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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, November 28, 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): Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Alagalak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Premier, Ministers, and Members. Thank you for coming back to the meeting. Item. 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 131 – 2(3): British Columbia Health Summit**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, today Premier Gordon Campbell of British Columbia is co-chairing the National Aboriginal Health Summit in Vancouver. He and Grand Chief Phil Fontaine of the Assembly of First Nations will conduct a dialogue amongst Premiers, Ministers and senior officials of the provinces and territories and leaders of the national aboriginal organizations. The federal government is attending the summit as an observer.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to improving the health status of Nunavummiut, and are working with Health Canada, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc and our regional Inuit organizations toward that objective. We have an integrated health system in Nunavut where our government delivers not only public health but also federally-funded aboriginal health services. We are responding to the challenges of delivering health services across a vast expanse of Canada, in remote communities, where community health centres are our clinics and airplanes are our ambulances. We are building regional health facilities and upgrading our hospital, and Nunavut continues to work to bring health care closer to home.

The Minister of Health and I are committed to our House duties this week and are unable to attend the summit in Vancouver. However, Nunavut is represented at these important meetings, and the Minister and I are monitoring the outcomes of this important dialogue.

I have conveyed my support to Premier Campbell and congratulate him on his leadership. I wish the summit well in their deliberations.

Mr. Speaker, the National Summit on Aboriginal Health is the first of three meetings on aboriginal issues that Canada's Premier's agreed to host after our meeting with the leaders of the national aboriginal organizations in Corner Brook, Newfoundland/Labrador, last July. Premier Calvert will host an aboriginal economic development meeting in Saskatoon in January 2007, and Premier Williams will convene aboriginal women's issues meeting in Newfoundland/Labrador in June 2007.

Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to tell the members that we don't have the Ministers' Statement that was just done. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister for the Department of Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

Minister's Statement 132 – 2(3): CGS Recycling Programs

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce today that Community and Government Services continues to take the lead in doing our part to protect our environment by focusing on reusing, reducing and recycling of various waste products and materials that we as a government generate on a daily basis.

So far in 2006 Community and Government Services warehouse services have shipped over 45,000 pounds, 22.5 tonnes of paper to the south for recycling. The Department of Justice, Young Offenders Division also contributes to our recycling program by providing twice-weekly pick up services of shredded paper in Government of Nunavut offices in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, recently Community and Government Services warehouse services initiated a new computer and office equipment recycling program to divert broken unusable equipment from our local landfill in Iqaluit to a reputable recycling company in Ottawa.

Through this new recycling initiative, Community and Government Services warehouse services has to date shipped over 40,000 pounds (20.5 tons) of recyclable equipment of processing in the south.

I am also pleased to mention our partnerships with local and southern businesses that help keep the cost of these initiatives to a minimum. For example, Community and Government Services has established Memorandum's of Understanding (MOUs) with companies such as Canadian North Airlines, who transport our recyclable materials to Ottawa at no cost.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that Community and Government Services is taking the necessary steps to be part of the solution in managing our recyclable waste in a meaningful way that benefits our environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 133– 2(3) Tabling of Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Akesuk. I am pleased to announce today the release of the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy and Implementation Plan. This strategy represents the work of many individuals and organizations, and has been developed with input from the public. Later today I will be tabling this long-awaited report.

Mr. Speaker, guided by the Iqqanaijaqatigiit Agreement, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated struck a working group to develop this Strategy. Membership in the Working Group is drawn from a broad representation of agencies involved in adult programming in Nunavut.

This document demonstrates a cooperative approach to problem solving. I would once again personally like to thank NTI President Paul Kaludjak for his support of a process that has been very positive and has moved forward in a very short period of time.

Mr. Speaker, the resulting strategy focuses on the changes needed to make the learning system in Nunavut functional and seamless. The goals of the strategy and the associated 23 objectives in the detailed Implementation Plan provide a solid basis to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage my honourable colleagues, and those with an interest in adult learning to obtain a copy of this document and give it careful consideration.

We look forward to this House's as well as the Nunavut public's review on suggestions contained in the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 134 – 2(3): Use of Local Radio Stations to Promote GN Job Opportunities

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues of recent improvements made by the Department of

Human Resources in ensuring our job opportunities are conveyed effectively to all Nunavummiut.

During last year's standing committee meetings, it was suggested by one of my colleagues that my department explore the possibility of using local radio stations to better inform the public of employment opportunities with the Government of Nunavut.

A number of reasons were given for implementing this approach including weather delay of newspaper distribution, the fact that not all of our citizens have access to the Internet, and most importantly, that local radio stations have large numbers of dedicated listeners.

I instructed my department to research this possibility, and I am pleased to inform this House that effective this fall each regional office as well as our headquarters operations will fax or email all regional employment opportunities on a weekly basis to each local radio station in all Nunavut communities to be read as public service announcements.

It is anticipated that this improved coverage will result in a greater number of Nunavummiut applicants and ultimately, successful candidates for our employment opportunities.

I would like to assure my colleagues in this House that my department is committed to continuing to work towards improving our services to our client departments as well as the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk, Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, as well as Human Resources. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

Minister's Statement 135 – 2(3): SSHRC Grant Northern Social Economy Research

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Social Sciences and the Humanities Research Council of Canada, or SSHRC, have provided \$1.75 million over five years for a Northern Research Network that will connect university, college, and community researchers with the not-for-profit organizations that make up the social economy in the three territories.

Mr. Speaker, this is the largest research grant ever to be awarded for social sciences research in Canada's north. Researchers from four southern universities will be involved in the research activities which includes; Lakehead University, Carleton University, the University of Northern British Columbia, and Memorial University.

These activities will be coordinated and administered through Yukon College in cooperation with Nunavut Research Institute, at the Nunavut Arctic College and Aurora College in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, this structure provides for greater northern involvement, context, and research direction. As well, Dr. Francis Abel of Carleton University, recently noted that one of the most wonderful aspects of this project is that it originated in the north on the initiative of northern research institutes and scholars, and it will be completed by northerners and southerners working together.

Mr. Speaker, the term “social economy” covers the economies of a range of organizations which are neither government nor the private for-profit sector. It includes the traditional economic relationships of aboriginal communities, volunteer organizations, cooperatives, community groups, non-governmental organizations, non-profit groups, and yes, Mr. Speaker, unions.

The research will focus on four main areas profiling the social economy in Northern Canada; indigenous communities: the social economy; resource regimes and the social economy; and the state and the social economy.

Finally Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Nunavut Arctic College and the staff at the Nunavut Research Institute and the other Northern Research Institutes for initiating this project which will provide research findings that are relevant to Nunavut’s social economy, and will help us deal with changes, Mr. Speaker, changes here in our economy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers’ Statements. Item 3. Members’ Statements. Item 4. Mr. Peterson.

Thank you. Could you please raise your hands during the appropriate agenda item so we don’t have to go back to our agenda items after they have passed, please? But however, I will allow members to go back to Item 3. Members’ Statements. Mr. Peterson.

Item 3: Members’ Statements

Member’s Statement 323 – 2(3): Inuit Culture Exhibition in Spain

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You’re moving along too fast for me, I apologize. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update the House about a recent overseas exhibition that promoted Inuit culture in the Basque Country on Spain’s north coast.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, six Nunavut ambassadors were in the City of Basauri to participate in a very successful series of Inuit cultural exhibitions that included throat singing, carving, singing and drum-dancing, and history-telling.

Mr. Speaker, the exhibition was held in the historic 12th century Tower of Ariz. The organizers set up concerts, films, workshops and lectures that allowed people who visited

the exhibition to take part in the events to get to know what Inuit culture is like and how Inuit live.

Mr. Speaker, the members of our Nunavut delegation who represented us were:

- Miriam Aglukkaq of Gjoa Haven, who performed singing for drum dancing;
- Tanya Tagaq Gillis of Cambridge Bay, who demonstrated throat singing;
- Attima Hadlari, our interpreter, of Cambridge Bay, who demonstrated drum dancing, Inuksuk-building and Inuit Games;

>> *Applause*

- Celina Kadluk of Iqaluit, who performed throat singing;
- Matthew Nuqingaq of Iqaluit, who demonstrated carving; and
- Doug Stern of Cambridge Bay, who presented the history of Bathurst Inlet, Umingmaktok, and Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, there were three other individuals who participated and contributed to the event's success.

They were Franscesco Bailon, who is a noted Spanish expert on Inuit culture; Jose Manuel Naranjo the expedition leader; and Julian Dowdeswell, the Director of the Scott Polar Research Institute at the University of Cambridge in England.

Mr. Speaker, the Basque Country event, lead by the City Hall of Basauri, included sponsors from a radio station, a newspaper, a private foundation, a bank, and a public institution. The Nunavut delegation was assisted by the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, Nunavut Tourism and the Canadian Embassy in Spain.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to join me in thanking our Nunavut delegation and their support group experts, their City of Basauri hosts; and the many sponsors who made this exhibition possible so that the people in the Basque Country of Spain had an opportunity to get a brief glimpse into Inuit culture in Nunavut.

Gracias, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. You are very well timed. Member of the Legislative Assembly for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 324 – 2(3): Elders' Facility for Quttiktuq

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about my constituencies in the High Arctic. When I visited those communities they lacked an elders' facility and they conveyed that concern to me. I would like to talk a bit about that issue.

The Elders' Society in the two communities of my constituency there are no facilities for them to go to. In those communities they provide support for social counselling and they provide all sorts of support and assistance to meet the community needs, but they have to meet at a private home.

Although I spoke to this issue before, they don't have secretaries so their minutes cannot be developed every time they have to make proposals to the government. It is evident that they need a secretary because they need correspondence. My constituents were quite concerned about not having a facility.

Although the elders and youth facilities are combined there's no drop-in centre for the youth in those communities. For that reason at the appropriate time I will be posing my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 325 – 2(3): Table Tennis Competition in Iqaluit

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House of a smashing event that was held here in Iqaluit this past week. That was a table tennis competition that was held here.

