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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, December 5, 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. Netser to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Good day, Mr. Premier, Ministers, Members, and visitors. Item 2 in our Orders of the Day. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and the Minister of Human Resources, Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 155 – 2(3): Canada Winter Games Pan North Projects

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. There are many projects associated with the upcoming Canada Winter Games in 2007.

For the first time ever, the 2007 Canada Winter Games (CWG) is being held north of 60 from February 23 to March 10, 2007 in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Canada's three territories have joined forces in a pan-northern approach to the Games to showcase our hospitality, spirit, culture, and traditions of the people of the north. Once again we will send athletes to compete, and in addition we will send performing and visual artists, youth ambassador volunteers and traditional sport participants to the largest event ever hosted north of 60.

In partnership with the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut will participate through visual and performing arts in cultural performances, presentations and ceremonies through the opening and closing ceremonies as well as at cultural festival sites throughout the duration of the Games.

A showcase of great traditional sports from the north will be highlighted throughout the Games as well. Inuit games will be featured during week one and traditional Dene games will be featured in week two. Youth from across Nunavut will also have the opportunity to attend the Youth Ambassador Program. Twenty two youth from across Nunavut have been identified to accept volunteer positions with the Host Society to be ambassadors of the territory and to gain valuable volunteer experience.

The 2007 Canada Winter Games will provide a fabulous opportunity for Nunavummiut. Representatives from the arts community, volunteer sector, and sport and recreation sector will be featured throughout this two week event. As well, every community will be able to feel as if they too are part of the Games through their participation in the torch relay events scheduled to be in every Nunavut community.

With less than 90 days to go, I wish to congratulate those who have been selected to participate. I wish you well as you prepare for the largest celebration ever north of 60. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 156 – 2(3): Remembrance and Action – Violence Against Women

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I rise today to remind all Members of the Legislative Assembly that December the 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women.

This day represents an opportunity for Canadians to reflect on the phenomenon of violence against women in our society. On Wednesday, we should all try to remember those who have died as a result of gender-based violence.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly we can also reflect on the concrete actions that we as a government, and as individuals, can take to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women.

Mr. Speaker, we know Nunavut is no stranger to violence against women. Statistics Canada has confirmed this, finding that Nunavut has some of the highest levels of violence against women. We also have the highest rate of shelter use in the country.

What else should we know about violence against women? First, that young women experience the highest rates of violence. Second, that the risk of violence entering a relationship increases when a women's partner uses psychological or emotional abuse, and especially if he drinks frequently and heavily.

Third, that aboriginal women experience rates of spousal violence and spousal homicide that are significantly higher than the rates experienced by non-aboriginal women or aboriginal men.

Mr. Speaker, over the past year, the Government of Nunavut has undertaken a number of initiatives to stem the tide of violence. The message is: we should not minimize violence against women...it must be known to everyone that it exists and that it is wrong.

As government, as communities, and as individuals, we are trying to meet the challenge of building a strong, vital society in which women and their children can live free from violence.

We need to improve the quality of life for women. We owe this to all women in Nunavut who may be affected by violence now and in the future. Mr. Speaker, all of us have a role to play in stopping this cycle of violence.

The Members of the Legislative Assembly recognize this. Just one year ago, Members of the Legislative Assembly affirmed their commitment to supporting measures to reduce and eliminate domestic violence in Nunavut.

They pledged to demonstrate personal leadership by participating in public education efforts to promote the unacceptability of domestic violence in any form and to provide positive role models.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in remembering the victims of gendered violence. On December 6, and every day, we need to remind ourselves of the value, importance, and impact all women have in our communities and on our individual lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 365 – 2(3): Christmas Greetings

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): I would like to extend my Christmas greetings to all my constituents and also to my sister, Becky Kadluk in Baker Lake; and also my uncle, John Qaunaq from Repulse Bay; and also my biological parents, Vicky Kunuk, Inuki-Kunuk; and my sister Mary Kunuk, and all my older and younger brothers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge advice that was given to me. I know that there will be less fortunate people during their Christmas holidays. I was given advice which I

always remember, by my adoptive parents: they would say: “Even though you receive a small gift, please show your appreciation. Because you’re forefathers couldn’t afford to give you that one”. Thank you.

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

Member’s Statement 366 – 2(3): High Cost of Living in Nunavut

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise a concern that was raised by Arviat residents, in regard to the Income Support Program, which is provided by the Government of Nunavut.

My colleagues know and they’re aware as to how much it costs to live up in the north. We need basic things in Nunavut in order for us to survive; we need basically everything. In the past we were poor, and we didn’t even realize that we were that poor. That was according to the traditional way of life.

But the basic needs like groceries; heating fuel...I don’t think...nowadays, we’re ashamed to wear old clothing so nowadays we have a tendency to wear new clothes. And the majority of the people of Nunavut might...good money, so cost of living has risen quite drastically, especially this winter. The cost of everything went up and there was a great impact on the income support recipients.

In my community, and I have seen these individuals with my own eyes, that they are a lot poorer. Back in 2005, we were very pleased to see a five percent increase on the Income Support Program and everything else last June was given a ten percent raise.

In spite of that, Mr. Speaker even with those increases they’re not sufficient to purchase what we need today. I believe the government has to look into the Income Support Program because the cost of living is very high now.

I would encourage the government to deal with this on an urgent basis, because we need to increase the value of the income support program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member’s Statement 367 – 2(3): Breaking the Cycle of Abuse

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the eve of the sad occasion of the 17th anniversary of the Montreal massacre to inform the House about a disturbing report that I read last week in a national newspaper.

The special report concerned the issue of domestic violence. The tragic real life stories that it described were startlingly familiar to those we see happening today in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, to assist readers in comprehending the magnitude of domestic violence on the national level, the story utilized some “Did You Know” facts. I will describe some for you.

Did you know that:

- 1 in 4 women will experience some form of domestic abuse in her lifetime.
- Only a small fraction of women who experience abuse will call and report it.
- Women between the ages of 25 and 34, and aboriginal women, are the most vulnerable targets for domestic violence.
- Many women return to the abusing spouse with their children, even after seeking help through a crisis shelter or counseling.
- The reasons for returning include fear of increased violence, fear of losing children through custody or welfare agencies, embarrassment and shame, lack of emotional support, or lack of affordable housing and financial stability.
- It is estimated that at least 1 million Canadian children will witness violence against their mother each year.
- Women are seven times more likely to be killed by an intimate partner than by a stranger.
- Boys who witness domestic violence in the home are three times more likely to become abusive adults.
- Child abuse is 15 times more likely to occur in families plagued with domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, the magnitude of the above facts is daunting to comprehend.

However, consider that the recent Statistics Canada report entitled, *Victimization and Offending in Canada's Territories* stated that, “Residents of the North experienced higher levels of spousal violence than their counterparts in the provinces.”

Mr. Speaker, I was very proud of you when I listened to you on the CBC radio last week speaking about the issue of domestic violence. I was also proud to support the motion that you brought forward earlier in this Assembly.

As elected leaders, we must speak out about this issue and support all those individuals, groups and agencies in Nunavut who are on the frontlines each day helping the victims of domestic violence and their families. I ask all members to join me in supporting their important work.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 368 – 2(3): Update on Eastmain-1-A and Rupert Diversion Project

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say Merry Christmas to my son in Kuujuaq.

(interpretation ends) I rise today to update the House and my constituents in Sanikiluaq on the status of the Eastmain-1-A and Rupert Diversion Project.

On Friday, November 24, the Quebec provincial review body, COMEX, released to the public its report and authorization of the project.

Although the report did make some references to the submissions made by the Nunavut Hudson Bay Inter-Agency Working Group and Makivik, I remain concerned about this issue. Although the COMEX report did acknowledge that our concerns need addressing, it concluded that the project should proceed.

Mr. Speaker, the report of the Federal Review Panel on this project was submitted to the federal Minister of the Environment, the Minister of Fisheries and the federal Minister of Transport last week, on November 30.

I understand that this report is being translated, and will be made available to the public in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, I anticipate that Nunavummi Tasiujarjuamiuguqatigiit Katutjiqatigiingit (NTK) will review this report carefully. I look forward to continuing to work closely with NTK in the coming months, and reporting back to the House in the near future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 369 – 2(3): Merry Christmas

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to welcome Chris Ducer. They had moved to Kugluktuk recently and I would like to wish him and his family a Merry Christmas.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Christmas is an important time of year for families. It is a time of year when our lives slow down. Students have a break from their studies. Adults can take time off work. It is the perfect opportunity for families to gather and spend time with each other.

Mr. Speaker, I have often spoken of how important our elders are and how much we can learn from them. I have also spoken of our responsibility to mentor the youth by sharing what we know with them.

Christmas gives an opportunity for many generations to come together and share their unique perspectives on the issues that we all share.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in wishing a very happy and peaceful Christmas season to all Nunavummiut and also my constituents in Kugluktuk, and all the best in the new year to all our friends and families.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 370 – 2(3): Christmas Greetings

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to rise today to extend a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to my constituents. I would first of all like to wish Merry Christmas to the Members of the Legislative Assembly also my younger brothers and sisters.

I extend a very Merry Christmas also to my constituents. Have a Merry Christmas Members of the House. Again I would like to urge the people of Nunavut to have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and a safe one and especially to have a peaceful holiday.

I would also like to urge the people to not drink and drive.

Mr. Speaker, I extend a very Merry Christmas to all the people of Nunavut and a Happy New Year.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 371 – 2(3): Christmas Greetings

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to wish a very Merry Christmas to the people of Qikiqtarjuaq because I go there on occasion and also to the people of Clyde River, I extend a Merry Christmas to all the people: to my mother, my grandchildren and to my family and to my immediate family members.

Again, to the people of Kuujjuaq I have two sisters and brothers-in-law and nieces and nephews. Even though we are not together we will be together in thought and we will be celebrating all for the same reason.

One person I was very proud of was Adrian Thomasie, little me.

>>*Laughter*

I wish a Merry Christmas. He was one of the members of the Youth Parliament and I was extremely proud of how he conducted himself in the House at that time. And for the people who feel like they're going to be alone during the holidays, we wish them well and convey our love to those people. They will be on our mind.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 372 – 2(3): Christmas Greetings

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also say something about Christmas and again, we will be going home, so my sons keep calling me. It is happy occasion to think about Christmas and your family members and you also remember the good times and the bad times that happened in your life.

I would like to say Merry Christmas to the Council of the Disabled who we had a meeting with; you will not be forgotten by this government. And I also wish the best to the people who don't have much and who are hungry; they will be in our minds during the season because they will have absolutely nothing during the holidays.

To the members of this House I would like to also like to say something about Chris Merkosak, who will be in Whitehorse for the Canada Winter Games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 373 – 2(3): Long Service Awards

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I get into my Member's Statement I'd like to wish everyone here, all of my constituents and everyone listening, a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season.

I like to take this opportunity to rise and pay tribute, as the government did last night to some of its employees that they received long service awards. I'll read off the names. Bear with me if I make any mistakes in pronunciation.

For 15 years:

- Rosemary Keenainak
- Leesa Mikijuk
- Ralph Hammond
- Diane Buckland
- Marcelo Perangao

Those were the recipients of the 15 years of service.

For 20 years of service. There was:

- Naulaq Arnaquq
- Leslie Serkoak
- Peter Geikie
- April Kownirk
- Scott Merriott
- Mary Lou Sutton-Fennel
- Rhoda Ungalag
- Oloota Maatiusi
- Eva Noah
- Peter Scott

Those were the individuals that were recognized for 20 years of service.

Individuals recognized for 25 years of service include:

- Clark Wolfe

- Jeetaloo Kakee
- Suvinai Mike
- John Graham
- Sandy Teiman
- John Kennedy
- Mary Cousins
- Jane Cooper
- Tim Neely
- Noel McDermott

Believe it or not it goes on for people that have been here for even longer. For 30 years of services there were two individuals that were recognized for 30 years of service. That was:

- Jeannie Iou
- Paul Reddy

There is actually someone recognized for 40 years of service and from what I heard the Premier's comments about this individual last night, I think it would be safe to say that we call her the 'grandmother of the public service on Nunavut' and that is:

- Ms. Maggie Gordon

I would like to ask all members to join me in congratulating them for the years of dedication that they've put towards the public service and the people of Nunavut through their careers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 374 – 2(3): Long Service and Volunteer Appreciation Awards

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to begin by acknowledging two presentations that were made yesterday here in Iqaluit. As Mr. Tootoo just mentioned the long-term service awards for the Government of Nunavut were handed out last night. There were several recipients from five to 40 years of service and employment from the government.

A constituent of mine, that Mr. Tootoo just mentioned, Ms. Maggie Gordon, was the only employee to receive the 40 year long-term award. Maggie is the longest serving employee of the Government of Nunavut in Nunavut. Maggie is originally from Northern Quebec and has been a resident of Iqaluit since the early 1960s. She started work in the laundry in the old Government of the Northwest Territories. Since 1989 she had been an employee of Joamie School here in Iqaluit. At Joamie School she is an acknowledged leader and a key team player. As you know she probably makes the best bannock in town.

Every time they have Joamie School fun nights, her bannock is well appreciated, and needed. She makes the best hunting *Pualuks* that you could get in Nunavut. I have two pairs as Christmas presents from her.

Also last night the City of Iqaluit handed out its volunteer appreciation awards to dozens of Iqaluit residents, who volunteer their time to make Iqaluit a better place to live.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the volunteers, and Maggie Gordon, for their award win last night. At the same time I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you Mr. Speaker, and your family, the House, the staff of the Legislative Assembly, all the residents of Iqaluit, and the people of Nunavut a very Merry Christmas, and most importantly, a very safe and Happy New Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Members' Statements. Member for Natilik, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Member's Statement 375 – 2(3): Remembering the Women

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to wish Nunavummiut a very Merry Christmas today. (interpretation) I wish people living in Taloyoak a Merry Christmas, Gjoa Haven. (interpretation ends) I also want to thank my staff in Taloyoak, Johnny and Helen, as well as Phil and Annie upstairs, and wish them a very Merry Christmas, (interpretation) and also all members will be going home, (interpretation ends) safe travels and enjoy your time with your family and friends.

(interpretation) And also to Tagaq and also to your family to say Merry Christmas.

(interpretation ends) I also want to remember three people who can't be with us today this or any other day. Earlier I spoke about remembering: I want to remember three people and to put a face to December the 6th and what that means to me personally.

I want to remember my friend Sylvia Lyall who I think you all knew worked for me, and we lost her to violence three years ago. I don't remember her just today, but I remember her everyday I go to work because she's not there with us.

I also want to remember my best friend's sister, who we lost to violence and that's Donna Kusagak of Rankin Inlet.

And another person I went to college with and we lost to violence and that's Rhoda Maksagak of Cambridge Bay.

It's a sad day in Nunavut when we have accomplished so much through our land claims, through our new territory, and our new government when women continue to fight for the basic human rights and that's to live safely in our society. As legislators, we cannot do it

all. Safety starts from within us through our homes, within our families and in our communities.

So let us continue to voice out against violence so people like Sylvia, Donna, and Rhoda can be with us to celebrate Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 376 – 2(3): Thank Panniqtumiut

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome the people in the Gallery. Today I would also like to stand up and say that my sister had a hard time and I would like to thank the people of Pangnirtung for helping out my sister and the people of Pangnirtung for helping out with my sister's children.

I am very proud of my sister, she was very strong, even though she worked so hard and she loved her children was able to get through. Eeleeseepee Kooneeliusie, I would like to thank my colleagues here in the House for assisting us; my brother-in-law is getting checked up by the medical personnel.

I would also like to thank everyone in Pangnirtung and everywhere for helping me and helping my sister.

