



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

2nd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 45

Monday, December 4, 2006

Pages 2715 – 2790

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung)

Chair, Management and Services Board

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq
(Nattilik)
Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Status of Women Council

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Striking Committee; Management and Services Board; Regular Members' Caucus

Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)
Striking Committee; Management and Services Board

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk
(South Baffin)
Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Joe Allen Evyagotailak

(Kugluktuk)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole; Chair, Regular Members' Caucus

Hon. Ed. Picco
(Iqaluit East)
Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for Multiculturalism, Homelessness and Immigration; Management and Services Board

David Alagalak

(Arviat)

Peter Kattuk

(Hudson Bay)

Hon. David Simailak

(Baker Lake)

Minister of Finance; Chair of the Financial Management Board

James Arreak
(Uqqurmiut)
Deputy Speaker; Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Steve Mapsalak

(Akulliq)

Co-Chair, Full Caucus; Regular Members' Caucus

James Arvaluk

(Tununiq)

Hon. Patterk Netser

(Nanulik)

Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Human Resources

Levi Barnabas
(Quttiktuq)
Chair, Full Caucus; Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole; Regular Members' Caucus

Hon. Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

Premier; Minister of Justice; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)
Striking Committee; Management and Services Board

Hon. Levinia Brown
(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk
Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant
Kooyoo Nooshoota

Law Clerk
Susan Cooper

Sergeant-at-Arms
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	2715
Ministers' Statements	2715
Members' Statements	2717
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	2726
Oral Questions.....	2727
Point of Order.....	2743
Written Questions.....	2747
Replies to Opening Address	2748
Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills	2750
Tabled Documents.....	2750
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	2753
Report of the Committee of the Whole	2788
Orders of the Day	2789

A.

Daily References

Monday, December 4, 20062715

B.

Ministers' Statements

152 – 2(3): Training and Performance in Nunavut Municipalities (Brown)2715
153 – 2(3): Christmas Wishes via Telehealth (Aglukkaq)2716
154 – 2(3): Implementation Strategy for End of Life Vehicle Repatriation (Netser).....2717

C.

Members' Statements

354 – 2(3): Tagged Beluga in Repulse Bay (Mapsalak)2717
355 – 2(3): Congratulations to Inuujaq School Graduates (Barnabas).....2718
356 – 2(3): Third Annual Skills Canada Nunavut Cardboard Boat Race (Tootoo)2719
357 – 2(3): Wheelchairs for Nunavummiut (Alagalak).....2720
358 – 2(3): Medical Travel Services in the Baffin (Arvaluk)2721
359 – 2(3): Kitikmeot Regional Soccer Tournament – Kugluktuk Grizzlies Results
(Evyagotailak).....2722
360 – 2(3): 57-Year Wedding Anniversary (Simailak)2723
361 – 2(3): Travel to Kuujjuaq (Kattuk)2723
362 – 2(3): Members' Soccer Game (Okalik)2724
363 – 2(3): Congratulations to Leia Cunningham (Picco)2724
364 – 2(3): Municipal Elections (Tapardjuk).....2725

D.

Oral Questions

410 – 2(3): Awarding of Medivac Contract (Tootoo)	2727
411 – 2(3): Deadline for Devolution Negotiations (Peterson).....	2729
412 – 2(3): Tracking Devices on Animals (Barnabas)	2732
413 – 2(3): KBDC and NBCC Legal Action (Tootoo)	2733
414 – 2(3): Medical Travel Contract for Sanikiluaq (Kattuk)	2735
415 – 2(3): Alternative Energy (Barnabas)	2736
416 – 2(3): Probations Services in Nunavut (Peterson)	2738
417 – 2(3): KBDC and NBCC Legal Action (Tootoo)	2741
418 – 2(3): Birth Certificates for Elders (Arreak)	2744
419 – 2(3): Number of Hearing Impaired GN Employees (Barnabas).....	2746

E.

Written Questions

020 – 2(3): Social Worker Position for Cambridge Bay (Peterson).....	2747
--	------

F.

Replies to Opening Address

Reply to Opening Address 005 – 2(3): (Peterson)	2748
---	------

G.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

012 – 2(3): Bill 27 An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act (Alagalak)	2750
---	------

H.

Tabled Documents

213 – 2(3): Public Service Annual Report 2005-06 (Tapardjuk)	2751
214 – 2(3): Exempt from Jury Duty Letter from John Aulajut (Alagalak)	2751
215 – 2(3): Workers’ Compensation Board Magazine: Reflections on Safe Workplace Practices Across the North, Summer 2006 (Netser)	2751
216 – 2(3): Ministerial Meeting Report – FPT Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety, September 21, 2006 from Department of ED&T (Akesuk).....	2751
217 – 2(3): GN Merit/Bonus Summary 2005-06 (Picco)	2751
218 – 2(3): Deputy Minister Travel Expenses for Fiscal Year 2005-06 (Picco).....	2751
219 – 2(3): Minimum Wage Annual Report, July 2006 (Picco)	2751
220 – 2(3): Ministerial Meeting Report of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment October 2006 from Department of Environment (Netser)	2752
221 – 2(3): Report on the Payment of Member Indemnities, Allowances and Expenses for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2006 (Speaker).....	2752
222 – 2(3): Report of Contracting Activity for the Office of the Legislative Assembly for the Fiscal Year 2005-06 (Speaker)	2752

I.

Bills

Bill 26 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2007-08 – Review in Committee – Health and Social Services	2753
Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act – Review in Committee	2768
Bill 26 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2007-08 – Review in Committee – Economic Development & Transportation	2775

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, December 4, 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. Tapardjuk to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Premier, Ministers, and Members. Before we start I would like to say hi to Mary, who I had lunch with.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister for Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 152 – 2(3): Training and Performance in Nunavut Municipalities

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update the members of this House on training and development in Nunavut municipalities. Since Community and Government Services and the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators incorporated the Municipal Training Organization in February, 2003 over 2,000 people have taken part in training, supported or delivered by the Municipal Training Organization.

Combined with the daily efforts of councils, municipal, and Community and Government Services staff, and increased financial support from the Government of Nunavut, this commitment is paying off in measurable improvements in financial stability and the delivery of services for residents across Nunavut.

Each year the department and the Municipal Training Organization prepare a Nunavut Municipal Performance Measurement Report. This report tracks and compares the performance in about fifty different areas of municipal responsibility; everything from overall financial position to the amount of money raised locally for recreation programs.

Mr. Speaker, we are seeing improvements in many areas, especially overall financial positions. As I've announced previously, as of March, 2006, only one community has a financial deficit. However, with staff turnover, unexpected situations, and the goal of constantly improving the quality of life for our residents, it's important that we don't relax now as we have seen continued learning does lead to increased self-reliance, and requires continuing commitment and support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our partners: Kakivak Association, Kivalliq Partners in Development, Kitikmeot Economic Development Commission, Education, Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Economic Development and Transportation, Indian and Northern Affairs, NCC Developments Ltd, and Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Minister's Statement 153 – 2(3): Christmas Wishes via Telehealth

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Ikajuruti Inungnik Ungasiktumi* means a tool to help people from far away. The IIU Telehealth Program once again would like to assist families in sharing Seasons Greetings between our Nunavut communities and with Nunavummiut in out-of-territory health facilities.

The Telehealth Program ordinarily supports visits between clients who are receiving care outside of their community and loved ones at home. These visits can be arranged through the community health centre.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services recognize that family members who are physically separated find that Christmas time can be lonely. Telehealth is one way to connect families so they can send holiday wishes and good cheer over long distances. Priority is given to elders who wish to 'visit' family and friends outside of their community, but other Nunavummiut are welcome to try this service.

Telehealth is a wonderful tool for health care, learning, and client well-being. Our staff looks forward to helping Nunavummiut 'visit' this Christmas.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Netser.

Minister's Statement 154 – 2(3): Implementation Strategy for End of Life Vehicle Repatriation

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the goals of this Assembly, as outlined in *Pinasuaqtavut: 2004-09*, is to develop *Inuuqatigiittiarniq* or healthy communities. The objectives under this goal include removing unsightly and potentially hazardous “end of life vehicles” or ELVs, from Nunavut.

The Department of Environment, along with the Departments of Community and Government Services and Economic Development and Transportation have begun to implement a strategy for better managing the ever-increasing number of ELVs in Nunavut. This includes both removal of ELVs from communities and the development of a framework to ensure that this removal is financially viable.

Mr. Speaker, pilot projects are being planned for the next shipping season in Cape Dorset, Coral Harbour, Iqaluit, and Kugluktuk. These communities have completed scrap metal inventories and relatively large amounts of metal. Lessons learned from these removal projects will be applied in other communities.

We hope that the private sector will be interested in exploring the economic opportunities associated with this project, but we have committed \$300,000 for the first stage.

Mr. Speaker, by implementing this strategy for ELV repatriation, we will improve our current solid waste management practices and contribute to achieving the goal of *Inuuqatigiittiarniq*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 3: Members' Statements**Member's Statement 354 – 2(3): Tagged Beluga in Repulse Bay**

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House of an incident that took place in Repulse Bay in October of this year.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, I tabled photographs in the House last week that showed the condition of a beluga that had been hunted near the community. The beluga had been tagged as part of an ongoing project conducted by the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Mr. Speaker, the poor conditions of the beluga concern the community. It was extremely thin, and the *Mattaag* was inedible. The beluga had clearly suffered injuries at some point.

I have recently been provided with some detailed information of this incident from Department of Fisheries and Oceans. As an elected Member of the Legislative Assembly, I am in the fortunate position to get information when I ask for it. However, the community often feels that it is in the dark and it still has questions about this incident.

I believe that it is important for Department of Fisheries and Oceans officials and scientists who work directly with the community of Repulse Bay to be accountable and answer questions. I believe that great efforts need to be undertaken to ensure the community and the Hunter and Trapper Organization are clearly aware of scientific projects that are being undertaken where we live and hunt.

I believe that the recent establishment by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated of a Joint Secretariat in Rankin Inlet to provide support to the three regions' wildlife organizations provides an excellent opportunity for information to flow in more than one direction.

I believe that greater communications and consultations will also allow federal officials and the scientists to benefit from the knowledge and experience that our life-long hunters and respected elders offer.

For example all parties will have the opportunity to discuss appropriate methods for tagging and share ideas and concerns in the spirit of mutual respect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Very profound, Mr. Mapsalak. Members' Statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 355 – 2(3): Congratulations to Inuujaq School Graduates

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to wish my cousin's son 11th birthday, Ejagotak Lalonde.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to a group of hard-working high school students who will be graduating from Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay, this coming Friday.

Graduating from high school is an important achievement for our youth. It shows that these individuals have dedication and commitment to succeeding. This success will lead to other successes with continued effort and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, this coming Friday, the following individuals will receive their high school diploma: Isa Taqtu, Joshua Ejangiaq, Becky May, Neil Kigutaq and Solomon Oyukuluk.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I will not be able to attend the ceremony as my travel plans do not have me arriving in Arctic Bay until a later date.

I am very proud of these youth and their accomplishments, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. We are proud of them too. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 356 – 2(3): Third Annual Skills Canada Nunavut Cardboard Boat Race

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about an annual event held here in Iqaluit by Skills Canada: the Nunavut Cardboard Boat Race.

Mr. Speaker, this year is the third year that Skills Canada has organized this race, and again it was a wet and wild success.

This year, six corporate teams and 14 student teams from Inuksuk High School had two hours to construct a boat out of limited materials: a 6x8 foot or 8x6 foot piece of cardboard; everybody's favorite, duct tape, string, and a paperclip. The boats are then raced at the swimming pool and are judged in three categories: construction, speed, and buoyancy.

Mr. Speaker, there was a tie for first place in the corporate division, they were the Corporate Sharks for Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Team Ingirranig, it's Economic Development and Transportation I believe, and second place went to Ajungituuq III, the Department of Education, and third place went to Team Secretariat, NNI.

For the high school teams, the first place winners were, in the grade nine division: Titanic Junior, teacher Pat McDermott, students Danny Ishulutaq, Davidee Nowyook, Charlie Awa, and Joshua Kilabuk.

Second place went to the Lane Ladies, and I'm especially proud of this team. Mr. Speaker, you'll find out why in just a second. The teacher was Sheila Merkeley, students Miranda Kirk, and my eldest daughter Eden Tootoo, Lisa Lyta, Amielle Jephson, and Annie Mingeriaq.

Third place went to the Sailors of the Arctic; teacher Ron Woodman, students Zachary Cousins, our former Education Minister, Ricky Kooloola-Worches, Louis Nutarariaq, Eric Bens, and Calvin Tilly.

And finally in the secondary division, the Purple Perogies, and I think that is a cross between perogies and borsht, came in first; teacher Wendy Tulk, community school counselor David Akearok, students; Roger Kilabuk...

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues.

... Johnny Shaimaiyuk, Tommy Kelly, Pia Gunn, Pudlu Arlooktoo, and Annie Qaunirq.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity also to thank Michelle Jacquard, the Executive Director of Skills Canada for coordinating the event, and ask all members to join me in congratulating the winners of the Third Annual Skills Canada Cardboard Boat Race. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Just to remind you, we only have two Pages this afternoon, and there are a lot of speakers today. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Member's Statement 357 – 2(3): Wheelchairs for Nunavummiut

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to the government on behalf of Nunavummiut with physical disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, we must look on our fellow Nunavummiut with care and compassion. I myself have seen individuals in wheelchairs having great difficulties in reaching their destinations. It is extremely difficult for them to get around in battery-operated wheelchairs, especially in the winter time.