Athletes from Iqaluit, Coral Harbour, Baker Lake, Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung, Kugluktuk, Repulse Bay, and Grise Fiord competed to be on Team Nunavut. The team that was selected from the tournament will be heading to the 2007 Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse.

Two players from each age category were chosen. I'm sure that even though only two were picked from each age category, every single one of them had a great time here competing in the event.

I am pleased to provide you with the names that were successful in the tournament to be named to Team Nunavut.

The 14 and Under Boys, forgive me if I pronounce the names wrong, were Louis Nutarariak from Iqaluit. Donovan Nagyouglik from Baker Lake;

The 14 and Under Girls were Minnie Sageaktuk from Iqaluit; Vicki Niptanatiak from Kugluktuk, I'm sure my colleague will correct me on the pronunciation after, which is fine;

The 17 and Under Boys, James Pitseolak from Iqaluit, Michael King from Iqaluit;

The 17 and Under Girls Mahek Havioyak from Kugluktuk, and Pia Tikivik from Iqaluit.

I would like to ask all members to join me in congratulating all the athletes that participated in the tournament this past weekend and wish the successful ones that I named the best of luck and hope that they have a great time at the Canada Winter Games in 2007 in Whitehorse. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 326 – 2(3): Kugluktuk Constituents to Represent Nunavut at Canada Winter Games 2007

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to congratulate two of my constituents. On the weekend the Territorial Table Tennis Tournament was held here in Iqaluit. The tournament was a great success.

The top two athletes from each category have been chosen to represent Nunavut at the 2007 Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse, Yukon.

I am proud to congratulate two of my constituents on their success at the tournament. Vikki Niptanatiak will be representing Nunavut in the Under 14 Girls Category, and Mahik Havioyak will compete in the Under 17 Girls Category.

I would like to offer my congratulations to everyone who participated in the weekend tournament. I would especially like to recognize the coaches who volunteered their time.

I ask all Members of this House to join me in wishing all members of Team Nunavut the best of luck in the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 367 – 2(3): Fuel Price Increase

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Question 367 – 2(3): Fuel Price Increase, asked by Mr. Peter Kattuk, on November 27, 2006.

In response to the member's question, I wish to provide the following clarification: during the 2006-07 fuel re-supply, the Petroleum Product Division of Community and Government Services purchased 169,727,609 litres of fuel, for a total cost of \$130,333,716. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I apologize. I tried to press the button, but I didn't catch it.

Back to Orders of the Day. Item 4. Written Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Members, this week, we have new Pages. I do want to acknowledge the Pages further down: Leanna Kupi, welcome, and to my right, Moe Arlooktuk, who I would also like to welcome.

And from my community of Pangnirtung, to my right, Tina Tautuajuk, and to my left, Jenna Kilabuk. So, I would like to welcome all of them to the Legislative Assembly.

So, those are our only visitors. And also our Sergeant-At-Arms, Simanek Kilabuk. I would like to acknowledge him, and welcome him.

>>Applause

Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I don't think there are any. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 371– 2(3): \$275,000 Contribution Agreement

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

Yesterday, in my questioning to the minister in regard to the contribution agreement that his department has in place with Keewatin Business Development Centre, he had indicated that they provided them with \$275,000, along with a \$1 million authorization to lend money for the development of small businesses in that region.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is, out of that, the \$275,000 contribution that is part of that agreement exactly what is that used for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's for the operations and maintenance and also they use the funding to budget and also they provide assistance to the communities with that funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last March I was questioning the minister responsible at the time...

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo, please proceed.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Isn't it amazing how time flies when you're having fun. Last March I asked the Minister responsible for Economic Development at that time in the Committee of the Whole with his officials that were with him at the time some questions and part of it was in regarding to collections. In that type of field that they operate in with the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, which is pretty much a lender of last resort, and the different organizations that his department has contribution agreements with, sometimes you end up having to take legal action to collect on loans.

My question to the minister is out of that \$275,000 if the organization wanted to spend money on legal fees for collection purposes is that where it would come from? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I will have to look into that as to find out where they get the funding for legal fees. At this time there is nothing detailed in front of me; I have to look into that agreement to see if they can use that funding for legal services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the contribution agreement for this particular case with Keewatin Business Development Centre there is, as I mentioned yesterday, the requirement for them to provide the department with audited financial statements on an annual basis to account for how they spent that money.

My question to the minister has he, or his department officials, received those audited financial statements, and reviewed them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if they have received the audited financial statements at this time so I can't respond to your question. Once I get the information from my staff I will give you a response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While the minister's officials are probably listening and looking for that information, I am wondering if he could also ask them to look into that information, whether it's in the contribution agreement, if there is a budget set up in there, how they plan on spending that money, if there is an amount a percentage of the budget that's set aside for legal costs and compare that to the audited financial statements where they show how much money they actually spent on legal fees for that particular year, if he would commit to provide that information as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I'll make sure that all the information that you requested is there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 372 – 2(3): Fuel Price Increase

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to Minister Brown. Yesterday one of my colleagues was asking questions about the increasing fuel prices and Minister Brown stated that it would have been a 20-cent increase, but the government made a decision to only increase the price by 10 cents.

I would like to ask the minister about the government having paid for the fuel already at \$130 million, so where is that 10 cents going to come from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. We did increase it by 10 cents, but in reality, it should

have been 20 cents per litre. The 90-cent subsidy is being paid for by the government and the money comes out of the revolving fund. As we bought it on credit it is now owed by the Government of Nunavut and we have to approve the appropriation in order to pay for that debt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for her response. As the Minister of Finance stated the government would be in a deficit of \$8 million. Is that included in that number? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member also. I would like to make sure that you are kept informed about what is happening. We have had Second Reading and I want to make sure everything is in order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is that going to have an effect on the capital budget and the projects that are geared towards the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be able to respond to that when we go into Committee of the Whole, if the member would wait patiently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get a response even before the Committee of the Whole, but I can wait until then. I want to know if it is going to have any affect on the projects or if there are going to be any cutbacks on the projects that are geared for the communities.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to thank the member. We were in the same situation last year when we had to ask for supplementary appropriations in order to put money in the revolving fund.

As everything else, there is an increase in all prices, and it does have an effect on the Nunavut Government.

And what we are doing at this time is to cut some projects and there's a freeze on hiring at this point and I think we are going to see an increase in those. What I know is that there is going to be a change. Thank you.

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

Question 373 – 2(3): Elder Centres for Quttiktuq Area

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Nobody has asked him many questions to date. In my member's statement, Mr. Speaker, I stated that the communities that I represent do not have elders' facilities. These facilities would be used for elders' gatherings and for meetings.

My question is: when are the communities that do not have elders' facilities going to be getting some? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't have any plans when those communities are going to be getting elders' facilities, but we have set aside some monies that can be requested by the communities from our department. For example, these monies could be used for elders' facilities. There is money available from our department, but the communities have to make a request if they wish to access those funds.

The people are free to either make their proposals in either English or Inuktitut. We also have monies set aside for the renovation of facilities. If you would like to build a new one then you would have to ask the appropriate minister who is responsible. There is approximately \$200,000 set aside for such purposes. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. So what kind of support can we give to our elders? They don't have secretaries or clerks that can help them write their proposal. Do you have anybody in your department who can help those elders write their proposals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For example, and from what I know, the elders can use the hamlet administrative staff to help them write their proposals. If anybody would like more information, we have a toll-free number where they can call and the employees are available to help. If anybody would like, for the information we have a toll-free number based in Igloolik.

And again, Mr. Speaker, for this winter, Arctic Bay, Repulse Bay, and Qikiqtarjuaq were visited and they had a workshop in regard to financial support and writing proposals. We can help you either by phone or we have a toll-free number that anybody can call if they would like further information. I can give that number to the member once it's available. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for answering my question.

How does your department come to decisions on the proposals that are received? What criteria do you use when you're reviewing the proposals? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We usually like to get our proposals before March 31, and we inform the communities out there that we have money available that can be accessed.

Once we're in Committee of the Whole and when my department comes up I will be giving you all the information. Usually we put out an advertisement so that the communities will be informed about what monies are available.

When we're reviewing the proposals what we do is you can access the funds from our department to lever additional funds from outside sources. We will once again be putting out an advertisement, and making announcements to make sure that we get as many proposals out there before the end of the year. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then how does his department consider, because I presume there are not very many applications especially with the elders' societies who don't have secretaries, then how is the money that is not spent utilized after? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I'm not too sure of his question. Can he elaborate more as to what money he is talking about? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Can you elaborate more on your question, please? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To use an example; those applications are given to his department and even though there is funding available, if there is any money left over, where does it go? Is it used by something else? Or, does it go back to the revenue fund? What happens? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Around March, we would ask the communities to see if they have any requests or applications when we make the funding available. After we review the applications, and usually in the fall, we make it known to the community that we have this much left over.

And, if other communities are interested in applying to access those funds, then we make it known to the communities. Usually there's not too much left over, but if there is we let the communities know because we have to expend the funding that has been approved by the Legislative Assembly.

In some cases we don't have enough, but usually we have adequate funds, and if we have any left over, then we make it known to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 374 – 2(3): Job Opening Announcements

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth: as he stated earlier under Ministers' Statements, that he wants to make public to the communities that the job opportunities and his department is closest to the communities. He usually directs them to the communities other than...for example, the other departments have public relations officers and Inuit Qaujimagatugangit Coordinators to make sure the government is abiding, and those require a lot of funding.

I don't know how much funding they use but the local radio stations; I believe they get about \$5,000 or \$6,000 a year. And the people who operate those radio stations, some of them can hardly read; the people usually volunteer and a lot of times what happens is that the job opportunities are not read properly.

I wonder if it can be reorganized where the local radio stations staff people who can read and write. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I would like to remind my colleagues, during Question Period please try to make your preamble short before you pose your question. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand his question correctly; if we have a job opening and fax it to the local radio stations and it's an announcement for the community and I can say that we have not considered paying more money because it is a service to the community and those are job opportunities. And it is their responsibility to let the community know of what is going on and also the announcement.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not just for the Human Resources; every time there is a press release by government they try and read it by volunteers. Why doesn't the government consider, think about that this message that we want to get across has to go to the people and once goes to the community, then it becomes lost, sort of thing.