Have a very Merry Christmas to the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Members' Statements. Member for Baffin South, Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 377 – 2(3): Christmas Greetings and Thank Constituents

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to wish my constituents of Cape Dorset and Kimmirut a very Merry Christmas for them to be able to let me speak on their behalf and to have trust in me to represent them in the House. A lot of people recognize us from Nunavut communities and it is very important people recognize us, even though we have a lot of work to do as a government. We were given encouragement by the people out there.

I'd like to say a very Merry Christmas to all the people of Nunavut and a very Merry Christmas to Nicotye Kolola and Michael and his wife and children and Akalayuk Qavavou, Sandy Kelly and his children.

I would like to give my appreciation to them for helping me out when I go back to my community and Karen Kabloona, and Susie Alainga, who works for me at my office upstairs.

And I would also like to wish a Merry Christmas to you Mr. Speaker and all my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Members' Statements. Ms. Brown.

Member's Statement 378 – 2(3): Christmas Greetings

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say very Merry Christmas and have a good flight to the members who are leaving tomorrow and for them to enjoy their family when they get back. I would also like to say that we miss Tagak Curley who was not able to sit with us this time around.

And I would like to say very Merry Christmas to my colleagues and I also have a grandchild who is 18 years old and is attending university and was born December 19, 1988 and they were born on the same day as Janet and Wayne Gretzky's children. And so they have the same birthdays and I always remember Wayne Gretzky's daughter whenever it's my granddaughter's birthday. My grandchild is trying to become a doctor and has been going to university for two years.

I would also like to acknowledge the Woman's Day tomorrow and to remember with Leona Aglukkaq the people that died of violence. Everything passes, is what I hear from my elders. They always tell me not to be sad for so long but we like to remember all the women that died of violence and we love all the women in Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Members' Statements. Thank you. Orders of the Day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Environment, Mr. Netser.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): I didn't hear you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a Return to Oral Question 366 – 2(3), asked by the Member for Quttiktuq on November 27, 2006 concerning the tranquilization of polar bears.

Mr. Speaker, this return is quite detailed. So I have given a copy to the Clerk for the *Hansard* for the public record. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Aglukkaq.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two people I would like to recognize from Taloyoak. They're here for the disability meeting and they finished yesterday. I was learning sign language. She's from Taloyoak, and I was practicing this yesterday: Jessie Idlout and his wife, from Taloyoak. Welcome. I would like to welcome them to the House. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. I'm sorry. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, ever since I became a Member of the Legislative Assembly, this is the very first time this individual has been able to come to Iqaluit and to the House as well. I have been with her for 28 years. Next year, we will be celebrating 29 years. I would like everyone to recognize my wife and to welcome her to the House, Elisabeth Mapsalak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hardly recognize anybody to the House. There's someone from Sanikiluaq that I would like to recognize. I respect the young person and I have known her ever since she was a child. She is with the Qullit Status of Women's Council, Christine Eqilaq, please stand. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual in the Gallery today. He is also known in the Baffin region and across Nunavut, the Senior Administrative Officer for Kugluktuk, Paul Waye, welcome to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation) Member for Quttikut, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize individuals that have been able to come to the Gallery. First of all, I would like to recognize the Senior Administrative Officer from Resolute Bay, Joshua Hunter. Also, beside him is his daughter, Christine Iqaluk-Hunter.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize my cousin Simon Nattaq.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize some people in the Gallery. The first person works for the Qullit Status of Women's Council, Stephanie Williams, and also my constituent Rhoda Palluq. Welcome to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the Gallery Ms. Kathy Hanson, a long-time constituent of mine in Iqaluit East, and a leader with the issues regarding women with the Status of Women's Council.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome my Levi's cousin, my friend, Councillor, Simon Nattaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity a couple of individuals here in the Gallery. One of them is a constituent of mine, and no stranger to the House, I'm sure, and that's our Law Clerk, Ms. Sue Cooper.

I'd also like to recognize, sitting next to her, a gentleman by the name of Paul Mettle. Paul is a new lawyer working for *Maligarnik Tukisiniarvik*.

He may be a stranger to this House but he is not a stranger to a House; he is a former Member of the Legislative Assembly in British Columbia. He was first elected in 1996 representing Prince George/Walmeenika, again reelected in 2001. He served a total of nine years. No stranger to a House, but a stranger to this House, hopefully, not for long, but I would like to welcome him here. He will be working in the capacity as a poverty

law counsel with *Maligarnik Tukisiniarvik*, so I would like to welcome him to Nunavut and to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo, and welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I don't see anyone. If one of you was missed please feel welcome to the Gallery.

Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. I don't think there are Oral Questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 420 – 2(3): Power Bill Payments

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought there was going to be lots of arms going up at the same time.

There is a growing concern in regard to the power bills. For that reason this past winter it was brought up to the Minister of Energy and a lot of times the people who pay the bills it takes them a long, long time to go to the destination. Sometimes they go to Rankin Inlet, or Baker Lake. If they haven't received then they might have their power cut off. That's the circumstance that they have experienced.

I'd like to ask the minister if he has done anything about this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, the very higher energy costs over the last couple of years have caused extreme fiscal pressure on this government. I'll just give a quick example: in 2003 oil was at \$22 a barrel, and when we bought it this year, two and half years later, it's at over \$68 a barrel when we had to buy it.

On the bill-paying stuff, the member is correct. We have facilitated the payment of power bills. Any person can go to the local Co-op, or the Northern Store to pay their bill. If they pay their bill on Tuesday, and the Northern Store sends that payment into the power corporation that Friday, usually the amount is paid to the bill on Monday.

The problem we have right now - and I always pay my bill, as an example, by mail - and the reason I do that, Mr. Speaker, is to see how long it would take, as the member's saying, to see how long it would take to be credited to the account. On average, Mr. Speaker, when I send a check in the mail it takes between three and four weeks before I see a credit on my account.

That has been brought to the attention of the Power Corporation. We have tightened up the accounts receivable at the office when people pay their bills. And I would expect to see a quicker turnaround on the member's constituents and the people of Nunavut paying their bills and seeing that bill payment on their statement very quickly in the new year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that's what you said before but those envelopes that are written, it's a self-enclosed envelope and it states that Baker Lake Box 40 is the address, so what they do is they go to the payment agency.

I believe Co-op and Northern are paying agencies they collect, they wait quite a while to send them all at once, and if it's going to Rankin Inlet, it's wrong. If they use the enclosed envelope the problem increases and then they end up looking for the envelope where the payment is.

I would like the minister to really check into this because we haven't seen any changes even though it has been brought up lots of times in the House and in winter time it's even more dangerous. When can we see improvements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are seeing improvements, and I apologize to the member if he's not seeing improvements in his constituency. We have relocated all the accounts receivable, accounts payable, and the billing functions for the Power Corporation to Baker Lake, where 80 percent of the employees have been trained and are from the community of Baker Lake.

At the same time, we have closed offices in Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit; the people have taken other positions so that we can consolidate all of our billings in the community of Baker Lake.

If a person goes into the Northern or Co-op and pays their power bill, the store under direction of the Power Corporation has a set time to send in those accounts and they may be on a seven-day or ten-day turnaround.

If you receive your bill on the 25th and you go in to pay it on the 27th or 28th, within that ten-day period, within that week, or that three-week period, it would be sent off to Baker Lake. The concern that we see right now, Mr. Speaker, is exactly what the member is saying, and as I explained earlier, is that when we're mailing out payments, whether it's being mailed from Iqaluit, and I have, Mr. Speaker, on purpose mailed power bill payments from Toronto, recently I just did one from Calgary to see how long it would go when I was down for a meeting with you for the MFP.

So, Mr. Speaker, again that seems to be the concern is the bill payments that are coming in through the mail, and I've asked the office to look at that. My understanding is, Mr. Speaker, that by the New Year we should see that tightened up. Again, I have no control over snail mail with Canada Post. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, thank you that you will be doing something, but I believe that there is a mistake. (interpretation ends) I think that was the biggest mistake of all time but what some of those envelopes in account statements addressed to Rankin Inlet, all these forms were relocated to Baker Lake at the same time the office was relocated.

(interpretation) For that reason, I think there's confusion over there so they have to get rid of those old envelopes or paper that they have. Maybe they should just disregard the old invoice forms and envelopes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This may be the last day of questioning and I was trying to have some levity there with my colleague from Arviat.

The member is correct. The forms have been changing. We've actually gone to a new form this past spring, after questions being raised in the House, there is, as the members know now, Inuktitut and English on the form.

There is no postage pre-paid envelope in the bill that you receive from the Power Corporation. There is however, the address, and the address now for the billing is to the P.O. Box number in Baker Lake.

I agree with the member, that when people are mailing in those payments, that they use the return address that is on their invoice at the top of the bill, which is the Government of Nunavut office in Baker Lake. That is where the Power Corporation billing office is found. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 421 – 2(3): Medivac Contract Services

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

Mr. Speaker, yesterday and earlier during the sitting, I questioned the minister in regard to the medivac request for proposal that was put out last December for the Baffin region.

Again, my understanding of a request for proposal is you're looking for the best proposal not necessarily the best price. That's why you're choosing the request for proposal process rather than strictly a tender.

I've been informed by the minister that she wasn't aware of all the factors on how things were weighed in that, but my question to her is: I understand that they had one company that was using southern-based companies to provide the service for them and another company that is 100 percent based, and has all their equipment right here in Nunavut, why that wouldn't be given much more of a factor.

And also, a fact, I understand that one proposal could have brought a patient from any given community in Baffin to a critical care centre, anywhere from three to twelve hours quicker than the contractor that the contract was provided for.

So I guess my question to the minister is: given that the time difference in being able to get someone to a critical care centre could mean the difference of life or death. It could mean the difference of permanent damage.

Is the minister aware of what kind of waiting factor that was used of providing that service for the patient in reviewing the request for proposal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In responding to that question yesterday, I mentioned that I had stated that I was not involved in the review of the request for proposals for the medivac contract.

I said yesterday that I don't know the criteria and the percentages used to apply for allocation of points to award a contract. So in terms of responding to the individual yesterday, I said I would look into getting that information and the criteria and present that.

I also said yesterday that there are a number of pieces that are identified and those would be in areas of service, the professionals that provide the service, cost is a factor, and so on. And, to respond to the question he is asking, I don't have the criteria and I'm not directly involved in reviewing the file to award a contract, therefore I don't have that information before me.

And, I committed to the member to provide it, and I will do so once I have it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the minister also acknowledged the fact of going against past practice where these contracts have gone to Cabinet for approval, and I think for precisely these types of reasons that everything was looked at.

I know in the past this government has even disregarded its own contracting practices to provide a contract to local, locally based companies in the past.

So I guess my question to the minister she said yesterday, even though it didn't go to the cabinet because the budget was there, that has always been the case. So I'd like to ask, in this particular case, why this particular contract was not brought forward to the Cabinet prior to being awarded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned yesterday the file is being reviewed. There is an appeal through the NNI process. The appeal is still in place so the final recommendations coming out of that will be presented to the Cabinet and FMB for final approval. As it is right now, it's still in appeal stage and the review is being done on the recommendations coming out of the NNI. What those are, I don't know. I'm not involved in the file, and for those reasons, I'm not able to present the answer to his questions.

The NNI review process, which is independent from the department, after reviewing all of the recommendations coming out of the review of the contract will be presented to FMB and the Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's kind of like yesterday when I was questioning the Minister of Economic Development, and he said he didn't have the information. When an issue is brought forward, one would assume that the minister gets briefed by the department on that, and I'm hearing I'm not involved, I'm not involved.

This is a contract that was issued by the Department of Health and Social Services and I would say that the minister should be aware of some of the circumstances around it, and maybe ask her then that this is something that has been raised over the last week and a half, why she has not been briefed to be able to provide the information on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The RFP process is in place to allow organizations to put forth proposals to have a committee independent from government, Cabinet, to review proposals. The proposal was reviewed by the committee. The process

has been appealed through NNI. That's independent from government, Cabinet as I should say. That process is what I have been advised. The process is it was advertised; submissions were reviewed; they looked at the files, the process has been appealed through NNI.

The NNI Committee has put forth recommendations, those recommendations are being reviewed and those are the circumstances around the file that I'm aware of. I am not directly involved in the allocation of the medivac contract to a specific company.

There is a process in place through the RFP where there is a committee that reviews each proposal. The NNI Committee is also separate from that, which reviews the decisions of the committee. Those are being reviewed as it is and a final decision will be made once the NNI Committee's recommendations have been reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes I just wonder what the point of even asking questions is. In this particular case I guess this is something that has been brought forward and questioned.

For the minister to stand up and say, well, I can't look it up because I'm not involved; this is the decision that her department made, and the criteria that they used. They awarded the contract. Like I suggested yesterday to the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, the buck stops at the minister.

They're not going to go and ask, it's not up to me to go and ask the committee why they made the decision on something like that, it's my job to ask the minister why that was done and that's what I'm doing.

Again, I would like to ask the minister as she committed to providing that information to me and I'd like to ask her when I can expect a full report from her to have all that information. Will it be before the contract actually takes place?

You know what is going to happen. Right now you have basically have two companies sitting in limbo, one that is contracting, sub-contracting the work to southern based companies and one that has made a \$5 million investment here. So when will I have that information to look at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The processes are in place to have submissions reviewed fairly and outside political discussion, through the RFP committee through the NNI. I will not interfere in the NNI process; that process is in place to ensure people who are appealing get a fair review of their appeal.

That appeal hearing has occurred. Their recommendations are coming out of the appeal. Those recommendations are being reviewed. I don't have the information as to those recommendations as it is right now. Once those go forward to Cabinet a decision will be made.

In terms of providing the full report, I will not be able to provide that until the next sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 422 – 2(3): Elders Homecare Assistance

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Many of the elders in my riding live alone or with relatives who are not equipped to provide proper health care or homecare.

In Cambridge Bay, the Department of Health and Social Services provides homecare maybe two or three hours a week for elders and usually during the day. In my experience, elders who are usually disabled require homecare 24 hours; cooking, cleaning, and grooming.

We heard the minister say yesterday that there will be no elders' facility built in Cambridge Bay. So my question for the minister is: can the minister tell the House, since they provide assistance or homecare, can they provide it on a daily basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The individuals that require homecare assistance, we have homecare workers in the community. Those programs are designed in partnership with the homecare providers, as well as the individual that requires the need.

Needs assessments are based on what the patient needs and are sometimes on a part time basis and sometimes where there is a requirement for 24/7 care and we are not able to provide that, we need to look at where we can provide that service to the individual and it is not always necessarily in the community where that individual resides.

All efforts are made to the homecare workers to put in place programs to provide assistance to elders or anyone that is in need of medical attention in the home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. My experience with professionals who deal with seniors and elders recommend that these individuals stay home as long as possible. Prolong their life and they feel better at home.

Also, if they do have to go to a facility that they are in a facility that is closer to home so that relatives can visit them. Since we know that is not possible in Nunavut, it seems like the most likely situation is they will have to stay at home as long as possible.

And in my riding of Cambridge Bay many of the elders are at home and for various reasons they can't get out to go to the health centre for their check ups and these check-ups should be done weekly.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House how community regional health professionals ensure the elders get regular weekly health check-ups at home when they are unable to go to the health centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Most communities, as part of the regular clinic days, have dedicated days for, as an example, well women, well men, or children and some communities have also designed programs for seniors, and dedicate a day to visit seniors and so on.

If individuals cannot leave their homes, a registered nurse will go to the home and provide the checkup to the patient that requires medical attention, and that service is available in communities. Community health workers, along with registered nurses do the visits to the homes of individuals that require the attention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. I'm sure in some areas in Nunavut, homecare is working. I'm sure in Cambridge Bay, it's working in certain situations, but I'm hearing from some of the elders who don't think it's working; they think they require more help.

I've read the reports from the elders in Cambridge Bay that require more services from homecare. When you hear it from the elders, then, obviously, there must be something wrong. I'm not suggesting for a moment that the homecare workers aren't doing their jobs, but maybe they need some help to do it better; to address what the elders really need.