With this statement I would like to make a formal recommendation to this government. I recommend that the wheelchairs purchased for use in Nunavut be designed with our climate in mind. Nunavut wheelchairs need batteries designed especially for the cold weather. Larger and wider tires capable of handling gravel and snow should also be considered.

Mr. Speaker, no one in Nunavut should be expected to accept a lower standard of living. Everyone deserves a decent quality of life. Being able to get around is something that many people take for granted.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the government to give full consideration and attention to this recommendation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 358 – 2(3): Medical Travel Services in the Baffin

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we prepare to wrap up this session and take a break for the holidays, I would like to leave my colleagues with some thoughts for consideration on the issue of medical travel services for patients in the Baffin region.

Mr. Speaker, over the past year members have raised a number of concerns with respect to the relocation of medical travel to Pangnirtung.

I would like to assure the Minister of Health and Social Services that her efforts to identify problems and find solutions for this office have not gone unrecognized. No one doubts the minister's sincerity in trying to make the system work for all of us.

I wish to also make it clear that in no way do I wish to undermine the spirit of the decentralization which is, and has been, a key initiative to bring economic opportunity and employment to Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, we must however acknowledge that some problems are not simply solved by throwing money and people at them. We must recognize that some problems may need structural change to bring about an effective solution. The decision to relocate the medical travel office out of Pangnirtung has created one of those problems.

The minister has responded different manifestations of this problem with band-aid fixes.

I'm not opposed to the concept of decentralization but this particular move was not a good one. Members will recall that some of other decentralization decisions such as locating the liquor warehouse in a dry community of Gjoa Haven were found to be unworkable and the government made the sensible decision and changed its plan; common sense prevails.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to have unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking for consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that common sense once again be brought to the table. I ask that the government give serious consideration to moving the medical travel office for the Baffin region to its original location where communication, information and transportation were handled well and with minimal difficulty.

Mr. Speaker, when we next meet we will be scrutinizing the government's business plans and main estimates for the 2007-08 fiscal year. Members will expect a full update on the actions taken to address the problem associated with the relocation of the medical travel office in Pangnirtung, I believe that I speak for a number of my colleagues when I say that if the government cannot fix these problems, then we will need to consider moving a formal motion on the issue at our next sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 359 – 2(3): Kitikmeot Regional Soccer Tournament –
Kugluktuk Grizzlies Results**

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate those who won medals at the Kitikmeot regional soccer tournament.

The Boys 14 and Under team took home a Silver Medal. Congratulations to: Audla Buchan, Billy Niptanatiak, Kevin Ongahak, Billy MacWilliam, Henry Ongahak, Kelvin Taipana, Haviik Haviyak and Corbin Anablak.

The 14 & Under Girls Team won a Bronze Medal. Congratulations to Suzie Power, Tanya Ongahak, Tiffany Novoligak, Carla Algona, Roseanne Klengenberg, Katie Atatahak, Cheyenne Harvey, and Belinda Nivingalok.

The 18 & Under Boys Team won the silver medal. I would like to congratulate Kyle Algiak, Dennis Kokak, Jamie Hala, Jeremy Hala, Gavin Kamingoak, Ian Taptuna, Shawn Kuliktana, Justin Pigalak, and Joseph Harvey.

And last, but certainly not least, the 18 & Under Girls Team won the gold medal. Congratulations going out to Deloras Niptanatiak, Carmen Aviak, Tracey Evyagotailak, Lena Adjun, and Danielle Adjun, Mahik Haviyak, Shanice Kamingoak, and Vikki Niptanatiak.

Mr. Speaker, the Youth of Nunavut know the real value of sport. I would like to make honourable mention of Patsy Novoligak and Kyle Power who helped Cambridge Bay win the bronze medal in the 18 & Under Boys category.

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

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, thanks to the coaches of these teams who deserve special recognition. I'd like to thank Geoff Clark, sorry, if I can't pronounce their last names, Jelte Schaafsma, Stephanie Konstantinou, Pauline McKinnon, and Attila Csaba for the hours they volunteer coaching the soccer teams. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Members' Statements. The Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Member's Statement 360 – 2(3): 57-Year Wedding Anniversary

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to talk about something that I'm grateful about. I have parents in Baker Lake and I would like to say Winnie and her husband; 57 years ago there was a wedding that took place and they're celebrating their anniversary today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. I would like to congratulate those people. I would like to say to Mr. Picco, your turn is coming next so can you wait.

Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 361 – 2(3): Travel to Kuujuaq

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate our Premier, who let me tag along to Kuujuaq to sign for the Land Claims purposes. I wasn't going to go but I ended up going with the Premier.

As you know I have always had concerns about the Belcher Islands because of the environment that has to be protected. I would like to say that the islands that were claimed are very special to me because we are the aboriginal people and we are entitled to the protection of those islands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Members' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Member's Statement 362 – 2(3): Members' Soccer Game

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm having a bit of a hard time standing up today. My apologies. I'm trying to recover from Saturday's treacherous and wonderful event.

I think we got our asses whipped pretty good by the Girls Under 17. Any one of us probably could have made that show, America's Funniest Home Videos during our wonderful, wonderful event.

I want to thank the girls for taking us on and teaching us some skills on the finer arts of soccer. I also want to thank Cindy Rennie for organizing it on behalf of the members here. I also want to thank Terry Young who kept the score respectable by being our goalie.

I'm sure the score could have been a lot different if we didn't have him on our team. Also, I think we'll need a new coach, Mr. Simailak; we'll have to replace him next year to try and win.

>>*Laughter*

I must say, I had a wonderful time, and I'll try and be in better shape next year. I must say, I was pleasantly surprised by my colleague for Cambridge Bay; Keith Peterson. He impressed me with his able skills on the floor. He's the only one who probably wouldn't have made the video of the funniest characters on our team.

They chose Olayuk for his prowess around the net, but for defence I must say, Keith Peterson would have made it.

I had many opportunities to score. I probably would have made a lot of highlights by missing the net a lot of times, but one goal I did score probably would have made the highlight of the night.

So I want to thank all my colleagues who showed up. Those who didn't, please show up again next year.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 363 – 2(3): Congratulations to Leia Cunningham

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Premier is correct – it was a fun event. I want to congratulate my daughter who played pretty well. And as you know, having scored six goals that day and not counting any of them, I was very disappointed.

I would like to bring to the House's attention very quickly, Mr. Speaker, a good-news story about a young beneficiary originally from your home town of Pangnirtung. Leia Cunningham has completed four years at Concordia University and now will be attending the University of Guelph in Ontario where Leia will be talking the veterinary program.

Mr. Speaker, at the completion of this program, Leia will be the first Inuk veterinarian in Canada. Leia has had tremendous support from her family and her community. She is an excellent role model and we wish Mr. Speaker, your niece, Leia, and the Premier's cousin, the very best in her future studies and congratulations on her successful completion of her degree at Concordia and making the Dean's list.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you and we congratulate her as well. Member's Statements. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Member's Statement 364 – 2(3): Municipal Elections

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate as well. We heard from Igloolik that Moses Alarak was ordained as well as Tommy Iviq and Abraham Arnaquq from Pangnirtung, as well as Georgina Greenland and Annie Ituqsep. These people will be ordained and I would like to congratulate them and to have them recognized by the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as we are preparing to close our meeting, there will be a December 11th election for hamlet council. And I'm sure that the people in the communities will be electing their representatives in their community council.

I think perhaps, since we started elections of the hamlet council...I just wanted to say that when there's going to be hamlet council elections, I would like to encourage my constituents to go and vote for the person that they would like to have as their representative so they won't regret it.

I'm sure that the people who are going to be elected to hamlet councils will be representing their communities as best they can. You should not be afraid to vote for whoever you want because nobody else can tell you who you could vote for. Say, for instance, if I live in Igloolik, I can't have somebody telling me from Hall Beach that I voted for a wrong person. I don't think they are going to say that I voted for the wrong person.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Tapardjuk is asking for consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House.

Just to conclude my statement, I don't think that anybody will tell you that you voted for the wrong person. You have the right to vote for an individual that you believe is capable of representing you, and even if the other individual didn't win, they have no option but to work with the person who got into the office.

So I would like to urge all Nunavummiut to participate in the elections, and I, myself, will also be voting for an individual that I think would make a good mayor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Just to remind you, please keep your comments to the same issue under Members' Statements. Thank you.

Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During this meeting I'm very pleased to recognize an individual, who is the Mayor of Grise Fiord, Jarloo Kigutak, if you would stand up, please. We all know he's the fearless leader in the High Arctic.

I would also like to recognize Lasari Utak and Paul Irgaut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. This individual was already recognized, but he's from my home community and we grew up together as boys: Lasari Utak from Igloolik. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two individuals, if it's okay with you. First from Baker Lake, but is now working in the House, Minnie Niego, sitting behind me.

The other individual, again, is my namesake; her name is Simailak and a cousin of my constituency assistant. This individual has been working for the Education Department for 20 years and she has made a huge contribution to education. Becky Ayaga Simailak.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you. I would like to welcome everybody to the Gallery. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 410 – 2(3): Awarding of Medivac Contract

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services and I would like to follow up on the line of questioning that I did on Friday. In my last supplementary question on Friday I had indicated that I know that it's been past practice that medivac contracts have been approved and brought through cabinet for approval.

I had asked her if she could indicate when that was done and in her response she had indicated that there was an appeal in place and that part, the recommendations of the appeal had not gone to the Financial Management Board.

I want to clarify that I wasn't looking for when that went, but the initial, as far as the initial awarding of the contract went. When was that brought to either the cabinet or Financial Management Board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned on Friday that the matter was before appeal, the NNI review committee has put forth their recommendations on that contract. We expect to have that matter reviewed. In the past where there are budget requirements for approval for such as Financial Management Board, those decisions go to Financial Management Board for approval and so on.

In this particular case a budget was in place, however the deputy at the time made the decision on the contract without going to the cabinet on the file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate when that initial award was made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe some time in October. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had indicated on Friday that this whole process went through the RFP process and the proposals were received by the department for the medivac contracts. My question to the minister is what are the contributing factors in deciding and looking at who has the best proposal?

How much weight is given to actual investment of infrastructure and ownership here in Nunavut rather than companies based outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know what the percentage is that was applied in that particular category that he is making reference to. I know in terms of what kind of services are made available, or provided for medical treatment and so on, is part of the overall criteria, but I cannot speak to the specific points allocated for the specific categories, I am not personally involved in the contract review files, nor am I involved in awarding the contract.

The request for proposals is processing itself as per the procedures in place from Community and Government Services so I can get the information to the member on the percentages applied by the contract but I don't have that information here with me, and I am not personally involved in the review of the file for the awarding of the contract.

That is done through a committee of representatives from various departments in reviewing those RFPs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To be clear I'm not in any way saying that the minister was directly involved in this decision other than bringing or moving forward with the recommendation made by whoever was reviewing it.

Mr. Speaker, the government has gone on the record saying that it wants to boost the economy, help develop the private sector here in Nunavut and here it is my understanding that the company that was awarded the contract is utilizing a couple of southern-based companies to do the work for them. One of the other proposals was received was by a company that pretty much invested close to \$5 million in infrastructure here in Nunavut.

I'm just wondering, if that's the case, given the direction that the government wants to move in, if the minister can indicate why they would not more of leaned more favourably to a company that was all totally based here in Nunavut and had made that kind of investment here instead of awarding to a company, or a company that was utilizing outside of Nunavut-based companies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said I was not directly involved because I don't know the criteria, or percentage applied but one piece of information would be northern business, or whatever it may be. I don't know the exact percentages which is why I said that I am not directly involved in the file to know the type of level of details related to this file.

I am assuming that the description he's provided there on the file is one of the pieces applied in the contract, but that's not the only piece. There are other pieces in terms of services. The other piece would be related to cost factors, and so on. It's not one particular area.

I am prepared to share that information with the member once I get the request for proposal criteria from the department, as well as Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 411 – 2(3): Deadline for Devolution Negotiations

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Premier, and it is concerning devolution. I heard on the radio this morning and I talked to the Premier Saturday afternoon after our soccer game that he was planning to meet with the federal minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to talk about the devolution file.

In the interview this morning he mentioned that the file has been set back one year due to the delay in the appointment of the federal negotiator. I recall from previous questioning that the Premier said that they want devolution negotiations to be completed by the end of 2008.

My question for the Premier is can he clarify for the House if the Government of Nunavut is revising the negotiating deadline to a later year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had a good discussion with Minister Prentice and he's appointed a negotiator on the matter. Our negotiators will be meeting, they're actually meeting today for the next couple of days scoping out how much work

needs to be done and where our respective positions are. I don't know all the details yet. They are to report back to us, to the principals, and see how much more work needs to be done and how long it might take.

We'll have a better idea of this once those discussions are done. I don't know how long it will take, but at this point, but I am very pleased with the appointment and Mr. Prentice has full confidence in Mr. Mayer, being the representative for Canada.

So, I'm not sure when we'll have an idea of how long it might take for the negotiations to conclude. I am pleased that this matter is moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that answer. It is good news that the government has finally appointed their negotiator.

Devolution is important to all Nunavummiut because of the promise of province-like powers and control of our resources. We've talked about that many times over the last couple of years that our resources will probably be the key to our turnaround and self-sufficiency in the years to come.

