The standing committee notes the department is continuing to make progress in relation to park development and Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements. The committee looks forward to the successful designation in 2007 of the Coppermine River near Kugluktuk as a Canadian Heritage River.

The committee understands that the final step remaining to complete this process is the development of a management plan. The committee also notes the commitment made in the department's 2006-07 business plan to work towards the establishment of a territorial parks and heritage river co-management system, and looks forward to regular updates from the minister.

The standing committee also recognizes the importance of monitoring the progress of such federal initiatives as the Iqaluit National Wildlife Area near Clyde River and the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary, and encourages the department to continue working with impacted communities.

Members recognize that the government faces challenges in balancing environmental protection goals with the need to support the expansion of the natural resources development sector of our economy.

Mr. Chairman, the committee has been concerned for some time with respect to the significant number of vacancies in the department's Igloolik office. According to the GN's June 2006 Inuit Employment Plan report, six out of 16 departmental positions were vacant in the community. In June of 2005, the department had 20 PYs allocated to the office. The committee was pleased to be informed by the Minister that these positions are now being filled. Members look forward to reviewing the next IEP Report.

The standing committee notes that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board continues to hold special hearings in Iqaluit with respect to the new draft regulations under the *Wildlife Act*. The committee is aware that there are some issues that remain outstanding,

including the total allowable harvest of polar bears and muskox. The committee expects to be kept fully informed by the minister on the status of these issues.

The standing committee recommends that the government table information in this House concerning the final costs of its major capital projects, including information on the Inuit labour content of each project, as well as any bonuses or penalties that have been assessed under the NNI Policy. This information will be of use to all members in evaluating the success of the NNI Policy, and will serve to enhance the transparency of the government's expenditures.

That concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Do members have any general comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the comments that were made by the committee chairman on page 3 it says that the *Wildlife Act* is still being worked on to date. I think we know why it's taking so long. We would like to see some changes made.

If you look at the Nunavut *Wildlife Act*, we have a public government; that's the Nunavut Government and then we have the Land Claims Agreement. I would like it to be seriously considered because it is costing a lot of money to do a review of the Act and this is more of a comment than anything else, but one thing that's not here but is still in the capitals is that the National Parks are under the responsibility of the federal government.

The federal government, I'm not sure where their head office is, somewhere in Canada, possibly in Winnipeg, but they are the ones who set up the policies and if you look at Pond Inlet's for example the CBs have a relay where you can call somebody who might be very far. My question to the minister is if it's possible for your department to talk to National Parks and see if the communities can be included in the frequency and what we hear is that the National Parks doesn't want to give that frequency to the hunters.

If there is an emergency, you know it takes quite a while to fix the HF, or to tune in the HF radios and it takes a lot shorter time to get in contact with somebody out there with a CB. I would like to urge your department to work closely with the National Parks and the HTO because the HTO don't have a lot of money.

We would like to have the hunters be able to go through that channel in case of emergencies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Do members have any general comments? I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page I-G, I-6, sorry. I-6. Environment. Detail of Capital. Program Development. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials to the House today. Can the minister expand a little bit on what the \$1 million is going to buy, it is listed there under small capital; it says \$300,000 and less. Are there any projects in there that might be \$299,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could he repeat that question please? I kind of missed it somewhat.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson, could you please repeat your question to the minister.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. On Page I-6 there's \$1 million budgeted for small capital projects, \$300,000 or less. What I'm seeking information on, Mr. Chair, can the minister provide some detailed explanation of what projects he anticipates that \$1 million being directed towards in 2007-08? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can find page I-6. I didn't get your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, on page I-6. Detail of Capital. Environment. Program Development. In the headquarter section. There is \$1 million budgeted for 2007-08 capital estimates. It is under the item titled small capital \$300,000 or less. I am seeking information. Can the minister provide us with any specific details of projects that they may be planning to fund in 2007-08 with that \$1 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question from the member. (interpretation) Part of the \$1 million will be used for the wildlife officers and for an office in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Peterson, do you any more questions? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I am not quite sure if I understood the answer because on the next page there is \$775,000 budgeted for the wildlife officers placement in Cambridge Bay and that would clearly exceed the small capital budget which says \$300,000 or less.

So I'll ask the question to the minister again: can he provide a detailed list of the small capital projects that they plan to finance in 2007-08, for \$300,000 or less? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: We have at least 21 projects that we would like to do with that \$300,000 or less. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister provide the information, or names of the projects, or where they are located? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Okay, I'll go down the list. (interpretation) For Cape Dorset, there is \$50,000 for park development; in Clyde River there is \$55,000 for park development; Hall Beach for the completion for the wildlife office there is \$50,000; for Iqaluit for the Sylvia Grinnell Park development there is \$50,000; Kimmirut \$50,000; Pangnirtung \$100,000; Chesterfield Inlet for the completion for the wildlife office \$50,000.

For Cambridge Bay for the office \$775,000; and for Baffin \$212,000 for wildlife, equipment replacement parts; in Baffin area, \$15,000; Kivalliq mobile equipment wildlife, \$118,000; Kivalliq area there is \$15,000; Kitikmeot various equipment mobile equipment wildlife, \$107,000; Kitikmeot various equipment replacement there is \$15,000; Nunavut various wildlife offices renovations there is \$100,000; Nunavut various equipment replacement for parks, \$10,000; lab monitoring mobile research equipment \$20,000; and Nunavut Parks legal survey, \$20,000; and last of all mobile research for mobile equipment is \$25,000, which totals our budget for \$2,025,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I understand the minister's information he's providing, he's provided the information for all of the projects under his department this year, next year, including the projects listed on page I-

7. I think we can decipher from the information what the \$1 million will be used for. That's all of my questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome minister, and your staff. I have some questions here, before I ask my questions, I received a letter from the minister dated October 23, 2006. This letter was to inform me that the transfer was made in the amount of \$70,000 from the Kugluktuk Bloody Falls Project, Parks Project to meet a shortfall on the Sylvia Grinnell Park Signage Project in Iqaluit.

The hamlet and I were very upset about this, and we would like some clarification from the minister on this issue. I have a couple of questions, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister provide me with today, with the detailed update on the status of the Bloody Falls Project, and tell me whether this transfer was, will delay the project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the reason why we transferred the funds from the Bloody Falls Project to the one in Iqaluit is because of the limited budget that we have for Parks and Special Areas in the government. We transferred, temporarily transferred that funds to finish the project here in Iqaluit but we allocated the money to finish the project up in Bloody Falls. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Mr. Chairman, the substantiation sheets for the Bloody Falls Project indicated that a total of \$921,000 was, will be spent up to 2011 and beyond. The letter to me stated that the department will be investing \$111,000 in the departmental management plan for this project. Can he give me some details on this plan also? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask Mr. Monteith to answer that question, they are detailed so, Mr. Monteith.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Monteith.

Mr. Monteith: The Bloody Fall Project is a very complex project. We have been working on it for several years; we have been working with the hamlet on developing a trail out to Bloody Falls. We have put some interpretive signs out at Bloody Falls. We've done, completed a master plan for the park which gives us some ideas on expansion for the park and we are now working on the Heritage River Designation.