What I'm trying to say is; I don't think he understood me correctly, the information or news releases that come from the government, in order for them to reach the communities, and whatever time they have the local radio station hours they can be announced to the community.

I wonder if this department can find some funding to make sure that these messages do get across to the people in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With Human Resources we are responsible for the government employees and we have not considered his question. We have not looked into this and I don't think it would fall under Human Resources anyway.

But having said that, we haven't come to an understanding or agreement if we should have a representative who would inform the communities, but I am sure we can consider this if the Legislative Assembly push for this, but Human Resources doesn't have anything to do with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then I guess it would be appropriate to ask the minister...for example it's very hard to separate Human Resources

and Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and they are responsible for funding the community local radio stations. Maybe he will give me a response during Committee of the Whole; how it can be best utilized in the community local radio stations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): During his question he said he will be asking during the Committee of the Whole so I will respond to it when he asks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Just to remind members that we will be dealing with capital estimates. Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Question 375 – 2(3): Staff Housing Requirements

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation is responsible for housing the Government of Nunavut employees including the Department of Health and Social Services. Can the Minister explain to the House how his department supports the housing requirements of each Government of Nunavut department, particularly departments who hire positions that provide essential services to Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we work with the different departments in regard to housing, even though we are short of funds. This is very important in Nunavut, especially when we try to service the whole Nunavut and all the communities are short of staff housing. So we try and work the best we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I'm not sure if he answered it, but I will continue to ask my questions.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation has known for upwards of five years that the Kitikmeot Health Facility requires housing for health professionals. Yesterday we heard from the Minister of Health and Social Services state that her department has immediate need for 20 to 25 houses for health professionals.

My question for the minister, can the minister tell the House when the Nunavut Housing Corporation will provide Health and Social Services with housing for 20 to 25 health professionals in Cambridge Bay so that facility can start to provide 100 percent, level service to the people of the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We are currently working on this through the Cabinet. Thinking of the three regional hospitals, we are continuing to work on how we can best use them. We want to have the best staff that we can. So we're currently still working on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. You've already mentioned the three regional facilities because I don't think it's a problem that is going to affect just the Kitikmeot.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation issues requests for proposals from time to time across Nunavut to identify housing in communities such as Cambridge Bay. When a person reads the specs for the housing it quickly becomes clear that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has intentionally, or unintentionally written specs that eliminates available housing in particular communities thus returning to the ongoing unavailability of housing for potential GN employees, including health professionals, despite the urgent demand.

My question for the minister: would the minister commit to reviewing the RFP criteria and those specifications to ensure that they are written with realistic specifications and criteria to elicit responses from developers and landlords to provide good quality accommodation to lease to the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): We can look at those and we have to envision that different communities have different housing prices. I think it is better that we try to keep housing prices the same across Nunavut when we rent them from developers out there.

We will review them, like the member asked; review the prices when we do RFPs. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Anyone who knows real estate; markets are different in every community. Some are up; some are

down. Cambridge Bay is probably a lot different than Iqaluit, and trying to standardize prices is probably impossible.

In Cambridge Bay the Kitikmeot Corporation had a triplex available, a three-plex that they can lease or sell to the Housing Corporation. It would make an ideal accommodation for doctors and nurses. In fact we've had numerous meetings with Nunavut Housing Corporation over the last two years in that regard.

My question for the minister: would the minister tell me if the Nunavut Housing Corporation, or the Cabinet has any problems in supporting a long-term lease, or even the purchase of this building for the provision of housing for nurses, or doctors that work in the Kitikmeot Health Facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will look into the member's request because I know that the prices are not the same in each community in Nunavut. But we want to try to make it similar in the communities to rent them out to our staff. I will look into the member's request and review the prices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 376 – 2(3): Recycling Program in Communities

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister for Community and Government Services, Honourable Levinia Brown, in regard to her Minister's Statement, about recycling programs that her department is doing.

She was talking about recycling things in Iqaluit. Will the other communities be considered for recycling? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is just the start of the Recycling Program that we are doing as a government and it's going to be a pilot project here in Nunavut. I expect that as we succeed then we will probably do that program in other communities because there's so much recyclable garbage out there.

For instance, in Cambridge Bay, there are old vehicles that are out there in a dump that could be recycled. It would be very good for other communities to do their recycling, too, because we have already have a Memorandum of Understanding with the companies, like Canadian North, to transport our recyclable materials to Ottawa. We will look at the other communities to see if we can do it.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister for her response. Talking about recyclables, they could be shipped for instance, not just through the airlines because not all communities have jet services. When we meet in the fall will the minister inform us as to what she's doing with the other communities for recycling programs?

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I could inform the members during our fall session. This is not the first time that we have done this Recycling Program. We did it for recycling papers. However, we also would like to recycle materials such as metals and stuff like that as we have done with paper already.

I agree with the member that we will try and find out what we can do for other communities to transport their recyclables, not just through the airlines, but through other means. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 377 – 2(3): Role of Baker Lake Nunavut Power Corporation Office

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has been a concern of mine. I would like to ask the question to the Minister for Energy. The minister knows that in Sanikiluaq the Co-op had to pay a power bill because of a problem that they had. There are three offices in Nunavut that deal with the paying of power.

When the people from Sanikiluaq phoned this office, they kept telling them to phone this office, and that office, and everything else. I just wanted to let the people know with the minister's response exactly what those telephone numbers do.

What does the Power Corporation in Baker Lake do? Because when somebody called from Sanikiluaq to Baker Lake, the Baker Lake office would just say that they don't deal with those sorts of inquiries.

I would like to ask the Minister of Energy what the office in Baker Lake's role is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to thank the member for being very proactive.

The issue in Sanikiluaq with the payment of the account at the local Co-op was in the thousands of dollars and we were able to, over a period of time, be able to adjust it, and make sure that the proper amounts of the billing were in place. I want to say here in the House publicly, that the member played a big role in fixing that issue.

Just going back to the Baker Lake office very quickly, the Baker Lake office is set up to be the payment processing facility for the Power Corporation. The processes for bills and so on are facilitated through that office.

The majority of our employees there are Inuit from Baker Lake. They've been trained in the community with Nunavut Arctic College, and we're very pleased with the work that has occurred in the community, and the work that the staff are doing.

The numbers that are on the bill again are contact numbers. In this case, the member mentions the Baker Lake number, and that is for account information on accounts payable, or indeed it could be accounts receivable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a customer phoned Baker Lake, they were told to phone Cambridge Bay. What's the purpose of your office in Cambridge Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The corporate office for the power corporation for accounts receivable, accounts payable, administration; that type of work is done through the office in Baker Lake.

In each of the three regions of Nunavut, we have regional operations offices; one in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay.

Depending on what the circumstance of the call was, and I'm not sure if it was a complaint, or an issue on paying their account. Or, was there a problem with the distribution of electrical grid in that community? Was there a power problem itself?

Then, depending on what the issue was administratively, to get the problem fixed, they may have been redirected to the office in Cambridge Bay, for example, or one of the regional offices.

So again, without knowing what the context of the question or the call was, it is very difficult for me to answer why the call was rerouted to Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the customer phoned, they were told from Cambridge Bay to phone Iqaluit. And it just goes around and around. They keep on giving the telephone number to another region. What's the purpose of the Iqaluit office for energy? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, we have to look at the context of the call.

If I phone for example, the number of the Legislative Assembly, number 5000, and I say; can I speak to Mr. Kattuk? And they say, okay, just wait a second please, and they call the second floor. I answer the phone and say no, Mr. Kattuk isn't here, he's downstairs. There's a different number. You call downstairs. Mr. Kattuk's not here, he's in Sanikiluaq. Now you have to call Sanikiluaq.

It may be a case like that and in this case the operational office for administration for accounts receivable, accounts payable, invoicing and so on are done through our offices in Baker Lake.

Each of the regions has a regional operation office. For example, if there was a power outage in Gjoa Haven, the office in Cambridge Bay would have been contacted and if they needed extra logistic or other support it might come from Iqaluit or from the Rankin office.

So in this case if the call from Sanikiluaq was made and referred to Baker and then to Cambridge and then to Rankin it may be an issue with the power feed or what have you. Again it depends on what the nature of the call is because I don't know what the call was it is very difficult to me to be able to say at this point why that call was directed the way it was. So if the member has that information that he could provide to me so that I could follow it up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For that reason, that is how it is. And in our communities, our constituents don't even know who to call and where to call especially when they want to talk about their bills.

As the minister stated it is very difficult to reroute the calls to make sure it reaches the intended caller. Perhaps I should ask the minister wouldn't it be better to centralize a payment office because it is very difficult when you try and make phone calls to the energy office when they keep referring you to a different office. I was wondering if the

minister can consider a centralized payment office for your power bills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier we've set up the office in Baker Lake to specifically to do that; to handle all the accounts receivable and accounts payables on their power bill.

The first point of contact for any customer, for example in Sanikiluaq, would be to contact the power plant operator and if I got an issue with my bill, that person would then give them a contact number and say to phone this office in Sanikiluaq, it may be in Iqaluit, it may be Baker Lake, and then from that point, we would ascertain what the issue was. Sometimes, depending what the issue is it may be because of issue of the line going into the house and so on.

So the office in Baker Lake is set up as the accounts receivable and accounts payable office. There is a staff of bilingual people who speak in Inuktitut and can provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. There were questions today that were posed very well. Members, I am sorry. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Question 378 – 2(3): Food Mail Program

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although this was asked previously I do want to ask this question again. It was asked by the Member for Cambridge Bay, but I do want to talk about it and it varies a little from his concerns in regard to the Food Mail Program.

This program is provided by the federal government so I would like to ask the Premier. I believe he is responsible for the Food Mail Program. First of all, the money that is identified by the federal government through news releases or through the media; Inuit people don't understand exactly what they are.