My question for the Premier; can he tell us, other than Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs officials...can the Premier tell the House, what groups, or organizations in Nunavut have been, or will be, consulted to provide input to the Government of Nunavut's negotiation position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated will be a party in these discussions. These negotiations haven't started yet. We'll see how they go, and depending on any given issue I'm sure that we'll have discussions with various organizations and groups depending on the topic of the day at the table.

I do not want to foreclose any options. I want to keep the door open to as many and as broad a field as possible, but I can't say at this point who or when they may be consulted. We have to get a better idea of what the issues are and what areas we'll be focusing these discussions on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that answer. It sounds like there was a little bit of hope that some people in Nunavut will be consulted. I think there are some people that do want to be consulted.

Devolution negotiations are going to be complicated, difficult, and very time-consuming. I'm sure this could take as long 10 years. Some jurisdictions have reported that anyway. Any misstep could result in long-term financial problems for Nunavut. This has happened again, in other jurisdictions.

My question for the Premier; what assurances can the Premier provide to the House that the Government of Nunavut negotiators will not compromise our financial future in areas such as claw-backs on the formula financing agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have very worthy individuals that are involved. Our lead negotiator is the former Premier of the Yukon, not once but twice. So, he has a pretty good idea of how government works, and he's been involved in devolution on numerous files. So I think we're in pretty good hands in terms of our issues being addressed.

We've approved the mandate as a Cabinet. We'll be following this file, as a government, very closely and making sure that our interests are protected and that any agreement that we do approve has to be approved by this House as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I alluded to the interest of some people wanting to be consulted. I'll clarify to some degree; the members on this side of the House would like to be consulted on devolution. So my question for the Premier: will the Premier commit to briefing the regular members beginning in our March sitting in 2007 on the devolution file? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am more than willing to talk to members, but I must say that some issues are confidential during negotiations so that's one area where I may not be at liberty to discuss all the details, but I'm more than willing to discuss it with my colleagues and explain where we are and where the parties are.

Where there are issues where there is confidentiality involved, then I will ask for liberty from the House in those circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 412 – 2(3): Tracking Devices on Animals

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our colleague from Akulliq was talking about having a negative impact on beluga whales.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. We have been doing a study - they put satellite telemetry radios on over 100 belugas and 50 narwhals. I was wondering why they have to put satellite telemetry radios on that many animals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is responsible for dealing with that. We deal with the renewable resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the minister can look into how many whales were lost during the research or during the time when the scientists were putting the radios on them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Yes, I can check into it, and once I get the information, I will provide it to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I know that the department has to ask for a letter of support from the community, I don't think they have held any public meetings in regard to this project. Perhaps if the minister can look into whether there was a public consultation before the actual study was done. Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is responsible for marine mammals and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is also working with them. I can look into your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to my knowledge that the Nunavut Government has to have the knowledge, too, and they have to be aware as to what the federal government is doing.

Perhaps your department would have been aware of this occurring. My next question is: in the upcoming years, how many more whales does the federal government plan to put telemetry radios on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that as notice. Thank you.

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

Question 413 – 2(3): KBDC and NBCC Legal Action

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Economic Development and it deals with the numerous documents that I've tabled over the last week.

My first question, Mr. Speaker, to the minister is on the first document I tabled and I will quote it, "He could be one of the southern counterbalances to the file of Ms. C.T." I would just like to ask the minister if he could explain what is meant by "He could be one of the southern counterbalances" as indicated in that email. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know what southern counterpart meant, but perhaps it's the *Hansard* writers, or I could ask my officials about that if they were still around. I didn't write it, so I wouldn't know what it means. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the minister didn't write it, but you know that other thing "where the buck stops", and he's the minister responsible for that portfolio. This was tabled last week and he should be able to have answers to questions of documents that are tabled.

Mr. Speaker, my next question, if we go back to Thursday where the minister had indicated that it was not too many months ago was the first time he had heard about it. Mr. Speaker, a couple of other documents that I tabled, one dated March 31, 2003 and one an email, which he was cc'd on, dated January 2003.

It clearly indicates that he was aware of this file three years ago. I'd like to ask the minister; in this time that he has been aware of this file what actions, if any, has he taken? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): I apologize. Back in 2003 there were quite a few issues that we dealt with that portfolio I wasn't responsible for that portfolio for quite some time, but I have been briefed on the development of this file and KBDC was also involved with this. So this was just an information item for 2003. To date, I am not being briefed on the current development, but I have no new developments in my office. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a little disappointed to say the least. I provided the information to the minister a number of months ago and one would've hoped that he would've looked into it a little more closely; he seemed to totally disregard it at all until it actually came up here in the House.

My question to the minister on this case: has he asked why the NBCC and KBDC have spent nearly a quarter of million dollars in legal fees when from the onset they could have been up \$20,000 to begin with? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I'll remind you; that was your second supplementary. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The development we have, I had requested from my officials to get the information that occurred through the court services. I have to review everything very carefully because there are quite huge sums of money that were on loan. Since it is going through the courts I have to look at them and review them very carefully with my officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think some one really dropped the ball on this one when they have a government that spent a quarter of a million dollars to bankrupt some one, a family of five, with three kids that are going to potentially end up out on the street. The best thing you can do is get a briefing on it, and I'll look into it. I mean it is too late for that. The damage has been done already.

So my question to the minister again is, maybe he could inform me and those people that are involved and everybody why this government forced a family of five into bankruptcy

and spent a quarter of a million dollars on it when they could've been ahead \$20,000 at the very beginning on this?

It just doesn't make any sense to me and I'm sure it doesn't make a heck of a lot sense to anybody. It doesn't seem like very wise use of public money and I for one would like to know why. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you and I apologize, too, Mr. Tootoo, if I don't give you appropriate answers. I know this is a very difficult file and as a minister, you have to be very careful to understand the developments that have already occurred through the court system and some of it has not been completed through the court system yet.

I am not too sure where it's at right now, but after all the process has been completed, I will look at it and provide that information to the member and to the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 414 – 2(3): Medical Travel Contract for Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for Department of Health and Social Services as she is aware of my concern in Sanikiluaq. First of all, I'd like to ask her if the contract has been renewed and if not when it is going to be renewed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe there is a new contract for the Keewatin contract for medical services from Winnipeg to Sanikiluaq. I know that we are working on one for the scheduled medical travel piece part and that, I don't believe, has been finalized to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. I'd like to ask the minister the concerns that I have raised. I believe she fully understood that those patients who are going on medical, the airline that they were on didn't have a washroom and those are the concerns that I brought up. I wonder if those will be remedied when they are going to renew the contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the member raised the concern about the flights and the types of aircraft, the company met with the entire community of Sanikiluaq to talk about the services provided, what to expect on each flight and so on.

I believe the senior officials of Kivalliq Air met with the mayor and they met with the SAO as well as the community and I received a letter to confirm some of the highlights out of that discussion with the residents of Sanikiluaq in regard to the concerns that you had expressed as well as some from the community.

And the company is trying to address each concern and from what I understand from the outcomes of those meetings it was very very positive and they were able to clarify a few situations where there were some issues in question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I couldn't attend that meeting as I was at a graduation. I don't quite understand what she said. Is she saying that the concerns I had about the lack of washroom facilities on the flight? Will those be considered before the renewal of the contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your concerns on the contract, I fully understand that.

We are not working on a new contract as of this year, but I will find out further on this concern for Sanikiluaq. I will update the member on that as well as the community consultation after the consultation on the issues, the Kivalliq partners having met with the community and also with the airlines concerns and issues. Once the contract is updated I will further look into the concerns.

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

Question 415 – 2(3): Alternative Energy

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I raised a question on Bill C-30; my question is to the Minister of Energy. Why is the energy corporation, or department, why are they not looking for alternatives such as wind power energy? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I was able to table the *Ikummatiit*, which is an Energy Policy for the Government of Nunavut moving in a new direction on

energy and energy related matters, which includes replacing oil with possible hydro power as well as looking for some alternative energy sources which are renewable including solar and wind.

Right now the emphasis from the Power Corporation is on the opportunities for hydro and that's the direction that we are moving in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister check to see in regard to having wind energy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the first term we had done some good work on opportunities with wind. First thing we had to do was determine the wind velocity in different parts of Nunavut, and in cooperation with Environment Canada we were able to complete what's called a wind map.

For wind energy to be affordable and efficient the wind has to be at a constant speed and we also need to be able to tie the wind energy that is being harnessed into a given community. There are issues in fluctuations between having a diesel generator on and the amount of wind energy that is being brought forward.

Those issues, technical issues, are being worked on in other jurisdictions, and in northern climes including in Alaska and some islands, for example, in the Faeroe Islands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that in Alberta and PEI they have wind energy. Can the minister check with those two provinces in regard to that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had an opportunity to speak with the government in Manitoba on two different occasions about opportunities with wind power. At the same time, I have been in contact with the Minister of Energy for Prince Edward Island, the Honourable Jamie Ballem.

As the member knows and most members know it's the largest, one of the largest wind programs in place right now; it's at the North Cape in Prince Edward Island. I believe at the present time a considerable amount of energy in that island is derived from wind energy. So the answer to the member's question is yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister have wind power in the new Energy Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A considerable amount of work has already been put into the Energy Strategy. It's been tabled before the House, and I guess the member has been reading it.

It talks about three opportunities for energy to try and break the addiction. The Government of Nunavut, and the people of Nunavut have a terrible addiction, and that addiction is to oil.

And oil always forms, whether it's diesel for generating electricity, indeed, gas to power vehicles and so on. The Energy Strategy is looking at opportunities to move away from diesel generation of electricity which includes opportunities in hydro as well as opportunities with wind power.

I will be following up the conversation that I've had with Minister Ballem with the power corporation to see if there are some opportunities with some of the good work that P.E.I. has been doing and the amount of work that they have done with opportunities in wind.

So, the answer, Mr. Speaker is; yes, wind power does form part of the energy strategy that we unveiled last week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. I inadvertently skipped a name. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Question 416 – 2(3): Probations Services in Nunavut

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice.

A recent event in Nunavut highlighted the need for adequate resources in place to protect public safety and help rehabilitate offenders. A key element to this strategy is a well functioning probation service.

Part of justice's business plan for 2006-07 which we reviewed earlier this year, stated: "...community corrections has been working at establishing a stand alone probation service for Nunavut, and social services will provide some service in communities where we do not have Community Corrections Officers."

My question for the minister: can the minister update the House today on the status of this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the current time, I know that in the larger communities, where there is a case load to dictate probation services, that it is available; dedicated probation officers.

Where there is less of a case load the social workers are used as probation workers at this time. Until such time as we can find additional resources that will be the current practice for the time being. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I'm sure some of the social workers in some of the communities would appreciate some help. I think they're complaining to me, they're being overworked with the caseloads they have.

In October the minister took part in a federal/provincial/territorial meeting of Justice Ministers. One of the announcements from the meeting was, and I'll read it here, this is pertaining to dangerous offenders: "Ministers noted the Prime Minister's announcement on the upcoming introduction of legislation to provide tougher sentences and more effective management of individuals convicted of sexual and violent offences."

My question for the minister: can the minister update us today on the status of this legislation and clarify what it will mean in terms of effective management of sexual offenders? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The matter is before the parliament and we do hope it will be passed for the protection of the people of Nunavut along with the rest of Canada.

We all know there will be additional resources required as this bill is passed through the House, so we look forward to support from our national government in terms of setting up a joint facility, perhaps, here in the territory, as there will be a need for additional facilities throughout the country if this piece of legislation is passed along with other measures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister mentioned a joint correctional facility in Nunavut. I would like to seek clarification on that. The minister is quoted in the media several times where such a facility would provide better rehabilitation of incarcerated criminals.

So my question for the minister: can the minister explain to the House how a construction of a joint correctional facility in Nunavut will ensure that sexual and violent offenders receive healing and counseling before they are released and they return to their home communities in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that at one point or another these inmates will be released to the communities, and we have to ensure that they get proper programming and appropriate programming.

When they're in far away locations, they don't always have that service available to them in their language and assistance from family members that is much needed in times of healing.

So our proposal is to have a facility in Nunavut so that perhaps we can have family members being with the inmates in times of healing and those types of opportunities that could be more readily available than what is available to them today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. The recent return of a sexual offender to Nunavut frightened many Nunavummiut across Nunavut. The recent 1,200-name petition here in Iqaluit exemplifies the fear that parents everywhere felt.

I would like to add that Cambridge Bay was no different. The mayor and council were approached by many individuals in the community worried about the possible return of the offender to that community.

She asked me to raise this issue in the House and my question for the minister: can the minister tell the House today how the Government of Nunavut ensures that sexual and violent offenders are currently counselled in their home communities, particularly where counsellors and programs are limited or non-existent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We stress that the offenders should be treated when they are in custody to reduce the risk of re-offending.

We offer some of those services in our correctional facilities. Some of them are also at the federal facilities, but where they are offered at the federal level, they aren't always directed at particular individuals like the matter that we looked at. The federal correction system simply failed in trying to reduce the risk in some cases of Inuit offenders.

So our main focus is to try and treat them while they're in custody so that when they are released, their risk of re-offending is much reduced. So that has been our focus at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 417 – 2(3): KBDC and NBCC Legal Action

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

The minister had indicated they work on a lot of things and he forgot about this incident being brought to him dealing with the set of documents that I tabled a number of years ago, and that he first became aware of it three months ago.