The management plan for which you have seen advertisements in the newspaper for that work, we are working with the local HTO and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. We need to have that document completed before we determine how we are going to, what we're going to do next. The management plan will give us some sort of direction on what kind of development might take place at Kugluktuk, on the river and in the park, but that work still needs to be completed and we're hoping to have it done in April or May next year.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Monteith. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Monteith. Mr. Chairman, can the minister please ensure that he will keep me and the hamlet fully informed on the status of this project when it is changed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Yes, we will. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my opening remarks, I talked about the wildlife offices have been deferred, and especially what I'd like to understand that the offices that were supposed to have been built for the wildlife offices in the communities such as Whale Cove and Chesterfield Inlet for instance and Hall Beach. Have you completed those, or have you started the construction on the wildlife offices in those areas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those three communities Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, and Hall Beach have started construction.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are Item I-6. Maybe Mr. Mapsalak has a question on I-6. Please keep with the page. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can ask a question: do all the communities in Nunavut have a wildlife office, or is there any community that doesn't have a wildlife office?

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They all have offices in Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. (interpretation ends) Before I recognize anybody else, I would like to recognize and welcome to the Assembly the

Honourable Mayor of Landpark Islands, Ontario Mr. Terry McDermott and her Worship the Mayor Elisapee Shieutiapik of Iqaluit. (interpretation) Welcome to them.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): We are still on (interpretation ends) Environment. Detail of Capital. Program Development. Tangible Assets. Total Headquarters. \$1,100,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: For Qikiqtaaluk Region. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$50,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Environment. Detail of Capital. We are on page I-7. Tangible Assets. Total Kivalliq Region. \$100,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Kitikmeot Region. Total Kitikmeot Region. \$775,000. Do you agree? Sorry, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question for the minister; I received a couple of letters from the minister in September that the funds for this project were transferred to another project in Nunavut due to costs. I guess the costs are increasing for the wildlife offices; to build new wildlife offices.

My question for the minister is: the Cambridge Bay Wildlife Office; was that a priority project under the Government of Nunavut's new prioritization system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that was on the priority list, Cambridge Bay and it will be a two-man station once we complete that we plan to start construction next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Maybe raise your voice a little bit, sometimes we hardly hear you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. Just maybe for the benefit of all the Members of the Legislative Assembly, is it possible for you to provide a list of the current wildlife offices by community that are scheduled for replacement? I think the plan is to replace one every year for 25 years. I want to know if

that's possible; it doesn't need to be today, but if we can get that information at some point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you hear me properly now? At this time the wildlife office will have to be deferred because of the lack of funding. If we were to get more funding we will continue on with the construction, but right now it's off the capital budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I'm not quite sure that I understood that last answer. As far as I understand the wildlife office for Cambridge Bay is budgeted \$775,000. My question was: could we get a list of the wildlife offices by community that are proposed to be constructed over the next 25 years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We'll give him the list, but unfortunately, we don't have any funding to do any more projects after Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. According to the Minister of Finance's economic update last week we understand that the capital funds are short in Nunavut, and I also understand the prioritization system that is going to be implemented by the Government of Nunavut, actually it's probably already being implemented.

So if I understand you correctly, you're saying that you don't have funds for future capital projects, but in fact, you'll probably have to submit projects through the prioritization system that the government is implementing to deliver projects. Who knows, maybe a few of those wildlife offices will receive priority consideration, over and above the other departments.

Perhaps the minister can clarify if my understanding of it is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had wanted to do one wildlife office every year but due to cutbacks we are unable to meet our plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Again, I understand that it's a problem that the minister faces. I think we all want a wildlife office in every community upgraded and the capital funds are short. I understand that the initial promise, or commitment by your predecessors were; one wildlife office every year for 25 years.

I understand that that is a commitment he can't keep, and I appreciate your honesty in telling us that, but I would like your reassurance on behalf of my colleagues that you will fight very hard and diligently to make wildlife offices a priority project when you compete with the other government departments in the future, under the government's prioritization system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have, under wildlife office renovations we have \$100,000 for next year, but I will do what I can to try and live up to our obligations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Peterson. Environment. Detail of Capital. Kitikmeot Region. Sorry. Tangible Assets. Kitikmeot Region. Total Kitikmeot Region. \$775,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Tangible Assets. \$2,025,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my opening remarks, I stated that there needs to be cooperation between the National Parks personnel and the territorial government, and the communities affected, to share equipment that is made available, especially through National Parks.

They are the ones who seem to have all kinds of dollars to develop their National Parks Program including relay switches for CB communication, and they don't want to share that with the communities.

Can the minister find out why they don't want to share that with the communities? Could he find out later, and urge his federal counterparts to cooperate with the communities, because there is only one boat in the whole area that uses that CB with those antennas, and several mountains. That could be utilized for search and rescue, and the hunters who have boats in the area. Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the first time we have heard this information. We will work with the officials of the federal government and find out what is happening. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Stating that, if they refuse to cooperate, would he consider utilizing...I don't think they are that expensive, I think they're around \$70,000 a piece. That would fit nicely with the small capital items, Mr. Chairman.

Would he consider utilizing some, especially for mountainous communities like Pond Inlet? CB radios for rescue work and hunters are not very reliable. As soon as you get behind the mountain, you can't communicate anymore, even if you're very close.

Having those kinds of relay switches would help. Would the minister consider reviewing that idea and maybe bring it up in the next capital budget? Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that falls under the responsibility of Community and Government Services on the search and rescue, so the lady is listening and she's up on I think she's next on the witness stand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk. Environment. Detail of Capital. Tangible Assets. Kitikmeot Region. Total Kitikmeot Region. \$775,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Tangible Assets. \$2,025,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I-4. I-4, no bingo. I-4. Environment. Departmental Summary. Detail of Expenditure. Total Capital Expenditure. \$2,025,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Are agreed the Department of Environment is concluded?

Some Member: Agreed

Chairman: Thank you, Committee. Thank you, minister and your staff. Minister, do you have closing remarks?

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you for being gentle with me. Thank you.

Chairman: Okay, Minister. I would now like to ask Minister Brown for the Department of Community and Government Services to make her Opening Remarks.

Bill 26 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2007-08 – Review in Committee – Community and Government Services

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to appear before your committee and to take part in this review of the proposal by the Department of Community and Government Services for forthcoming capital expenditures.

This document before you includes my departments' proposed Capital Estimates for the 2007-08 fiscal year, and our proposed Capital Plan for the period from 2007-08 to 2001-12. To assist with your review I have with me today Pam Hine, Deputy Minister, and John Dawe, Director of Community Infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, through our capital expenditures and other programs CGS supports the communities, and gives them the tools and capacity to meet the needs of their residents. Added to this challenge is our role in helping other departments achieve their capital programs. Housing, health care and education rely heavily on CGS expertise in delivery of their own capital infrastructure. Once constructed, these facilities themselves continue to rely on the municipal service infrastructure provided by the department.