The Inuit people don't think that they are useful because the Inuit people believe that this money is all depleted by the stores even before it arrives to the community and many residents of Nunavut don't believe that this Food Mail Program is beneficial.

Kivalliq residents and I am going to talk about lots of people who go to Winnipeg as patients. They know that basic foods that they have they know exactly how much they cost and then they go home and they look at the different prices between southern prices and northern prices.

First of all, my question to the minister is that in Nunavut does the federal government have an agent to monitor the Food Mail Program? Does the Premier's office measure the impact of the Food Mail Program subsidy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are various entities that did research on this to make sure that it was an effective program. They identified the point where they enter and I was glad that the minister stated the point would be from Winnipeg and not from Churchill. I was glad to hear that on the point of destination, especially for fresh produce.

I know that this will be reviewed again; the system will be reviewed again. This program is run by the federal government, and I had told the minister responsible that if he wanted us to provide any responsibilities that they should provide funding for it, at the same time because there's room for improvement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to hear that. I am very pleased to hear that you had responded that way and that there's room for improvement.

I do want to state that we know in our community there were four points of destinations in Winnipeg, especially at the stores and also the expeditors that are used. I know for sure that they were applying for funding from the federal government for the Food Mail Program, but that funding is depleted right away.

I know that usually we look at the food prices, like for example ten kilograms of flour is \$26. If that price is \$26 how much did the federal government provide funding or provide benefits for? The women who do all the shopping, they try to go shopping and they can't even fill up the cart with lots of money, because it's so expensive.

I know that the Premier...if a woman goes to the store that cares for her children, if she could see something written that this portion of it was supported by the federal government. This kind of proof should be written out because Inuit people are not pleased with something that they cannot see; they'd rather see something tangible.

I was wondering if you can respond to the question that I had just posed because the people out there would like to see the actual results. As the minister what can you do to make sure that you show all these benefits to the public? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has not been studied. Nothing has been shown. I can approach the federal minister to let us know how much assistance they provided through that program. There is a benefit, but the stores don't identify how much of a benefit there is, because we're not responsible for that.

So I could relay that information to the federal minister so that it can provide more assistance to the public out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'm very pleased that you will relay that information to the federal government, and I'm sure that our Premier, we will be supporting the Premier in his work in regard to this. Not too long from now, if you can identify this problem as soon as possible to the federal government.

And I'm sure that you will be receiving a report from the review that was done in the past. In the new year of 2008, I know that we will have another session, perhaps you can provide, at that House, that information or table that information to the House at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's very interesting to hear so I cannot respond to that question right away because I have to convey this information to the federal government and discuss this matter. I'll get more information on how they provide that assistance to the communities and how that programs works for the whole of Nunavut.

And that program is not just used for Nunavummiut it's also used for other jurisdictions such as Quebec. So it's combined with other Provinces, so this will have to be reviewed again by the federal government to see how much money is provided to Nunavummiut. So after they accumulate all that information then I will be able to table that information by working with the federal government.

Also, I would like to tell the member that I cannot respond to that right away, but I can only tell the member that I can deal with this issue and inform the federal government but I will be able to report to him in 2008 as to what kind of response I receive from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 178 – 2(3): Satellite Cultural School Correspondence

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, it was announced that the Nunavut Cultural School would be built in Clyde River with two satellite campuses in Baker Lake, and Igloolik. The setting up of this school is very exciting for all Nunavummiut, and I look forward to opening up those campuses.

Today, I would like to table a letter from the Mayor of Kugluktuk, who was asking about the possibility of a third satellite school for the Kitikmeot region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Please bring the document up. Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Tabled Document 179 – 2(3): Photographs of Beluga

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table today some disturbing photographs of beluga recently caught near Repulse Bay. This beluga's muktuk was inedible, the whale appeared to have suffered from starvation, and the meat was inedible.

The whale was extensively tagged with what appeared to be a radio transmitter to track its movements. I urge the Minister of Environment and his officials to review these photographs carefully. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Please bring the documents up. Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister Aglukkaq.

Tabled Document 180 – 2(3): Embrace Life Council Annual Report 2005-06

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the Annual Report for 2005-06 for the Embrace Life Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Tabling of Documents. Minister Picco.

Tabled Document 181 – 2(3): Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to be able to table today the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Please provide the tabled document to the Clerk's table. Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Tabled Document 182 – 2(3): FPT Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Culture and Heritage

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I wish to table the following document: the Federal/Provincial, and Territorial Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Tabling of Documents. Minister of the Environment, Mr. Netser.

Tabled Document 183 – 2(3): The Polar Bear – A Guide to Safety DVD

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following material: The Polar Bear: A Guide to Safety DVD in Inuktitut, English and French. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Please provide the document to the Clerk's table and also the DVD. Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 28 – Deficit Reduction Act – Notice

Bill 29 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Notice

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Firstly, Mr. Speaker I give notice that on Thursday November 30, 2006 that Bill 28, *Deficit Reduction Act*, will be read for the first time. And further Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on November 29, 2006 an *Act to Amend the Income Tax Act* will be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Please bring the document to the Clerk's table. Item 15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 23, Bill 24, Bill 25 and Bill 26 with Mr. Evyagotailak in the Chair.

Before we proceed, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *Session recessed at 15:05 and resumed at 15:30*

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

Chairman (Mr. Evyagotailak)(interpretation): Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) I will 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 Bill 26. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to proceed with Bill 26 and continue our review of the capital estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services. If time permits we will commence the review of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Are we in agreement to continue with the capital estimates of the Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman: Thank you, kindly. Minister Brown, do you have any staff that you would like to sit with you at the witness table?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses.

For the record Madame Minister please introduce your staff.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Pam Hine, who is the Deputy Minister of Community and Government Services. On my left is John Dawe, the Director of Infrastructure. And in the Gallery we have Mr. David Akoak, who is the ADM for Technical Services. Everyone also knows Shawn Maley, who is also an ADM for Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Welcome to the committee of the whole. Members, yesterday we were on page J-7. Questions from members. Questions to page J-7. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't finish my questioning yesterday, so I will continue. The minister stated yesterday, and I did understand where

she was coming from, when she stated that the monies will have to be re-directed because of the government finances. Even though she didn't say it, and when we're having our Spring Session, we will probably talk about the operations and maintenance for the fuel division.

My line of questioning yesterday was in regard to the government and to the communities where they negotiated and because of circumstances, they will only be building a community hall, not a multiplex unit. They won't be able build the arena now because they're in a deficit situation, and the minister stated that the arena would be put back in the capital plan if the government should be able to find the money.

Why do we have future years in here when we don't know when that would be? Why is it that they have identified projects for future years when you don't know that they're going to be built?

There is \$3,895,000 and down. Why is it that after the negotiations between the government and the community, why is it that this project is not here in the capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, colleague.

As he stated, there are slight changes every year, and it's true, and I've gone through it as I used to be one of the council members for a hamlet. Sometimes, and I'm well aware of it, there is a change in the priorities. And, looking at the five-year capital plan, it's not here as it was deleted. The infrastructure committee was involved and staff of Community and Government Services.

I probably can say that because of the shortage of funds that there were some cuts to some projects, and very likely we will be seeing more changes next year because the communities have to be fully involved in the discussions and identify what their priorities are.

If that's not the case, then there are not going to be any changes to what we have put together. Again, after having said that, we do make changes when we don't have the money to start a project.

The Nunavut Association of Municipalities is also involved in these discussions, and again, the arena is not in the five-year capital plan. Mr. Dawe can make a supplement to my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Dawe.

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Pond Inlet Community Hall project started out as a complex which would have contained both the community hall and the arena combined together.

When we got to the detailed design and construction stage we found of course that there was not enough money allocated. This was a particular time just about at the start it seems of the general rise in prices in the construction industry throughout.

We've seen that in a number of other projects that we have current as well. This particular one, there was just no way that we had anywhere near the money that was required to complete the combined project.

So, rather than defer the entire project, we thought that we could come up with enough money to complete the community hall part. The design for the arena part is proceeding, and there have been arrangements made in the site work that's already on the way so that when money is identified we should be able to complete the project and put the arena back on the community hall as it was originally intended.

That decision, that action, had more or less been taken by the time the NCIAC considered this project. In our consultation process, the community did indeed identify the arena as its very top priority project, but there were the financial issues, as I have already mentioned. Also the fact that with any project this large, there is also some real concern for the capacity within the community and within the contracting industry to undertake a single project, or two sets of projects that large, so we really felt it was best to be defer it when the project came before the NCIAC, the Infrastructure Advisory Committee.

A part of that process involves analyzing these projects and applying a series of ranking criteria, which is basically descriptions of the project that resulted in a number that gives it its importance coming through. The arena actually ranked somewhat lower in the priority rankings than quite a number of other projects.

Some projects in Pond Inlet, itself, even ranked higher than the arena project. So given the financial realities that we are faced with it was hard to scrape together enough funds for this large project, or fund instead some other very important projects, some within the community and elsewhere within the territory as well.

That was the kind of the basis which went behind the decision to leave this project deferred for the time being. Hopefully if fiscal times improve a little bit within the next year or two we may be able to re-identify that and work the project back into the capital plan. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Does the department already know more accurately what it would have cost to build a complex rather than just the community hall. If he does know, then what would that have been and why is it not in the future years? Why is it not identified in the

future years, when the money can be found that would have been the identified amount for future years? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Dawe to respond to that question.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current works that we have awaiting contract for, for the construction of the community hall right now is standing at about \$5.8 million, and that's for the community hall section alone.

We do not have the detailed design completed on the arena part yet, it's in progress as we speak, so to nail it down exactly, will not be possible until we get the detailed estimates. However, there are earlier past estimates that we did have, and I think at the time where this \$5.8 million, was estimated fairly recently, it looked like the arena was going to run possibly in about the same area of cost.