I asked him what that phrase in that document that I tabled indicating that someone could be a southern counterbalance to a different file. To me, that would make my eyes open, and I would be saying, "What the heck is going on here?"

Along with some of these other documents that have been tabled, I would like to ask the minister then if he's not sure what he did three years ago, could he tell me what he has done since these documents have been tabled to find out and clarify why some of these comments have been made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The documents that he had tabled, I am sure are very informative and my staff is working as hard as they can to deal with the tabled documents that he had released to this House.

I was going to consult with my staff but we did not have time until I had to go into the House. And I will do my best to try and resolve what the member is talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure the minister is doing his very best at things. I don't know if that seems to be good enough. This stuff has been tabled. I mentioned this to him a number of months ago and it seems like he has done absolutely nothing with it other than asking people to get information after the documents have been tabled.

What I'd like to hear from the minister is a commitment to get, an on the record explanation as to exactly what was meant by the person writing the letter or at least sending an e-mail where it indicates where this individual could be one of the southern counter balances to the Ms. C.T. file. I'd like to have an on the record explanation of exactly what that meant. Would the minister commit to doing that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the member's concern and the meaning of that word that he wants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would only assume that it is already being looked into. What I am looking for is a commitment for an on the record explanation as to what exactly that meant. Thank you. Will the minister make that commitment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends): I don't know how to answer this when it is not my comment; it is someone else's comment. I'll try my very best to come up with what that means. But then again it's really up to the persons that did the e-mails. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is no secret that my friend from Qamanittuaq used to say that government officials that work for a department, when they say something; the buck stops at the minister, it goes all the way up.

We have seen cases in the past or heard of cases in the past where employees had been disciplined for making comments. That is one of the reasons ones why we need Whistle Blower Legislation so that when people do say something that there is some protection there for them.

I don't buy the minister's response, "Well, I can't tell you." These individuals are under his portfolio that he is responsible for and he should be able to get an explanation for that and I would like to hear it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A Member: Point of Order

Speaker: Thank you. Point of Order has been raised by Minister Picco.

Point of Order

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister has tried to answer to the best of his ability. Two points to the Point of Order: one being that the member is implying motive on behalf of a Tabled Document and staff. It is impossible for the member to bring up an issue have the minister try to explain what is meant in a Tabled Document written by a third party. How would the minister know what that means?

Our rules are very clear. We can not imply motive when we are asking a question. And we have to ask questions in the House which the minister would have the right and would have the knowledge in a given area to be able to answer.

In this case, how can the minister answer for a third party e-mail that was tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the Point of Order, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not implying motive of anything. I think we all know that the minister's responsible for the actions of things done under his portfolio. In this case NBCC and KDBC are in contribution agreements with the Department of Economic Development, he is the minister responsible for that and he should be able to get a response for it.

As far as a tabled document – that's the only way we can ask questions about something, if we table it so that the minister is fully aware of what we're talking about, and he's had ample time to check into and find out about it, to be able to respond properly to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. According to what we have heard I would like to ask the minister to respond to that question.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to work with KBDC as a department as to what went on. I have stated in the last few days that I will try to give a response to the member's question. So I will research it and give you a proper response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. I did not hear a reason for a Point of Order. That is why I let the question continue. Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

Question 418 – 2(3): Birth Certificates for Elders

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Human Resources.

In my constituency, there are a lot of elders that have not been recognized because they don't have birth certificates. As long as they don't have their birth certificates they cannot work, or they cannot receive social assistance. Would the Department of Social Services be able to help out with those people that do not have proper identification?

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry. Which department were you referring that question to? Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whoever can help me out with this; to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I did not want the Regular MLAs to answer your question. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a Vital Statistics Office located in Rankin Inlet. We can look into that. We all have staff in the communities that can assist in the requesting from the department in Rankin Inlet. Those were after 1999, people that were born after 1999, those records are all in Rankin Inlet. They can be assisted through the Rankin Inlet department. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. There's a lot of people that need some assistance and if they try to find out from Rankin Inlet perhaps there is some information that are missing and they just return it to the individual and all of a sudden they don't know what else to do.

So the correspondence keeps going back and forth, perhaps for people who would like to get birth certificates and identification, can there be some more information where people can go to get this identification.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated earlier that there are social workers in every community that can provide assistance to anyone who wants to apply

for the application and with their assistance; we forward that to Rankin Inlet for processing. Vital Stats in Nunavut is located in Rankin.

And I explained again earlier that prior to 1999 anyone born in the Northwest Territories that application has to be sent to Inuvik, which is another jurisdiction where the child or individual was born.

Within Nunavut we have our own operation; they in the past have provided assistance to individuals that needed birth certificates as well from Inuvik. So we are prepared to do that and if there's problems the members identify, I would be glad to assist in that, but the service should be provided by the community social workers.

As for the Social Insurance Numbers, we don't issue Social Insurance Numbers; they are issued by the federal government so for our part with the birth certificate I would be happy to look into the member's concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank the minister. I would like to ask the minister again, since the start of Nunavut there used to be that place in Inuvik; will the Vital Statistics documents be transferred to Nunavut?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I can explain it this way, for individuals that are from the Keewatin, as an example, if they go down to Winnipeg and give birth to a child in Winnipeg, that birth certificate is issued from the Province that the child is born in. If you go down to Ottawa, it would be the same thing. So before 1999, Nunavummiut born before 1999, all that record is held by the Northwest Territories, the government in place before division.

Anything after 1999, we have that information with Vital Stats and Social Services in Rankin Inlet. We are prepared to assist individuals prepare the application, and if the individual citizen is having problems accessing information from Inuvik, we will be glad to assist, and we have done that in the past for Nunavummiut.

So if the member can give me individuals that are having problems, I would be glad to have my staff follow up on those requests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would thank the minister for the information because as Nunavummiut we have not had any understanding of that

before because whenever we send them to Rankin Inlet they just return it back to the individual that is asking for that information. Can the social workers please be informed in the communities that whoever was born before 1999 that they have to be directed to Inuvik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I agree with the member. I will inform the Rankin Inlet department of your concerns, and then I will ask how they operate when it comes to information on the birth certificate and I will pass it on to your staff in your community.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Oral Question. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

Question 419 – 2(3): Number of Hearing Impaired GN Employees

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

We all know that in Nunavut there are handicapped individuals in the outlying communities. How many hearing impaired employees does the Government of Nunavut have? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't keep track of the number of employees with handicaps, but we have a policy. We don't have the statistics for the number of handicapped individuals we have working for the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Human Resources, but it touches upon health.

What is the Government of Nunavut doing to increase the number of handicapped individuals working for the Government of Nunavut? What kinds of plans does the Government of Nunavut have? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our policy, if an individual applies for a job with the Government of Nunavut, we have policies where we have a first hire.

We prioritize Nunavut beneficiaries, then Nunavummiut, and if there are none, then we go to other, to the rest of Canada. We're very open, but our department has priority hiring. We only have those, and it's going to stay like that until there is a change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Possibly what the minister's department can do is to get the statistics. We have students who are learning brail today.

What about hiring people who are still practicing the oral culture and are hearing impaired? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the policy that I said we have, there might be people with handicaps, but they might be excellent typists, or really good at some skill. We make sure that we follow the policies of the Government of Nunavut, and they are included in there.

They are considered as priority hires, but at this time, the policies that we have are perfectly good right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. I would like to say that question period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 020 – 2(3): Social Worker Position for Cambridge Bay

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Written Question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services and it concerns social worker positions for Cambridge Bay.

- 1) For each fiscal year from 1999-2000 to 2006-07 to date, how many certified social worker positions were allocated to Cambridge Bay?
- 2) For each fiscal year from 1999-2000 to 2006-07 to date, how many of the certified social worker positions in Cambridge Bay were staffed and for what length of time?

- 3) For each fiscal year from 1999-2000 to 2006-07 to date, how many job openings were advertised for certified social worker positions in Cambridge Bay?
- 4) What recruitment and retention efforts have been made by the Department of Health and Social Services to staff certified social worker positions in Cambridge Bay?
- 5) What recruitment and retention efforts have been made by the Department of Health and Social Services to staff certified social worker positions with individuals who have been trained in courses offered by Nunavut Arctic College?
- 6) How does the Department of Health and Social Services determine which levels of certification are required for community social worker positions?
- 7) How does the Department of Health and Social Services determine the case-per-staff ratio for certified social workers in Nunavut?
- 8) For each fiscal year from 1999-2000 to 2006-07 to date, how often is the case-per-staff ratio exceeded by individual certified social workers in Cambridge Bay?
- 9) How does the Department of Health and Social Services evaluate the success of its Social Services programs?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Item 9: Replies to Opening Address

Reply to Opening Address 005 – 2(3):

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the Commissioner's Opening Address at the beginning of this Session, she spoke of the importance of our government "seeking new ways to develop integrated approaches to public services." She stressed that "we need to avoid duplication and optimize available resources."

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we recognize the critical work carried out by some of our non-governmental community-based organizations. I believe that our government would do well to focus its efforts on supporting these organizations more effectively and, as a result, integrating service-delivery to better meets the needs of Nunavummiut.

I would like to recognize the significant accomplishments of one such dedicated and effective community organization.

The Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre focuses on community wellness and works very hard towards many of the objectives that our government strives for.

The Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre has 14 staff positions including that of the director. The centre offers workshops and treatment programs including:

- Short programs focussing on specific areas such as communications, anger, anger management, or relationships;
- Alcohol and drug treatment programs;
- Pre and post-natal programs;
- Elders' programs including activities, home visits, shopping assistance, information sessions on elder abuse, and the planning and development of camping programs for teaching in the schools,
- Youth programs and services, including workshops on key topics such as self-esteem, boundaries, and decision-making; working with high school counsellors and staff to help youth deal with issues that may cause them to leave school, and leadership workshops presented to all high school classes during the school year.
- Family violence prevention programs include one-on-one counselling; home visits, victim assistance support; and the operation of a shelter program;
- Community Outreach involves staff attending community events and gatherings; talking to youth and adults about personal safety and safe sexual health.

Mr. Speaker, staff at the community wellness centre holds workshops and education programs to keep themselves professionally up-to-date.

The centre operates a food bank which provides basic food assistance on a weekly basis, seeks donations of country foods from community members, and fund-raises.

There can be no doubt that an agency such as this plays a critical role in supporting and promoting community wellness. For example, it has been noted by one of the judges in the Nunavut Court of Justice that the Centre's programming has had an enormously positive impact by reducing the number of offenders going through the criminal justice system.

As with many community-based organizations of this kind, all of the funding for the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre is provided through contribution agreements or grants from various levels of governments and other agencies.

In order to maintain funding levels from year-to-year staff members must dedicate a significant amount of time and effort to drafting and submitting proposals.

It is my view that our government could be doing more to make this job easier for our dedicated agency workers. For example, anywhere from three to six funding agreements can come through various programs delivered by one department such as the Department of Health and Social Services. Combining these funding agreements into one

comprehensive contribution agreement could go a long way to improving the efficiencies of the funding process.

I am aware other community-based agencies such as the Ilisqsiq Society in Clyde River faces similar difficulties in maintaining continuity from one year to the next without the support of core-funding from the government.

I call upon the government to recognize the good work of these community-based agencies and to make their life easier with some creative and supportive procedures that will allow them to operate from year to year without the constant struggles to maintain funding levels.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Item 9. (interpretation ends) Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item. 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Arreak. I am sorry, Mr. Alagalak.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report on Bills 012 – 2(3): Bill 27 An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a new name; I probably won't get my birth certificate for many weeks.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) The Standing Committee on Health and Education has reviewed Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act*. I would like to inform the House that the bill, as amended, and reprinted is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 27 moved into the Committee of the Whole for today.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. There is a request to waive Rule 68(6) so that the Standing Committee Report on Bill 27 can be immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 27 can be dealt with at Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Report of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item. 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 213 – 2(3): Public Service Annual Report 2005-06

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: Public Service Annual Report for 2005-06. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Just to remind the members that we only have two pages today. Please bring the documents to the Clerk. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Alagalak.

Tabled Document 214 – 2(3): Exempt from Jury Duty Letter from John Aulajut

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I received a letter from a resident from Arviat to provide more support for people who work in churches to be exempted from jury duty. This is to table the documents. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Minister Netser.

Tabled Document 215 – 2(3): Workers' Compensation Board Magazine: Reflections on Safe Workplace Practices Across the North, Summer 2006

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Workers' Compensation Board Magazine: Reflections on Safe Workplace Practices Across the North, Summer 2000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 216 – 2(3): Ministerial Meeting Report – FPT Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety, September 21, 2006 from Department of ED&T

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: FTP Council of Ministers responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 217 – 2(3): GN Merit/Bonus Summary 2005-06**Tabled Document 218 – 2(3): Deputy Minister Travel Expenses for Fiscal Year 2005-06****Tabled Document 219 – 2(3): Minimum Wage Annual Report, July 2006**

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Premier I would like to table three documents: Deputy Minister Travel Expenses for 2005-06, Government of Nunavut 2005-06 Merit/Bonus Summaries and Minimum Wage Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 220 – 2(3): Ministerial Meeting Report of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment October 2006 from Department of Environment

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a document: Ministerial Meeting Report of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. We are waiting for the documents to be brought up. Just to remind the members that we've only got two pages working on the floor. Thank you. Tabling of Documents.