Thus, the capital plan before you is truly comprehensive in its beneficial effect upon the well-being of all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, this particular capital program is a significant milestone in CGS infrastructure planning and development. The past year was one of great achievement, and many of these achievements are reflected in the plan as you see it. Most of the major projects approved in previous years under the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund are well in progress and we have recently revamped some internal accounting processes to simplify payment and make more timely use of available federal funds. The Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee became fully functional over the past year, and this program is the first one to incorporate fully dedicated and comprehensive community consultation and priority ranking through the NCIAC.

Agreements for the two new federal funding programs (MRIF and Gas Tax) have been finalized and the resulting new funding has been incorporated into this plan.

This achievement has not been without its challenges. Fiscal pressures continue to challenge governments to make the best investment decisions in an atmosphere of demand far exceeding the supply of resources. Our partnerships with the communities through the NCIAC have been instrumental in trying to achieve a reasonable balance. However, that relationship is still evolving and must be fostered to gain the most long-

term benefit, especially in the post-approval phases when the results may not necessarily have met expectations.

The GN itself has started to modify its capital budgeting process, and this similarly must be developed over time to meet the needs of government. Our achievement in incorporating the new federal funding must not stop there, as we are challenged to pursue new or extended programs as the existing ones draw near to close.

Mr. Chairman, the longer-term future holds even more challenges. Fiscal pressures will always be found, and must be met. Community priorities must be recognized and their frequently changing nature accommodated. Technical requirements are challenged by aging infrastructure and evolving regulatory regimes in such areas as municipal waste water and fuel storage.

We must keep up a reasonable level of investment in basic community infrastructure, to avoid falling so far behind that we will never catch up. Recognizing this, the proposal before you represents a reasonable compromise between needs, wants, and affordability, and balances that against what we cannot afford not to do. I earnestly commend it to your consideration.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your attention. We are now ready to answer your questions.

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

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

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

For the record minister, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Pam Hine my deputy minister. On my left, John Dawe, who is Director of Community Infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hine and Mr. Dawe, welcome to the Committee of the Whole.

Does the chair of the standing committee have any comments? Mr. Peterson, please proceed.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank and welcome the minister and her officials to the House today. Just before I begin I would like to send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to our regular chair, MLA Tagak Curley from Rankin Inlet. I'm sure he is resting up and probably eager to get back to work. We hope he's enjoying his time off.

Mr. Chairman, as co-chair of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing, and Economic Development, I am pleased to be able to provide opening comments as we begin the review of the 2007-08 Capital Estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Community and Government Services in September to review the draft 2007-08 capital estimates.

Members noted the Government of Nunavut's new practice of combing all capital projects with an individual value of \$300,000 or less into one capital item called; Small Capital.

Members are concerned that this practice does not allow for the review of future years' spending under this item. Taken together, this fund represents \$3,895,000, or more than 23 percent of the Department of Community and Government Services total 2007-08 capital budget, and includes heavy equipment purchases and regional programs such as block funding, community planning, and mobile equipment repair.

Members urge the minister to ensure that long term planning for the replacement of heavy equipment is clear so that the municipalities know when their equipment will be replaced and can plan accordingly.

Mr. Chairman, members are concerned that tank farm projects have been delayed, and in some cases completely removed from the five year capital plan. Members note that some communities continue to require high cost airlifted fuel in the spring to ensure that there are no shortages.

Given the current rate of community growth, and the new federal environmental regulations related to bulk fuel storage, tank farm projects must be considered to be a priority.

Mr. Chairman, members were concerned that the capital plan does not include any granular projects for 2007-08. Last year, members were pleased to note the new Quarry Management Program that was supposed to have started in 2006-07, with further funding in 2007-08. Members are concerned that this project does not appear in the 2007-08 capital estimates.

Members note that all construction projects require granular materials and that many communities do not have access to quality granular materials.

Members are pleased that the 2007-08 capital estimates include projects with funding under the federal Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. Members look forward to receiving updates from the minister on the progress of projects that are 100 percent funded under the federal Gas Tax Initiative funding.

Members recognize that the Government of Nunavut has limited resources for community infrastructure but are concerned that those limitations are not being clearly conveyed to municipalities.

It is important that all municipalities be made aware of the reality that infrastructure funds are limited, and are kept informed of long term planning for existing federal funding to ensure that their expectations are realistic.

Mr. Chairman, members noted that the five-year capital plan has changed from that which was presented last year. Members look forward to reviewing the eight-year plan that is currently being developed by the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee.

Members recognize that the Government of Nunavut's funding priority lies with projects that require us to provide matching funds to leverage funding from federal infrastructure programs. However, members are concerned that the funding guidelines for the federal projects restrict the Government of Nunavut's ability to set priorities when almost 100 percent of the capital budget for the Department of Community and Government Services is allocated to meet the matching requirements.

Members are concerned that this unduly restricts the Government of Nunavut's ability to plan for infrastructure needs that lie outside the federal guidelines.

Members are aware that some projects that have been funded in the past through appropriations in this House are now being 100 percent funded through the federal Gas Tax initiative.

Members want to see a transparent plan for a reallocation of the Government of Nunavut funds that have been approved by members of this House for use in specific projects.

Members will note that 2007-08 is the final year of the Iqaluit Capital Contribution Agreement. Members understand that the department is currently negotiating with the City for a new Capital Contribution Agreement. Members want to see details of the projects that have been funded under the current agreement prior to approving further allocations for similar agreements in the future.

Members were pleased to note the Government of Nunavut's commitment, in the Minister of Finance's Economic Statement on Tuesday, to ensure that major capital projects consider the impact of the project on community resources. Members are concerned that plans for the new cultural school in Clyde River have not yet addressed

the increased demands that will be placed on current municipal infrastructure. Members are especially concerned with respect to fuel supplies and sewage and water systems.

Members are pleased that significant investment is being made in community halls. This committee has consistently highlighted the important of community halls as meeting places and the positive impact they have on community health and well-being.

Mr. Chairman, members remain concerned by the continued carry-over of funds for multi-year projects. Many projects are still on the books that should have been completed two years ago. Members want to see those projects completed and any remaining funds in the budgets for the projects reallocated to current priorities.

Mr. Chairman that concludes my comments on the capital estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Individual members may wish to raise questions or make comments of their own. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to welcome the minister and her officials to the witness table. Under general comments, I will want to make a general comment and then I will want to ask a question which is not included in the opening statements.

Especially in my constituency, they have been requesting a swimming pool but in the past when it was Government of the Northwest Territories days when the portable swimming pools were used they would use the portable swimming pools in the summer time, in the spring and summer and they would put the portable swimming pools inside the garages when it was warm enough to take the vehicles outside.

And, there were dressing rooms and perhaps if your department could work with the Minister responsible for Recreation if portable swimming pools if they weren't too expensive if you can provide these portable swimming pools to the communities especially in my constituencies because you can't go swimming in the summer time in the High Arctic.

Because this portable swimming pool would be very beneficial to the youth and the children and it would help them to keep off the streets and also since this is under a general comment my second would be under the minister's opening comments.