Perhaps the \$5 to 6 million range additionally for the arena alone, so as you can see it would have doubled the cost and that extra \$5 or 6 million dollars would have had to be found in addition. So it's, we just figured with the financial pressures that we are under, that there were more important projects that we should put that money into for the time being. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the summary sheet for 2007-08 Capital Estimates targets the Government of Nunavut five year Capital Plan 2008-12 that I see in the prior year similar to \$1.7 million and 2007-08 is 400. And there is nothing else identified for it to total \$5.8 million in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

How do you expect to get that done by next year without actually identifying the total for \$5.8 million? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to Mr. Dawe to respond to that question.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This project is a multi-year project and it's been underway for quite sometime. The money the member refers to as previously allocated

was indeed collected up over for the past couple of capital budgets. Some of it has been spent.

The figures there are not actually reflective of the total of everything that we have. We have identified a further \$800,000 and I should point out as well that the figures that we see here are the Government of Nunavut 50 percent of the total figures required. So this is a project that is under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, one of the federal programs that we have been referring to during this session, and that is 50 percent federal money and 50 percent Government of Nunavut Vote 2 money.

So what we are looking at here in the document before us is the Government of Nunavut's 50 percent. So that is in affect doubled. Again, the totals may not be necessarily added up to the exact \$5.8 million, but that is because some of the work is already in progress. Some of it has been done and we are confident that we have sufficient money to undertake the work as we've awarded the contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that over a million dollars difference from what is being identified that it will be identified through federal contribution.

My next question is not going to be so much on the budget but for the department that gets funding from the federal government for that kind of projects. We also know that in some mining communities the mining companies will build arenas, community halls, airports and etcetera. We have seen that in Nanisivik. And the Baffinland wants to use Pond Inlet as their base for their supplies and transportation for their personnel rather than actually drive directly to the mine site.

I would like to ask the department if they had discussions with Baffinland that under Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement negotiations with Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the community of Pond Inlet, if that can be placed as part of the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement. Have they had the discussion in that area? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What the member is saying is very good to hear and that the mining communities when they want to assist they help a lot and we have seen that, but I don't think the government can negotiate with Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement. Maybe they can negotiate with the mining companies.

It's very nice to hear if the mining company would do that and that would benefit the community a lot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government of Nunavut has the design; the Government of Nunavut has the information; the Government of Nunavut has the budget identified in their internal information. The Government of Nunavut would save, I think Mr. Dawe said, approximately \$5 to \$6 million if this can be built from other parties.

Would the department be interested in giving all that true information to the negotiators of Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements and encourage the Government of Nunavut when they are participating - I believe that they will also be participating on the Land Claims Agreement - to identify what is needed, what's the priority of the community but it cannot be budgeted by the government? Would they at least do that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let my deputy minister, Pam Hine respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements, the IIBAs are actually negotiated directly with the regional Inuit organizations. It's not the Government of Nunavut that negotiates those agreements. However, we would certainly be interested in talking with the regional Inuit organizations and mining companies, as well, if they are interested in participating in the construction of infrastructure in the communities for the benefit of the community.

So we would be willing to have discussions, but just for clarification the Government of Nunavut or the Department of Community and Government Services do not directly negotiate IIBAs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did I hear the answer that they have not spoken to any Inuit organization or the mining companies for the possible inclusion of the IIBA from the point of view of the government and the communities? By identifying that they have a capital plan with the community but they cannot fund it right now. If I understand that part correctly then would the department be willing to do that?

If the answer is yes, I think that I heard that the answer is yes; would they do that as quickly as possible because, I believe the negotiations have been planned already if they have not started already with Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Baffinland, and the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the government we have not talked with the IIBA, or Qikiqtani Inuit Association but we are waiting. It sounds like Mr. Arvaluk is asking us to do that.

If they are willing to do that we will be quite open, but they haven't approached us. If they're willing then we are in full agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I appreciate her response because they're already negotiating and if the government just waits they will not be involved because the government has to support what the community needs. If they cannot accommodate the community needs, then they have to look for other sources.

The government annually states that we have to help the youth, we have to provide them with proper schools with proper sports complexes or gyms, and the minister is aware that the arena has not been entered by any government officials. It doesn't look very nice, and Jordin Tootoo is now in NHL; since he joined the NHL, a lot of people are playing hockey.

The only time they can use the arena is when the weather is nice, maybe they can if you're wearing a qullitaaq.

If the minister or the government believes what they say that we should help with the youth we'll have to look for or wherever whether it's through IIBA or federal government or Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to come up with resources because they know the plan. The community themselves or myself personally, we even have the different figures because the community or the department is fully aware.

Are you going to be looking for resources in any way you can to complete, to renovate the arena. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Just before I get to Madame Minister, I would like to recognize a couple of ladies from my region. Nora Niptanatiak, Cindy Roach, they're with the Department of Health and Social Services and they're from Cambridge Bay. Welcome to the House.

>> *Applause*

Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am in full agreement to some of his comments but as a department, as a government we have policies and regulations to follow. We don't have that many resources and we wouldn't have much power to negotiate with Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements.

Maybe if they approach us or the Qikiqtani Inuit Association because I believe IIBA is under QIA. We are open for any talks or negotiations.

What the member was saying, yes, it's very true that we have to look for resources for funding from different groups. Those groups can approach us, but we have a different way of planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question. The federal government will fund 50 percent of the proposed arena. I wonder if they can negotiate, the Government of Nunavut and the federal government, I wonder if the federal government can fund the construction of the arena 100 percent and maybe later on in the future then the Government of Nunavut would repay the federal government back because prices of everything are going up while at this time it's a little bit cheaper to construct.

Before the prices go up again, it would be easier to build whereas if we just sit and wait, the communities would become more hopeless.

I wonder if they can ask the federal government during their negotiations instead of giving them 50 percent that they fund it for 100 percent at first, and then be able to repay them back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate his questions and his suggestions are very good. We have negotiated with the federal government that they pay 50 percent, and they can't go any further. The remaining 50 percent is to be funded by CGS, that's the agreement that we have. I don't think the federal government is willing to go through a different route.

We can talk with the federal minister but at this time our hands are tied, sort of. At this time the federal government funds 50 percent and the Government of Nunavut 50 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Back to J-7. Community and Government Services. Department of Cultural...Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under J-7: the repair of three-bay garage and two-bay garage. What kinds of repairs are you going to do with those two and three-bay garages in Sanikiluaq? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The repair of two and three-bays are already in progress because they are in need in repair because they have been in existence for about ten years, or more. They're doing the renovations so they could save on energy.

What they're doing is the repair of the ceilings and the doors to make it energy efficient. That's the way it is. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's the response that I was looking for. Thank you, Madame Minister. That's it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have reviewed the department's capital estimates and five year plan. I am happy to note that the plan includes a community hall for Arctic Bay and a community hall expansion for Grise Fiord. However, I am disappointed to note that the Resolute Bay Arena Project, which was to have begun construction in 2007-08, has been postponed until 2009-10, which is after the next election.

Can the minister tell me why the Resolute Bay arena was postponed until 2009-10? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the plans that were in place had to get some changes or postponed, like I said, because of the lack of funding; we have to postpone those projects. And as the members know our government is in deficit and we felt that as a department.

I'd like to let the member know that the Resolute Bay arena project that was postponed will reappear again in the near future. I am sorry that it was postponed because we cannot complete everything all at once and all the communities can not get what they want. As we all know we have to do some negotiations with each other because there are 25 communities and all the communities have needs.

I will get Mr. Dawe to elaborate on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the considerations in the Resolute Bay arena in particular is that we have fair bit of work in the community on-going as we speak.

There is a major job for repairs and extension and replacement of sections of the utilidor and there is also a major tank farm project underway in that area. And I guess one of the considerations that the community advisory committee would take into consideration and also one of the considerations of Community and Government Services, as well, it is very nice to see spread these things across a period of time where you don't have a boom and bust cycle where you get all kinds of work coming into a community in a year or two, all the work gets done and everybody moves off and all of a sudden there is no employment anymore and for that sort of things.

The other aspect is that sometimes there is a community capacity issue in that as many people that can be employed as much contracting ability as the community can provide is often taken up by the work that is on-going. One of our considerations sometimes is: let's get the work finished that is underway right now, let that settle down a bit, and move onto other things when the people that have gathered some skills in the previous works can move on and continue employment a little later.

So it avoids the kind of boom and bust and stretches the benefits to the community out a bit over a longer period of time.

That is not the only consideration that goes into the phasing of projects like this of course. Another one in this particular case was the fact that the arena project would again be funded under one of the federal programs, the same one that we have been talking about – the Municipal and Rural Infrastructure Fund or MRIF - and one of the considerations of the committee and our department is to try to phase that out appropriately so that we don't use up all the money too quickly or we don't stretch it out toward the end and try to do a lot of catch up. We had to try and spread that out over a period of time.

So being as we needed to move a project there and that Resolute Bay was one of the projects where there is quite a bit of work in progress at the moment, we thought that putting that in that particular time slot would be appropriate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The arena keeps on being in the Capital Estimates of Community and Government Services and it appears again. The other larger communities should probably get bigger arenas, probably through 3P, because it is very important for the communities to have those recreational facilities.

I want to ask the minister. (interpretation ends) Can the minister offer any assurance that the project will indeed be completed as scheduled in the plans that are before the House today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Dawe to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reliability of the five-year planning cycle, that we're into, is of course a question that's been addressed for a long time. One of our objectives through the new capital planning process that we're trying here is to build some stability and reliability into the long range planning so that once something appears in the plan that there should be some confidence that we should be able to meet that schedule.

Having said that, there are, of course, realities with which we must deal in that sometimes the financial availability of funds that we assumed when we made that plan, might not work out. There might be harder financial times coming. There might be easier financial times, hopefully, when we could do more work.

The projects change on times even from the point of view of the communities. As you can appreciate, I'm sure that community priorities will vary from time to time, as new needs or new desires within the community come up, as new councils get elected, and they have different visions for their community.