Tabled Document 221 – 2(3): Report on the Payment of Member Indemnities, Allowances and Expenses for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2006

I would like to table, my colleagues (interpretation ends) Pursuant to Section 63 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, I wish to table a report on the payment of member indemnities, allowances and expenses for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006.

Tabled Document 222 – 2(3): Report of Contracting Activity for the Office of the Legislative Assembly for the Fiscal Year 2005-06

Again honourable members I wish to table today the Report of Contracting Activity for Legislative Assembly for those contracts with a value greater than \$5,000 for the fiscal year 2005-06. Thank you.

(interpretation) Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 8, 16, 23, 24, 25, and 26 and Bill 27 with Mr. Arreak in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:29 and Committee resumed at 15:56

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak): Thank you, committee members. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 8, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 26 and the Capital Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services. After that, we will switch to Bill 27 and deal with the clause-by-clause review of this bill. We will then go back to Bill 26 and commence with the review of the Capital Estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, followed by the Legislative Assembly. If time permits, we will commence the clause-by-clause review of Bill 8. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Are we in agreement that we first deal with the Capital Estimates for Health and Social Services, then Bill 27?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can escort the officials.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. For the record, minister, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Ron Browne, the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services. And to my left is Rosemary Brown, the Manager of Capital Projects for the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Welcome. (interpretation ends) On Friday we were on page H-6. Turn to page H-6 of your Capital Estimates. Health and Social Services. Detail of Capital. Directorate. Tangible Assets. (interpretation) Are there

any questions? (interpretation ends) Total Headquarters Region. \$1 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go to the bottom. (interpretation ends) Tangible Assets.

Chairman (Mr. Barnabas) (interpretation): We are on page H-6. Tangible Assets. Qikiqtarjuaq Region. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question under that line item. Last year, during the committee meeting, I talked about the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre. It was built in 1972 and it's old infrastructure now. It's the oldest facility in all of Nunavut.

Every time the fire department, or if there's any health inspection done, it's always being condemned. I don't see it in your five-year forecast. Will your department be planning for the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct in that the building was built in the 70s. It went through some renovations back in 1991. Presently, we don't have that project in the five-year capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to thank the minister. I know that the unit was constructed in the early 1970s and it was renovated later on, but it's not up-to-date with the building codes. The oxygen tanks don't even have a space in that nursing station because they lack space.

To date, they can't keep up with the current equipment that they're supposed to have in the facility. I'm not talking about the renovation of the building; I was asking whether the department has any plans to construct a new health centre in Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We recognize that building was originally built in 1972; it was renovated in 1991.

We continue to try and address all of our aging facilities, as I mentioned in my opening remarks. It is one of the older units. We have been dealing with older units like the Iqaluit hospital that is 44 years old, and that will be done this year. We dealt with the Rankin Inlet facility, which is 36 years old; so those two are done.

As we work to try and address our aging facilities, they will be based on a review, in partnership with Community and Government Services, on our facilities.

We have other facilities that are on the list of trying to upgrade them such as Arctic Bay, as well as Repulse Bay. I think we have heard the last week that we have limited capital dollars and we are trying to stretch those to where the project renovations or project developments are most needed.

We do recognize that it is an aging facility amongst all of the other facilities in Nunavut that we are trying to maintain. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that the government doesn't have enough funding.

You stated that the hospital in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet are old and that they are building new ones for the bigger centres but it seems like the smaller communities are being left behind again.

I brought this up last year and if it doesn't show up in the five-year capital plan I will remind them. I wonder if it can be considered or put in the five-year capital plan starting from now. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Department of Health is working very closely with Community and Government Services to look at all our current facilities. We have a number of facilities that are aging and if I were to look at just what we needed to do we couldn't keep up to a lot of those facilities and we are trying to address the limited resources to where they're most needed and it's not on the basis of the larger communities or not. The next two projects are Arctic Bay and Repulse Bay as well as Taloyoak being delayed for the last seven years addressing higher priorities as an example.

So I agree with the member, yeah, we will continue to try and include that in our projects as we move forward. At this point in time we are trying to address projects where there is most need in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. We're on Tangible Assets. \$6,919,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We'll go on page H-7. Tangible Assets. Total. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome minister and the officials to the committee today. I want to ask about the...this is a capital question related to the project that is still ongoing: the status of the boarding home in Cambridge Bay.

I know the materials are there. I've been asking this question for many years, long before I was an MLA, when the boarding home will be completed.

So I will ask the question again today to the minister, when will the boarding home in Cambridge Bay be completed so that it's serving the Kitikmeot patients who come to Cambridge Bay for treatment at the Kitikmeot Health Facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Peterson. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member raising this concern and I know he brought it up this fall, around the boarding home.

The current plans to have their boarding home completely renovated will be next year, late next year. There were some delays in the initial start up but my officials have told me that we will be going through the tender for that after Christmas hoping that the project will be completed later the next year.

The member raised the issue around providing services in the region, we recognise that as well and that project is in parallel...as we expand services from the regional health centre, we are not near providing full services from the hospital.

So those two projects, initiatives are continuing simultaneously if I may use those words. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, minister. I don't know if that's good news, because I've heard probably four, five times over the last couple of years that the boarding home would be built next year, a certain year. One of the former deputy ministers even e-mailed to the effect it would be opened by 2005 so obviously that didn't happen, but we're hopeful, I guess.

Still related to boarding homes, I think it was in July 2004 some of my colleagues and the minister toured the - not the minister she didn't come to the tour - but in Yellowknife we toured the Lena Pederson Boarding Home at the time. The deputy minister said that at some point the government would be reviewing the lease on that facility with the view to either extending the lease or leasing another building, or constructing a new building to serve the patients that had to go to Yellowknife from the Kitikmeot.

I'm wondering if the minister could give me an update on what the planning is in terms of replacing that facility for the patients from the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at all our facilities for boarding homes and we had looked at expanding or looking at expanding the one in Yellowknife. Right now, the more pressing issues are where we have no boarding homes, and that's in Rankin Inlet as an example, and Cambridge Bay as we deal with those two others as we expand on the services there.

At the same time, we need to look at proceeding with Iqaluit with the hospital expanding here, so the priority right now to do an RFP is in the facilities for Rankin Inlet as well as here in the new year. We are looking at an RFP for Cambridge Bay on the operations side sometime later in the construction, so we haven't made a decision on Yellowknife, but we do recognize that there is a need to expand the facility there as well.

Right now we are examining those options and trying to balance the direction where we most need to address at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I get, I have a lot of constituents who come to my office or stop me or send me e-mails to complain about the facility in Yellowknife. I don't think they have too much problem with the service. The operation in Yellowknife is kind of unique. The building is owned by one company and the services are provided by, I think two to three other companies, whereas maybe three, or four, or five different types of contracts.

The facility itself is coming up on 20 years of age, and a lot of the people that I talked to are concerned, in particular when elders have to go to the facility and it's not, or disabled people, they're not capable of being treated well in the building. The doors open the wrong way, it's difficult to maneuver up and down the steps, such things like that. We've had some reports where elders have slipped in the washroom and bumped their heads or hurt their legs, so it is a real concern in the Kitikmeot.

I'm wondering if the minister has received some of the complaints that have come from the Kitikmeot, and if she's asked her officials to review the facility in Yellowknife with the view to the short and long term future of replacement with a facility that's more in line with the type of facility that's in Edmonton; the Larga boarding home about which a lot of people in Kitikmeot have wonderful things to say.

So they compare the two and wonder why the Government of Nunavut is still using the facility in Yellowknife and what the plans are; if the minister could comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mean, I recognize the member's comments and observations and I have gone through all the facilities that we operate for boarding home services and right now the most pressing are where there are no facilities and Iqaluit being another one, as well as the one in Ottawa. The one in Ottawa is a real concern to us, and we want to move on that very quickly because it is too small, and Iqaluit's too small, and nothing in Rankin and none in Cambridge, so we have, we need to meet all those and I try to move forward on each of those.

One of the other works that we've undertaken is that most other boarding homes are funded through Health Canada and we've had to work to consolidate all the service provider information from Edmonton, Larga, to Yellowknife, to here, Ottawa, and include all that information as part of the overall planning providing expanded services for Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay.

So that took up a lot of our time over the summer months as we tried to move forward in this. But that review is done, and we will be able to at least go forward with Health Canada with discussions around moving forward in addressing expanded service as an example.

We recognize that Yellowknife there is a need there, but right now, the other areas are greater needs. So we still want to move forward in developing the facility. It's just that I don't have a set date for when we will do a tender on that facility at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

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

I can't be sure of the dates, but I believe the lease on the facility in Yellowknife is probably expiring fairly soon. I think there were two or three years left when we talked about it in 2004. I guess I would be concerned if the government was looking at locking in on a long term lease; 10 to 15 years. That would kind of curb their ability to look at a new facility in Yellowknife.

I'm wondering if the minister is aware of the status of that lease in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. I believe there are around three or four years.

I don't have an exact deadline. We have two different leases; one for the service side, and one for the capital lease building side. I believe it's about three or four years from now, but I don't have the exact date. I can provide that to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I am referring to the capital lease. We're not really concerned with the operating lease, but the capital lease, because if you leave it too long, and you get into the last year of the lease, then you've pretty much tied your hands in terms of your ability to look at leasing other facilities or going to tender to construct a new facility.

We've seen that occur a couple of times in the last two years in Nunavut where leases weren't reviewed early enough and it prevented the government from making more strategic decisions that would help people in the long run.

So I want assurances from the minister that they're on top of that lease. As I said, the facilities are old. It's something that really has to be looked at. If people go to Yellowknife they don't want to be falling down stairs, or falling in washrooms.

They want to be able to be safe in a facility. When people are going into the hospital they don't want to be injured in the facility while in Yellowknife to go to the hospital. So, I hope the minister will look into that.

At the recent Kitikmeot Inuit Association AGM I made a presentation, and a discussion came up around the table from all the delegates from around the Kitikmeot, certainly in Cambridge Bay, the issue of looking out for elders. It came out that people think that we should be putting more support into elders in terms of providing seniors' facilities, because some of the elders are not doing well at home.

They're not doing well in the care of their relatives. So I wonder if the minister could give me an overview of what the short and long term plan is for the Department of Health to look at elders' facilities in the Kitikmeot region given the fact that elders are living longer and they're going to need more specialized care? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a follow-up to the earlier question on the boarding home in Yellowknife, I can provide to the member the expiry date of that building; the lease contract and report the next steps we will be taking with that, but immediately we're proceeding with the RFP for Iqaluit, and Rankin Inlet after Christmas to move forward. At the same time the one in Ottawa is moving forward.

So I will have that information to the member and I do recognize that the facility is aging, amongst all the other facilities that we have to manage, so I'll commit to that.

In terms of seniors' homes, just for the record, just to clarify, the Continuing Care Facilities will provide some assistance to that group of individuals, that we're looking at,

constructing in Nunavut; one in Igloolik, and one in Gjoa Haven, but that Continuing Care Facility is not strictly dedicated for elders but rather broad.

Presently, we try and provide services around home care nurses for our seniors that require assistance, at the same time when, depending on the needs of the seniors, those services expand. As it is right now we have no facilities, per se, that go towards just senior's homes. We have facilities that we're gearing toward people who require 24/7 care in the Continuing Care Facilities.

Some of the initiatives that are underway, not in every community, but in some communities and I will use, I believe it's in Clyde River, that there is elder dedicated housing that was designed by Housing, where they provide homes to seniors and elders and home care services are made available to those individuals.

I know in some communities that is an option that is being considered instead of going down the path of a senior's home, but rather working with dedicating some of the houses that were awarded to the community, through Nunavut Housing Corporation announcements and converting those into the model that was designed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation for senior or elders' dedicated units. Those units have a common living space. We have made arrangements in some communities where they require home care assistance where we provide that.

Right now, in terms of a senior plan per region, that's not in place, but rather we work with Housing, as an example, to provide that. In other communities we provide services through contract to some communities: in Baker Lake, in Arviat, here. But in terms of constructing new capital projects for dedicated senior units; that's not in the books today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Can I ask the minister if she would take a few minutes and have one of her officials draft a letter and send it to the President of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association explaining all that to him that he can share with some of the delegates who were pressing for that type of facility.

I know that people across Nunavut are asking for everything, including all the MLAs, but the reality is that funding is in short supply. Saying no to people is not a good idea either, so I think I'd like an explanation of why certain projects can't go ahead, or can't be funded in the short term, it would help the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. Then they can review that with their members, and perhaps they can they can come up with suggestions to all their members.

So if the minister would commit to doing that I would appreciate it; if the minister could comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some communities are very proactive in pursuing initiatives like this. One of the models I think is not talked about much is the partnership with Nunavut Housing Corporation in dedicated units for elders and the model in the Chairman's community is one that I know and some communities are also exploring in providing assisted living or homecare services in one dedicated area for seniors, but I will certainly share that.

And I think in some communities the housing associations are very active in looking at allocating some of the units that they receive through the Minister of Housing's announcement to look at developing with elders and they have been in contact with me and my officials on what type of homecare service can we provide if they build and that service is available for us to deliver.