She talked about Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee that they are working well. They have just made a recommendation, this committee made a recommendation at the Cabinet level. My question would be what did the Cabinet do. I will conclude with that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I am ahead of myself. Sorry. General comments. I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the

page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page J-6. Community and Government Services. Department Capital. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Grants and Contributions. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$4 million. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering if the minister and her officials can give us an update as to what's happening with this contribution agreement. I know that the chairman had indicated in his opening comments that there are negotiations going on for a possible ongoing agreement, if she can just give us an update as to where things are at with the contribution agreement with the city. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are moving along quickly with that contribution agreement. It is progressing very well. We should be completed by next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that there have been locally a lot of homeowners, or residents of Iqaluit who are kind of wondering: what is going on with the City's capital plan, and all that. I am just wondering, from the department's perspective, that when this contribution agreement came into place, one of the things myself and other colleagues of mine at the time, I think that there needed to be monitoring and evaluating of these projects throughout the life of the agreement.

I am just wondering if the minister or her officials could indicate if they've done that. Are they satisfied with how the City has been handling all the projects that were identified to be done in that agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The senior staff of CGS meet regularly with the City here in Iqaluit. Also, we're seeing statements on a regular basis. Once a year we get the audited statements. That, too, is going satisfactorily with our meetings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to hear that because I know that was a concern that I had and other members at the time, that, "Here's the money and we'll see you. Good luck." I'm glad that didn't happen for everybody's benefit.

The minister indicated that the agreement is going to be done next year and I'm just wondering if there are any plans as to what their looking at, for next steps they're looking at an ongoing agreement, or entering into a new agreement with the City. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, for that, member. We would like to be in negotiations with them in the future again about the same line. We'd like to have a good working relationship with the City. I, myself have met with the Mayor and the council members. At one point, I think the member was there with me. We have successful meetings with them. We'd like to keep that communications going with the City. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that when the contribution agreement first came into place it allowed the City some flexibility with projects that were on the list to be done with that funding, and it also allowed them to plan further ahead and finance in some areas...leverage other sources of funding to assist with those projects.

And, I guess I'm just wondering; given that this kind of agreement, again, the financing of something takes time...you look at some of the infrastructure that they need here in the city... they were just asking for \$12 million for a new complex, a swimming pool, they said they needed a new City Hall, there are a number of road work projects. I won't say paving, because it might not be paving, to be done, and utilidor hook-up, and things like that that still have to be done in the future.

Maybe from the department's perspective, when do they hope to have another agreement negotiated and finalized to be able to allow the City to pursue other sources of revenue based on being able to secure that base from the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is absolutely right about being flexible. We are trying to be very flexible with the City; after all they are a tax base.

We have changed a number of things with the City's request. An example would be a road to new gravel. That was another example. I agree with the member that we should be flexible with the city. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister or her officials indicate if they're looking at renegotiating an ongoing agreement? When do they hope to have those negotiations finalized and the new agreement in place to be able to allow the City to continue planning with the projects that it has in mind in the coming years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I ask the Community and Government Services Deputy Minister to respond to that, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brown. Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the member had mentioned, the current agreement ends next year. So with all due respect for the City, we would like to negotiate over the next year so that they can plan for future years and there wouldn't be any disruption in their funding.

So we've already had some just initial discussions recognizing that there is a desire to renew the agreement and we'll commence negotiations over the next year so that we can get approval in place, so that there won't be any disruption in the funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Hine. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: That's good. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Page J-6. Community and Government Services. Detail of Capital. Capital Planning and Technical Service. Grants and Contributions. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and her officials to the House today. I had a number of questions here just to give me a sense of how serious the infrastructure deficit is in Nunavut, where we're headed.

I wonder if the minister can provide us with some information with regard to whether or not her department has calculated the total value of the municipal infrastructure deficit in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I please ask Mr. Dawe to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Dawe.

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That figure on the infrastructure deficit is not one that we generally track on an ongoing basis. It's a figure that we sometimes do some separate research and we update the figure for a specific purpose for such things as input into the federal programs, when we need some background data.

I think the last time that we did that figure was specifically related to one of these federal programs. I think it stood at about a \$300 million deficit in relation to specific basic municipal infrastructure items; the water; the sewer; the solid waste; these sorts of works.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Dawe. There are nine members here so I am going to ring the bell.

We'll get back to the committee meeting. Thank you, Mr. Dawe. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and her official, Mr. Dawe for that information. The minister's department works very closely with the Nunavut Infrastructure Advisory Committee. I think that this is the first full year of operation.

I am wondering if the minister can provide us with an update as to how that relationship is working and if the committee has endeavoured to put together a community by community priority list of infrastructure that they each require. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Please members, before you leave check out other members to see if we have more than enough members for a quorum.

Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're correct is stating that the Advisory Committee have been working well since it was struck in September, 2005 and has made substantial progress. As this time we don't have that breakdown of the projects with us, in front of us, so I am unable to report that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that candid answer. I am wondering if the minister can table that information in the House in the next day or so; for our information. I don't need it right now, but I'm very curious, as a member, what each community's infrastructure situation is.

A few years ago one the officials in Ms. Brown's department had said in a newspaper article, it said he estimated that communities need a combined annual rate of \$40 million to \$50 million to maintain and build necessary new infrastructure, but receive less than half of that, about \$17 million a year. That statement was made over four years ago by Mr. Doug Sitland. He was your capital projects guy. He's been doing it for a few years so I'm sure he knows what he's talking about.

With this sort of information and background, I'm wondering if you could explain to the House how your department worked together with this Nunavut Advisory Committee. How did you bring projects forward and how did you prioritize them? How are decisions made amongst all of the members of the committee?

Some are Nunavut Association of Municipality members, some were individual mayors, some, the government. How were those decisions made to bring forward this capital plan on behalf of municipalities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Just to confirm what Mr. Peterson was asking about the infrastructure projects. We have the recommended ones with us however we can provide you with a whole list within a day or two.

If I can, I'll try and answer it, but I have my officials to help me. So the community consultations for input for the 2007-08 for a five year capital plan was completed before May 2006 and the Government of Nunavut and the advisory committee made a presentation at the NAM annual general meeting in early May.

The NCIAC subsequently reviewed all community and Community and Government Services priorities and made recommendations of priority projects for inclusion in the five year plan.

The NCIAC recommendation included community infrastructure projects eligible for consideration under all funding sources; Government of Nunavut capital funds and federal infrastructure programs and attempted to strike a reasonable balance of community need against reasonable budget expectation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that update. I'd love to be able to be a fly on the wall to be able to watch how 25 communities carved up an \$18 million budget when they need probably \$50 to 60 million to meet current demand. Again, I thank you for that information.

In her opening comments she mentioned that there are agreements for the two new federal funding programs. Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund and the Gas Tax have been finalized and as a result new funding has been incorporated into this capital plan. I know that the MRIF funds 50 percent and the Gas Tax funds 100 percent of the projects.

Can the minister point out to me, or clarify for me which projects are funded in this capital plan out of those two funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The numbers that are with them are in the booklet that is provided in Appendix 4. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Bear with me, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if I understand the way this is listed the five-year Gas Tax projects they are all 100 percent funded. Were these projects that that infrastructure committee also had input into seeking approval from the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's correct; those projects went to the NCIAC Committee as well.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I'll get down to the numbers. On Page G-6, under small capital there's \$3,895,000 listed, in small capital projects its \$300,000 or less. Does the minister have a detailed list of the projects that are going to be funded under that Small Capital Projects Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) What we have in the list for 2007-08; they are all in here.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't understand the minister's answer; could you repeat your answer minister?