For that reason, the other one that's missing out there; sometimes there's the emergency work that comes up that we often have to deal with for very basic services that we would have to contend. These things all leave a little bit of uncertainty into the capital plan, but our hope, and our basic objective is that we stick to it as closely as possible, given the constraints with which we had to work, and we're gradually moving, as much as possible, into some certainty so that people can rely on these sorts of things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and her officials again today. Thank you for showing up. I have a couple of questions on J-7. In Qikiqtarjuaq this description of the project is a municipal services evaluation. It is budgeted for \$500,000 in the next fiscal year. I'm not sure if that is an appropriate description for what's going on there.

Can you or your officials clarify what the project is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is quite right. It comes from the old name, that's why it is a little out of date there. However, if I can expand a little bit on the water reservoir and sewage lagoon which is under the municipal services; all of these sites were all constructed in the early 1990s. Each of these facilities has

reached its capacity limit and a replacement, or expansion is required. These projects have been ongoing for some time.

A construction contract has been awarded and the contractor has mobilized into the community. Construction will take place in 2007-08. The requested allocation will provide a top up to the funds already available. Parts of this work are eligible for funding under the federal SCIF Program and Gas Tax initiative. The requested allocation of the government is 50 percent of the required SCIF funding. That is for the Qikiqtarjuaq municipal service evaluation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. I'd like to recommend again that in the future when the capital estimates and the main estimates books are put together that appropriate departments use the appropriate descriptions to describe their projects or their programs so that we are not left guessing to try and guess what they mean. The evaluation means something quite different to me than what the minister just described. That is a recommendation.

Throughout the Community and Government Services Capital Estimates, there is a fair number of community halls described, and in reading some of the substantiation sheets, they make reference to capital standards and criteria for community halls. And I'm wondering if the minister or Mr. Dawe could give us a brief overview of what the capital standards and criteria for community halls are for the community halls and different sizes of communities.

Perhaps if he could start with a community of Cambridge Bay that has 1,700 people; what size community hall would the community of Cambridge Bay require to meet the standards and criteria? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Dawe to respond to that question.

Chairman: Mr. Dawe.

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I am sure the members can appreciate the capital standards and criteria are sometimes quite detailed in their provisions. The only thing that I have available at the moment is a summary of the types of considerations that go into whether or not a project is eligible or not.

But I can inform the member through the Chair that for Cambridge Bay having a population greater than 800 people, which is one of the borderlines of the criteria, for a population greater than 800 people the community hall, is a large community hall and has a basic objective of 478 square meters in size.

Now, having said that, the standards and criteria do allow a bit of flexibility for accommodations of what the community wishes in terms of what programming or what type of community hall use they might have in mind. As most do, there is a desire for kitchen facilities, for example, then that community can be accommodated within reason as well.

There are guidelines and in all fairness sometimes they don't quite fit. We apply them as best we can to ensure some consistency across the different communities, but we realize that we have to keep things a little bit flexible and allow for some community preference and allow some custom features in certain instances.

And the basic answer to the question is a community hall for the size of the community like Cambridge Bay should be about 478 square meters in basic floor area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I like to thank Mr. Dawe. I appreciate what you are saying. I use Cambridge Bay as an example because that is where I am from. Would the current facility fall within the standards and criteria that you described; 400 and something square meters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you. I will ask Mr. Dawe to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately I don't have before any figures on the dimensions of the existing hall. I have seen the hall. I would suspect that it probably does meet that criteria but I can't attest to it for certain.

What we do find often is that the community halls that don't meet the criteria are often the very much older ones on the border line communities. By border line I mean border line in size.

So, to use this 800 population figure as an example, if a community now has say, 900 people, but it's community hall was built 20 years ago when there were only 700 people, then we're probably missing that criteria by a long shot now.

If that community hall needs to be redone, it would be a considerable improvement in that particular one. Cambridge Bay's particular situation I would hazard a guess that it probably does meet the criteria, but I would have to stand for correction if I'm proven wrong on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and Mr. Dawe. When I read through some of the other substantiation sheets for the community halls across Nunavut, I'm not sure who writes these up, but they use all kinds of descriptive information.

They'll say things like the capacity is rated by the Fire Marshall's Office for X number of people, it is too small; the building was built 20 years ago, that sort of stuff. And, I started thinking; well Cambridge Bay was built approximately 20 years ago. I think 1987 it was opened.

It probably is just border line right now. So, I'm wondering how your department - you said you went into the communities last May, I'm sure every community, or most of the communities have mentioned community halls to you - I'm wondering how you sit down and assess which communities in Nunavut are a priority for a community hall and which ones aren't. You've got the capital standards criteria, but you're talking about flexibility.

I'm wondering; have you sat down internally and listed all the community halls and all the communities across Nunavut by age, by the dates when they were renovated, when they were built at a certain time when there were 800 people, and now there are 2,000 people. Have you factored all that in and ranked community halls in terms of priority for consideration for funding going forward under the new prioritization criteria that the Minister of Finance outlined for us last week? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are very good points that the member is raising. I have been to all of the communities in Nunavut except perhaps three, and I have visited some of those facilities.

I am aware that a lot of those facilities are aging, and they're old. For example, I'll use Rankin Inlet. It was built in 1987 with a struggle. They couldn't get it approved at the time, but it was built.

And when it was built, it was in the olden days when they didn't really have to abide by building codes. When the building code came in, the Rankin Inlet arena and hall had to be upgraded to the specifications of the building codes.

When that happened, the hamlet had to work with the staff. Then it was called MACA. Just to put the sprinklers, a little bit of piping, and a little bit of electrical work, it cost over \$800,000 at that time.

There was no change, absolutely no changes for those few things that were required by building codes. I know in other communities that a lot of these facilities are too small for the size of the population. We all know that. There are 25 of them.

In order to have the work done, it's going to require everyone's cooperation, like the new committee, the Advisory Committee, NAM, the hamlet councils, and our staff. I sit down with the staff and they explain to me what they're doing and it's very good that the communities be involved because it's the community that knows what's needed in their facilities and what the plans are for the capital projects.

With that new committee that was struck, I think these are really leading on to where there are big improvements. I think every community is seeing something this year, in 2006-07, that almost every community is getting something one way or the other, whether it's a small capital, or whether it's a large capital.

I'm pleased to say that because we had a very good reception from all of the communities that we visited. I was happy with the progress that was happening.

So I thank the member for the insight that he brings because a lot of the communities are in very poor shape. I'm not saying that there hasn't been negligence in the past due to whether it's funding, or whether Nunavut is new, or for the planning was too much at the time. I'm sure we're going to have more challenges in the future simply because we are in financial restraint at the time.

So we must really work together and put our heads together, and put everything on the table like this committee has done since September. They've done very good work with the MLAs involvement, and if they were ready to come to meetings, they came, but a lot of times, they're busy, too. You guys are all busy people. I know you guys travel just like all of us do. The communities request and ask that the ministers visit their communities more often. I keep hearing that every time we go into the communities.

I thank the member for bringing that insight, I think we needed to hear that; all the members had to hear that and the communities.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. One of the things I noted in reading some of the substantiation sheets is that a new community hall nowadays, that's in 2006, could cost as much as \$3 million. And I think going forward; you're probably looking at \$4 million, upwards of \$4 million for community halls.

I know from my experience in Cambridge Bay; and our community hall was originally built for...the original building was probably well under \$1 million. The renovations due to the fire last year, I think they cost almost a million just for renovations.

I'm wondering if the minister...given the skyrocketing cost to construct new community halls in Nunavut communities, where are you going to find the money to address the need that is out there?

We have been quite fortunate that the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund is available; it pays for 50 percent, but for the Government of Nunavut to come up with the other 50 percent of a \$4 million building it is going to be very difficult. I'm wondering how you would, looking forward at your five-year capital plan, how you are going to address the needs from all the other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, member for that. First, I would like to say that we have come a long ways because before when the per capita used to apply, that was not nearly enough to cover the whole of Nunavut.

If you remember in the first government, when the Premiers were having a meeting, the territorial Premiers walked out of the meeting in protest of changing the per capita funding and that was very successful and Yukon and Northwest Territories and Nunavut achieved their goal. That is why we have Gas Tax money.

It was because the Premiers putting their heads together and that helped a lot and that is something that we are seeing now. That has been applied since 2005 when that Committee was struck into your communities.

In the future, I am quite optimistic that each of the ministers can meet with their federal colleagues or federal ministers down in Ottawa and we lobby for more funds and we try to make them understand. We invite them up here to make sure they see physically in their own eyes what we have to live with and I think that has to be done a lot more so that they understand how this infrastructure is and how all these facilities are.

I don't like to see them that old. I'd like to see them up keep and that has not been done in the past and we are struggling. I think the first government was trying very hard to find money and I think we are in a good grid because we have come a long ways.

And I think I will ask Mr. Dawe to expand on how we can acquire more funding in the future so that facilities can be looked at and plan ahead but we do need very much your involvement: the communities' involvement and the elected officials.

And I will say again, the communities, when they do their capital projects that they don't change around what their priorities are; stay in there. When they start to change, then you see that it doesn't fit with the whole picture. There are so many hands in the pie. Technical staff tries hard to achieve that goal. So I would like to ask Mr. Dawe to expand on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a couple of particular things that the minister mentioned that point to some potential for improving our situation over the next little while and we are trying to address some of these short falls, one to which she alluded of course was the per capita funding formula that has been a stumbling block for Nunavut and for the other northern Territories, as well for some time when it comes to federal funding programs.

And I guess that is one very good example of where we have been generally very successful in pointing out our situation and the special circumstances of our case to the federal funding programs and to the other areas where decisions are made in this respect.

We have been very successful in pointing it out with regards as the minister said to the per capita funding formula. We have been successful in pointing out the differences in costs that apply to us versus southern jurisdictions. We've also been successful in pointing out the differences in eligibility of projects.

Many of these programs that we are funded under through the federal government have certain eligibility criteria that many jurisdictions can't take advantage of. A community hall is a good example of that because one of the programs the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund allows for community recreation facilities.

We were successful in convincing the federal government that a community hall, while they don't all have the necessary basketball court markings on the floor or for a volleyball court. They are indeed community cultural social and recreation facilities and very important to the health and well-being of our communities.