So my question for the minister: can the minister tell the House what initiatives are underway in Nunavut to evaluate the homecare need in individual communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As it is right now, we have over 1,000 clients in Nunavut that we provide homecare services to. We have initiatives within the department where we try and train individuals to provide homecare services to address that need.

At the same time, we are trying to expand the services in Cambridge Bay, in Rankin Inlet, and in Iqaluit to provide more services to individuals in their communities. So the initiatives are to train local people to work with the homecare nurse, at the same time, to expand services in the regions. And as we move forward to work closer with Community Health Committees to better address some of the concerns of the communities.

I understand in Cambridge Bay, they have a dedicated day as well for seniors and deal with seniors in the community at the centre to provide more opportunity for dialogue to how better improve the services, from what I understand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Continuing care homecare facilities in Nunavut don't seem to be an option for probably the next decade. When we have an aging population I think homecare is going to be a critical need in Nunavut going forward.

I think it's important that the Department of Health start now to assess the current Homecare Program, and then plan for the future. My question for the minister: has the minister's department undertaken any reviews or prepared any reports on the need for homecare in Nunavut for the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a need for homecare services in Nunavut; we know that. We have been trying to train local people in the communities. Just as an example, we offered training in the Baffin in November, which was in Pangnirtung.

So there is a need for homecare services in our communities. Perhaps, each community would differ depending on the number of clients per community. There are also other initiatives around healthy living type activities that each community has undertaken through some of their Health Care Committees.

An example I shared earlier was; having a dedicated day for seniors, where homecare nurses go to the homes as well, with the homecare nurse to provide better service. So, we know there is a need in the communities for those services throughout Nunavut.

As it is right now, we have over 1,000 clients, and we are trying to keep individuals in the communities. They may not necessarily be elders. They may be individuals that are in assisted living and need some medical attention in each community. So the review in terms of whether we need the program or not, we recognize there is a need for the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Members, as a reminder, we've only had three members ask questions, and we're running out time. If we're going to give every member an opportunity for questions, then you will have to keep your responses brief. Thank you.

Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Question 423 – 2(3): Staff Housing Rent Scale

Mr. Kattuk: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. My question will be on staff housing. I understand that staff housing is priced according to the house, not the employee's salary. Is that true? Is that my understanding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe his question is in regard to the employee's salary, and the rent scale. We are doing a review of the rent scale this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe I understood what he said. Is he saying that the rent scale is based on the size of the house?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): It is compared to the size of the house.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell me and the House how much of their salary is paid for the house that they rent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What they do is they pay according to how much they make and how much the household makes is what they pay for public housing. They take the percentage and that's how much they pay, but I can look into it for the member and respond to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that some of them are having hardship and I know that there's about, perhaps, they're paying about 30 percent of their salary. I wonder if the minister can look into the 30 percent. For some of them 30 percent is too much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government employees, if they make below \$90,000, they would pay 20 percent, if they go beyond \$90,000, then they pay 25 percent, and if they make over \$100,000, then they have to pay 30 percent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 424 – 2(3): Court Appearance Delays

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. In regard to the court circuits in Nunavut, we have some concerns about the people who are going to be making appearances.

If the court circuit doesn't arrive in the community due to the weather, or for some other reason their court dates keep getting deferred and deferred and sometimes they have to wait about a year before they make an appearance. Why is it that there are repeated delays in those appearances? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are quite a few things that we go through; at times, the lawyers are not available, there are quite a lot of reasons that we use when we're doing our court circuits. At times, we can't go to the communities because of the weather and in those cases the cases are deferred to the next round. We are also looking at getting another judge so that they would be able to go to the communities more frequently and to avoid delays. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for his response but in any case I would like to ask the minister why there are so many delays and the individuals, especially the youth go through a hard time and are highly stressed out by the delays.

Is it possible for the minister to tell us how many cases have been deferred over the year? I can tell the minister that there are cases of suicide of people who are stressed out because of the delays. Do you know how many there are? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure exactly how many, but I will probably have to get my staff to look at the cases. I do know that last year there were 49 circuits going around the communities and we're targeting 55 circuits for this coming year.

I would also like to thank the MLAs for approving our budget. And with the approved budget we will be able to increase the number of visits to the communities. And we can also look at how we can improve the system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister know how many people are given support and how many are Inuit who are working for the court system who do counselling for individuals who have to make an appearance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do know by law that they have to have a lawyer to help them out and they are provided by the courts. They are given the aid of a lawyer by law. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are the individuals who are under stress given the opportunity to be counselled? Are they given the support system that they require before their appearances? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well it is not something that we do in our department but we do appreciate the people who can give support by phone.

There is the Kamatsiatuq Hotline that is used and we are looking other support systems. We would like to give counselling to the abusers and it's not only going to be that. We do try to provide as much support as we can to the offender and to the family. And I know that it will be of good benefit to the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 425 – 2(3): Nunavut Association of Municipalities' Resolutions

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

We all know that the Nunavut Association of Municipalities made a recommendation following what came out of the association's meeting. Has the Infrastructure Committee given their recommendation to the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question that the member is asking, I just want to find out from him whether he is asking a question on behalf of Nunavut as a whole or can he repeat his questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas, can you re-phrase your question.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry I did not make myself clear. The Nunavut Association of Municipalities had a meeting and the mayors of the hamlets requested some infrastructure in their community. The Nunavut Infrastructure Committee had to make a decision to give to the Cabinet.

I just wondered whether the Cabinet had a chance to look at those requests yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for rephrasing his question. It has been given to the government committee. The Infrastructure Committee is in the process of looking at it. They have not given it to me as yet. I know that they will give them to me once they are finished with their decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not really sure how long it will take the Infrastructure Committee to decide on the recommendations. The mayors of my constituencies and the SAOs want to find out what their decisions are.

Can the minister provide the information to the members of this House, or to me? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes to the question of the member. As soon as the Infrastructure Committee makes their decision, I will provide that to the House and the hamlets of each community in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 426 – 2(3): Commitment to Inuit Societal Values

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Premier. The *Pinasuaqtavut* Document 2004-09 talks about our commitment to building Nunavut's future. One of the initial comments in there by the government is that, "Our government is in its second mandate. It is a time that will be used to build a stronger cultural foundation based on Inuit societal values, and develop and expand our economy. These are our main priorities."

I'd like to ask the Premier how committed the government is to following up on that mandate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last year it has become quite evident that we're doing as much as we can. We've announced the site of the heritage centre to promote and enrich our past. We've announced a cultural school to be put in place in Clyde River to return to some of our teachings. We've also announced a trades school to train our young people to take on the jobs that will be coming with the mining sector, and the trades.

I think those are strong indications that we are following through on what we committed to do as members. We're trying to do our best with the tools that we have to try and address the challenges that we're facing today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the comments that the Premier just talked about were dealing with the Inuit culture and preparing a workforce and educating our people.

As far as building and strengthening our economy one of the other things in the document under self-reliance it says, "Nunavut residents will receive every opportunity to benefit from the public dollars spent in and by Nunavut."

I'd like to ask the Premier if he could give us an indication of what initiatives have been undertaken by the government in following through on that commitment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we've done a number of steps in that area as we look at housing, the housing trust that we have established. We're going to use some of that money to train some people in the communities to start constructing housing in the communities.

I think that commitment was made clearly by the Housing Minister. As I said, in other areas, in mining we've put in tax measures where we can with the companies that will do work in the territory. We'll provide them with tax benefits provided they train the local residents in the area.

Those are some steps that we are taking in addition to implementing NNI where we contract with private parties to deliver some capital projects. That is a requirement of our government so those are some things that we have done in this House in the past year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a lot of those areas in the business front and also a big argument that our government has provided to the federal government is just the sheer fact that the cost of doing business, the cost of running a government here in the north is much higher than running a government in the south and doing business in the south.

Given that, are there any initiatives that the government has done or plans on doing in trying to work with businesses that are actually set up here in Nunavut? You have a lot of these, what people call store fronts where they have a little office up here and a lot of the infrastructure and investment and everything are in the south. Can the Premier give us an indication if they're looking at trying to address that issue at all? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have the NNI policy to try and address some of those challenges. That is always under review on an annual basis, but at the same time, every time we change a comma in that policy it's a real challenge. So as the member has concerns as to what has been taking place, I'm more than willing to receive them and provide them to the review committee so that we can perhaps revive the policy to accommodate the concerns that are raised in the community, but I must say that we have made a lot of improvements since we first started.

The complaints have been minimal at best, but there's always room for improvement. The place to do it is through our NNI, where a majority of our capital projects are reviewed and if they haven't been met then I'll make sure that they are addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 427 – 2(3): Status of Women Recommendations

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. Violence against women is a serious issue in Nunavut, we know that. The costs to society are enormous, socially, psychologically, and financially but the Status of Women's Council is taking the lead in fighting for the rights of women in Nunavut.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House what initiatives are currently being undertaken by the Status of Women's Council that directly address the issue of violence against women? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Initiatives that the Qullit Status of Women's Council, as an advocacy group, have taken are around violence against women is first, to raise awareness on the issue. Last year they organized the first symposium in Nunavut to deal with violence against women, and the recommendations coming out of that symposium, our Premier will be tabling that.

There are a number of recommendations that came out of the consultation, where over 100 people from Nunavut participated. At the same time the violence against women initiatives that they've undertaken is to also provide input into the current legislation that's before the House today. They provided input into that area.

They lobbied through the federal government, and in fact, I believe that they are participating in a protest down in Ottawa along with other councils of Canada on the recent federal cuts by the Conservative Government around the cuts.

They also try to promote awareness of how better to improve the services, and again, a lot of that initiative is coming through the report and recommendations from the work that they have done.

At the same time, I met with them this weekend and one of the things that they've released, today actually, is in fact, to identify again what their next year priorities are for addressing violence against women. They again renewed this as a priority to continue to work toward trying to address the statistics in our territory. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for outlining all those important initiatives. One thing she didn't touch on is crisis shelters. In most Nunavut communities there are no crisis shelters for women and their children to flee to for safety when violence erupts at home.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House what the Status of Women's Council is recommending that women do when there are no facilities in communities to flee to for safety if they are in danger? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of areas that we had discussed. Some of the ideas revolve around our developing safe homes for women to escape to, to get away from a current situation for that moment.

At the same time, some of the recommendations coming out from the group in my discussions with the Qullit Status of Women's Council are also to not just put resources into buildings, yes, buildings are needed to address the immediate harm that can be caused to women, but at the same time, in the long-term, that's not a solution; and some of the solutions that they've been talking about are to try and deal with the counselling aspect in treating the individual that needs help, who commits those violent acts.

So some of the recommendations coming out, and ideas, is to expand on programs at the community level such as mental health, such as stronger support to individuals that require family counselling, and so on.

So there are a number of initiatives, and after today, I think you'll have a better idea as to a lot of the community based initiatives that are coming forward from the symposium. They don't just talk about a building, or a shelter situation, but rather, long-term, to deal with the high emotional side of violence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

I probably agree with the minister and the Status of Women to some degree that we probably won't be able to afford the facility, so a lot of research work and education is going to be required.

A couple of years ago, the former Minister of Health tabled a document in the House that said; "What Inuit women need in order to deal with abuse and violence." It was research and a report prepared for the Qullit Status of Women's Council. It's a very formal document.

This is the kind of research that the Status of Women's Council can do for the Government of Nunavut and for Nunavummiut, and individuals such as ourselves. The recent federal funding cuts are going to have a huge effect on that kind of research.

So my question to the minister: can the minister commit to finding funds for the Status of Women's Council for them to continue their research initiatives that they have for women in Nunavut if the federal government doesn't back off on their decision to cut the funds to the Status of Women? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I recognize the contribution the Qullit Status of Women's Council has made to address those issues not just around the violence against women, but initiatives around homelessness, around FASD, and so on.

So one of the things we discussed over the weekend, Friday and Saturday, was to talk about our commitment to continuing to provide support and assistance to Qullit Status of Women's Council.

The federal government's initiatives on the national level will have an impact on us in terms of doing collective research with other jurisdictions. Seeing how we're smaller, we're not always able to do the research internally, but we have committed to looking to try and address some of those concerns they've also expressed, and I'm concerned about it as well. So we will continue to try and work in partnership.

One of the other things, in terms of working with Qullit Status of Women's Council, is that they put out their priorities on an annual basis as to what some of those initiatives will be that they're working on throughout the year.

That information was released to the public today and that information will also help, not just the Department of Health and Social Services, but the other agencies that are impacted with some of their initiatives. So my role is to work with them in trying to advise them on some of those priorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. It sounds like the minister's department is doing a lot of work with the Status of Women's Council. I applaud her efforts in that front. It looks like there's going to be a lot of work ahead.

The minister touched on programs and services that they provide to the Nunavut Status of Women. I wonder if the minister could give us a quick overview of the types of programs and services that the minister and her department provides to not only the Status of Women's Council, but to women's groups and other organizations across Nunavut to address the violence against women in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health works closely with the Qullit Status of Women's Council on a number of initiatives.

Some of the areas that we've been doing with the Department of Health is some of the pieces around community-based support counselling, not just around the shelters, but working in partnership with the Qullit Status of Women's Council, and various groups throughout Nunavut have brought a common approach or common priorities to try and address to deal with the whole issue around family violence at the community level.

Some of the recommendations that will be coming forward will shape some of the programs that we need to expand on in providing support to not only the victims, but also to support children and the abusers around mental health services and so on.

So the recommendations and the work from that group will help shape and direct our resources to address violence at the community level. At the same time, it's not just an area of violence against women that we work in; we've been working around trying to address FASD and harm associated with women drinking while they're pregnant. So that's one initiative.

The other area that they are working on and see as a priority is teen pregnancy, and the other area that they're working is also around women in leadership. So there are a number of initiatives underway with the group and with different sectors as well.

So I think as time goes on and we work to try and address those, more results will be seen in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Speaker's Ruling

(interpretation ends) Honourable colleagues, for the record, on the Point of Order raised by Minister Picco during Question Period yesterday, I ruled that there was no Point of Order.

My decision is accurately reflected in the Inuktitut version of yesterday's *Hansard*, but not in the unedited English version, which will be corrected. Thank you.

(interpretation) Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 021 – 2(3): Status of Decentralization

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Human Resources. It's a status of decentralization question.

- 1) Expressing the data in the same format as that which was provided in Return to Written Question 026 – 2(2), what is the status of the Government of Nunavut's decentralization initiative as of September 30, 2006?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. (interpretation ends) Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. (interpretation) Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report on Bills 013 – 2(3): Bill 28 Deficit Reduction Act

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability has reviewed Bill 28, the *Deficit Reduction Act*, and wishes to report that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 28 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. There is a request to waive Rule 68(6) so that the Standing Committee Report on Bill 28 can be immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 28 can be dealt with at Committee of the Whole for today.

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

Committee Report on Bills 014 – 2(3): Bill 29 An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability has reviewed Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax*

Act, and wishes to report that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

And I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 29 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. There is a request to waive Rule 68(6) so that the Standing Committee Report on Bill 29 can be immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 29 is referred to Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you.

(interpretation) Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 223 – 2(3): Inuusiqatigiittiarniq – Final Report on the Symposium in Iqaluit, Nunavut, January 17 to 20, 2006; Recommendations for a Strategy to Stop Violence Against Women

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following report: Inuusiqatigiittiarniq Final Report on the Symposium in Iqaluit, Nunavut, January 17 to 20, 2006; Recommendations for a Strategy to Stop Violence Against Women.

I wish to add that some of the members in that symposium are here with us now and I am very proud of them even though there is a big storm taking place in Iqaluit in the winter they decided to hold the forum and meet at the Storehouse Bar in a middle of a blizzard. That is how committed they were in making sure this report was produced. So I want to thank them all very much for assisting us in reviewing this very difficult topic.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Can we have that document brought to the Clerk's table please. Tabling of Documents. Minister Simailak.