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes we have that, the list for 2007-08 for small capital, and we could provide that list if you want because it's for our own use that we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. This item is a fairly large item for almost \$4 million and it did say small capital projects \$300,000 or less. Can the minister give an indication on how many small capital projects are on your list? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the Director of Community Infrastructure, Mr. Dawe to expand on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Dawe.

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is quite correct in recognizing that \$3.8 million is quite a significant line item in our budget. The concept of setting up that item and this is universally across all the Government of Nunavut departments, but the concept is that it should allow a little bit of flexibility within the departments to address particular needs from time, as they may change from time to time.

So therefore, I think the objective was not to nail down hard and fast a set program at this point, but to give some general indications where our priorities might lie at the moment, with the realization that they may have to change throughout the year.

However, having said that, Community and Government Services has indeed identified a program for the first year on which we will spend that \$3.8 million, realizing that all the programs that we have identified over the first year probably come to much more than that so there does have to be some adjustments to the figures.

However, for this year and we can provide this as a hard copy for the members' benefit if they so desire, but we have nominally notionally identified, I think, perhaps, about twenty projects here. They are a mix of community heavy equipment type of expenditures, for example dump trucks, loaders, bulldozers, this sort of thing. Traditionally, a very significant part of the Community and Government Services budget, but now because of the \$300,000 guideline, it gets knocked into small capital.

Also included in those projects that we have considered are several of the ongoing regional programs that we have funded from year to year, for example, the block funding, community planning, and mobile equipment programs that we've traditionally provided to each region for their community of each year.

So basically what we have is perhaps six or eight items of mobile equipment, maybe a dozen items of the ongoing block funding type of programs, and an attempt at a reasonable distribution across the territory into the various communities.

As I said, if it's the Chairman's wish, I can itemize each one here now, or we can provide this as a supplementary document at your pleasure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Dawe for that answer. I think we should accept Mr. Dawe's kind offer, if he could itemize it right now, for the record, what's on his list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Okay, Mr. Dawe, if you've got what Mr. Peterson mentioned, that would be great. Thank you. Anything else Mr. Peterson?

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I misunderstood. I thought Mr. Dawe was going to read down through his list where the projects are; the heavy equipment, and the block funding so you have it on the record, in the *Hansard*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Will you go through that information, please? Thank you. Mr. Dawe.

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can indeed provide that information. The separate projects that we've identified; there are two front end loaders, heavy equipment for the communities. We've identified those for Chesterfield Inlet, and Clyde River.

We have a bulldozer identified for Igloolik. We have one of our ongoing programs of minor capital expenditures, and these are for items of renovations to certain Government of Nunavut buildings. We have a small project for that identified of \$132,000.

We have a vehicle for use at the headquarters in Iqaluit, a dump truck for Kimmirut. Oh, by the way, I should mention that that vehicle is for internal governmental use. It's not an Iqaluit vehicle for the City of Iqaluit. It's a vehicle based here in Iqaluit for government use.

As, I said, we have a Kimmirut dump truck. We have, in terms of the regional programs that we've traditionally provided to each region, those are the block funding program, the community planning program, the mobile equipment repair, and minor capital projects.

Those four programs are now 12 projects given that we have three regions. So those four programs are identified for each of the three regions. So that's another 12 projects.

Nunavut-wide, we have identified our geomatics program, some response equipment for the Petroleum Products Directorate, some tenant improvements to office buildings for tenant use, a fire truck for Pond Inlet, a bulldozer for Resolute Bay, and a dump truck for Whale Cove.

That's our list, Mr. Chairman, as it sits at the moment. Thank you very much.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Dawe for giving us the list of equipment. Are there any further questions? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Dawe for that detailed list. It certainly is useful information. Again, Mr. Chairman, can the minister confirm that the Nunavut Infrastructure Advisory Committee was involved in prioritizing those projects that are under the small capital? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to direct that question to Mr. Dawe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Dawe.

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The involvement of the NCIAC throughout this process extended much beyond the small projects category; the previous mention of some of the NCIACs involvement relates to the small categories as well in that when we went out and we did our community consultation we received from each community a list of their top ten priorities that they would want.

We brought those back and applied ranking criteria; developed a list of what projects could be funded under what programs, for example; and basically put forth basically the NCIAC recommendations. At that point, as the members are probably all aware, the GN process itself is evolving a little bit as well.

This is where the small capital category came in. At the time of the NCIAC recommendations all these projects in the small capital were each considered as individual projects, in their own right, as they have always been. NCIAC was finished with the recommendations; had the recommendations made by the time a decision was made to take these out into a small capital category.

So, as concisely, the member will have to forgive me for rambling, but as concisely as I can answer the question these projects were all approved, recommended by NCIAC, forwarded to CGS and up the ladder to the committee, as we have it here now.

Where we do have a little bit of flexibility in the program is that the NCIAC recommendations contain somewhat more small capital programs than we are able to fund. Those were selected internally, through CGS, from the ones that NCIAC recommended.

As I said, we hope to maintain a little bit of flexibility with this to consult back through NCIAC and the communities, again before we actually start signing cheques on any of these projects. It's our best guess at the moment at what we think we can do given the monies and given the NCIACs feelings on the matter. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Dawe for that information.

As a former mayor, it is very heartening to see the department working closely with municipalities. Part of the reasons for my question on this in the last few minutes is just

to get that sense of where you are in your relationship with the municipalities. It is good to see that things are progressing.

MLAs have tough choices to make but the choices are a lot easier when municipalities have already had their kick at the can and agreed amongst themselves how to share the limited funds.

I am very grateful for that information and I look forward to hearing about the future good work between your department and with that committee. With that, Mr. Chairman, I'll stop asking questions for a few minutes. Thank you.

Chairman: I believe that was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really have any questions, but there's a little bit more money than last year. I have a bit of a concern about money that is proposed by the communities. The community governments have difficulty in shortage of equipment.

We have a big community now; you're not always in my community, so there are a lot of things that we have to do in our community. We have to do planning for the following year, and we have to write down the priority list of what we need, you must know that our community has, is very flat and the water quality is not at it's best and because of the snow geese being there majority of the time there, the water quality is not adequate.

All these things that have to be done in my community have not been done for approximately two years. Like sometimes I'm in a disagreement, I'm not saying that I am against your department, but it's just that with a limited amount of money I think the government is going to have to have a priority list, say for instance in Rankin Inlet, this year like there's a, there's going to be funding set aside for a sewage treatment plant.

And also in five years there is going to be \$2.5 million set aside already, but some other communities don't get anything. There are a lot of things that we need in my community that we really need.

If it's under 2,500, does it have to be done that way? We are 2,500 people and we don't have anything. Those are the types of things that the government should be prioritizing because some communities get quite a bit and some communities that really need it don't get it.

When I was in Arviat, Rankin Inlet, and Winnipeg, there was a lot of things that I saw that need to be done, and I could see people that are down in Winnipeg that have to go back home, that have to have a better airport facilities that are stuck over there, and they have to have another airline, and they need all these things.

