



**Nunavut Canada**

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**Tuesday, March 13, 2007**

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**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable James Arreak, M.L.A.**

**Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**

***Speaker***

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(Pangnirtung)

*Chair, Management and Services Board*

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(Nattilik)

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(South Baffin)

*Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

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(Kugluktuk)

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

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(Hudson Bay)

**Steve Mapsalak**

(Akulliq)

*Co-Chair, Full Caucus*

**Hon. Patterk Netser**

(Nanulik)

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik**

(Iqaluit West)

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

**Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

*Striking Committee*

**Hon. Ed. Picco**

(Iqaluit East)

*Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for Multiculturalism, Homelessness and Immigration*

**Hon. David Simailak**

(Baker Lake)

*Minister of Finance; Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation*

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

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

**Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Tuesday, March 13, 2007**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Joe Allen Evyagotailak, Mr. Peter Kattuk, 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** (Hon. James Arreak)(interpretation): Good afternoon. I would like to ask Mr. Picco to lead us in prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, Members, and guests. (interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 017 – 2(4): Implementation of 10 Year Plan for Expansion of NTEP**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

I am very pleased to inform the House on the progress to date on the implementation of the recommendations concerning the Nunavut Teacher Education Program or NTEP, and the ten year Educator Training Strategy, *Qalattuq*, tabled in the legislature this past November.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Arctic College in cooperation with the Department of Education is preparing a plan for the expansion of NTEP. The plan will include an aggressive marketing strategy to encourage more young Inuit to pursue a career in teaching; strengthening existing partnerships and exploring the possibility of new university partnership arrangements; building consistency in the program between what is being taught in NTEP and the school system; enhancing support programs for teachers that will support NTEP graduates as well as all teachers; identifying resources required to develop the language and culture specialist certificate that will certify language speakers to teach in Inuktitut; seeking funding to provide for expansion of the program to the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot Regions so the program can be offered in those regions on a permanent basis.

Mr. Speaker, the successful implementation of the Bilingual Education Strategy in our school system depends to a large extent on our ability to prepare more bilingual teachers. The objective of this plan is to significantly increase the number of graduates from NTEP

over the next 10 years so that our goal of developing a bilingual education system can and will be achieved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Minister's Statement 018 – 2(3): Travelling Ultrasound Program for Baffin Communities**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Using evidence based decision making, the Department of Health and Social Services is starting a travelling ultrasound program that will not only improve healthcare in our communities, but also result in considerable savings to the government.

The department has just purchased two portable ultrasound machines. One will be based in Pond Inlet, and the other in Iqaluit. A third ultrasound technician has been hired. With these resources, it will be possible to regularly visit Baffin communities throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, right now patients must travel to the Baffin Regional Hospital for an ultrasound. This can be an unwelcome disruption to their lives. Just over 1,000 trips for this purpose are made annually.

Most clients travel to Iqaluit solely for the ultrasound study and return home immediately. More than \$1 million is currently spent on travel for ultrasounds which are an important diagnostic tool, especially for prenatal patients.

This is not the first time Nunavut communities have had a portable ultrasound service. Mr. Speaker, a similar program was offered in the Kivalliq and the Baffin in 2002 and 2003.

During that period, 377 studies were done for an average of five studies per day of travel. Cost savings were estimated to be about \$750,000 plus patients had more timely and convenient service.

In the Kitikmeot a portable ultrasound program is available in all five communities and has been a considerable success. In the Kivalliq ultrasounds are currently available at the regional health centre with plans to offer a portable program within a year.

Mr. Speaker, our focus is on enhancing the quality of our service. We know that the traveling ultrasound program reduces patient travel risks, minimizes disruptions and provides a more timely service. Not only will the program improve the quality of care but it will save money at a time when we are challenged to cope with rapidly escalating medical travel costs.

I am proud of this initiative shown by the department staff to use new technology for the benefit of Nunavummiut and the Government of Nunavut. Timely, clear, closer to home; it's *Pinasuaqtavut*'s commitments that I am pleased we can deliver. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Ms. Brown.

### **Minister's Statement 019 – 2(4): Save 10 Energy Reduction Campaign**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On behalf of Community and Government Services I am pleased to announce that we are continuing our efforts to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions throughout Nunavut. An important part of this initiative is to keep the public informed on what they can do to make a difference.

CGS has launched an energy education and awareness campaign called 'Save Ten.' It is called 'Save Ten' in recognition of the fact that all Nunavummiut can reduce their energy consumption by ten percent with simple changes to daily routines. Reducing energy consumption saves money and reduces our impact on the environment.