So that has expanded the availability of funds and we have been able to make better use of new funds coming in. Another initiative that we are pursuing is making better use of funds that we already have and in that respect we have recently initiated a new tool if you like and I've been corrected for my use of acronyms.

This one is called RECAP and I don't know what the acronym stands for. Basically re-use and re-engineering of existing facilities and it's an infrastructure management program whereby as the member asked do we have an exact inventory of all the community halls. We don't yet. We are working towards it, through this recap program.

This will be able to, once we can feed all the information in and get good studies, good reliable evaluations and inspections and estimates put in this system, we should be able to determine exactly what the shape is of all our community halls, and all our sewage lagoons, and all our front end loaders and it's a large undertaking.

I'm sure you must appreciate, but it is something that we are working toward and something that will allow us to make much better use of money that we already have because it will tell us that this community hall needs replacement, whereas that

community hall is still in good shape, and can be expanded to meet its needs, and save some money, as an example.

And I guess as stated earlier, that allows us a little bit of hope for improving financial times is that I guess it probably falls into the area of managing the expectations of what we want, and what we need. And by that I mean, community halls as I said are very vital and important aspects of keeping our communities strong and healthy, and pursuing the way of life that we want.

Sometimes we all have to bite the bullet a little bit and realize that, okay, for the sake of a fancy finish that might look nice, you can substitute for that some internal process facilities that make it much more functional and usable and stretch the dollars along.

So those are the things that can be addressed, I guess as technology and try to address things as we go along. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Dawe. Madame Minister, I would like to direct your staff to answer the questions very shortly because that is taking a lot of our time here, we have to deal with other things, too. Thank you, Madame Minister, or Mr. Dawe. Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Dawe for that information. I personally find it very useful, I'm glad that you mentioned it'll be in the *Hansard* for mayors and others to read. One of the other things that probably should be considered is protection of the assets and ensuring that they are operating properly and they're insured to their full value.

I noted, it's not on J-7, J-8, but I noted in the Appendix that the new community hall in Repulse Bay, the schedule would be planned for 2009-10. I remember that particular building burned down in December 2002, so that was before the Nunavut Municipal Insurance Program, but five to six years to replace a community hall, a vital facility like that is, in my opinion is just too long.

I remember when our high school, burned down in Cambridge Bay, it was three years: way too long and everybody suffered. So for a community hall which is so vital to the community, to the residents, I think six, seven, eight years is just too long to replace, so although this is a strictly capital question, it is related. Are all the communities in Nunavut, do they have assets up to proper maintenance levels and are they fully insured for their value under the Nunavut Municipal Insurance Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all the questions that I have on that page. Thank you, Minister, and Mr. Dawe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Back to J-7. Community and Government Services. Detail of Capital. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Tangible Assets. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$2,000,266. Does this Committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. J-8. Community and Government Services. Detail of Capital. Tangible Assets. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, I would like clarification on a point. I would like to thank my colleague for referring to Repulse Bay where we haven't had a community hall since it went up in fire. We still don't have a community hall to date.

What happens is that it goes in the capital budget, in the capital estimates, and then it disappears the following year. On page J-8, we have a four-bay parking garage for Repulse Bay, and it's ready for 2007-08 at the amount of \$150,000.

And then, in 2007-08-09, \$1.4 million is slated for that garage. It looks like construction would begin at that time. The community hall is slated to be built in 2009-10. And on page J-8, in 2008-12, we have only \$1.4 million. Could the minister tell me why the community hall is not slated to be built between 2008 and 2012? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member. When the committee was going to the communities, the Hamlet of Repulse Bay didn't make any comments on having the community hall built. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So do I understand that the community of Repulse Bay did not want to get a community hall? I wrote a letter to you about the need to have a community hall built in Repulse Bay. So, when do you anticipate Repulse Bay getting a community hall? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even though the Community of Repulse Bay did not bring up the issue of the community hall, the

department is putting the community hall in the plans. It is still in the books. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is not the case for our community, especially a small community like Repulse Bay.

We are absolutely getting nothing from 1999 and on. We do see projects slated to be built in the books, but they disappeared and now we are almost in the year 2008. They keep deferring those projects on an annual basis and that happens repeatedly for Repulse Bay. Why it is that Repulse Bay has been pinpointed?

There are other projects that have been deferred repeatedly and I'm not only talking about the community hall. We've been hearing about a community hall being built in Repulse Bay and it never materializes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is in the capital estimates and I'm not quite sure why these projects keep getting deferred but the completion is 2009-10. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is \$1 million set aside for Gjoa Haven, and it's for a community hall. Where did you find the money and when was it decided that they were going to be building a community hall in Gjoa Haven? We agreed last year to use \$1,375,000; I would like that clarified. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Gjoa Haven community hall has been in the books for quite a while now. It has been there for a while. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't understand. I wanted to find out where the funding came from. Where did it come from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let Mr. Dawe respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to be briefer this time. The Gjoa Haven community project is again a multi-year project. It was funded last year for some construction work.

The construction work was deferred again for some of the reasons that I've already mentioned in other projects, so much other work going on in the community and in this particular case as well some ongoing discussion as to what type of community hall, whether it be a complex with the school, and this sort of thing.

The decision, basically, is that we didn't construct it last year; there was just too much other work that was ongoing in the community. The funding that we received in previous capital programs, we're now proposing to supplement it with some extra money from this year's capital program and get enough money to proceed next year. It's an MRIF project again; which is 50 percent federal money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Dawe. Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague made a good point there. Up until last year the capital main estimates that we approved there was \$1.25 million that's in there right now; that's for a prior year's cost. Before that I think there was another \$125,000 in last year's mains that was approved in that column as prior year's costs. The supplemental remainder of the capital plan from last year would have been 2006 to 2012, or 2010, or what ever it went to. It only showed another \$25,000.

So it looks like there is an extra \$1.5 million for that project. I'm just wondering where that funding came from, or what is left of that increase in the project costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Mr. Dawe to respond to that question.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I've referred to a couple of times, we did find recently that our construction costs are rising considerably.

That project was initially funded a number of years ago and by the time we got to getting ready for it for a tender fairly shortly, and getting our final design in place, we find that our costs have risen more than was initially provided for, and that we need more money if we are to proceed with this hall.

So we have a combination of monies provided from previous years, but it will have to be supplemented with some extra money for this year. The figures might not have been the same, but it was a multiyear project anyway. It's probably a little more expensive because of the increase in costs that we've been finding over the past year or so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What's that Ed? Some people are just better hockey players than others I guess eh?

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo, can you deal with your question please?

Mr. Tootoo: Yes, no problem, Mr. Chairman. He said he's seen a little bit of an increase in costs. It looks like it's doubled in cost here, so I'm just wondering if the cost has gone up 100 percent. Is that why there's that much more money in there? Or, has there been any change in the scope of work on the project that would contribute to those cost increases? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let Mr. Dawe respond to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The cost increase is largely a result of, as I mentioned, the construction cost increases. There have also been some changes in the scope of work because the initial concept for building this building was to complex it with a gymnasium of the new school.

Through the community consultation process that was not deemed acceptable and feasible and we're now looking at an individual standalone figure. So, we had the carry over of \$1.25 million from previous years.

There was, I believe, in the previous capital program some smaller amount coming for this year. That amount coming for this year is what has increased, primarily for those two reasons; partly costs increases in construction, and partly design changes in the scope of work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if we approve a project based on initial design, or anything, and doubling in cost, I think it's a substantial change in the scope of a project.

It doesn't matter what project, or where it is. One would think that you would have to come back to the Assembly and let the members know that there has been a substantial change in the project, that it's not the same project that we approved last year. For whatever reason, fine.

But it's coming out only by happening to ask some questions about it, we find out that it is a totally different project, the scope of the project has changed, where in fact you are doubling the costs of the project as a result of that change in scope.

I think that that is something that should come back and be clearly spelled out for the Members of this Assembly to realize and understand that. Saying it's because of cost increases and things like that, if you say that this is a MRIF project when it's 50 percent of the cost then it's like, you're looking at a \$4 million, \$5 million project now instead of what we thought was a \$2 million project.

So I don't know if there's something that can be done just to ensure when that happens that, when there is a substantial change in a project that the members are, at least the standing committee, notified that there is a change in a project because, again, that's regardless of what it is, or where it is, I mean, we voted on and approved a project and then it seems like there's something else that's being done now that we didn't.

And that's just a concern that I have, and I think it would go, not only with this, but with any of the capital projects that are out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Would you like to reply to that please? Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are very good points and I think, you know, I agree with the member because I will instruct the staff to make sure that the information is available to the standing committee and then, as the member wishes, to the members as well to this House.

If he's agreeable in what I plan to do, is direct the staff then I will do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has just dawned on me, nothing in particular, with something on this, because when you mention the MRIF funding that's new in there, are there any projects that were not previously on the capital plan that have been put into the capital plan because of that MRIF funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In answer to that question, yes there are quite a number of projects new to the capital plan that were not on there previously. A large part of that is due to the new money that we have coming in from MRIF, and that's what enables us to build a lot of these projects that have not been on there before. So yes, there are quite a number of projects on the capital plan for the first time, first showing up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they are able to put in new projects to start off right away in the capital plan because of this extra money like we heard earlier in Repulse Bay and Resolute Bay with the arena and community hall in Repulse, where they didn't have the money to do those projects that were already on the capital plan. May I get a rationale as to how come those ones couldn't have been moved up and done with this new money and not further delayed by having other ones put on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Advisory Committee on Infrastructure is new and they worked very hard. It's very encouraging to see that the communities are involved, and they go through this committee. Maybe those things are coming about because it is a brand new committee, the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee and the mayors.

It's the mayors who talk with the members and try to visit all the communities in Nunavut during the planning stages. They just started on September 25, and we will probably see some more of their work but at this time, it's very hard to predict how well they will proceed because the committee is fairly new.

But looking at work they have done, they have done very well where they are trying to accommodate most of the communities whether they are small projects or capital projects. I was extremely proud of them and that I was able to talk to those communities when they do the consultations.