And as well in my community we have poor quality water, and they're not going to do anything about it for the next five years. There are a lot of young people in my

community, perhaps 70 percent of the population of a community, there's a lot of people and they have no place to go. And the swimming pool is only open in the summertime and it's only about two feet deep, and our community hall in Arviat can only fit adult people, there's nobody else that go in there after it becomes full.

I feel that the government has to do a little bit more for the communities that really need it instead of giving a little bit here and a little there because you have to have a priority list.

A realistic priority list and just to, for the wellness of the community. I think we have to get priority to the wellness of the communities such as hospital, homelessness, and recreational facilities, like I'm not saying that I'm hurt, but it's just that last week our mayor said that there's been an agreement that young people's facility will be built and she said the government already agreed to it, but I don't see it in the capital planning.

Maybe it would be under Culture, Language, Elders and Youth department but I don't see it over here. There's also something else that they told me about that's not even here.

There are lots of questions that I could have to the government. And looking at what the government is looking at are realistic, but the people that come from the community know what is going on in the community and I know that there are a lot of things that we need.

Like we are not using the way of Nunavut doing things like Mr. Peterson talked a lot about what his community needs are and he also wanted to get some information as to what they are going to be using for the small capital for which is realistic. Of course he wants to know.

Perhaps maybe Arviat will have something from that \$300,000. Perhaps Qikiqtarjuaq will get a little too as well. I can go on and on and on, but I'd like to ask a question, I'd like to ask the minister. A year and a half ago the government spent \$25,000 to get a water a better water system in Arviat because we've had poor water quality for quite some time know. And don't see it in the five-year capital plan.

I just wanted to see if Community and Government Services is going to do anything about it or are they going to do another investigation about the lake that we use. Madame Minister, what is happening with the Arviat water right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Member for Arviat. I feel for the comments he had made. I am pretty sure other communities feel that way. A lot of times some projects are behind, the question that he raised I'd like to respond.

In here, work on the quality of water in Arviat it states 2007-08 there is \$100,000 to start that and 2008-09, there is another \$900,000 and I just wanted to point that out. I would like to ask my officials if they want to add anything. Mr. Dawe will supplement my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Dawe.

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the concerns raised by the member are exactly why we initiated the new process of consulting with the communities through the NCIAC process and it is these very types of projects that are now being brought more directly to our attention by the NAM representatives that come to our committee and by our trips out through the communities to actually consult with them.

Because as some of the members may be aware this past spring each community was visited by representatives of both Community and Government Services and NAM through the NCIAC committee and that is where our basic NCIAC process started its planning.

And we picked up a lot of the projects of the type that the minister, that the member has referred to here. As the minister rightly pointed out, we have indeed identified that particular project for funding to start flowing subject to the committee's approval of course in the coming year.

It chances that the Arviat water problem is one of which we were aware through previous studies and we are now reinforced by the NCIAC and by some of the new money and we are now in a position to start doing something about it.

I might point out that that project is being funded under Gas Tax which probably is why it's not so obviously apparent in the document that you have before you because it's Gas Tax money which is 100 percent federal and not Vote 2 money on which the legislature is to vote.

So you can find the Gas Tax projects like this one and any other Gas Tax projects that we are proposing as was stated before in Appendix 4 to this document that you have before you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Dawe. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for identifying those numbers, yeah it is identified there, but one of the members said that they had been originally put in there and then they disappear after, what I would like to ask is that, they're just going to put a filter in this summer.

That will not increase the quantity of water. So 2008-09, it states \$900,000, what will that be used for? What, specifically, will it be used for? Is it a guarantee that we will get it in 2008-09? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you. The \$100,000 from Gas Tax; this is just for a study, that money that is set aside and the \$900,000 that is put aside, I don't think we'll know exactly what it'll be used for. We have to go with the findings that they do with \$100,000, but it will be to improve the quantity of water. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Alagalak, on J-6.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, so we will be expecting during that year like next year they'll do another study and I will keep a close eye on the funding that make sure that they follow what they have to do because every year they just come back and say that there has to be more work on it. And thank you for giving us something to expect on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. I believe that was a comment. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to clarify something here, I know it says capital planning and technical services deals with capital projects and I assume that there are people that administer those capital projects as well.

I think we all know and I know Ed was always saying, when I was asking about what was going on at the middle school, and he was always blaming Community and Government Services saying it was all their fault, just kidding. He didn't say it was all their fault, but either way it's over there that's good.

I guess in that, you know, as I look at that project, that capital project that happened here, that went months behind, I was just wondering how that could happen, I mean, we are approving millions of dollars worth of capital projects and how do we know that they are going to be monitored properly.

You know, so we don't run into, or how did that situation happen. Like I don't know who monitors it, or who does what, so I wonder if I could get an explanation on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman. The issue that is being brought up and what is written, I want you to know that since I've been a minister, I don't know what my predecessor did, but we meet regularly to prioritize those.

We all have staff in the communities and they work very well with the hamlet councils and mayors and the infrastructures. When the members, MLA's were in the communities

they were also invited to attend and I met with some of you personally. And during the process of planning some of you were involved.

We are hoping that they won't disappear because they're very important and I will keep a close eye on these projects because I feel they are very important. I don't want the communities to expect for nothing because that's giving false hope. So I'd like to tell you that I am very serious about this and that my staff has big responsibilities even though we may be short of funding.

The federal government can't give us a huge amount of money since the creation of Nunavut. We are barely getting by but we are developing something. The advisory committee is new and last year in 2005 they just started and they have accomplished a lot. We can actually produce something so they will be able to monitor the progress. My deputy wanted to supplement my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Madame Minister. Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am responding to the member's question regarding the Aqsarniit middle school project. I guess I can state that from my previous portfolio of Education I was watching the project closely as well. I think the important thing to note is, to mention, is the fact this school project was a very complex project, it was not just a construction of a new facility, it was also renovation to an existing facility as well.

The project is actually delivered by the regional office where the technical officers are located, and it's also overseen by technical division in headquarters. The project, although there was a slight delay, it was less than two months and it is one that we are watching. We have a number of, obviously, a number of projects that are completed actually even before the construction date as well, so some are little bit easier and go through a lot quicker.

We have the odd ones that will extend a little bit longer than what we anticipate. When we design the tender documents and the contract documents were are putting our best date forward, for the completion dates based on conception drawings and tender processes.

It's then when reality hits in this situation that with a delay of materials reaching the building site on time was one of the delays, which caused a delay in construction. As soon as they were aware of the delay, they did let the client department, Education knows about this delay.

We also kept in contact with the school, the DEA, and the parents as well. We had meetings on site three times a week to make sure that the progress was being made. So we did everything we possibly could once the delay was identified.

The minister has asked us to do a review of the project which we will be doing as well, so we will be looking at the process to see if there's anything in our project administration process that needs to be changed, so that we can minimize any potential delay of future projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Hine. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and the deputy for that response and I guess she's looking at it now from a different perspective. Given that when someone bids on the contract they know what they're getting into, in this case there was more than one bidder; it doesn't matter, but someone that is putting in a bid, especially on a project that like that, should know what they're getting into, and they should be confident in knowing they'll get it done in that time frame.