Tabled Document 224 – 2(3): GN Update on Progress to Date on the Recommendations of the 2005 Report of the Auditor General of Canada as of October 31, 2006

Tabled Document 225 – 2(3): Letters of Expectation to Nunavut Crown Agencies 2006-07

Tabled Document 226 – 2(3): Response to Letters of Expectation from Nunavut Crown Agencies, 2006**Tabled Document 227 – 2(3): Investment Guidelines for GN**

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table four documents. The Government of Nunavut update on the progress to date on the recommendations on the 2005 report of the Auditor General of Canada as of October 31, 2006.

Second, the Letters of Expectation for Fiscal Year 2006-07 for Nunavut Arctic College, Qulliq Energy Corporation, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Nunavut Development Corporation, and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

Thirdly, Responses to the Letters of Expectation for Fiscal Years 2006-07 for Nunavut Arctic College, Qulliq Energy Corporation, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Nunavut Development Corporation, and for Fiscal Years 2005-06 and 2006-07, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut Investment Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Please bring the documents. Tabling of Documents. Minister Brown.

Tabled Document 228– 2(3): Ministers Responsible for Local Government, September 18 to 21, 2006**Tabled Document 229– 2(3): Government of Nunavut Lease Activity Report for Fiscal Year 2005-06**

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following document: Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Ministers responsible for Local Government, September 18 to 21, 2006 in Yellowknife, NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The other document I wish to table; I am pleased to table the following document: Government of Nunavut Lease Activity Report for the Fiscal Year 2005-06. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Akasuk.

Tabled Document 230 – 2(3): Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy, October 2006

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following document: Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy – October, 2006.

This document is in regard to the jobs that could be available to the communities, and also for economic development in the communities, and for the training of construction workers in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Please bring the documents. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motion. Item 15. First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in the Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bill 8, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, and 29 with Mr. Arreak in the Chair.

(interpretation ends) In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 12 – 2(3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole we'll break for 20 minutes.

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)(interpretation): Thank you for coming back. I call the meeting to order. (interpretation ends) In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 8, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28 and 29. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 26 and the review of the Capital Estimates for Economic Development and Transportation followed by the Legislative Assembly. We will then proceed to do clause by clause review of following bills: Bill 8, Bill 26, Bill 16, sorry, Bill 23, Bill 24, Bill 25, Bill 28, and Bill 29. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Barnabas. Are we in agreement to deal with the Capital Estimate for Economic Development and Transportation? Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Do you have witness you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Yes, please, Mr. Chairman.

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

I would like to welcome you Mr. Minister. For the record, please introduce your officials. Thank you.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Methuselah Kunuk, and on my right is John Hawkins. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. We're on page K-7. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I have one minute and 24 seconds. I would like to ask another question regarding the letters that I tabled regarding the proposed dock sites. This report was written in 2004. Has this report been sent to the communities? This says it was a feasibility report on docks? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My employees went up to Pond Inlet and that report was written by the federal government and a copy was made available up there when we made that visit. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): When this is being discussed by the federal government we have the substantiation sheet for capital projects. Are you going to be requesting some funding from the federal government to fund those projects?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have made a request and I also had a meeting with the Minister of DFO. We had told him that our proposal, of course, is going to be increasing and we will urge the federal government to make sure that there's an annual increase following the increases in prices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So how can you find out the annual increase? How can you, for example, if it's going to be built in two years or next year, how would you know the annual increase in the price? Would you be able to go back to the community and see how you can adjust your project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The original request was substantially smaller so the increase would follow what has been happening the last few years. One million will be used and we can say to the government that it has been approved by the Nunavut Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I think we all know that to date when a mining company makes a profit the federal government gets its share of royalties.

For Mary River, it's on Inuit-owned land surface, and subsurface is owned by the Inuit, and the federal government will be getting a royalty and also the Inuit of Nunavut. And they are already hiring people with boats to go up the inlet to bring personnel and supplies.

What I am trying to say is that there are fishing, tourism, and cruise ships coming up. We get a lot of those in our communities and there are also sail boats that are coming up to our communities and also going through the Northwest Passage in the Lancaster Sound.

It seems like the federal government has made a proposal and would like to make those docks to increase the tourism and others. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. They are looking at the possibility of opening up a mine up there, but at this time, those docks would be able to be used by 65 metre boats and tourism is a very important part of that project. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on K-7. (interpretation ends) Economic Development and Transportation. Detail of Capital. Transportation. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Mr. Chairman, (interpretation) who are you?

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, on page K-7, Canadian Driver's License Agreement, is this for the whole of Nunavut or is it just for Iqaluit? What is this \$800,000 going to be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be for the whole of Nunavut. We're going to be updating the drivers' licenses and we're trying to make some changes to the driver's license to make it easier in the future. Of course, you do need a photo I.D. if you want to do any travelling. The drivers' licenses will be able to be used as photo I.D. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know that the outlying communities have to apply for their driver's license from the Iqaluit headquarters. So does that mean that you're going to be sending personnel up to the communities to provide services to the people who require drivers' licenses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to see all communities with computers. They will be able to send those requests by email to the headquarters' office. All forms will be made available by computer. That's what we're trying to do here in Nunavut to make it easier for the people who are making applications for drivers' licenses or get a photo I.D. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, as you know, unemployment is very high and the people who require drivers' licenses have to wait a long time. For example, if you send something through the mail, it takes approximately two weeks from the time it's sent from our community to arrive in Iqaluit. So it takes a long time to get one.

Is the minister saying that it's going to be easier for the communities to send their requests out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not going to be creating any new jobs in the outlying communities. It is for the regional offices and we're going to be using the computers to bring the data back and forth.

We would also like to make sure that the driver's license of Nunavut is distinct so that it can be recognized worldwide. That's what we're trying to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this \$1 million for Small Craft Harbour contribution, does the minister know where those Small Craft Harbours are going to be at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Yes, we do have the community list for which communities the Small Craft Harbours will be going; Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Naujaat, Chesterfield Inlet, and Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also on that page is the \$75,000 for the Bathurst Road and Port Study. On that page it's not showing anything in prior years. I know that it's not a new project; the way it's outlined here, it looks like it's a brand new project.

If you go to the back in the Appendixes for the 2006-07 prior year's cost, it's showing \$326,000. I just want to get an explanation how come that's not showing in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Mr. Hawkins to answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: There have been expenditures of a total of \$1.704 million on that in the prior years. It is not a new project.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How come it doesn't show anything in the prior year's costs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess we'll just have to get back to him on that, and I think it's important that we show what we have done in the past in any capital project that we are trying to do.

So we'll make sure it shows up in the next capital estimates and if the member wishes to have a bit more information on what we used this on, we'll be happy to provide that to

the member, probably in the next sitting, so that we'll have a better idea of where we've been using that.

Again, we've been working very closely with the western communities and the mining companies, or people that are working there, like the Kitikmeot Inuit Association to come up with ideas of how we could go ahead with this project with federal funding that we want to see.

So it's important that we have this in the capital estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just curious because in the back in the Five-Year Capital Plan it's 3-17 for the 2006-07 revised budget of their Five-Year Capital Plan it shows there was an approved amount of \$326,000, and for 2007-08, which is what we're looking at now, of \$75,000, but on the department's budget page here, it doesn't show the \$326,000 that was in there last year.

I'm just wondering why that happened like that. Was that just a mistake; a typo? If it's in the back on the capital plan in last year's money, but it's not on their main estimates that we're looking at; I am just wondering why. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Mr. Hawkins to elaborate on that.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have to check into that. I believe that there is a mistake there. There should have been a prior year budget for that, as it's showing in the back on 3-17.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a comment, and it's not directly toward the Minister of Economic Development, but also the Minister of Finance. I think it's important that when we get the main estimates before us in the House, it's important to make sure that they don't have mistakes and that all the information is there. So, hopefully we won't see something like that again.

The only other question I have on this page, I know last year, or the year before, the department found some money for the City of Iqaluit when they did the feasibility study for a deep-sea port here.

I'm just wondering if the minister or his officials could update us as to what is happening with that particular file. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good question Mr. Tootoo.

Again, of course, we're always depending on federal funding, so we're still waiting for word from the federal government where they are going to locate the deep-sea port, as Iqaluit is one of the potentials that the federal government will announce hopefully within the next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's important, if you look at the amount of ships that go through here and unload.

The Minister of Community and Government Services just announced last week that there was actually even a fatality here, and a piece of heavy equipment is still sitting there 90 feet under.

Those types of things could be avoided if you had proper port facilities and you didn't have to worry about unloading a ship in November when the weather isn't so nice, and you have ice, and wind, and cold temperatures. It's an accident waiting to happen. Given that, we're still waiting on that.

One of the other things I know that was part of the initial concept for discussions on it, I recall even I think it was two years ago when emergency services people had to go waist deep into the water, or more, to get to a boat that was coming in, where there were people involved in an accident. There were people that passed away in that incident, and there was a concern over having adequate, safe, docking and loading facilities just for small craft.

So, I'm just wondering if we can get an update on that. I know the last thing I heard I believe, was looking at a possible extension onto the existing breakwater to allow for boats and vehicles to get in and out of there at any time regardless of the tide, so in the event, if there was another incident like that, that we wouldn't be putting our emergency service workers at risk to try and respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For that unfortunate incident that happened here in Iqaluit, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans did repairs to the causeway, that little breakwater area in the causeway, where the truck could go down to the end of the breakwater. And, we want to make sure that we improve here.

Again, hopefully the federal government will announce the next new deep-sea port in our territory, and I don't know where it will be, but again, I think it's important that every community in Nunavut has a safe breakwater.

It's a challenge for us to come up with money for breakwaters in every community in our territory, so we will certainly do our very best to send our message to the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a breakwater here and I would assume that it doesn't belong to the city, it belongs to the government and I know that it is just a pile of rocks going out there that are very narrow, and you can't even have two vehicles go by each other on it at one time.

And the place out there for parking, the lower parts, I think we even had one of our members park a vehicle there that thought it was amphibious and wasn't. The truck ended up covered in water parked at that level. Even another member had his own boat that was washed right up onto the road as well and I think members here and people that live here and the ministers' officials could attest to it, the sheer number of boats that are down there throughout the boating season, there's really no adequate way for anything there for people to tie their boats up to and in a way that would be safe.

Right now, it's like a jigsaw puzzle trying to get in and out of there. If you're unloading your boat, you could be driving out and there's ropes and chains and things all floating around out there that you have to be very careful to get in and out of. It could cause some damage to other peoples' boats.

There's also, for the breakwater area, always lots of rocks around there. I've seen boats that have been on a rock and filled up with water when the tide comes in, it's because they're sitting on a rock.

I guess I'm wondering, who's responsibility is it to ensure that it is a safe facility and does have a safe and proper facility and that rock removal and stuff like that takes place, and repairs to the breakwater making sure there's tie-downs and stuff, and things like that and adequate lighting, who's responsibility is that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With our limited resources that we receive from the federal government, we do have maintenance & operation funding for the Iqaluit breakwater, but they are very limited.

In upcoming years, we will have to review it very carefully and all the Nunavut communities will also have to review them also and keep them in mind when we are

talking about breakwaters and we also like to see proper breakwaters in all the communities. In regard to Mr. Tootoo's comment, we will look into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted further clarification on page K-7 under Canadian Drivers' License Agreements, although Mr. Kattuk was asking about it. We have an identification card and those are made of paper, will they change the card to plastic because plastic lasts longer than paper so what kind of identification are we talking about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The driver's identification has to be recognized and acknowledged by the Canadian Identification system. So we will make a Drivers Licence not out of paper but something else.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page. K-7. I do want to ask a question in regard to Small Craft Harbours; they provide \$1 million. I had tabled documents and letters from our former mayor who had written me correspondence in regard to Grise Fiord.

There is not even a breakwater in Grise Fiord and there is not even a dock there. When I was there in the fall, they had to try and pull the boats in and they had to work very hard. I even saw the hunters trying to pull their boats in.

I don't know how you considered allocating the funding to the communities because some communities already have breakwaters and provide additional funding for them, but there are other communities that don't even have a breakwater.

We already provided a letter to your department in regard to the Nanisivik Deep Water Facility and it is a very good facility in Nanisivik and it is still usable. I don't know how your department considered Nanisivik and Grise Fiord when you are considering the breakwaters and docking facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kunuk will respond.

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

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know exactly which communities requested a breakwater and docking facilities and they all require

breakwaters. The first community priorities were set out with the Department of Fisheries & Oceans in mind and we discussed with DFO to try and update the funding so that we can build these breakwaters for the communities that we haven't built the breakwaters on. So I believe, right now, we have very limited resources to construct those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the minister's official for that answer. Some communities already have docking facilities but those communities with the existing facilities also are growing and my constituents also thought that way. We have a docking facility in Arctic Bay, but we need a bigger one. Have they requested more funding from the federal government to make it a little bit larger?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I realized that the funding from the federal government that we have requested is very hard to come by to build docking facilities.

There are also communities in Nunavut that don't have any facilities at all. We try our very best to try to build those facilities, but with the limited funding, we can't do that. When I was in Cape Dorset, there were three boats that were upside down in the water because they don't have docking facilities as well.

Whenever we meet with the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers, what we try to say to them is that Nunavut does not have those kinds of facilities and we would like to be treated the same as any other place and have those facilities. We have been requesting the federal government to have those facilities, but we have not been successful. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the response. The reason why I asked that question is because when they talk about the docking facilities, and I think they use the economic development part to acquire those facilities, but we want it for other things as well for the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be talking with the federal government when we talk about those facilities in the communities, and what we will be saying is because it's a danger without having docking facilities, that's why we really need those types of facilities.

We will relay that message to the federal government because all of the communities receive shipments and that would be part of our negotiations with the federal government whereby we need those facilities in order for us to bring in material from the barges and from the ships.

So those are the types of things that we will be relaying to the federal government once we start negotiating with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps, if I could just give the minister some advice or recommendations; when the provinces were being divided, the provinces had a network whereby all of the provinces that wanted a highway collectively got together and negotiated a highway.

Perhaps, if the minister can talk with the federal government to say that these communities up in Nunavut do not have highway systems, so the only means for them to receive shipments and materials is to have those docking facilities.

They have a big bridge in the Maritimes and I would urge the minister to negotiate with the federal government saying that the only means of transportation is by air or by ship. We need those docking facilities in order for us to have a better lifestyle. Because the provinces negotiated a big highway, we could probably do the same thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will include the wishes of the member to make it a little bit stronger when we're negotiating some funding for docking facilities. We could say, like if the provinces have done these types of negotiations, that we could do the same thing here in Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are on page K-7. (interpretation ends) Economic Development and Transportation. Detail of Capital. Transportation. Grants and Contributions. Total Headquarters Region. \$1,500,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Kitikmeot Region. Total Kitikmeot Region. \$75,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Grants and Contributions. \$1,575,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Tangible Assets. Total Headquarters Region. \$2 million. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman: Page 8. Transportation. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials for appearing today. I wonder if the minister can give us an update on the federal program, the Airport Capital Assistance Program. In particular, I'm interested if the program still exists and how the Nunavut airports can qualify for funding under that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The federal funding that we receive, or we negotiate funding from the federal government...perhaps if Mr. Kunuk can elaborate on how we negotiate for that funding from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we get is Airport Capital Assistance Program (ACAP) to maintain the airstrips in Nunavut. We have received some funding for Iqaluit and Chesterfield Inlet for the maintenance of those airstrips. Also for Taloyoak, we have requested some funding and we will try to negotiate again with the federal government to get more funding for those types of things.

ACAP consist of airports that are already in existence to make them a better runway or to extend the runway or to relocate the runway or to widen the runway. I don't think ACAP is really for widen the runway but there's different type of rules that we use to negotiate those types of funding. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Kunuk for that information. As the minister is well aware, Cambridge Bay has indicated or expressed an interest to improve the runway. It is 5,000 feet long right now and it's a little short I think for most jets, although a 737 can land there, but they would have to put the reverse thrusters on real fast. If it's overshoot, it could pose a danger to the passengers. I think we also want to widen the runway.