So I will continue to provide...I'll commit to provide that information to President of the KIA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that commitment. My next question is related to sort of almost my favourite topic is the status of the housing to support the new health facility in Cambridge Bay. You mentioned the other day that there are 20 to 25 houses required. How do you propose to acquire those 20 to 25 houses so that facility can become a hundred percent operational? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Health has put forward their needs assessment to Nunavut Housing Corporation who provides housing services to the government. Health, we have issues around getting the housing to provide these services for health care not just in Cambridge Bay, but in Rankin Inlet, as well as here.

We have put our case forward to the Housing Corporation and I understand they have done some RFP's and are trying to address it that way. We'll need to continue to work together to try and address that. As it is right now, there is a shortage of housing in Nunavut and we are working with the Minister of Housing to try and address those needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for her answer. I believe I heard the Minister of the Housing Corporation state the other day that they are looking at leasing, talking to the owners of the three-plex to lease that facility but that would still leave you with 22 houses short.

So if that is counted for 2007-08 do you envision the facility not opening, I mean, not being hundred percent operational till 2008-09. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be working towards recruiting staff where we can and where there are housing needs, it is an area that is of concern to us, not just in Cambridge Bay, but here, as well as in Rankin Inlet.

Where we can look for it in the services we will continue to do that but the current housing situation in Cambridge Bay is limited. I have been working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to try and address the shortage there through an RFP process.

And I think there is also a number of initiatives that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has undertaken; to try and as an incentive to get people to do access units and what not, but we are not there yet. I don't know exactly when the Department of Health and Social Services staffing level will be at a place where can say it is 100 percent but it certainly is a delay with what we are trying to achieve as a department in expanding our services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell me if they had all the housing that they required could they hire all the doctors and nurses for that facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, I think that's a bit of a hypothetical question. If I were to be able to say yes, I would say yes. You can only try so hard in trying to fill our positions, but that would be the intention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

>> *Laughter*

In eight seconds or less, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I apologise for the hypothetical question.

I know the minister is working hard. I have talked to the Assistant Deputy Minister numerous times. We share the same office building, so, he is well aware of my concern and the concerns of my constituents. In fact, it's a concern right across Kitikmeot region, and it ties in with the whole Closer to Home Health Strategy.

And, if we don't get the housing, she's not going to be able to hire the staff, and we're just going to keep going around in circles, and I'm going to keep asking the questions. So, I don't know where it ends.

I certainly hope the Minister of the Housing Corporation is working hard to find new housing. I'm aware that in addition to the three units in Cambridge Bay that I was referring to in the last couple of weeks, there are other units in Cambridge Bay. Perhaps they don't quite meet the specifications and criteria that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has put in a request for proposals, but there is certainly very good housing.

So I would urge the minister to sit down with her colleague, the Minister of Housing Corporation, and talk about how they can acquire another eight to ten houses...units, on a lease, at least they will be able to hire some professionals and then maybe make a big step forward to opening that health facility.

I'm wondering if the minister would commit to sitting down with her colleague and discussing the availability of housing in Cambridge Bay that didn't come forward in the request for proposal process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an ongoing issue, after the first round of RFPs, and not addressing or acquiring the numbers we wanted.

I had discussed the results of those with my colleague, and I have mentioned or suggested that we need to go back out and he is reviewing that continuously. I have sat down with him and he is aware of our current situation.

I know that he is committed to trying to address that as well. So, perhaps, there will be another request for proposal process in the near future, but I can't speak for my colleague. I have made my concerns known to him that we need to do more in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the same line of questioning; we are on H-7.

Last year you spent \$3,898,000 for the continuing care in Gjoa Haven. This summer, there will be \$1,500,000, but between 2008 and 2009, there is going to be \$3,669,000 spent on capital.

It seems like this is an ongoing expenditure. I wonder if the minister can explain to us what this consists of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, the project has been spread out over the three years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It cost \$3.8 million last year, and then \$1.5 million this summer. It seems like you're going to almost complete the project, and then start over again for the next three years, as you stated.

We don't see what's going to be happening on the years after that. What's your completion date for the Continuing Care Centre? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The completion target for the Gjoa Haven Continuing Care Capital Project is 2008-09, I believe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the page, I will direct my question...well, I have a concern. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For example, in Taloyoak, there's going to be the hospital, which I believe the drawings were done for about \$1 million last year; \$913,000. This tiny nursing station is going to cost almost \$1 million.

My first question is: where are those blueprints? Are they within the government department? Or, do you hire consultants/architects; where do they come from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because capital funding has been short, this project was slowed down. So the drawings, blueprints, will be finished probably next year. We were going to try to finish them by March 31, but because the construction is not available for another year or so, we are slowing that down.

The question in terms of who does the drawings, the Department of Community and Government Services issues a public tender for design consultants.

The project in Taloyoak is a little different. It is both a renovation and an addition.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was why it costs almost \$1 million for an \$8,000 a year tiny building for renovation just to draw up the blueprints.

Wouldn't it be cheaper for the government to have architects, in-house architects, to avoid those because...I guess my next question should be: what is the total cost for the architects for all your buildings in the small communities for the Nunavut Government? It must in the millions now that could have built generic houses, generic hospitals, and generic schools to save that entire bundle.

Excuse me, that's not very parliamentary language, but Mr. Chairman, it is upsetting sometimes when there's hardly any money to build my rink, arena, in Pond Inlet, that you would spend millions and millions of dollars on architects. I don't think very many of them are Nunavummiut.

Hopefully, you get two percent Payroll Tax out of them, but other than that, we're throwing away more money out of the Nunavut Government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member makes a good point. I don't know how much money we spend on architects as a government. I can say though for the Department of Health what we've tried to do is use the same design for the two new facilities that we are constructing next year, the Gjoa Haven continuing care facility as well as the Igloolik facility for that very reason.

The Taloyoak project has been delayed a number of years for various reasons, but I do recognize the member's concern, the member raised a very good point. The protocols, I couldn't answer, but what we have done internally was try to come up with one design to reduce the cost and stretch our dollars as far as we could to address the number of priorities identified by this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that should be a priority policy direction of the government to try to avoid having to hire my friends from Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, and elsewhere to put in these extra costs that the government cannot really afford.

So my question, Mr. Chairman, is that isn't there any way that you can use your... because if I see Community and Government Services staff from information you made available, then there's a whole lot of planners, and a whole lot of designers in house. If you go to your office and you say that that beautiful blueprint desk should throw it that way.

I don't know, maybe they only do... what do you call this, planning only, not architectural engineering, that kind of thing. I would like to ask the minister if the in house architects from Community and Government Services can be used... they used to be DPW, it always used to be under the big costs, to try to cut down on unnecessary expenditures while the monies are very lean. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will convey the member's comments to my colleague, the Minister of Community and Government Services on that. They're the ones that do that RFP so I don't know the one dollar amount for architects spent by this government, but I will share it and she's here and she's heard it so, but from our point of view we had tried to reduce the cost and use the same design for Igloodik and Gjoa Haven.

Although I noticed the member making reference to Taloyoak and I'm trying to find out what number he's referring to because I'm not following where his amounts are coming from, so if he can just clarify that for me? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that from the minister. I'm not using Taloyoak as a scapegoat, you know, I accept that. It's just that a part of it is because it has to be renovated and etcetera maybe addition to it. What puzzles me is that for years now we have not been able to control, to take hold of control of our expenditure in architects and designers.

If you were down south you'll see humongous buildings with less than 10 percent for architectural engineering, but most of our capital are not less than 10 percent, this one is 12 percent or 13 percent for architectural engineering. That is a major cost if you look at all the capitals that we are reviewing today and I may be barking up the wrong tree but I still treat it as it is still a part of the government, which is because it's the Health Department.

It must be very frustrating sometimes, to see that the little money that we have for capital, over ten percent of it is taken out by the architectural engineers every single time, because it doesn't really cost the architectural engineers on fuel, on other things, that other departments are faced with. In other words the Nunavut Power Corporation, or the other explanation required on the basis of fuel costs, but the engineer is not. Why is it so high?

My last question to the minister is that in the next capital project, would the government try to find a way to reduce the initial architectural designing to try to cut down as much as possible in that area because we are happy as long as we...I don't believe all that wonderful architecture that are very expensive do a good job at all.

An example, Nunasi Corporation finished the staff housing in Pond Inlet not too long ago when the decentralization came. Last summer, they had to replace all the windows because it was not done properly. So we had to move out until all the windows were done. Sometimes we tolerated it because it was summertime. We put up a tent outside for a little while. All the whole area was done, the four-plex apartments. If it was that

expensive architecture, I would try to do something better the first time around, rather than having to have it replaced all the time.

Can I ask the ministers then if they would try to review the architectural costs, especially compares into a percentage compared to the total cost of the project and try to find a way to reduce the costs? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will raise that with my colleagues. I can't really answer on behalf of another department that is responsible for architectural RFP processing.

I am applying to a department that provides that type of service. I do know that within the Department of Health we have tried to address the member's concerns by constructing two things the same to cut down the costs of design. Some designs are more complicated than others, but I can't speak to CGS. I think the members here have heard his concerns.

I will certainly internally review the whole percentage of what we use for the Department of Health towards architectural design, and still convey to my colleague the overall costs on architectural design, and so on. Internally I will commit to reviewing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Page H-7. Health and Social Services. Details of Capital. Tangible Assets. Total. Kitikmeot Region. \$1,500,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total. Tangible Assets. \$9,419,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page H-4. Health and Social Services. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$9,419,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Department of Health and Social Services is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Browne, Madame Brown. At this time we will now go onto another issue. Do you have any closing remarks Madame Minister?

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the members for their comments and suggestions and I want to thank Rosemary Brown for travelling from Rankin Inlet and staying the weekend and sitting here patiently. And I believe we will be dealing with the *Pharmacy Act* legislation. So you just let me know if you want me to do my opening remarks, we will be here. It is up to you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I would like now to ask Minister Aglukkaq to do your opening remarks on Bill 27. You may sit where you are. Madame Minister you can stay where you are and do your opening comments. Minister Aglukkaq.

Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act – Review in Committee

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Health and Social Services is ready to present Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act* to the Legislative Assembly for consideration.

This bill was prepared in order to enable Nunavut Pharmacists to dispense prescriptions signed by nurse practitioners. Currently there are nurse practitioners in Nunavut who are not able to practice their full scope. This is a disservice to both nurse practitioners and to the patients that they serve.

The nurse practitioners play an important part of our primary health care system in Nunavut. Pursuant to the direction approved by Cabinet, Bill 27 adds a definition for nurse practitioners; clarifies that the Act does not prevent a nurse practitioner from exercising a privilege conferred by legislation relating to the practice of a nurse practitioner; and the bill Nunavutizes the Act.

As well Bill 27 amends the *Pharmacy Act* as follows: it updates the definition of narcotics so that it refers to the current federal legislation; it increases the penalty for contravening the Act or its regulation to \$10,000 from \$100; it moves drug schedules to regulations from the legislation itself and; it updates the drug schedule to national standards.

At this point, I would like to express my thanks to the standing committee for its thoughtful review of the bill. They asked for more certainty as to the national standards the drug schedules should follow.

During its review of clause 13 of the bill, the standing committee expressed some concerns about what type of documents would be incorporated by reference in regulation under the proposed Section 28. In response to that concern the committee and I agreed to a motion that specifies the type of document that may be incorporated.

The current Act lists drugs through schedules to the legislation. These schedules have not changed since 1950 when they were first developed. As a result there are many modern drugs missing and some very old drugs present. For example, pharmacists don't sell Nux Vomica – what today we call strychnine – any more.

Putting drug lists into regulation allows Nunavut to respond quickly and easily to advancements in drug therapy and development. It is essential that Nunavut meets national standards for drug storage, restrictions, and use.

Most Canadian jurisdictions use the drug schedule developed by the national association of pharmacy regulatory authorities, which is what Nunavut will be doing and the amendment to Bill 27 makes clear. Many jurisdictions have placed the drug schedule into regulation in their pharmacy legislation.

Bill 27 builds upon the recognition given to nurse practitioners through amendments to the *Nursing Act* that came into force in 2004. Those amendments gave nurse practitioners the ability to prescribe. Bill 27 gives pharmacists the ability to dispense the medication prescribed by the nurse practitioners.

The Department of Health and Social Services convened a Nurse Practitioners' Prescriptive Working Group to develop the amendment to the *Pharmacy Act*. Over the past year, they reviewed the pharmacy legislation from other Canadian jurisdictions and consulted with pharmacists, nurse practitioners, and physicians.

I welcome questions from the members of the committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Minister, do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table? Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have two.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Minister, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Ron Browne, Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services. And to my left is Diane Buckland, who is our Legal Counsel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Does the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Health and Education have opening comments? Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak: Almost again.

>> *Laughter*

If it wasn't his name, I guess he would have said it. (interpretation) That was funny.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Standing Committee on Health and Education has had an opportunity to review Bill 27 and I am pleased to be able to make some comments today on the proposed *Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act*.

Bill 27 was originally proposed to amend the *Pharmacy Act* to enable Nunavut's pharmacists to dispense prescriptions signed by nurse practitioners.

The standing committee had noted that similar legislative changes have occurred in a number of other jurisdictions in recent years. These changes have enabled a steadily increasing number of nurse practitioners to provide health care services across Canada.

Recognizing that nurse practitioners fill an extremely important role in the delivery of health services across Nunavut's communities, the standing committee supported the concept of them practicing to the fullest extent possible, including having their prescriptions dispensed by Nunavut pharmacists.