If you look at materials not coming here on time, well if they missed the deadline to get the stuff to the boat, is that our problem, or is that their problem? That's what happens I think, when you have southern contractors that aren't used to how things are done up here as far as deadlines and that go.

When you talk about the project where it's administered by the regional offices, is that here? Is the regional office here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're referring to the office in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is someone from Pond Inlet looking after that project here in Iqaluit? Pond Inlet...what is that office? I know you have an assistant deputy minister headquarters positioned here, and a deputy minister here; you have an assistant deputy minister function in Rankin Inlet.

I'm just wondering, looking at a reporting process, and just to see if this might help you guys in looking at your review, is someone from Pond Inlet looking at a project here, and going back to Pond Inlet, then where do they go from that? Do they go from Pond Inlet back here to headquarters, or does it go to the headquarters function in Rankin Inlet?

I'm just wondering what the reporting structure...if we want to see where and how delays came about. That might be something to look at. Can we just get an idea of...if a project officer goes to the regional head guy in Pond Inlet, where does that person go to with everything? Is it through the headquarters office here, or the headquarters office in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the regional offices and implementation offices were developed before my time. It's called decentralization.

It seems like *Ipalligajuq* since I've been minister. However, all those take time to *Ipagiksaq*, like, to organize, and to plan. That's where we are today, trying to make everything fit; trying to make everything work.

To elaborate some more, I think my deputy minister will speak to that as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to answer the member's question first is that; when we're looking at the review of the file of this project we're going to be looking at everything as well.

So your comment will be taken into consideration. We will look at that. As the minister said, we have a number of decentralized offices, and when we look at the Baffin region, it's even more decentralized because it also results from the amalgamation when Community Government and Transportation was amalgamated with Public Works and Services.

They both had two decentralized regional offices. We've kept those offices, so the community government side of operations of the Baffin region is located in Cape Dorset, and the technical services side is located in Pond Inlet.

So the specific question that the member raised; the project officer would report to the project manager, and the assistant regional director located in Pond Inlet, who would then talk to the regional director located in Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Hine. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems a long ways to go around for something that is right here in the middle to get done, and that might have...I'm not saying I'm knocking the set up or whatever, but, it has to go here, there, and everywhere, and each time it has to go to one of those places, it goes right through here where the project is.

You might have been better off having someone from here administer that project. Then, they could go see for themselves that everything is fine, and not be told; oh don't worry, everything is fine, and then when they come down and see it from Pond Inlet, they find out that everything isn't.

With that I very much look forward to the review being done and, like you say, everything being looked at. To me a contract is a contract, if a contractor says, "Yes, we're going to do it by this timeframe; it should be done by that timeframe. Is it our fault

that they didn't order stuff in time to get it on the boat? That's not our fault. Hopefully, the yeoman service that the Minister of Education has done on this file to make sure that those children didn't lose out as much as they could've. I think when you look at it two weeks of school or more that they've lost.

The staff up at the school there has put in a tremendous amount of effort just to maintain it. I think we owe it to them, and to Mr. Picco, as well to make sure things like this don't happen again. We can learn from our mistakes because given everything, it's a lot of undue stress on everyone involved; right from the kids to the teachers, to the Minister of Education; to the staff, and everybody throughout the whole system. It doesn't need it. Everybody is busy enough already.

So I'll leave it at that and I look forward to that review being done and reviewing the review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I didn't hear a question. Community and Government Services. Detail of Capital. Capital Planning and Technical Service. Grants and Contributions. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to follow-up with the previous line of questioning we had going here with respect to projects that are funded under the Gas Tax in Appendix 4. I realize they're not Vote 2 projects, but previously in the House some of the projects were funded and subsequently now they're being 100 percent funded by the Gas Tax.

My question for the minister and her officials is: can they table an update and then table a document that shows us how the funds that were appropriated earlier for some of these projects; how they were reallocated to other projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and also the member for asking those questions. I will have Mr. Dawe respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Dawe.

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is quite right in referring to a number of projects that were started a little while ago with Vote 2 money and since the signing of the Gas Tax agreement are now eligible for funding under the Gas Tax agreement instead. Some of these projects we had already identified Vote 2 money in previous capital programs. So the proposal was to take that Vote 2 money and reassign it to other projects for which Gas Tax is not suitable for projects that are not eligible under the Gas Tax.

We have taken measures to start that process. There are perhaps a half dozen projects that

we've identified so far that are at a certain point where we can indeed take the free unspent money yet and put aside.

We have identified a number of projects of potential for reuse of that money elsewhere, but we don't have a final list of that yet. It will be very little in terms of initiating of new projects because some of this money will be used for shortfalls that occurred on other projects for emergency work that came up, and quite a number of other different purposes that we proposed to reassign the money.

In direct answer to the member's question, we do not have the money reallocated yet; we can provide shortly a list of the projects that we are considering that need reallocation of some money of this sort.

And that will at least demonstrate the field as to where this money is being proposed, where it's possible to spend it. We do have to get a little bit closer to the final accounts on some of these projects to determine exactly what the financial status is. So we're not quite in the position at this point in time to actually make hard and fast decisions as to where the money should go, but we do have some general ideas and those can be tabled as a guideline for the information of the members if you so wish. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Dawe for that information. Can Mr. Dawe give us an idea of the total amount of funds that are freed up as a result of the Gas Tax initiative being signed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dawe: Again, as I mentioned earlier, the accounts are a little bit preliminary at this point in time because, as you can appreciate, we are only now approaching the end of our construction season, and it's actually quite a busy part of the financial season in getting all these bills out and getting all the accounts straightened away.

There is also an issue with respect to some of the free money versus some of the money that we've already paid that may be eligible. The bottom line is, it looks like, and I don't have the figure exactly in front of me, but if I recall, I think it was about \$2 million that we were looking at immediately available for reallocation to some of these other projects.

Now in the meantime some of that will have to go to other committed projects that we have had to do some juggling on earlier, but it looks like \$2 million to be dealt with of which, some of it will be discretionary, but a lot of it more or less tied up with other projects that have come into shortfall or have been initiated for emergency purposes. As I said we will be able to provide a more detailed list in a few days.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Dawe. Can Mr. Dawe tell me if these other projects that you may reallocate the funding to, are they also projects that would have been reviewed by the Nunavut Investment, or the Nunavut Infrastructure Review Committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Generally speaking, those projects would have been considered by the NCIAC whether they made a final, made the cut to the final recommendations may or may not be true. In most cases I suspect it would be, but there are some projects where we have had to advance them because conditions became a little bit different because we had a leak in the sewage berm or because we had, as an example.

So generally speaking, yes, all the projects were considered by NCIAC unless they were ones that came up for emergency purposes, in which case NCIAC would be involved from an approval after the fact sort of type of consideration. They would review the project and if they agree, then we can do some realignment to the funds, if they agree to forward the recommendation.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister, and Mr. Dawe. When Mr. Dawe was speaking, I was thinking that it would sure be nice for Members of the Legislative Assembly and I'm sure for the ministers as well if we had a book or a dictionary of acronyms. We're tossing around; I know I have so many rolling around my head that sometimes I don't know if we're talking the same language.