I'll let Mr. Dawe speak further on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Dawe.

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One small additional point here is some of the new projects that have shown up have shown up basically because they qualify under certain criteria for the new programs.

We may have to still have to defer certain types of the work like parking garages or sewage lagoons or water systems because we don't have the money for it, but we can afford to put a community hall ahead of a sewage lagoon, for example, because we can use the community hall under certain federal programs which might not be applicable to other types of work.

So it is sometimes not a straightforward matter of priority but it is a matter of juggling what we can do with what funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I can see a juggling act if you can leverage third-party funding. It is probably better to use other people's money than our own. And I know there was quite a bit of discussion yesterday on the infrastructure and the Nunavut Infrastructure Advisory Committee.

Were they given copies of the government's capital plan to use - this is what we've set for what consultations with the communities over the next five years of so - when they were sat down to take a look at what they were going to be prioritizing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let Mr. Dawe respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Infrastructure Advisory Committee, when they sat down to do work, did indeed have access to previous capital plans. They did not review the current capital plan - they created the current capital plan.

And this is where the committee started at community consultation level; developed and gathered the information for all the projects; prepared all the estimates; tried to fit things into slots and not just where we could manipulate and leverage the best usage of the federal money and, in effect, the NCIAC recommendation was forwarded to Community and Government Services. Community and Government Services adopted that recommendation as its own capital program and forwarded it on up through the Financial Management Board process and the Standing Committee to Committee of the Whole as we have it here today.

So they basically created the program rather than consulting on it with Community and Government Services involvement of course. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Dawe. Mr. Tootoo. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Page J-8. Department of Community and Government Services. Detail of Capital. Capital Planning

and Technical Services. Tangible Assets. Total Kivalliq Region. \$2,540,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. J-9. Department of Community and Government Services. Detail of Capital. Tangible Assets. Total Kitikmeot Region. \$3,324,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Tangible Assets. \$12,026,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you kindly. J-11. Community and Government Services. Detail of Capital. Petroleum Products Division. Tangible Assets. Total Kivalliq Region. \$550,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Tangible Assets. \$550,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, kindly. Back to J-4. Community and Government Services. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On J-4; it is a general question that the minister made a statement that the hunters may be given rebates of the taxation year. Is that how I understood her statement? I don't have it with me right now.

If that's the case, would they be open to review of that present direction right now because there are other ways of doing this. If you're going to be waiting for your rebate as a hunter for your usage of gasoline, that's a very long time if you're not working.

I was wondering if there could be other ways of arranging that by way of, for example, if there are so many months, or every month that the lower income people get a GST rebate from the federal government. Can a similar type of arrangement be made for the hunters who will be rebated for the gasoline that they use? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and also the member. (interpretation) I want to say yes but there's nothing that I can do. I think that this is the responsibility of another minister; I think it's the Minister of Finance that should be asked that question. I

thank you for the question that you have directed to me. Thank you. I want to say yes, but I can't. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Minister Simailak would you like to answer that question?

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we said that there will be a Fuel Tax Rebate Program. It's a rebate given to the hunters and the others can apply to get that the tax that they paid paid back to them. Every six months they can request a rebate from our department for gasoline. That's the way it is right now. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for responding, but what I asked was that is there any way that the hunters can receive their rebate sooner than they are right now. The hunters are not working and it's a little bit too long for them to wait for their cheque. Like a tax rebate. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): We have not considered the question that the member is asking but it's done so they can ask for their rebate every six months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Back to J-4. Community and Government Services. Departmental Summary. Detail of Expenditure. Total Capital Expenditure. \$16,576,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, kindly. Are we in agreement that the Department of Community and Government Services is completed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, Members. I would like to thank the minister for appearing to the Committee of the Whole and your staff. Thank you. Can we have a five-minute break?

Some Members: Agreed.

>>Committee recessed at 17:10 and resumed at 17:20

Chairman (Mr. Arreak) (interpretation): Thank you for returning. I would like to ask the Minister for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for his opening remarks. Minister Tapardjuk.

Bill 26 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2007-08 – Review in Committee – Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the members. I am pleased to have the opportunity to present the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's 2007-08 Capital Budget of \$8,295,000.

As part of my department's continued commitment to community capacity building:

- \$987,000 of the capital contribution funding will be provided to community-based individuals and organizations for renovations and minor capital equipment related to Heritage, Elders, and Youth centres; and
- \$668,000 of capital contribution funding will be provided to community organizations for renovations and minor capital equipment related to recreation facilities.

The department's capital estimates have identified funds to make *Piqqusilirivvik* a reality in the 2007-08 fiscal year and beyond, \$5 million in 2007-08 and \$5 million in 2008-09.

I have instructed the steering committee composed of senior officials from my Department, the Department of Education, and NTI to develop an implementation plan for this Government's review and approval by January 2007.

The Nunavut Heritage Centre continues to be a challenge in terms of seeking additional funds that will be required to build the current design which has been estimated at a total construction cost of \$55 million. I am confident that the three organizations which form the tri-lateral working group will assist the government in developing a plan to secure additional funding.

The Government of Nunavut has committed \$10 million towards the Nunavut Heritage Centre over the time span of this capital plan. It is our goal to find the remainder of the funds required through discussions and fundraising liaison with various stakeholders including the private sector.

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on other significant capital activities in the current fiscal year.

Under Community Heritage, Elders, and Youth Centres my department has awarded \$456,000 in support of 15 projects in 11 Nunavut communities. Support has been provided to seven youth, two elder, and six heritage projects. My department continues to invite applications for contribution funding from community based individuals and organizations for the remainder of the 2006-07 fiscal year.

Under Recreation Facilities Projects capital contributions, funding has been provided to communities Nunavut-wide for community recreational facilities. To date, 17 recreation

projects have been funded across Nunavut to improve their facilities within their communities.

Lastly, minor capital funding in the amount of \$60,000 will allow my department to purchase new office equipment and computers for departmental operations in the decentralized communities of Baker Lake, Igloolik, Kugluktuk, as well as the office in Iqaluit.

In closing, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's 2007-08 Capital Estimates. I would be pleased to answer any questions from the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Before we continue, does the chair of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* have any comments? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* has reviewed the proposed capital estimates of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for the 2007-08 fiscal year and I am pleased to provide you with the committee's comments.

The committee notes that the department's proposed 2007-08 capital budget of \$8,295,000 is approximately 160 percent higher than its 2006-07 budget, primarily as a result of the department's plan to allocate \$5.08 million in the upcoming year towards the new *Piqqusilirivik* Cultural School.

Mr. Chairman, on September 25, 2006, the minister announced the location of the *Piqqusilirivik* would be in Clyde River, with satellite campuses in Igloolik and Baker Lake. It is anticipated that the construction of the *Piqqusilirivik* facility will begin in 2007.

Mr. Chairman, members look forward to reviewing the design of the facility and its governance structure. Members also look forward to learning what the two satellite campuses will offer in terms of programming, as well as the operations and maintenance requirements for the campuses, in light of their addition to scope of the project.

Mr. Chairman, the department plans to spend \$1.5 million each year for the Nunavut heritage centre up to 2011-12. The information provided to the members of the heritage centre project indicates that the total costs of a new heritage centre is projected at \$60.0 million.

According to the project's substantiation sheet, the construction of the facility is expected to begin in 2008-09, with completion in 2009-10 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, a total of \$50 million is still anticipated to be recovered through third party funding. The minister did indicate to the committee that the department has been

aggressively seeking outside funds for the heritage centre and he is optimistic that the necessary funds will be secured.

Since 1999, the Government of Nunavut has paid the Government of the Northwest Territories approximately \$150,000 annually to care for our museum and archival collection. Members recognize that this situation cannot continue indefinitely.

Members understand that the new heritage centre will be located in the territorial capital in order to be able to access potential federal funding for the project. Mr. Chairman, the committee notes that the department has produced more detailed projections for the future operations and maintenance costs, for the new centre than were contained in last year's capital estimates.

Mr. Chairman, the department needs to define its long term capital funding plans with respect to its responsibilities for the territorial archives given the potential for the facilities to be combined. The committee looks forward to the minister's providing regular updates to the Legislative Assembly and the public on the progress of this important initiative.

Greater clarity from the department on its long-term plans for public library facilities in the territory would also be welcome, given the recent transfer of responsibility to Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for this area.

Mr. Chairman, the committee applauds the minister for his annual tabling of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's Report on Grants and Contributions, including its capital contributions for community facilities. The department's annual reporting should also include information on the extent to which it is able to measure the effectiveness of its grants and contributions expenditures, in addition to information on the number of submissions that did not receive funding approval.

It is important to clarify the extent to which the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth consults with the Department of Community and Government Services and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities in the administration of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's program to provide capital contributions for recreational facilities. The committee notes that a revised department capital contributions policy has recently been approved by Cabinet and encourages the department to actively communicate the contents of the new policy to communities and other stakeholders.

Mr. Chairman, members look forward to scrutinizing the upcoming amendments to the *Historical Resources Act*. The passage of this bill may help the department to revitalize the Historical Advisory Board. This would be timely, in light of the department's ongoing efforts to develop the new Nunavut Heritage Centre.

The Chairman, I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, the Government of Nunavut's June 2006 Inuit Employment Plan statistics reveal that the department continues to face challenges in filling its positions in Igloolik, although there is improvement from 2005. Almost half of

the department's positions in the community remain unfilled. This situation has also been noted with the respect of the Department of Environment.

Mr. Chairman, 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 and penalties that have been assessed under the Nunavummi Nangminiqatunik Ikajuuti (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: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress because we have other functions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Picco. Thank you. The motion is in order. All 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 morning at 8:30 at the Nanuk Room; Standing Committee Ajautiit. At ten o'clock at the Tuktu Boardroom, the Standing Committee on Operations and Accountability and at eleven o'clock in the Nanuk Room, a meeting of the Regular Caucus with the Speaker.

Orders of the Day for November 29, 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, Mr. Clerk. The House stands adjourned until tomorrow. On Wednesday, we will start again at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:40*