A few days before the introduction of the bill in the House, standing committee members received correspondence indicating that Bill 27 would also include amendments to other sections of the *Pharmacy Act*, such as removing the lists of approved drugs, known as schedules, from the *Act* itself and including them in regulations. Bill 27 also proposed to update the definition of "narcotic" and increase the penalty for contravening the *Act* or its regulations. Bill 27 further proposed to establish what types of materials such as drug schedules and formularies can be incorporated as regulations.

In September of 2006, the standing committee had asked to review the results and report on the consultations held by the Department of Health and Social Services' Nurse Practitioner Prescriptive Working Group. The committee was disappointed to not have received that information prior to meeting with the minister and her officials.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Health and Education met with the sponsoring minister last week to discuss the proposed legislation.

While the committee recognized that including lists of approved drug schedules and formularies within regulations instead of within the *Act* itself would enable the government to respond more quickly and easily to advancements in drug therapy and development, members were concerned that the proposed amendment was not specific enough in identifying the type of body or organization whose publications would be adopted as drug schedules under the regulations.

The committee recommended that the relevant section of Bill 27 be amended to ensure that schedules and formularies would only be adopted from other Canadian jurisdictions or from scientific or professional associations, persons or body of persons in Canada.

The standing committee greatly appreciated the minister's willingness to work with the committee to make an amendment to the Bill as recommended.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is aware that our neighbouring jurisdiction, the Northwest Territories, recently replaced its *Pharmacy Act*, which is identical to the one we are currently amending, with completely new legislation. The standing committee recommends that the minister and her officials review some of the new initiatives addressed by the NWT's new Act for future reference.

The standing committee has also been made aware of recent developments within the pharmacy industry, such as telepharmacy, which may be worth taking into consideration during future changes to the legislation.

That concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. The committee supports the bill as amended and reprinted, and recommends its passage to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Are there any general comments from committee members? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, would just like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the work of the minister and her officials, the drafters, and her other legal advisors on this to be able to come up with some amendments that addressed and made everybody happy, and that we're all comfortable with.

I think that's an important way to move forward in developing legislation. One little thing I wanted to ask, and it will save me asking the question when we get into the clause by clause...it's just, I stated in the past that I'm always cautious when you're taking something out of legislation and putting it into regulation.

And, I know things like nux vomica - it sounds like a Star Wars planet or something like that, instead of a drug - but it is a lot more difficult to change, and I can appreciate that.

If I can ask the minister and her officials, just to get an idea of how quickly those lists change, just to get an idea of why it feels necessary to have it in regulation like that. I understand it is quite rapidly changing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Are there any more general comments? I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to a clause by clause review of Bill 27, reprint. The Bill is in your white binder.

Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act*, reprint. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 2. Clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 3. Clause 13. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the area that I referred to in my comments. I think if I was taking the schedules out of legislation and putting them into regulation, I'm just wondering if I can just get a response, just for the record as well, quickly, just to give members and the public an idea of how quickly this is changing and as to why they feel it's necessary to move it from legislation to regulation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This change would allow us to add new medications approved by the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities.

From what I've been advised, that organization updates its listing of new prescription drugs about four times a year, and approximately 30 new types of medication are added. This change would allow us to add those to our list in a quicker way without having to go through the legislative change process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Clause 13. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to Bill 27 as a whole? Just a minute. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just on Clause 15, and I know I mentioned this before, but I would just like to have it on the record a comment in Committee of the Whole.

This legislation is updating because of the *Nursing Act* to recognize the nurse practitioners in the past and it's something that's already in place and the main purpose was to give them the ability to write prescriptions.

Given that, I'm just wondering how come they don't have...I guess as soon as it's passed, like the coming into force section of it...instead of having a day or days to be fixed by order of the commissioner, and not just as soon as it has reached assent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct that in the *Nurses Act* it does recognize nurse practitioners can write prescriptions. The pharmacy legislation did not recognize that so the amendment to the *Pharmacy Act* will allow pharmacists to accept the prescriptions prescribed by nurse practitioners.

In terms of when it comes into affect, the regulations will set out how the nurse practitioners can prescribe. So we will have to wait for the regulations to be done to move forward in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering, for the benefit of those nurse practitioners out there that may be listening, do you have any idea of when that could be done? Is it going to be a week, two weeks, six months, two years; just an idea of when they can expect to be writing prescriptions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman we think it will start three months from now. We will be able to have all that in place to implement this change for nurse practitioners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am really a bit concerned here and I hope that the registered nurses give out more Tylenol because Tylenol is safe and seems to be a normal practice. I should ask the minister if that means they will become liable under this clause in this or clause 9? Will they be protected by their peers like the doctors and pharmacists and things like that? I would not want to have the nurses, who are very valuable in our homes, to be scared by this inclusion bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Buckland: This will allow nurse practitioners only to have the prescriptions fulfilled. Not just any nurse, but a nurse practitioner and the nurse practitioners will be properly trained to ensure that they can do it with full confidence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Buckland. (interpretation) Clause 15. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the Committee agree with Bill 27 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman: Does the committee agree that Bill 27 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister and your staff. Do you have any closing remarks?
Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Diane and Brook who was not at the table, but who sat here this afternoon in preparation for this and all the members for comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister, Mr. Brown and Ms. Butler. I would like now to ask Minister Akesuk for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to make his opening remarks. Minister Akesuk.

Bill 26 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2007-08 – Review in Committee – Economic Development & Transportation

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to present my Department's 2007-08 Capital Plan. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is proposing a \$13.55 million Capital Plan for the fiscal year 2007-08.

Safe and reliable transportation is crucial for development of an economy for Nunavut and it also requires large capital investment.

(interpretation ends) Therefore, in order to provide Nunavummiut with ongoing improved access to air, land, and sea travel, the department is proposing to dedicate a significant portion of our total capital plan to transportation related projects.

This works out to be \$11.5 million, or 88 percent of my department's total capital plan.

Close to 75 percent of the total capital commitment will be carried out in community-specific projects, while the other 25 percent will be used for strategic projects that affect the Territory as a whole.

Airports will continue to be the backbone of our transportation system for the foreseeable future. As a department we are responsible for maintaining the quality of the runways and related infrastructure that allows for safe aircraft operations. Planning for this work is

based on conditions of the airstrips, load factors, safety and expected life span of the infrastructure and the equipment.

(interpretation) In 2007-08, \$8.4 million is proposed to continue the construction of a new airport for Arctic Bay. In the current year, the major part of the earth works will be completed along with the extension of the power line from the community to the airport site.

In Grise Fiord, \$400,000 will be dedicated to creating a gravel stockpile and providing a maintenance overlay of the runway. This is the final year of a multi-year project that will invest \$925,000 in the airport over three years.

\$650,000 will go towards rehabilitating the services of the Kimmirut airport. The project will involve creating a granular stockpile to meet the future maintenance needs to the airport, overlaying the surfaces, applying a dust suppressant product. This will be the second year of the three-year project that will see a total of \$1,075,000 invested in Kimmirut's airport.

(interpretation ends) \$420,000 will go towards completion of the project to open Taxiway Alpha and rehabilitate Apron One at the Iqaluit Airport, which will make up a total Nunavut investment of \$4.5 million in this \$12 million improvement to the airport infrastructure.

The department's investment in the community Access Roads Program will continue. I am proposing \$500,000 for the 2007-08 fiscal year for this very popular program.

Access Roads that connect a community and its residents to near-by locations including harvesting or camping areas, tourism and sites of cultural importance, are continuing priorities of the department. This program will be very well received by the communities and we are very pleased to be able to continue it, extending access to the land outside our municipal boundaries.

The Bathurst Inlet port and road project continues to be a high priority for the department and we have included \$75,000 to contribute to its feasibility and environmental assessment of the deep sea port in Bathurst Inlet and the all-weather roads between the port and the mineral deposits in the Izok area. Access to this area has immense potential for the economy of the territory. Certainly I fully realise that this proposed allocation is nowhere near significant given the magnitude of this project. However, my department is committed to continue to work with our partners including Canada to move this project along.

The 39.7 kilometre highway between Arctic Bay and Nanisivik continues to be used and will be needed until the Arctic Bay airport is completed. We have allocated \$100,000 to ensure the road remains in a safe operational state over the course of the year.

In keeping the Canadian driver's licence agreement memorandum of understanding signed in 2005, the Nunavut government has agreed to implement new security requirements for driver's licences and I.D. cards as adopted by the Canadian Association of Motor Transportation Administrators and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators.

This measure will ensure that Nunavut drivers' licences continue to be recognized and honoured in other parts of Canada and the United States and will remain an accepted form of identification outside of Nunavut. For this project \$800,000 has been budgeted to develop and implement this secure system.

The Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans in collaboration with my department have recently completed a draft Small Craft Harbours Report. The report is currently going through one final review for final edits by DFO. The report concludes that Small Craft Harbours in our communities could provide very high returns in safety, access to our resources, and economic activity. The department will continue to lobby DFO to begin construction of these facilities. For our part, we have included \$1 million in 2007-08 fiscal year to contribute towards that program.

These are the major projects we will be undertaking in the 2007-08 fiscal year.

There are also some other projects under \$300,000 which are grouped together under the heading Small Capital Projects. We are allocating \$1.2 million to complete these projects which will include a new snowblower for Baker Lake airport, a new plow truck for Pangnirtung, and planning studies to ensure our dollars are properly spent on developing the economy and transportation system of the Territory in future years.

This plan makes good use of our limited resources and is well focused on the department's mandate. I will continue to work hard with my department to ensure that partnerships with the federal government, with industry and with the communities are strengthened and that the current level of activity in Nunavut has a long lasting value on the economic and social future of our territory.

(interpretation) Thank you. I will be glad to answer any questions from my fellow members, if I can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Do you have witnesses that you'd like to bring to the witness table? Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Yes. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my immediate left is Mr. Alex Campbell, the Deputy Minister for Economic Development and Transportation, and Mr. Methuselah Kunuk, the Assistant Deputy Minister for Transportation, and sitting in the Gallery is Mr. John Hawkins, our Director. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Does the co-chair of the Standing Committee have any opening comments? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development, I am pleased to be able to provide opening comments as we begin the review of the 2007-08 capital estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

The standing committee had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation in September to review the draft 2007-08 capital estimates.

Members were surprised that the five-year capital plan for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is virtually non-existent. The current five-year plan lists no new projects starting in future years. Members are concerned that this may mean that necessary projects such as airport infrastructure upgrades are not being planned for.

Members noted that the capital estimates include a project to upgrade the Government of Nunavut's Driver License and General Identification Card Security System. Members urge the minister to work with his colleagues to ensure that new equipment will also assist Nunavummiut in their efforts to obtain such documents as passports. Members also encourage the minister to have a communication plan in place to ensure that Nunavummiut are aware of any changes they will see in their drivers' licences.

Members noted that the capital estimates include a \$1 million fund that represents Nunavut's contribution for small craft harbours. Members noted that the Nunavut Small Craft Harbours report is under review by the federal government.

Members are concerned that the federal government has not yet agreed to fund the Small Craft Harbours initiative and support our minister's negotiations with his federal counterparts.

Mr. Chairman, members are concerned about the implementation status, the long-term planning for necessary airport improvements. Members note that the 2003 Nunavut Air Services Study outlined several infrastructure priorities that are necessary to improve the level of service from airlines.

Current runway lengths and their composition reduce the level of service that airlines can provide and can also increase the cost of providing services. Members urge the minister to work towards implementing airport upgrades that enhance service opportunities for Nunavut's airlines.

Members noted that the Iqaluit Airport Project is largely being funded through the federal Airport Capital Assistance Program. Members look forward to receiving information from other airport projects that may receive funding under this program in 2007-08.

Mr. Chairman, members have moved in support of the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project. Last winter the ice road transportation season was very short and mines were forced to airlift supplies into their sites. The reality of climate change means that alternative methods to achieve affordable re-supply will be necessary to ensure that mining in the North remains feasible.

Many Nunavummiut hold jobs in the mining sector and there is hope for even more employment opportunities. Members also noted recent discussions in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories regarding the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project and urged the minister to make every effort to move this project forward.

Mr. Chairman, the members continue to be frustrated by apparent lack of progress with respect to such large scale infrastructure projects as the Kivalliq-Manitoba Road Project. Members urge the minister to continue working to move these projects into the actual construction phase.

That concludes my comments on the 2007-08 Capital Estimates of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Individual members may wish to raise questions or make comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

I suggest to members that wherever possible, you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not too sure where I can begin, but I would like to say about the topics that I talked about earlier about Pond Inlet because the people of Pond Inlet are very resourceful, say in the summertime there was 128 people working for the Co-op in the summer especially contractors for the Baffinland contractors and providing food services and other things.

Whenever they're closed down in the winter there's usually 75 employees of the Co-op up in Pond Inlet, but there's a lot more employees in the Co-op than they do have at the hamlet level, as well there's also small contractors in Pond Inlet and they deal with economic development and tourism and there's also guides that go out taking people out hunting such as big game hunting, as well as tourists that go site-seeing to see whales and migratory birds.

Those are the types of outfitters that we have. There are a lot of licenced outfitters that have small crafts and they have spent a lot of money in dealing with tourism. They would like to be able to get a small craft harbour.

For example, last summer... my clock is going very fast. This past summer, there were two crafts that were lost due to the weather, because it was quite windy. One was tied at two ends, and the other got loaded with water and it sunk. Whenever there is high tide we can't get to our boats. Like I said, looking at Lancaster Sound, and the other rough seas and when the wind is coming from Davis Strait, there are a lot of high waves that come into the harbour, up to the low tide area, and we cannot get to our crafts.