I think it would be worthwhile in the interest of transparency as I had mentioned in my opening comments if the department would table that information so that we know where the funds are being reallocated to.

We do have limited funds in the government for infrastructure, so it would be worthwhile for us to, as members of the House and the various standing committees to know where the funds are being shuffled around to. They always say; follow the money.

We want to make sure that the funds are going to good use. That's just more of a comment Mr. Chairman, but I'm quite serious about the acronym dictionary, or book. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Back to J-6. Community and Government Services. Detail of Capital. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Grants and Contributions. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$4 million. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Grants and Contributions. \$4 million. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Tangible Assets. Total Headquarters Region. \$3,895,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Just for the record, I think you're supposed to say \$3,895,000.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. \$3,895,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$200,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sorry. Next page. Page J-7. Tangible Assets. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$2,266,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seriously took a great interest for Pond Inlet, these shares projects. The foundation for a community hall is \$1,000,020. The main part of the community hall I guess will be \$400,000. I don't know how the breakdown is. The foundation seems to be twice as expensive as the rest of the community hall.

I think that's what the company charges. I also see with interest that in the substantiation sheet, there is a plan for 2010. I believe it is for a three bay garage in Pond Inlet, 2010-11, of \$4 million.

I was very interested when Mr. Peterson was talking about that, and I think Mr. Tootoo, too...

Tootoo, too.

>> *Laughter*

... that there is a consultation between the mayors. I think the deputy minister was stating that they held a consultation with the mayors and the Members of the Legislative Assembly were invited to participate in prioritizing the items for their community under the Community and Government Services.

When I became a hamlet member four months ago, five months ago, I was briefed by the hamlet council, and especially by the SAO, that we would get a community hall this year, or next year, and because the funds are not available now, we would not get a community complex. That means arena included, and possibly with a curling rink, then they will have to wait until the following year for that, another year for that.

I noticed now that it's completely gone. I looked to 2012 and beyond that, and there is also a column here that says future years. That is way past 2011-12, I think. There's nothing there either.

As far as the community briefing me was that, we cannot really use the arena anymore because it's, if you go inside in the dark, you could see the stars through the roof, and the parents, what about the children freezing their ears off when they're trying to play hockey?

So they really don't use it now and especially in the late winter, like February. How is it that when the understanding was reached to have, you know when the funds become available to community hall design so that the arena can be added to it?

And the site developed accordingly, that even for the future years, there's nothing there. Is that because, it would be eligible on the Gas Tax, and what of the extra money that some other funding was to be made available? Can I have that explanation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Dawe answer your question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Dawe.

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Pond Inlet Community Complex Project wound up being very much more expensive than the money that we were providing at the time, as it went along. We found the same thing with quite a number of our recent projects that costs seem to be rising an awful lot because of market conditions it seems.

In any event, we did not have enough money identified in the capital program to fund what was at the time being proposed as a community complex, which would have consisted of a community hall and an arena built into the one building.

Rather than delay the entire project, we did determine that we could probably fund the community hall part of it, the community hall was, through consultations, was determined to be the more pressing of the two needs, so in effect we decided to use the money that we had already identified to build the community hall part, also to make provision in the foundation work that is now being done on site so that the arena part

could be built in at a later point, and that accommodation is also being made in the design.

The financial reality remains with us however that we still only have enough money to build the one component of it and there is not enough money identified in the capital plan for the second. This came up subsequent in the process of the NCIAC deliberations and it was determined that our best bet would be to proceed with what we know and what we can afford at the moment, and see if in future plans we can hopefully with a little bit of easing of financial pressures in a future year, we will be able to work the second part of the complex back into the system and to provide some money for it.

It's a project that's being funded through the MRIF Program and the funding that the member sees before him in the book is the 50 percent that the Government of Nunavut will provide for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Dawe. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: I don't know what MRIF is, but I'll look up in that acronym dictionary that we will be provided later. When the discussion was being held, the hamlet also told me that old arena will be utilized to, I think renovate, for a three bay garage, or four bay garage. Now, I realize that in 2010-11 you want to build a \$1 million three-bay garage in the community.

What is that; they changed their mind, Pond Inlet people changed their mind, or hamlet has changed their mind about; they want their old arena into a garage that they previously wanted? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I have in front of me is the community hall that will be started in 2006. I'll have Mr. Dawe make a supplement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Dawe.

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the concept of the community hall was a community complex and was to be intended as a replacement for the arena as well, there was, indeed, some discussion with the community of various possibilities of reuse for the old structure for the arena. If a new arena is built, along with the new community hall then the old arena building is, of course, surplus.

Those types of considerations are ones that we always have to look at when we get new projects, and there are quite a number of different ways that reuse of existing facilities can be approached.

That was one that was discussed with the community at the time and one that CGS would, of course, be quite willing to consider. However, the current plan is that the arena is to remain as it is, for at least a while; until we can identify future funding that then leaves the community short of parking space, so we've identified this project at the community's wish, for additional parking space. It is quite reasonable, of course, that if we can work the additional funding into the plan and get a start made on the arena, then we can revert back to other plans for the old building, and it may be that that project would not be required at that time.

As it stands, right now, that's about the only way we see at the moment, of providing some parking space. If it turned out that they do not need it, as parking space because we've made other plans at the time, then, of course, that money can be in a future capital plan rolled over to some other purpose. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Dawe. I will allow one more question, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Am I only allowed to ask a certain amount of questions?

Chairman: Go ahead.

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, I thought that I still had four minutes and 51 seconds.

Very quickly, these seem to be like a guessing figure. Pond Inlet needs sometime around 2010-11 needs a three-bay garage. They have \$1 million being identified. They probably will because it is a growing community, like everything else.

What they were trying to do here is utilize what we have in Pond Inlet that cannot be used for kids anymore, because it's so old that it is really not usable anymore, but could be used as a three-bay garage, or four-bay garage, there is that arena.

Although it is one of the first ones; it's very old; just a shell.

Can I get a little bit more as to how wonderful your consultation with the community was in making those plans that the MLAs were invited to participate in coming up with future capital plans for the community, especially the hamlet that deals with recreation, municipal services, etcetera.

You are now saying to me that in the event they need a three-bay garage, we'll put it right there, when in fact, they identify very strongly, right at the outset that they need a new community complex, that includes an arena? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Sorry to waste a little bit of your time; I was looking at the clock, rather than looking at how much time you had. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the three-bay garage that you mentioned and looking at the documents in here it states that the \$200,000 would be set aside in 2009-10 and 2010-11 it would be that case if it was a brand new structure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have lots more questions after that, so I move to report progress. Thank you.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Evyagotailak

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, 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: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Mapsalak. Thank you. The motion is order. All those in favour. Opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder for a meeting tomorrow at 9:00 in the morning on the Standing Committee on Operations and Accountability in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for November 28, 2006:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions

7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 23
 - Bill 24
 - Bill 25
 - 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. Our meeting will adjourn until Tuesday, November 28 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:05*