I've brought this up a couple of times with the minister in the past and I was wondering if the minister could give some indication of where the department is in terms of seeking

funding for the Cambridge Bay runway, under the ACAP program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are various runways that need maintenance of that type as the member stated. And because we need to use those airstrips and...but we will also try to urge or to try getting some more funding from the federal government to maintain those airstrips.

The federal government also has some guidelines that we have to follow when we're negotiating for some funding. I will include the airstrip and that the people of Cambridge Bay requested their airstrip extension, and give them the reasons that Mr. Peterson has stated when we start requesting from the federal government, again, for the purpose of the maintenance of those airports.

There are a lot of concerns that the communities have, as well as the member himself, and we would like to represent them equally, so we will try our best to request more funding. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that reply. I just want to mention to the minister what kind of information the minister's department looks at. I'm reading a monthly report for July 2006 from Transport Canada. It's a report called Aircraft Movement Statistics. Looking at just for July alone, the monthly movement of aircraft on that runway, there were 773 flights. Communities such as Hay River, for example, were only 592. Many communities in Nunavut are less than 100.

So it's an extremely busy airport, if you compare the movements to communities across Canada. These are aircraft movements by class type of operations without air traffic control towers.

In the Northwest Territories, a busy place like Tuktoyaktuk the count is 609 movements. So I don't know what to tell you, minister: it's a busy airport, it needs to be lengthened, it needs to be widened, it needs surfacing, the community it is a hub for the Kitikmeot, and we get a lot of people coming through there, north and south. The community has indicated that a runway is key to the future of economic development in the Kitikmeot; you know, with tourism, business, and medical. So the runway definitely needs your attention.

I urge the minister to make it a high priority when he's discussing with ACAP, submitting ACAP applications to the federal government. Mr. Chairman, if the minister could give me some feedback on my comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our staff have rewritten in Cambridge Bay because to improve the runway it would cost quite a bit and if we hear that we are going to get quite a bit of money from the federal government then we have considered that because we know that the Member for Cambridge Bay has been working really hard to get this done.

We keep asking the federal government and if we happen to get some funding from the federal government, if we think that we'll have enough, and especially with the heavy traffic in Cambridge Bay. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to let you know before I ask a question on K-8, what Tootoo mentioned.

It says highway upgrades in 2006-07, there was \$154,000 on the 2006-07, and it's not there. I believe it should be put in there, too, because it was from last year, and the funding was used and they have stated \$100,000. I just wanted to point that out.

My question is, in 1994 the Arviat airstrip, we wanted an extension on the runway and there was a study done by Ministry of Transport. They said that if we extend it another 1,500 feet that we would be able to get 737s and different types of aircraft because it's very expensive for the freight. So there were some talks, but they said there was no funding and the Northwest Territories Government put a stop to it because there was not enough funding.

There are 600 plus movements every month and a lot of them are Hawkers and they go into the community a lot of times. The cost of freight is very expensive.

I'm pretty sure that you have some paper, when it was under the Northwest Territories, about the plans they had. I wonder if the minister had checked into this up to now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. While the minister is thinking about the answer, we don't have a quorum. Thank you. These are very important, so try to stay in the House. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The extension of runways, the federal government doesn't seem to see this as very important, but if there was an extension of 1,500 feet on whichever airstrip it would cost about \$5 or \$6 million for an extension. The funding that we do get from the federal government is \$10.9 million.

We can look into this further. The federal government has to recognize that our airstrips have to be in better condition and we'll definitely have to push for this. We keep telling

them that they are way behind compared to the provincial infrastructures that they have down south. We keep pushing for these.

Before the split of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, there used to be some funding that were available to be used for extension of runways but within Nunavut, we don't have too much of that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That might be the case; you all know that Arviat is very flat, and it wouldn't cost that much. Originally they said it shouldn't cost that much and the Ministry of Transportation checked and said that if they extended it 1,500 feet and the hamlet council talked to different people that the freight would be a lot cheaper, just like in Rankin Inlet.

We know what the benefits would be and a lot of people who go on medical because there's not enough room on the planes. They keep putting things off, or even passengers. You can go that way but you can't return on the date that you want to.

We definitely have to do something about this and let the federal government know. The smaller planes, the Hawkers, if we were to say they would use a lot less energy if it was a bigger plane. When you have so many smaller planes it gets more expensive and the population is growing in my community.

Those passengers who have to go down south for medical, or the travel between the government officials; they can't go just whenever they want to go, they have to schedule their timing. We have to find some benefits. As somebody said, maybe the only time we might be able to get breakwaters is if all the boats in the communities were facing down. Maybe if there was a major accident or disaster, then maybe they would finally pay attention.

So I would like to ask the minister can you check into the extension of our airstrip in Arviat this winter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we understand and hear what he's saying. We are keeping track of the concerns and comments that we are hearing. We will keep that in mind. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you. What I'm talking about, the extension of the airstrip. I think there should be a study because everything is going up. Sometimes when you estimate that it'll cost this much it sounds impossible, but when you do an actual

study and listening to the concerns of the residents of the communities, because it would benefit the community and they'll have better routes.

If we just keep bumping into how much it would cost, then there's no advancement whatsoever. I wonder if the minister can commit to get more statistics this winter to start this study. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. I am the Chairperson. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are actual studies that happen in those communities and we try and work on these very seriously. Our staff from the Nunavut Government also goes to the communities to check the airports and airstrips to make sure that everything is being followed.

I will ask one of my staff if they can give us an estimate as to how much it would be and our studies on airstrips, because we got quite a number of requests from the communities and Mr. Arvaluk also asked if they would be able to get jet services, we consider all these things and in the transportation strategy we have tried to make improvements so that it suits to the community, Nunavut community needs.

Maybe if we had more funding, then we could do more studies to put improvements in the communities, if such a funding becomes available for airports in the communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very short question. I know we already approved K-7 under Canadian Drivers Licence. Looks like they are going to get a very good photo equipment and they will be able to make IDs. Would it be possible to use that camera for passport pictures? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): We already approved K-7. We are on K-8. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Even though we approved K-7. I will respond to Mr. Barnabas's comments. We'll have to ask the federal government if we are going to use that camera for passport photos. We could probably have a discussion with the federal government.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are on page K-8. Economic Development and Transportation. Detail of Capital. Transportation. Qikiqtaaluk region. Total Qikiqtaaluk region \$9,970,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Tangible Assets. \$1,970,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Going back to page 4. Page 4. Economic Development and Transportation. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$13,545,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister and your staff. (interpretation) Do you have any closing comments, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I would also like to thank the members for posing excellent questions and reminders of what Economic Development and Transportation will be doing. We will take everything into consideration and I would also like to thank my staff for being here with me.

As today is probably the last day, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the interpreters who have been very helpful during our stay. Merry Christmas.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Merry Christmas to you, too.

(interpretation ends) At this time, I would like to ask our Speaker to enter the Chambers to give his opening remarks. Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the Speaker.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, go ahead with your opening comments. Mr. Speaker.

Bill 26 – Appropriations (Capital) Act, 2007-08 – Review in Committee – Office of the Legislative Assembly

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Almost feels like I've been here before, Mr. Chairman.

It is a pleasure for me to appear before you and the members today to present the 2007-08 Capital Estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

As members will note, the 2007-08 Capital Estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly amount to \$640,000. This constitutes less than one percent of all Government of Nunavut capital spending.

Our capital budget is a modest one that has been developed to address some immediate needs, as well as building on the Assembly's existing efforts to make our facility a showcase for Nunavut's rich cultural and artistic heritage.

A total of \$20,000 has been allocated towards routine furniture replacement. Ongoing information technology improvements of \$20,000 will provide a higher degree of functionality for Assembly precinct operations.

As members will recall, I tabled the final report of the 2006 Nunavut Electoral Boundaries Commission earlier this sitting. The recommendations contained in this report, along with recognized population growth in the territory, has made it prudent to allocate resources for the potential expansion and renovation of our Chamber and precinct to accommodate new members. \$1,000 has been identified for the design phase should the recommendations of the Electoral Boundaries Commission be adopted by this House.

The Assembly's capital estimates also include an annual amount dedicated to our capital reserve for the long-term vision of a new facility. Members will note that \$500,000 has been reserved for 2007-08. This reserve will increase over time and will allow funds to be available to a future Assembly for the planning and design of a new legislature.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that this capital plan is a responsible one that will enable us to better serve the needs of members, and work towards the ongoing improvement of our Chamber and precinct.

That concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to the comments and questions from the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I proceed, I would like clarification on page 3, second paragraph. Accommodate New Members. Did you say \$1,000 or \$100,000? Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record I would clarify that it is \$100,000. Thank you.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, I do want to have my officials at the witness table.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. (interpretation ends) For the record, Mr. Speaker, please introduce your witnesses. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right I'm sure everybody knows John Quirke, our Clerk of the Assembly; on my left, Steve Pollock, Director of Corporate Services is also going to be up here with me today. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome Mr. Quirke and Mr. Pollock to the Chambers.

Turn to page A-6. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Detail of Capital. Tangible Assets. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that we are going to be using \$100,000 based on the recommendation of the Boundaries Commission. The capital reserved for a new building is \$500,000.

Does that mean that it's just a number; it's not going to be expended? And for furniture replacement, it's \$20,000 and that's the only one that is actually going to be expended? Thank you.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is going to be the case. They have just been set aside to be used in the future for the Chamber upgrade, and capital reserve. \$20,000 will be used for furniture replacement and another \$20,000 will be used for computers and information technology. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are on page A-6. The Executive Council can ask any questions if they wish to do so. Page A-6. (interpretation ends) Office of the Legislative Assembly. Detail of Capital. Tangible Assets. Total Headquarters Region. \$620,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Tangible Assets. \$620,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Computer Hardware and Software. Total Headquarters Region. \$20,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Computer Hardware and Software. \$20,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman: Go back to page A-4. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$640,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Legislative Assembly is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and your staff. If you have any closing remarks, please feel free to do so. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, Roman numeral VII. Summary of Capital Expenditures. Total Capital. \$91,778,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Then go to Bill 26 in your white legislation binder for a clause by clause review. Bill 26, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2007–08*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Going to our schedule. Page 2. Schedule. Vote 2. Capital. Capital Appropriation. \$91,778,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): 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: Does the committee agree to Bill 26 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do you agree Bill 26 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you.

Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to make his opening remarks. Mr. Premier.

Bill 08 – Statistics Act – Review in Committee

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a brief statement on Bill 8 prior to consideration by the Committee of the Whole.

First, I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Government Operations, their staff, and counsel, for the careful consideration of this proposed Act.

The main purpose of this legislation is

- a) To formalize the legal existence of *Nunavummit Kiglisinisrtiit* – the Bureau of Statistics, and
- b) To provide a legal framework for its operations, including agreements with potential research partners such as Statistics Canada, INAC or others.

(interpretation ends) With Bill 8 in place and providing the framework for agreements:

- the *Nunavummit Kiglisiniartiit* will become eligible for access to more than 35 detailed Statistics Canada data sources relevant to the socio-economic and demographic conditions in Nunavut, and
- both parties will be able to promote higher quality and more efficient collection of data

(interpretation) Bill 8 also provides the legal basis to work more closely with the Statistics Canada, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, communities, and other organizations engaged in research.

The Statistics Bureau held internal to government and external consultations in 2005 and 2006 regarding this bill. Our consultation with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated was particularly helpful, and I am very pleased to advise this Assembly that the bill has their support.

(interpretation ends) Several provisions of Bill 8 were adjusted to accommodate concerns expressed by the Privacy Commissioner before Bill 8 was introduced to the Legislative Assembly.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner will have an independent role to ensure compliance with the Act by government. Section 19 of Bill 8 authorizes the Commissioner to review information sharing agreements and other relevant government records, allegations, or evidence and if she or he has concerns about the government's performance of enforcement duties, he or she may exercise all the same powers as he or she would otherwise have under the *ATIPP Act*.

Section 23 has been included in the penalties section of the Bill to ensure that we do not impose penalties where education, or more effective supervision and discipline will ensure future compliance.

It is Government of Nunavut policy that charges and prosecution should be only be used as a last resort and when other methods are not appropriate or not likely to result in compliance.

Finally, the *Statistics Act* was not drafted to be paramount over any Acts other than ATIPP. Many Acts like the *Medical Care Act*, *Mental Health Act*, *Education Act*, and *Vital Statistics Act* have special privacy requirements. These prevail over the *Statistics Act*.

However, to address concerns raised during our discussions in the standing committee last week in order to clarify questions of paramountcy; I am proposing a further amendment to make it clear that this Act does not prevail in an event of any inconsistency or conflict with any other Act.

In summary, the proposed *Nunavut Statistics Act* will provide better use of existing information already collected by government and ensures that the Bureau and it's partners maintain strict confidentiality and enforce penalties against anyone who does not handle private and confidential information in compliance with the Act and guarantees the security of confidentiality of all private information collected from individual citizens or businesses by the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, I hope this statement will be of assistance to my colleagues in this final of review of Bill 8 and I urge all members to support this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Do you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the Table? Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Premier, if you could introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My officials this afternoon are Deputy Minister John Walsh to my right and also to my left Director for our office; Johnny Tuckto will also be here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Does the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability have comments? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability has had the opportunity to review Bill 8 and I am pleased to be able to make some comments today on the proposed *Statistics Act*.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 8 was introduced earlier in the Third Session of the Second Assembly.

The standing committee is in support of the principle of the bill, which is to establish a clear framework in which the Government of Nunavut's Bureau of Statistics will operate. The standing committee recognizes that most jurisdictions have similar legislation.

Mr. Chairman, when the minister and his officials appeared before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to pose questions concerning the current initiatives and future projects of the Bureau. The committee was pleased to note that the passage of this legislation will enable the Bureau to increase the range of data to which it will have access from such national partners as Statistics Canada.

During its scrutiny of the bill, the standing committee was pleased to support an amendment that had been recommended by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. This amendment clarifies the Bureau's authority to conduct research and engage in information sharing with respect to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

The standing committee also proposed an amendment to introduce a requirement for the responsible minister to table, in the Legislative Assembly, an annual report produced by the Bureau. This would serve to enhance the transparency of the Bureau's operations and provide useful information for the benefit of all Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public. The committee was pleased that the minister accepted this amendment.

The standing committee recognizes that the bill includes provisions with respect to the safeguarding of personal information held by the government. The bill also introduces a formal role for the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut in this regard. The standing committee anticipates that future annual reports of the Information and Privacy

Commissioner to the Legislative Assembly will offer comment on the effectiveness of these provisions.

During the minister's appearance, the standing committee raised a concern with respect to the issue of paramountcy. The standing committee is pleased that the minister, as he indicated, is bringing forward an amendment to clarify that the *Statistics Act* will not prevail in the event of an inconsistency or conflict with any other enactment that governs the collection, use or disclosure of personal information. This will provide an additional measure of comfort with respect to the public's confidence that their sensitive personal information will be protected from improper disclosure.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee supports the bill as amended and reprinted, and is recommending passage to all members.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Before proceeding, I'd like to remind the members of the following, according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak. And according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, all the members can speak more than once on the matters under discussion, but only when all the members wishing to speak have already spoken.

Are there any general comments? There being none. Bill 8; you'll find it in your legislation binder. Bill 8, *Statistics Act*, reprint. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Mr. Premier.