We have wanted that in Pond Inlet for a long time, not just as a safe haven for the boats but for the purpose of making money because their wage economy is based on guides taking people on the land as a way of making money. As soon as the sea becomes rough and it comes into our harbour, it destroys our small crafts. As well, the Coop wants to build a new hotel, either make an addition, and put in another additional 20 rooms because there isn't enough room at this time.

There are also young people in Pond Inlet who want to pursue the tourism business because whenever tourists come into the community, they tell each other. There are a lot more tourists coming to our town. The other thing that was talked about in Pond Inlet was how the tourist industry could receive assistance to build a website on the worldwide web. They usually have a tradeshow at the school to show the public what kinds of business people can get into.

They also wanted to get some training on business management by the government because there are a lot of people out there that would like to get that kind of training. I know a unilingual couple, who have an outfitter's licence, and they have the insurance, and they take people out polar bear hunting. They don't even use a southern agent. They do it themselves. They also hire people with dog teams.

Like I said, there is going to be a mining company that is drilling at the present time, but we heard later on that the European people that own the company would like to be able to do some testing, or to start the mine as soon as possible because they have found rich minerals about made of about 70 percent or high grade minerals.

They want to be able to have heavy equipment to work in that mine, but our runway is not adequate. I have a feeling that there is going to be an accident because the airstrip is right in the middle of the community, and there will probably be an accident pretty soon.

From the spring to November, there is a high volume of aircraft traffic, because Pond Inlet is the main area from Mary River. If there was to be an accident, it would be very dangerous because it's just like Pangnirtung - the airstrip is right in the middle of the community.

They would like to be able to get an airstrip that can service jets. If they had jet service, they would also be able to service Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Igloolik and all the other communities as well as Mary River, with cargo and passengers.

Patients that go down to Ottawa have to go through Iqaluit, and it takes a long time to go to Pond Inlet, but if there were jet service in Pond Inlet then they could travel right from Ottawa land here in Iqaluit for a few minutes and without deplaning they could travel straight to Pond Inlet.

It would only take them about three or four hours from Ottawa to get to their community, then the 748 could travel to the other communities, and then there would be a faster flow of traffic. It would be a lot cheaper for groceries and other materials because a lot of the groceries and everything else that you buy is very expensive in Pond Inlet right now.

The Government of Nunavut could probably build a terminal and with the federal government's help, then the airstrip could be relocated so that we could have jet service up there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I have no more names on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to a page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page K-7. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials to the House. I see that there is \$500,000 budgeted for access roads.

Can the minister or his officials give a brief explanation as to how communities in Nunavut can apply for those funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money is within our department and the communities can make proposals to access these funds. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the minister for his answer. Perhaps if he could provide me a bit more clarity: \$500,000 that is Nunavut various...how would an individual community, lets say from in the Kitikmeot, apply? Do they submit their

application to your office here in Iqaluit? And if so, when would they be required to submit their application? I'm thinking in terms of timing; when do the applications get reviewed and approved so that communities can plan for some of the work they do in the coming summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it is popular in every community in Nunavut we go by first come and first served approval basis and we also have proposals that we look at by April 30, \$500,000 is gone. So maybe Mr. Campbell could elaborate more on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister indicated we do have some criteria and guidelines that we follow as a department. We have set April 30 as a deadline to receive applications from all the communities. We are suggesting it is a first come first serve kind of process. \$500,000 is not very much when you start divvying up among the communities.

We do have an evaluation committee under transportation that looks at all the projects. They also look at what previous communities received in the allocation in prior years and we try to make sure the funding is distributed to communities as fairly as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the minister and Mr. Campbell. I'm glad Mr. Campbell mentioned previous years and "fairly as possible" because I was worried: with first come and first served there is going to be a stampede. There are some communities out there that write good proposals and others who don't have all the personnel at their disposal to write proposals but given time they will get a proposal in.

I am wondering in the review of your program, have you discussed how you can ensure that communities are aware of the program and how they can take steps to ensure that they get their applications in and are considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are doing our very best to promote this and we have regional offices that help out in the promotion with the program that we have. Again, this is the people in Nunavut really look forward to get their proposals approved. We have \$500,000 again and we have regional offices making sure the communities in each region know about this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. On the same section of Small Craft Harbour contribution, I wonder if the minister can give me, similar to the access roads, a brief overview of how communities are determined to be eligible and how they would submit proposals to the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, what we have done is that we try look at the communities on how it would benefit...I know that most of the communities don't have small craft harbours. It's an outcry from almost every community that doesn't have a harbour where they could put their boat safe and have people safe.

In the community of Cape Dorset, where I'm from, the winds are very strong, especially when they come from the south.

So again, the seven communities that we've put down for possible funding from the federal government on small craft harbours, we are looking at the fisheries side of the communities that we've selected in the past. So that's the small craft harbours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. So just for clarification purposes, is the minister saying that if the harbour has an economic impact on the community and then on Nunavut, they would be eligible for this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I'm sure that every community would benefit from having a small craft harbour. If these were funded by the federal government, we would have to review it again and see how or which community would need one. The majority of the Nunavut communities do not have small craft harbours or breakwaters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I'm just wondering if the minister could clarify for me what the definition is of a small craft harbour.

I know in Cambridge Bay we have a natural harbour, I guess you would call it. And then we have a dock where the barges come up. When you talk about small craft, are you just talking about small boats, you're not talking about large ships or sailing ships? Could the minister clarify? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Kunuk to answer that question, please.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the small craft harbour, it was set up by the DFO Harbour Branch. We set this up in alignment with the DFO Harbour Branch and it goes up to about six meters for the boat. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That gives me a sense of what the program is targeted at.

On the same page, under Bathurst Road and Port Study, there's \$75,000 budgeted. I appreciate the minister's financial contribution to that project. Just for the record, Mr. Chairman, I believe they need to complete the work they're doing now, they require \$3 million, and so it's quite significant.

I think the more value would be from the minister, in terms of lobbying at the federal level with his federal counterparts. We do appreciate the \$75,000 and we did appreciate the \$1 million the Government of Nunavut has contributed over the years, but we're going to need significant capital funds to get that project off the drawing boards and into development.

I think the latest, current estimates overall for the whole project is running close to \$260 million to the \$300 million range. It keeps getting more expensive. As every year goes by it seems like another \$25 to 30 million increase.

I know that there was a positive meeting last week in Yellowknife; I think it was last week, at the Geosciences Forum by a number of mining companies, and the Kitikmeot Corporation, and Nunalogistics, in support of that project. There is a meeting that is going to be planned in Vancouver during the Cordilleran Roundup later in January to discuss how to proceed with that project. They're going to require a lot of support from the Government of Nunavut to advance that project.

I don't really have a question on that because I think we know the situation. That's more of a comment. Information for the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. We're on page K-7. Minister Akesuk, (interpretation) would you like to take a break?

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to Mr. Peterson's comments we will talk to the Mine Development and also to the federal government. We'll work hard and lobby to make sure that this becomes a reality. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question, and as a preamble, the minutes are just ticking by and I am just making my opening comments.

When we're talking about small craft harbours, for example if we built one in Pond Inlet, we also bring material to the Inlet and it starts from there to May River; that's where they're going to unload upload the ships up there. The people of Pond Inlet, with boats, transports lighter materials; not like trucks or anything big like that, but culverts, and material, and so on.

In regard to the small craft harbour contribution, we're not only talking about small fishermen. There has been studies done on whether there's halibut around our area, but it hasn't started yet because we don't have a meat processing plant in Pond Inlet. The HTOs, as they are going to be the organizers, are getting ready to make the proposals.

Are we just going to wait for the federal government, or have they approved to putting money aside for small craft harbours? What is going to be happening in the interim? There have been studies done in Pond Inlet already. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We'll wait for the federal government and once the monies are approved we will start putting the work in progress. We have approximately \$3 million with the Nunavut Government.

We are all going to work hard and keep lobbying the federal government. We have made our proposals to make small craft harbours. We have to abide by the rules that were set by the federal government. If we don't then it's going to be impossible to access those funds. We have to apply the laws that are used for the Small Craft Harbor.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not just for Pond, I don't think I'm just talking about Pond Inlet, I think we're talking about other communities Assistant Deputy Minister Kunuk was on the radio and he talked about the priority communities.

He also talked about the other communities that are the second priority, for example, the first priorities were for safety and hazard reasons. Like, for example, in Pond Inlet, I

don't know any other communities, so I'll just use Pond Inlet as my example because we need motor vehicles.

When you don't have motor vehicles, you can't run a business in Pond Inlet, likewise in Pond Inlet when you don't have a boat, it's impossible to travel so you need a boat.

If you're a hunter you need a boat to travel, if you're a hunter and I know and I was told that there were more than 200 boats in Pond Inlet, even though full-time workers are part-time hunters up there, then how will you know what priority we're on, where does the Department of Transportation already know what priority level we are at?

The hamlet, or the HTO for example, for all of us who were running to be elected men and women use the small craft harbour as their priority because they always start to travel by boat, and that was their priority to build that. That was their campaign position.

How long will it take for your department to hear from the federal government because we already have the blueprints ready for a small craft harbour? The economic development officers have been applying for that a lot, they work along with the HTOs and so how long would it take to get those obtained? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated before this line item is very popular by all the communities. There are seven communities that would like to get small craft harbours and we've already written a letter to the federal government.

Once we receive the funding, we've already got the blueprints, and once we get the funding, then we want to go ahead and see this through and also consider the rest of the communities that have been requesting small craft harbours.

So once the funding has been approved by the federal government...to date, I don't know what position they have for this, but I keep relaying this information to the Minister of Department of Fisheries and Oceans. We do want to get a response from them but we do want to get some funding for that from them. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I forgot to mention, although I didn't really enjoy talking about it, but I want the member to know that there was a fatality in Pond Inlet when this individual was trying to go save his boat on a little rowboat and he had used the boat which was approved by MOT. This individual was trying to go get his boat. He was in his 60s and had passed away trying to go get into his boat...

This has been under planning for a long time on behalf of all of the seven communities that this is a priority because they expect it. Will the Transportation officials be coming to the seven communities to discuss what kind of plans they have and where their plans are at?

If they have more than one plan, if they could be included to talk about the priorities and to talk about how best to start constructing the small craft and what kind of existing equipment do they have already in the smaller communities to make sure that your officials visit the secretaries in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We've already got the blueprint for the small craft harbours; we need those blueprints in order to obtain some funding from the federal government.

We've already got the locations from the communities, and the federal government has all of the proper information so that they could review it. All of the information has been included for what the communities need for small craft harbours. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at this, we used \$1 million for 2007-12, \$1 million per year that the Nunavut Government would expend that much money and that you would try to obtain funding from the federal government in the amount of \$10 million from 2007 to 2011.

So if that's the plan, then you will consult with the communities and tell them to wait patiently because we had given their blueprints to the federal government, and that once we get the funding from the federal government, then we will start planning. So is that what you are going to be consulting with the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$1 million for five years; it would be \$1 million per year, and we were requesting \$40 million to provide support for that funding for contribution. We will use that funding to consult with the communities because this is important.

We have been lobbying the federal government to try to allocate some funding as soon as possible, but we want to have this \$1 million available. Once the federal government approves the funding, then this will be incorporated and in total, it will be \$40 million. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I thank you for all your responses. I will be able to sleep now.

And, I will be expecting now, if the government approves this \$40 million that you're talking about, will all this funding be 100 percent allocated to the communities, or will you be getting some additional funding for O&M?

You said that 75 percent would be geared towards the communities with this capital item, but some of it will go someplace else. Will this be provided to all of the communities 100 percent, once you get the funding from the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The program we are proposing to Canada is a five-year program as our minister has indicated, the last estimates were \$40 million and our projections were \$5 million as our contribution towards that over the five years.

The delivery of the capital projects depends on how each of the communities and how they want to deliver the breakwater program. The lead on the actual construction in the capital program itself will be DFO. Each of the communities will be consulted and once again just in the planning of the report itself, staff did go to each of the communities that are mentioned here, at least twice for consultation as well. So there will be on-going consultation as we proceed with the delivery of that program.

On the basis of eligibility, we determined that fisheries were one of the primary drivers, tourism, as well as other economic development activities, and sustenance living as well. It was all taken into priorities.

As you know the department, the government does have a Fisheries Strategy as well that we try to implement and as well we do have a transportation strategy as well that was approved back in 2001 that we are currently updating.

All these communities are included in that process. Our plan as a department is to commit the federal government to these seven communities and hopefully have an on-going program with Canada to fund other communities in the next 10 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. I am sorry Mr. Arvaluk. As per Rule 60 (1) I now recognize the clock and will now report progress. Thank you, committee and thank you minister and your staff.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 20. Report of the 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 Bill 27 and would like to report progress. Bill 27 is immediately ready for third reading and I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation) Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk. However before I ask John, I would like to put out a reminder that at 6:30 p.m. there is a meeting in the Nanuq Room with the Nunavut Disability's *Makinnasuaqtiit* Society. Refreshments will be available. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

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

Orders of the Day for December 5, 2006:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statement
3. Members' Statement
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 08
- Bill 16
- Bill 23
- Bill 24
- Bill 25
- Bill 26

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 27

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Our meeting is adjourned until Tuesday, December 5, at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:11*