Committee Motion 07 – 2(3): Amendment to Clause 2 of Bill 08 – Statistics Act

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that Bill 8, *Statistics Act*, be amended by renumbering clause 2 sub-clause 2(1) and adding the following after sub-clause 2(1): Paramountcy of other enactments, (2) this Act does not prevail in the event of any inconsistency or conflict with any other enactment that governs the collection, use or disclosure of personal information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Premier. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Clause 2 as amended. 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: Clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 16. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 17. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 18. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 19. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 20. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 22. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 23. Just a minute. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just on that one, I would like to have an on-the-record response by the minister. Clause 23 states that at minister's approval, it says that, "No prosecution shall be commenced under Section 20 to 22 without the consent of the minister." I was just wondering if I could get an explanation from the minister why no prosecution would take place regardless of whether there was a violation or not, unless the minister said so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would not be up to the minister to decide if the person broke the law or not. The Act is quite clear that if a law is broken,

then they are subject to penalty, and there may be more appropriate penalties for employees, for example, disciplinary measures for minor infractions.

So each case will have to be weighed carefully. If there is an egregious breach, then of course, they will be prosecuted to the full extent, but each case is different on any given situation and we have to make sure that there's some flexibility within the law to allow for the appropriate measures to be taken on any given situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Clause 23. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 24. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 25. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Clause 25, that this Act will come into force after the information sharing or licensing agreement has expired. What about if it will not expire until 2012 or whatever? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those agreements will continue in force; I don't know all of the details of any given agreements, but one can't really change what's been agreed to in the past. From the day that this Act comes into force, all of those other agreements will be governed by this Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. (interpretation) Clause 25. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 26. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to Bill 8 as amended?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 8 is ready for third reading as amended?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, very much. (interpretation) That's done. Thank you, Premier and your officials. If you have any closing remarks, Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my officials, the committee members, and the members of this House, and we also had NTI helping us, as well as others such as the Information Commissioner, while we were drafting this Act. I would like to thank them all and thank the members. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier, Mr. Walsh, and Mr. Tuckto.

We will now go to another agenda item. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask the Minister of Justice to make his opening remarks. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Bill 16 – Family Abuse Intervention Act – Review in Committee

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been drafting this for quite some time.

Like we said on November 20, family violence is not to be...and also what we have been talking about is...the statistics state that in the north, in Nunavut, abuse is four times as high as the provincial average.

It is sad to see that the violence is four times as high. So in the spring session of the legislature, I introduced Bill 16, which I hope will be a positive tool in our struggle against abuse. It is also sad to say that our elders who have already suffered much in their lives, and have had to make incredible adjustments and sacrifices, are now experiencing abuse in their own families. This cannot be tolerated.

(interpretation ends) Children, too, are subjected to violence either by being personally abused, or by witnessing abuse against others, including violence between parents. By allowing this situation to continue, we jeopardize their potential for development into healthy, productive adults, and future leaders. They are the ones who will care for us when we are no longer able to do so. It is imperative that we teach them how to be caring members of society and that we lead by example.

In January of this year, the Violence Against Women Working Group, the Qullit Status of Women's Council, hosted the *Inuqatigiitiarniq* Symposium. More than 100 people participated in multi-day events resulting in many recommendations contained in the final report which I tabled before the Assembly earlier today.

This bill reflects all the OR2 Principals outlined in that report and will form the backbone on which to build a comprehensive strategy to combat family abuse in all its forms.

Based on strong and positive submissions from the Qullit Status of Women's Council, the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* suggested that the name of the bill be changed to the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. This name captures our hope that immediate intervention will help to prevent future abuse in our families.

We must ensure that this proposed bill legislation becomes the helpful tool it is intended to be, and that it provides the necessary resources to help build safer, healthier homes and communities, which will be truly reflective of the values that have always made us strong.

I will be directing my staff to put together a plan to properly resource our communities and government programs that will be required for this legislation to be brought into force hopefully within the next year.

We also have an interdepartmental group actively working on an action plan for agency group work that I hope will work in unison with this legislation. By passing this legislation, we will be taking a large step forward in supporting strong, healthy communities; communities in which our families, especially our women, children, and elders can live in a secure, nurturing environment, free from abuse and violence. This will improve the quality of life for all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Does the Chair of Standing Committees have opening comments? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* has reviewed Bill 16, the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, with the sponsoring minister and his officials.

Many members have spoken passionately in this House with respect to concerns about the high rate of domestic violence in Nunavut. Recent statistics reveal that the rate of violence is significantly higher here than in the rest of Canada.

This legislation provides a mechanism for removing an abusive person from the home and obtaining other relief in circumstances where there is mental or emotional abuse or the potential for violence.

During its review of the bill, the standing committee moved a number of motions to amend certain clauses to reflect recommendations made by the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women's Council. Indeed, the first recommendation that the council made was to change the name of the legislation, which is reflected in the bill before members today.

The standing committee thanks the council for its valuable contributions to this process. One of the issues that the council raised concerned the need for adequate resources to be provided to ensure that the provisions of the bill can be successfully implemented. Although the committee and the government were of the view that this was more

appropriately addressed through the government's implementation plan, rather than through amendments to the statute, members will be attentive to this issue.

The legislation provides for the minister to table an annual report on the administration of the legislation. Members look forward to reviewing the first annual report, as this will allow us to begin to evaluate the success of the legislation.

This legislation will provide significant powers to designated Justices of the Peace. The committee stressed the need for JPs to receive adequate training in order to help them carry out the important roles that they will assume.

This concludes my opening comments; other members may have their own comments and questions as we proceed. The standing committee recommends passage of this bill as amended. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, Mr Chairman, I would like my officials to accompany me.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you assist the minister with his officials?

Thank you. Minister, please introduce your witnesses. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right, I'm sure you all know him, is Markoosie Weber. And on my left is the drafter of bills, Thomas Druyan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I welcome to the Chambers Mr. Weber and Mr. Druyan.

We are dealing with Bill 16; it's in your white legislation binder. Bill 16, *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, reprint. Clause 1. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for general comments on this before we get into the clauses.

I think our Premier, the Minister of Justice, pointed out and it has been particularly frightening, I think it's a shameful reality that the rate of spousal violence against women in Nunavut is more than double the rate of any other territory, and four times as high as

the provincial average. I think that it's high time that we try and do something to bring those numbers down.

As legislators, I think that we have a duty to try and do what we can to protect our constituents. I think that these; I call them these cowardly acts of violence, to me, regardless of excuses, it's not acceptable and we need to really toughen things up to make sure that we can do what we can to protect those people.

I have three daughters; I never ever want to see them in a situation where they're in an abuse situation. I don't know what I would do if I ever found out they were. As a parent, as a father, I have relatives, cousins that have been abused and beaten. To me, that's not acceptable. To me, that's not showing anyone that they're a man if they can beat up on a woman. I really want that message to get out to the people out there and understand that it is not acceptable.

I know that a lot of the times there are incidents like this, alcohol is involved and people are saying, "Oh, no, I'm sorry, I was drunk." And there seems to be some leniency in our judicial system because of the fact that someone was so intoxicated that they did things without knowing it. Well, you know what, if you're driving a vehicle impaired and you kill someone, being drunk doesn't count as an excuse. I just want that message to go out there that I don't believe that alcohol should be used as a crutch in any case.

From what I've seen, I've seen it over and over, over the years here in the papers and cases that are before the courts where the judges made the sentences and that and because it was alcohol-related, he's sorry, and he doesn't remember, or whatever, to me, it's like setting a double standard. I don't think that's acceptable either. If alcohol is not an excuse if you go out and kill someone, if you're driving drunk and do the same thing, then in cases like this, it should not be tolerated as an excuse either.

I would really like to see legislation like this and look at the penalties down the road that those kinds of excuses not even be tolerated in the courts when dealing with cases like this, because that doesn't help the scars that are with the individuals that are abused, they are with them for life. It's with the kids that witness it for life. There is a saying, "Show me an abuser that wasn't abused."

If kids see that and that traumatizes them, then there's a strong likelihood that they're going to continue and do that. When they get frustrated, when they get drunk, they're going to say, "Well, it was okay for it to happen then, it must be the way things are." That's not right.

We need to send a very strong message out there that this kind of action, in any way, shape, or form will not be tolerated. I think that instead of being lenient in some cases, for whatever reason, the full extent of the law be pursued and put down on people that do that.

I support this bill 100 percent and I am glad that it's coming into play now and I wish it would have been there a while ago. This is the first step and a strong message that we as legislators need to send a message out there to the people of Nunavut that it's time for a change.

Only by speaking up and saying and actually doing things like that, that we can affect that change. It is not going to happen if we say, "it's okay. This guy I know he did that for whatever reason." Pretending it's okay, or pretending it's not there is not going to change.

Again, the frightening reality of the rate of spousal violence...that's shameful, I'm embarrassed by that. It's not going to change unless we acknowledge the fact that it is there that it's bad and deal with it accordingly.

That's all I have to say on that. I am in full support of the bill, as it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials for appearing today and introducing Bill 16. I'd like to thank the minister for introducing this bill. It is long overdue. I have been involved in Cambridge Bay for many, many years working with people who have suffered at the hands of abuse; children, and women, and some men, there are some men.

Abuse is tearing our communities apart and this is a tool that will help to bring families and communities back together. I have to remind myself, as the minister mentioned, it is a tool; it's not going to be the cure, but it is a tool. The communities are going to need more resources to provide for counsellors, we're going to need more housing.

The Minister of the Housing Corporation is well aware of that; we're going to need more funding for groups like the Qullit Status Women's Council, so they can carry out their important work. All the government departments are going to have to work together. I know this for a fact; the hamlets will work together with the government because it's happening in their communities. I don't think there's a mayor, or councillor anywhere in Nunavut who won't welcome this legislation.

It is something that is long overdue. I think it is a tool that is going to give us another thing to help the people in our communities. We have to remember it is not going to cure a lot of these things that have developed over the years. We're not going to eradicate it overnight, it may take us years and decades ahead, but I think the people of Nunavut are going to be pleased with this bill.

I think the people I work with, the victims of the crimes, will be extremely happy to have this. And I support the bill wholeheartedly. I thank the minister for introducing it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Minister. I just want to say a brief comment. I support this bill 100 percent for the fact that my colleague, as he mentioned, that too many are abused, especially women, older people, and children. This destroys the families and I fully support this bill.

Maybe I should mention first; I am very proud to have parents because my father never laid a hand on my mother, or on me, or on my siblings, or by anybody else, but I have only been abused when I was small, I was trying to have a cigarette, so it was just to discipline me.

As an older generation, we were disciplined in a harsh way because that's the way Inuit used to discipline their children. It was not abuse, it was maybe a spank and we know that they even use weapons or rifles to scare their spouses.

I am very proud that this bill is being introduced and the Justice of the Peace in the communities will have to really understand this bill, and it would be very appropriate if those JPs can be oriented on this bill as soon as possible. That's all I have to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you very much Premier, for introducing this bill, it makes good sense. I'm hopeful that things will fall in place and this bill, there will be a lot of people who will notice but for those people who use alcohol as an excuse, alcohol creates problems like abuse towards the women or separation between the couple.

A lot of times they think they're so powerful once they become intoxicated, even in communities that are prohibited, where alcohol is prohibited. If there is an incident and then they go to court, they have already broken the community law which is where there is no alcohol allowed and there should be charges on top of that for breaking the law and after the incidents they separate and they use that as an excuse. When their children are a little bit bigger where they can understand a bit they are hurting too and they will be affected for the rest of their lives and they will be in pain if their parents don't get back. According to *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, this is not the practice.

I think what is lacking there is whether we should look at how those children are affected because they will be affected and they will be in pain for the rest of their lives.

Yes, this is a very good tool and it will have an impact, but I think in Nunavut maybe less than five percent know about legislation. Because the way we were brought up, we were told by our parents and what our children are being taught today is that according to law,

but forgetting our traditional values and this has to be known once it's passed because this will be our tool and maybe if we make it known, there will be a decrease in violence.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. At this time I don't have any more names on my list. We are dealing with Bill 16, *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, reprint. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 4. 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: Page 8. Clause 8. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 16. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 17. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 13. Clause 18. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 15. Clause 19. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 20. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 22. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 23. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 24. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 25. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 26. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 27. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 28. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 29. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 30. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 31. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 32. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 33. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 34. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 35. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 36. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 37. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 38. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 39. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 40. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 41. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 42. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 43. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 44. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 45. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 46. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 47. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 48. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 49. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 50. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 51. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 52. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 53. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 54. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to Bill 16 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree that Bill 16 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, Committee. Thank you, Mr. Premier, Mr. Weber, and Mr. Druyan. Mr. Premier, do you have closing remarks? Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank my colleagues for this bill. Thank you, very much, for your participation. I would like to thank the various departments who helped us. I would especially like to thank the Qullit Status of Women Council, who pushed the government to get this bill.

It is not going to be enacted right away, but we do know what the bill is going to be like. We are going to start preparing to see how it's going to be implemented and we're going to be looking at the funds to make sure that it gets off the ground.

Thank you, very much, for approving this bill.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. I would also like to thank Kathy Hanson and the Status of Women's Council. We will take a supper break. We will take a half an hour break. Thank you. We will return.

>>*Committee recessed at 18:03 and resumed at 18:40*

Chairman (interpretation): We shall resume. (interpretation ends) The next items we're dealing with are Bills 23, 24, and 25.

I would like to ask the Minister Simailak for the Department of Finance to make his opening remarks. Minister Simailak.

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

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

Bill 25 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #2, 2006-07 – Review in Committee

Hon. David Simailak: Opening comments on all three supp-bills. I am pleased to appear before the committee members to speak to Supplementary Appropriation Bills 23, 24, and 25.

Bill 23 is the 2005-06 Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) #4.

This supplementary appropriation is required to provide funding of \$3,779,000 to the Department of Health and Social Services over-expenditures in the 2005-06 fiscal year.

Bill 24 is the 2006-07 Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) #2.

This supplementary appropriation will provide funding of \$17,537,000 for such items as the following:

- Impact of fuel and power rate increases
- Grants to daycare centres
- Wait time reduction initiatives
- Hiring and mentoring of Nunavut Arctic College nursing graduates

Bill 25 is the 2006-07 Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) #2.

This supplementary appropriation will provide funding of \$7,596,000 to purchase diagnostic, medical and dental equipment and to construct public housing units under the Nunavut Housing Trust Initiative.

Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to answer questions from committee members pertaining to these Supplementary Appropriations Bills. Before I do that I would like to move a motion.

Committee Motion 08 – 2(3): Amendment to Schedule of Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act #4, 2005-06

I move that the schedule to Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #4, 2005-06*, I move that the schedule to the bill be amended by striking out \$3,797,000 wherever it appears and substituting \$3,779,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hands. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Minister Simailak, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the witness table? Minister Simailak.

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

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have Mr. Peter Ma, and Rosemary Keenainak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. We're dealing with Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #4, 2005-06*. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$3,797,000.

We're on Page 2. Go to Page 4. Page 4, Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Various as Amended. \$3,779,000. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know this came as a surprise to a lot of us, as last spring after May or something, we met with the senior government officials and the Auditor General going over her report and at that time senior government officials indicated that they were anticipating no departments going into a deficit this year. I said, finally, how many times have we hoped for that? And here this is almost \$4,000,000 deficit for your department.

I was just wondering if the minister could explain what led to that and why at that time when we were reviewing that report that they didn't think that they were going to be in this situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Finance was advised by Health and Social Services on May the 12th that they were going to go into a deficit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It says here that this is for Departmental Operations. Can the minister indicate exactly where those over-expenditures occurred? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were advised then that there would be an over-expenditure in medical travel of \$6,400,000, and also in agency nurses of \$7,900,000 which would be partially offset by an overall surplus in compensation and benefits of approximately \$10,000,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did the department give any explanation as to why at such a late date like that that's only when they realized that they were going to be over-expended? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer that to the Minister of Health. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the 11th of May I was notified by the financial director at the time of the deficit and simply he just did not know. The information for processing medical travel, as an example, is initiated through the health centres of the 25 communities in Nunavut and transferring that data to the regions to data enter was all done manually until this year. April 1, for the first time, we have a better system to track medical travel expenditures to be able to know where we are at.

But at March, during the standing committee meetings, I was advised that we looked like we would be at a positive bearing by the director of the day and come May, we were advised that we were over in expenditure as described by the Minister of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can understand that it would take some time to get that stuff, especially if done manually for medical travel. You'd think they would know as the Department of Health that there is only a certain area in the department, I would imagine, that orders agency nurses, and so I'm wondering what happened there. Is that something they should have been more on top of, instead of \$7.9 million over in agency nurses? It is a pretty substantial amount to not realize until after year end.

Maybe it is a process thing there, too. Could I get an explanation from either the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Health and Social Services?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of...overall the department had an under-expenditure of \$10,300,000 in compensation and that was offset by the \$7,900,000.

We knew at the time there was a need to hire agency nurses to cover the vacancies in the communities. Much of the way head office for Department of Health and Social Services, back a year when I took over the portfolio, everything was centralized to the headquarter office in Iqaluit for processing, which meant that all the data in the communities would then have to be transported to be received by this office. That caused a lot of delays in capturing the information from the regions and...but since then we've changed the process to allow the regional offices to make the commitments immediately around contracts for agency nurses.

At the same time, the data system that we've established for medical travel is now in place. A better system is now in place that will be able to come to some assessment as to analyzing the data but the information was just slow in coming to head office first and that was overseeing the finance division of the day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister indicated that there is \$7,900,000 over-expended and over budget in agency nurses' division category or line item. I don't know what you want to call it. What was the total amount that they spent on agency nurses for that year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just hang on. I am just checking to see that. Thank you. The information that I have does not capture the total for that. Under the contracted funding category for the department we went over expenditure on the contract line item by \$7.9 million, which is offset by the salary that we didn't spend in the vacancies that we had within the department and there was a positive variance in the salary of \$10.3 million offsetting the over-expenditure that needed to hire agency nurses to cover off our vacancies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the Minister of Finance has that information. What the total amount that was spent on agency nurses for that year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The actual expenditures for contracts for agency nurses 2005-06 was \$12,960,248. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's like a 120 percent over-budget if you look at it. If there was an original budget amount of...still over budget \$7.9 million and the total amount spent was \$12.9 million with an original budget amount of \$5.9 million.

I'm just wondering if it was off that much, what kinds of things led to that. I thought we were doing well at getting nurses into our communities. Why does it seem like we're off that much in figuring out how much it's going to cost us to hire agency nurses to fill vacant positions throughout the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll refer that to the Minister of Health. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The over-expenditure for the contract area for agency nurses was \$7.9 million, not \$12 million. Total in the budget for the Department of Health for contract services, from what I understand, is \$12 million. That was approved in the House to spend.

We were over by \$7.9 million for agency nurses. \$10.3 million surpluses, I believe, was covering under salary and O&M to offset the over-expenditure in the department is how I understand the calculations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: I think I'm confused, Mr. Chairman. I think she had indicated they were \$7.9 million over-expended in the contract nurses area, and I think the Minister of Finance indicated that there was \$12.9 million in total, spent on agency nurses.

If I get that calculation, if you are over \$7.9 million and you spent \$12.9 million, then the budgeted amount probably should have been like \$5 million. And that's where I'm getting that from.

Now, after the minister's comment, I'm just wondering, with that over-expenditure, was the total amount actually spent on agency nurses, a little over \$20 million, is that correct? I just want to know which one is the right one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if someone could respond to that.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, the actual expenditure in 2005-06 for agency nurses was \$12,960,248. There was an over-expenditure in agency nurses of \$7.9 million. So that means the amount actually budgeted for 2005-06 would have been about \$5 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's what I thought, and then I was just wondering, how could we be out that much in the budgeting? If we know we won't have...were these new vacant positions? I'm just wondering; how could it be out that much? That's out \$7.9 million, which is over double of what it was originally budgeted for. We can't afford to continue to be out like that.

So I'm just wondering if they've looked at indications as to why that happened, and hopefully, to prevent that from happening again in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: As the minister indicated, Health and Social Services has improved its system of watching over those costs and are getting their numbers on a timelier basis now, and that should help in the future.

Perhaps, the Minister of Health has more that she could add to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you. I apologize for the confusion. I don't have the supp bills in front of me. I've been trying to wave. I don't believe the supp bills were distributed to us, other than the actual bill.

In terms of initiatives that were taken in the department to try and capture the spending on our medivacs, a couple of things: the increase in the medivac and medical travel; there is an increased need to ship people to outside the territory facilities, as well as within the territory. We have seen an increase in the number of patients being shipped to the facilities outside of their communities, resulting in more medivacs, and an over-expenditure of \$6.4 million.

The other initiative that we are undertaking within the Department of Health is to try and address more services in the community where there is less of a need for travel, with examples such as portable ultrasound screening equipment tests for the false labour in pregnant women, on which I made statement in the House; at the same time, to provide more specialized clinics and rehabilitation therapy services within the territory.

So there are initiatives to try and address more services in the communities to reduce the need for travel: new heart testing equipment for the communities, portable heart monitoring systems, and X-Ray machines in the communities.

So those are initiatives that are being approved under the wait-time reduction funds which are before the committee as well, that will hopefully down the road offset some of the need to travel from outside the community.

In terms of the agency nurses, there has been a need to fill some of the vacancies in our communities, and we have really no other alternative but to go to agency nurses because we cannot stop providing health care services when people are sick because of budget.

We have to continue providing the service, unfortunately. But, to try and capture some of those increasing costs, we are again, with our recruitment and trying to hire our graduates within in our program to try and avoid increasing levels of cost around medical travel as well as agency nurses as an example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could just add that Health and Social Services and Finance have been working together to review and do more improvements to the whole financial process as part of the idea of strengthening financial management within government, so the two departments are working together to improve things even more within the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that, and I know that my point of how we're looking to reducing it, but it's just the fact that there was such a big discrepancy over what was budgeted and what was actually spent. I think when you're off by half, or you budget less than half of what you actually spend, should be cause for concern of looking at trying to identify and how they identify what the potential need will be out there.

I guess now they're looking at it and hopefully we won't have surprises like this again next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I think that was more of a comment than a question, but I'll let Mr. Simailak respond to it. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I just want to reiterate the fact that we are working with the Department of Health and Social Services to improve the financial processes as we are with other departments that require our help as needed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make two comments. As they stated, for transportation of medical travel, that's why they overspent of \$6,400,000.

That's how much they spent for medical travel in Pond Inlet. They did a pilot project and they invited a chiropractor and they sent a chiropractor to the community instead of the patients leaving the community. I think we already know what it costs for accommodation, we travel on First Air and we know how expensive it is to travel by airline. I think they saved a large sum of money with that pilot project.

I want to ask, once you find out about this pilot project, once the results come in will you expand that to the other communities like sending ophthalmologists out to the communities rather than sending the patients out to Iqaluit, send the specialists to the communities instead. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the idea with many of the initiatives that we are trying to undertake within the Department of Health, another example is to deliver the mid-wives, the training of mid-wives in the communities instead of sending patients out and spending two, three weeks, to a month at a time in boarding homes in the south, as an example. And in responding to Tootoo's question, I had listed some other initiatives such as the portable ultrasound screening for pregnant women to go to the communities.

We are trying to develop more programs to reduce our costs. Other examples outside of medical travel but within the whole Department of Health and Social Services is what Minister Simailak had mentioned and that's the assessment of our services to be more efficient in the delivery of our services without the, we need to review where there's duplications and processes.

In working with Finance, we are trying to improve that flow of information and reporting and so on to try and capture these kinds of situations at an earlier stage as well to look at ways where we can save, such as in our pharmacy contracts as an example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In respect to over spending, \$7.9 million for agency nursing, I know how to save your money. We are not taking the nursing courses seriously like we did with Akitsiraq Law School, and I think the government will have to review and recommend to the cabinet and Financial Management Board that we will have to take a drastic action in revitalizing or changing the approach or policy that the government has taken on the Nurse Training Program.

Let's scrap this program using Arctic College Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students system, Financial Assistance Program and independently fund it so that the nurse training students can be comfortable and happy with their families wherever the quota's being taken without having to scrounge for money and try to live off the meager allowances to get their nursing degrees. That way you can probably save more than \$7.9 million if the shortage of nursing is no longer a question.

So I would like to ask the minister, that if she will review and recommend to the Cabinet to revamp the whole program of nurses course? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising that again. I had committed to reviewing that during, I believe, it was question period when he brought up the issue of examining that. I need to sit down with my colleague, the Minister of Education responsible for the delivery of the nursing program on that and see where we can look at options as he suggested.

I think in looking at \$7.9 million in the short-term, we would still require an investment in the student salary money going to school, and to cover off our vacancies. So in the short-term, there's probably not a savings, but in the long-term there is.

I want to look at that option closely with my colleague based on the suggestions that the member is making to this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. We are dealing with Bill 23. Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Various as amended. \$3,779,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Not previously authorized. Total as amended. \$3,779,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to page 2. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Total. As Amended. \$3,779,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Bill 23 of your white legislation binders. Bill 23. As Amended. *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #4, 2005-06*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. As Amended. \$3,779,000. 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: Does the committee agree to Bill 23 as amended?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that Bill 23 is ready for third reading as amended?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amount Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2006. Vote 1. Operations and Maintenance. Total. Operations and Maintenance. \$3,779,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$3,779,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Bill 24. *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #2, 2006-07*. Turn to page 4. Finance. Bill 24. Page 4. Finance. Operations and Maintenance. Not previously authorized. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Here it says that they're providing \$5,160,000 to the Qulliq Energy Corporation to recognize the funding deficiency for 2005-06.

I guess my question to the minister, I know the Minister of Energy, I don't know if it was him, or the Qulliq Energy Corporation put out this little, fancy, nice little energy facts, and figures.

I know a number of years ago they were talking about bailing out the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and we have in the past.

In there it states, "The Qulliq Energy Corporation occasionally receives financial contributions from the Government of Nunavut." I'm just wondering if the minister could indicate if this \$5,160,000 is their occasional annual amount that they need to be bailed out for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer that to the Minister of Energy. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I resent the member using the word like ‘bailout’ because it’s not a bailout. Basically, what we see here in the sup is a decision made by the URRC that the member is quite aware of. Indeed, the URRC Report was tabled in the House, and of course, it was made known to the public, and it has been quite well talked about.

The URRC recommended that in the last rate increase for the Power Corporation; the Power Corporation asked for 6.1 percent, as you know, and the URRC came back and said, “No, you can’t get 6.1; you can have 5.91 percent effective October 1.”

Also, the URRC recommended that the GN pay the 5.91 percent that was not corrected for the 18 months between February 2005 URRC Report and the QEC request for the 6.1 percent. That total is 5.91 percent.

The Government of Nunavut accepted the recommendations of the URRC, increased their base rate by 5.91 percent, and in this sup, we see the amount of \$5.16 million for the Power Corporation. So it’s not a bailout, it is in lieu of a rate increase that was not to be charged back to the consumer base for that 18-month period. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess you should have used bridge financing. That’s a different word, but I guess my other question, where the minister stated in the pamphlet that they put out that Qulliq Energy Corporation occasionally receives financial contributions from the government. Would the minister indicate that this is an occasional annual contribution? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would prefer to stick to the supplemental bill before us and not on advertisements or brochures that the Power Corporation put out, given the timeframe that we’re under, but given that Mr. Tootoo has asked that question, the answer is no. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Bill 24. Page 4. Finance. Operations and Maintenance. Centrally Administered Funds. Not previously authorized. \$5,409,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Centrally Administered Funds. \$5,409,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$5,409,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 5. Education. Operations and Maintenance. Career and Early Childhood Services. Not previously authorized. \$603,000. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the minister didn't get a lot of chance to answer questions during Question Period, so maybe we can make up for it here.

Through the Minister of Finance, have they determined how this \$603,000 is going to be distributed amongst the licensed daycare facilities throughout the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Education, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the second instalment of the original trust set-up by the good Liberal government prior to the last federal election and at that time, we weren't able to work out and make an arrangement with Mr. Dryden on the per capita funding that the member remembers the debate in the house and indeed we had strong support in the House and a motion to that affect.

The \$600,000 is a cost plus amount meaning the total amount of money distributed by the Department of Education to the member daycares in Nunavut totals the total amount of the expenditure. It is to go towards the O&M cost of operating our member daycares as well as provide for curriculum resources and so on.

The way the money was divided up was based on the size of the member daycare and the number of students enrolled in the Daycare Program and the requests that come forward from the daycares. It followed on the monies that we had given out last year. I can say very strongly all the daycares across Nunavut had been very...this has been well welcomed to the member daycares in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Page 5. Education. Operations and Maintenance. Career and Early Childhood Services. Not previously authorized. \$603,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Early and Childhood Services. \$603,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$603,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 6. Department of Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Treatment. Special Warrant. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this page it says there is an interdepartmental transfer of \$193,000 from Operations and Maintenance to Capital. I am wondering if the Minister of Finance can indicate where exactly that funding is being transferred out of from O&M to Capital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the information about exactly which category of the O&M that is coming from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I get a commitment for the minister to provide me that information to us at a future date or by correspondence? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will commit to providing that information. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Page 5. Bill 24. Page 6. Department of Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Treatment. Special Warrant. \$917,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Not previously authorized. \$109,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Treatment. Special Warrant. \$917,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Not previously authorized \$109,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Special Warrant. \$917,000. Not previously authorized. \$109,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Not previously authorized. \$109,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 7. Department of Environment. Operations and Maintenance. Program Development. Not previously authorized. -\$120,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Program Development. -\$120,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. -\$120,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 8. Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. Directorate. Not previously authorized. \$5 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Directorate. \$5 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Government Services. Not previously authorized. \$3,752,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Government Services. Not previously authorized. \$3,752,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$8,752,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 9. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Not previously authorized. \$1,867,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems to state that for fuel and utilities there is an increase from 5.19 percent increase to the community-based power effective October 1, 2006. We have no other choice but to pay it. And \$1,867,000 under Environment; we just approved \$120,000.

I'd like to ask the Department of Environment: are they going to be requesting for a supplementary appropriation in representing the hunters who don't have full-time jobs so they can get some funding through this in this way? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer that to the Minister of Environment, whether they are going to ask for more in regard to emergencies. He is asking about emergencies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just very quickly on the amount that's being charged out here to the Housing Corporation. This is the housing portfolio, which means staff housing.

As the members know, the hunters, or any person who is given social housing units in Nunavut, the power rate has not increased since 1996; it is still at six cents a kilowatt hour. So that hasn't changed.

The money that the member is talking about for the emergencies is a totally different amount of money. Again if there was a request by the department then that would be brought forward in the spring, during the O&M budget of the department, which would be a new fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Page 9. Before we go on, the Minister of Environment, Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the monies that Mr. Arvaluk is referring to isn't for hunters and trappers; it's for our renewable, or conservation officers in all our Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. We dealt with that on page 7. A couple of pages ago. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that. I am referring to page 9 using page 7 as an example. He is the only minister who understands me very well. Thank you, Minister Netser.

Although he didn't answer directly that there would be some kind of relief for hunters and trappers who hunt full time, that cannot afford right now to go distance to go harvesting.

My question was: will there be some kind of money requested from this House to assist those hunters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This deals with the emergency suits we were going to spend this year, but because we could not find a supplier, we did not spend that money.

We're not talking about turning back any money for hunters and trappers like he thinks we are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Page 9. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,867,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$1,867,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$1,867,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page 2. Schedule. Page 2. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Appropriation. \$17,537,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Bill 24 in your white Legislation binder. Bill 24. *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #2, 2006-07*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to schedule, page 3 of the Bill. Page 3. Schedule. Bill 24. Page 3. The title is; Schedule. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year

Ending March 31, 2007. Vote 1. Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$17,537,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$17,537,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to clause 3, page 1. 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: And, Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to Bill 24 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Is the committee agreed that Bill 24 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next item is Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #2, 2006-07*. Go to page 4 of the Bill. Health and Social Services. Capital. Directorate. Special Warrants. \$1,608,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Not previously authorized. \$193,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Directorate. Special Warrants. \$1,608,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Not previously authorized. \$193,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Special Warrants. \$1,608,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Not previously authorized. \$193,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 5. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Capital. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Not previously authorized. \$5,795,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. Not previously authorized. \$5,795,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. Not previously authorized. \$5,795,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 2. Schedule. Schedule 1. Capital. Total Appropriation. Capital Appropriation. \$7,596,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Now, go to Bill 25 again in your legislation binder. Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #2, 2006-07*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Now, go to page 2. Schedule on page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2007. Vote 1. Capital. Total Capital. \$7,596,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$7,596,000.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page 1. 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: Does the committee agree to Bill 25 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree that Bill 25 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Thank you, Minister Simailak, Ms. Keenainak, and Mr. Ma. If you have any closing remarks, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for Finance to make his opening remarks. Mr. Simailak. We're dealing with Bills 28 and 29. Minister Simailak.

Bill 28 – Deficit Reduction Act – Review in Committee

Bill 29 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Review in Committee

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before members to speak to Bills 28 and 29.

Bill 28 is the *Deficit Reduction Act* and Bill 29 is *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*. These Bills are designed to help the government improve its fiscal position. They do this by introducing two measures to increase the taxation revenue of the government, and one measure to provide tax relief to Nunavummiut.

Bill 28 deals with tax measures to increase revenue. The first measure is an increase in the amount of the tax on cigarettes and cigarette tobacco. The second measure is an increase in the Payroll Tax on the wages earned by employees in our territory.

Bill 29 deals with a tax measure to provide tax relief to lower income Nunavummiut. This bill increases the cost of living benefit to help offset the increase in the Payroll Tax.

Nunavut has one of the highest smoking rates in the country, and the health costs associated with this addiction will one day cripple us both financially and as a people. Tobacco taxation in the territory has not changed for many years, yet it is generally agreed that raising taxes can help reduce the amount of smokers.

Bill 28 is proposing to raise Tobacco Taxes to match the highest levels in the country, and encourage Nunavummiut, and most importantly, our youth, to either stop smoking, or never start. The new level of taxation will be \$42 per carton of cigarettes and 14 cents per gram of tobacco. This is an increase of \$10.80 per carton and 5.4 cents per gram.

My departmental officials will be monitoring consumption figures for tobacco in the months ahead, and will report back to the Legislative Assembly on the results next fall. The proposed Tobacco Tax changes may increase the possibility for smuggling and illegal tobacco sales. It is my hope that the increased Tobacco Tax will instead reduce the number of smokers in Nunavut.

Bill 28 is proposing to raise the Payroll Tax from one percent to two percent for all employees earning wages in Nunavut. The Payroll Tax is paid by all employees who work in Nunavut, whether they are residents or not.

The Payroll Tax primarily targets transitory workers who come into the territory to work and earn wages but then return to their homes in other parts of Canada. The entire amount of the Payroll Tax that transitory workers pay stays with the government.

On the other hand, the Payroll Tax is also paid by Nunavummiut. All Nunavummiut, unlike non-residents, receive a cost of living tax benefit that helps offset the amount that they have to pay in Payroll Taxes.

Bill 29 is proposing that the cost of living benefit increase from \$750 to \$1,200. The proposal also simplifies the manner in which the benefit is calculated, and it will be changed from a two tier calculation to a single calculation.

This measure will not completely negate the increase of the Payroll Tax and some Nunavummiut will end up paying more in Payroll Tax than they did before. This measure does ensure that Nunavummiut who earn \$60,000 or less receive a cost of living benefit equal to the amount of Payroll Taxes that they have paid.

Based on recent Statistics Canada information, 77 percent of Nunavummiut earn less than \$60,000.

An area that will be examined is that of consultants and self-employed contractors, as it pertains to the Payroll Tax. Currently, the *Payroll Tax Act* only covers employees; it does not tax the earnings of self-employed individuals. This covers many of Nunavut's entrepreneurs, but also includes many consultants and contractors, who reside in other parts of Canada.

As my colleague, the Member for Iqaluit Centre, has pointed out, there are many consultants and individuals working on contract in our territory. I have directed my officials to review and bring forward options for discussion, to look for ways to create an equitable and fair tax system that includes all sources of individual income, however derived, in our territory.

These tax initiatives, Mr. Chairman, are being proposed to generate additional revenue for the government. These initiatives are proactive measures by the government that will not only help to address our current fiscal deficit but also the future fiscal position of our territory.

The government recognizes that these tax initiatives alone will not address our fiscal deficit and will continue to work collaboratively with the federal government to secure a fair and equitable Territorial Formula Financing Agreement for Nunavut.

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

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

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

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 would escort the witnesses, please.

(interpretation ends) Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Mr. Peter Ma and to my right, Mr. Peter Tumilty. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. (interpretation) Welcome Mr. Ma and Mr. Tumilty. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability have opening comments? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. I just want to note that yesterday we had two Browne's up there and today we have two Peters.

>>*Laughter*

The Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability has had the opportunity to scrutinize Bills 28 and 29 and I am pleased to be able to make some opening comments today on these two initiatives.

Members enjoyed a productive dialogue with the minister and his officials during his appearance before the standing committee. The standing committee was pleased to note that the minister shared a number of the concerns and observations raised by the committee.

The committee supports the increase in the Tobacco Tax while recognizing the importance of ensuring that the effects of the increases are closely tracked to evaluate their impact on both rates of tobacco consumption in the territory and government revenues. The committee also noted the importance of ensuring that such tax increases do not result in the unintended consequence of creating black markets.

In scrutinizing the increase to the Payroll Tax, the standing committee was mindful of a number of issues.

Statistics produced by the Canada Revenue Agency and available on its website reveal an informative picture of the territory and its tax filers. For the 2004 tax year, approximately 32 percent of tax filers reported an annual income of \$10,000 or less. Approximately 75 percent of tax filers reported an annual income of \$60,000 or less.

Approximately one in four tax filers reported an annual income of more than \$60,000. Just over 1,000 tax filers, or seven percent, reported an annual income of \$100,000 or more.

Committee members recognize that those in the higher income categories can afford to make a greater contribution.

However, the committee was concerned that lower income Nunavummiut and those in tight circumstances, such as single parent households, be protected from the increase in the Payroll Tax. The standing committee was pleased to receive a commitment from the minister that he will introduce further legislative measures at the next sitting of the Assembly to provide a cost of living supplement for single parents.

The standing committee expressed its concern that the Payroll Tax system needs to be rigorously evaluated to ensure that it achieves its primary objective of capturing a measure of revenue from individuals who earn income in Nunavut, but maintain their residences elsewhere.

The standing committee was pleased to note the minister's commitment to moving forward with measures to ensure that the system does so, especially in relation to contractors and consultants. The standing committee also noted with satisfaction the minister's goal of strengthening compliance measures undertaken by the department, as well as working with such entities as the Canada Revenue Agency to gain a more accurate picture of how the Payroll Tax is impacting resident and non-resident workers in Nunavut.

The standing committee also appreciated the minister's willingness to consider what tax options are available to the government in the area of addressing the high rate of junk food consumption in Nunavut, which also results in significant costs to the health care system to treat such conditions as diabetes, and dental issues.

That concludes my opening comments. I'm sure other committee members and I will have questions for the minister. The standing committee supports the bills and recommends their passage to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Are there any general comments? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We met with the minister and his officials and had a good chat, as the chairman mentioned in his opening comments. I'm a little concerned in the minister's opening comments that he didn't mention the commitments that we agreed to this morning.

I'd like to, I guess, maybe from what I understood earlier today that the minister will, by early March, introduce a higher level for single income parents. Also that he would instruct his staff to review the consultants and contractors, their locations with respect to paying some of the Payroll Tax in Nunavut, leaving some of the money in Nunavut, and said this is for all of Nunavut, so we hope that monies that are paid in Nunavut will stay in Nunavut.

I believe, again, that he would instruct his staff to look into the junk food, as well. I'd like to get a commitment on the record from the minister as to what he will agree to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. We're on general comments right now. I remind the member just for general comments. Minister Simailak, I think that was a question from Mr. Peterson. We'll now proceed to Bill 28. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This morning we met with the minister and his officials to discuss Bill 28. We were concerned that individuals in the lower two tax brackets weren't sufficiently protected from the increase in the Payroll Tax, so we're asking the minister to commit to introduce an amendment to the *Income Tax Act* in March 2007 that would establish a cost of living benefit to single parents up to the \$71,190.00 tax bracket.

If the minister could give that commitment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will commit to returning to the Legislative Assembly in the March, 2007 sitting with such a legislative proposal, as was mentioned by the honourable member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that commitment. I have no further comments or questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As noted in my opening comment I am just wondering if the government or the minister could give us an idea of what efforts that the government is taking to ensure that the Payroll Tax is being collected from the residents that are out there that should be paying it. I would like a recap, what are they doing to make sure we're getting what we're supposed to from people out there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There a number of steps that we are taking. First of all, all employers that have employees in Nunavut are required to be registered and remit the Payroll Tax to the government on behalf of their employees. We also do desk audits to ensure that returns are filed on time and are accurate, and penalties are issued to non-filers.

We also review WCB lists and the Nunavut Gazette to identify new businesses and lastly compliance and...*inaudible*...audits will be done to ensure that employers adhere to the Payroll Tax act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the Payroll Tax I know the minister mentioned it in his comments, and I appreciate that; as well, comments that I have raised in my opening comments and here in the past is the issue of contract employees and consultants.

His department would be looking at reviewing and recommending some different options and ways in which we could tap into that because I really believe that there's a much more significant amount of dollars leaving the territory there than there are through employees right now working here and living outside the territory.

So again, on the record, I would like to ask the minister if he would commit to bringing forward measures to the Legislative Assembly to ensure that any money earned is taxed appropriately and the revenue given to Nunavut so that we don't have these gaps there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for bringing that very important issue to my attention. What I've done is instructed my officials to make this a priority and to develop options for Cabinet and the Financial Management Board to consider and I'm hoping that I will be able to present something next fall to the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only other question I have to look at on this is the increase in Tobacco Tax and that's one of the sin taxes that cost the government a lot of money to look after the people that get sick because of smoking and smoking related illnesses and one could say it's the same thing with the amount of junk food that is consumed.

I think one of our young parliamentarians that were here during the Youth Parliament considered it an addiction to junk food. That was how she phrased it. But the health costs related to over consumption in some cases of junk foods like a lot of the dental problems, dental costs, diabetes and heart problems and things like that, I would venture to say also place a high cost burden on our health care system.

In the same way we're asking, we're saying if you're going to smoke, you're going to get sick from smoking, we're going to have to look after you when you get sick, so you're

paying this tax now, so like you're paying up front for some of the costs that it's going to cost us to look after you when you get older, and you get sick.

I think it might not be a bad idea if we want to try and promote a healthy lifestyle and that is to do the same thing with the junk food that's out there. Your pops, your chips, your chocolate bars and things like that that is significant factor in a lot of those health related issues that I talked about earlier.

I'm just wondering if the minister would commit to also looking at avenues where they could look at doing something in that area and possibly bringing forward some options to look at and capturing some revenues as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for bringing that up. It is actually an area that we have been examining possibly a junk food tax, which is the best term that I can come up with at the moment. This area is being studied at the moment. Options will be developed by my officials and at which point we will be making a recommendation to the FMB and to the House if possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. We will now proceed to a page by page review of Bill 28. Bill 28, *Deficit Reduction Act*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to Bill 28 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that Bill 28 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Now we will now deal with Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to Bill 29 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that Bill 29 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Those are all the bills. Thank you, Minister Simailak, Mr. Tumilty and Mr. Ma. Last words, minister?

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, very much to you Mr. Chairman and to the members for dealing with these two items. Thank you, very much.

Chairman: Thank you, Committee. I will now rise to report progress.

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 (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 8, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, and 29 and would like to report that Bills 16, 24, 25, 26, 28, and 29 are immediately ready for third reading, and that Bills 8 and 23 are immediately ready for third reading as amended, and that two Committee Motions were adopted.

And Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get back to Item 10. Petitions. I would like unanimous consent to go back to Item 10. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 10. Petitions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Arvaluk.

Revert to Item 10: Petitions

Petition 006 – 2(3): Dissatisfaction with Gas Tax Rebate Program

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following petition from the community of your riding, Pangnirtung. This petition is to;

1. State the dissatisfaction of the many unilingual traditional harvesters who found the application process for the gas tax rebate program too difficult, too stringent, and which was forwarded to the communities with no resources or personnel to assist them in following the application forms.
2. Where they ask this government to make the necessary changes to open this program for all part time and full time employees and allowing them to get equal consideration.
3. They ask for the breakdown of eligible groups including reasons why southern companies are being made to benefit more than our residents through this program.

There are 63 signatures from the community. Members of Pangnirtung in English and Inuktitut signed petitions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. I apologize, Mr. Arvaluk, thank you. I was just thinking about the Chairman of the Committee. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 16 – Family Abuse Intervention Act – Third Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Natilik, that Bill 16, *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. Question is being called. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask for a recorded vote on this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recorded vote has been requested and all those in favour please stand and then sit down when I have called your name. Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Evyagotailak. Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Akasuk. Ms. Aglukkaq. Mr. Picco. Mr. Simailak. Premier Okalik. Ms. Brown. Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Netser. Mr. Arreak. Mr. Mapsalak. Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Peterson. Mr. Kattuk.

>>Applause

Speaker: I declare the motion is carried unanimously. Thank you.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Bill 08 – Statistics Act – Third Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baker Lake, that Bill 8, *Statistics Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 8 has been read for the third time.

Third Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act – Third Reading

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 27 has been read for the third time.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #4, 2005-06*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 23 has been read for the third time.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik, that Bill 24, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #2, 2006-07*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 24 has been read for the third time.

Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #2, 2006-07*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 25 has had its third reading.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

Bill 26 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2007-08 – Third Reading

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 26, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2007-08*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 26 has been read for the third time.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

Bill 28 – Deficit Reduction Act – Third Reading

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 28, *Deficit Reduction Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 28 has had its third reading.

Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

Bill 29 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Third Reading

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 29 has had its third reading.

Third Reading of Bills.

Thank you. I would like to ask the Clerk to see if the Commissioner is ready to enter the House to assent to bills.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry that I am going to be reading the bills in English but the rest of it I'll speak in Inuktitut.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I hereby assent to the following Bills:

Bill 08 – Statistics Act – Assent

Bill 16 – Family Abuse Intervention Act – Assent

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

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

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

Bill 26 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2007-08 – Assent

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

Bill 28 – Deficit Reduction Act – Assent

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

I am pleased to take this opportunity to extend to all the members my warmest wishes for the holiday season. As you conclude your work here and prepare to return to your families and communities, I wish you all a safe journey. I would like to extend my warmest holiday wishes to your families.

I hereby prorogue the Third Session of the Second Legislative Assembly and advise you that the Fourth Session will convene at 1:30pm on March 6, 2007, here in Iqaluit. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Commissioner, and Members. Item 22. Orders of the Day.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for March 6, 2007:

1. Prayer
2. Opening Address

3. Ministers' Statement
4. Members' Statement
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Petitions
9. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
10. Tabling of Documents
11. Notices of Motions
12. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
13. Motions
14. First Reading of Bills
15. Second Reading of Bills
16. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I would like to, as we prorogue this Assembly, I would like to thank the staff, the members, and the interpreters, and our Pages as well.

I would also like to wish everyone a happy journey. I would like to say to Tagak Curley, and his wife Sally, and their whole family; I wish them well during the Christmas holidays. And, we will see them in the New Year. And I will see the Members of the Legislative Assembly in the New Year. I would like to wish everyone a safe holiday.

During Christmas, we will be with our families, and I wish all the members well, and all the people of Nunavummiut.

>>*Applause*

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 20:25*