This campaign is supported by the new 'Save Ten' website. It contains reference material that can be used by all Nunavummiut at work, at home, and in schools to reduce energy consumption. In addition to energy reduction tips, the website also contains a planning manual for including energy reduction measures. It also contains an energy lesson planner for teachers of schools in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my colleagues to visit the website at <http://www.gov.nu.ca/saveten> and to see firsthand how they can make a difference by implementing the helpful energy tips. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Evyagotailak.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 036 – 2(4): Kugluktuk Arena**

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update the Members of this House on the status of the Kugluktuk arena.



Mr. Speaker, I have heard that the squeaky wheel gets the grease. I have also heard that good things come to those who wait. My constituents in Kugluktuk have been very patient. We cannot wait any longer.

This government has said that the youth are our future. This government has said that our focus should be on health and wellness. We know that youth boredom can lead to many problems. We know that there are many benefits to living an active lifestyle.

The ice is finally in the arena in Kugluktuk. The community is finally able to enjoy skating and hockey. I don't know how long it will stay cold enough for the arena to stay open.

Mr. Speaker, Kugluktuk needs artificial ice in the arena. The current situation is not acceptable. The facility is not used for the majority of the year. The space is wasted. I have asked the minister many questions on this issue in the past. At the appropriate time I will ask again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Member's Statement 037 – 2(3): Importance of Consulting Communities on Wildlife Matters**

**Mr. Mapsalak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to highlight the importance of consulting Nunavut communities on wildlife issues.

As you will recall, I rose in the House last December to raise concerns about the tagging of beluga whales and narwhal near Repulse Bay. In my Member's Statement, I expressed my view that it is important for DFO officials and scientists to meet directly with communities to be accountable and answer questions.

I indicated that greater efforts need to be undertaken to ensure that communities and hunter and trapper organisations are clearly aware of the scientific projects that are being undertaken where we live and hunt.

The issue of adding species to the federal Species at Risk listing also concerns me, as these decisions can impact our harvesting. I have been frustrated for a long time with this issue.

Inuit have always known how to protect their lands, waters and wildlife for the benefit of future generations. We know perfectly well that it is essential to ensure that species are not over-hunted. I sometimes feel the need to remind scientists and bureaucrats that it was the European whalers, not Inuit, who first demonstrated to us the dangers of hunting a species to extinction.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Uqqurmiut rose last week to ask questions about International Polar Year. I note that many of the International Polar Year projects, including a study of beluga tagging in the Arctic waters near Nunavik, are supposed to combine traditional knowledge with western science.

I hope that these promises are sincere. I believe that federal officials and scientists can benefit from the knowledge and experience that our life-long hunters and respected elders can offer. I want to see them consult our communities in a meaningful way, and I hope that International Polar Year will help to improve this situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Mapsalak. I would like to remind the members that you have to be aware of your time. Mr. Kattuk.

### **Member's Statement 038 – 2(3): Polar Bears**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the issue of polar bears. I have been hunting ever since I was a little boy, starting out by going out with my father. At that time there weren't any polar bears around the Sanikiluaq area. There was only one occasion we spotted some polar bear prints.

In the Canadian Arctic we hear that polar bears are being proposed to be put on the endangered list. I don't know who is making that decision but I know that they are somewhere across the ocean. Those individuals should not concern themselves because they don't have any idea how we live and how we harvest our animals up here.

As I was saying earlier there were no polar bears around the Sanikiluaq area. If they are concerned about the species up here, they should come up here and meet with the people and see the environment.

At that time, when we were dealing with the dam site around Northern Quebec, we went down to New York to meet with the individuals. We wanted to see how the dams work, and what kind of impact it would have on the environment.

The individuals who were proposing that dam didn't know what kinds of effects it would have on the species in the Hudson Bay area or on the lands that we harvest from. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If those individuals want to get true facts, they should come up here to Nunavut, talk to the people who live up here, and they should also talk to the hunters.

We are doing very well up here by ourselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 039 – 2(4): Diamonds in the Ruff**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House about a worthy cause that is underway in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, a small group of dedicated volunteers has created an organization called Diamonds in the Ruff that is helping homeless dogs to find homes and access to veterinary care. When the media covers dogs in Nunavut, the stories usually report that they are either rabid, running loose, or causing trouble in packs. There are many reasons why these situations develop, and in most cases, it is not the dog's fault.

Through the efforts of this volunteer organization, they have thus far found adoptive homes for 19 dogs. The dogs are appreciated for their hardiness, loyalty and loving natures.

Mr. Speaker, from June 16 to 28 of this year, veterinarians are coming to Cambridge Bay from the University of Prince Edward Island to provide free vet services to dog owners. Their initiative is called the Chinook Project.

The Chinook Project is in the second year of a two-year initiative funded by a grant from the Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre at the Atlantic Veterinary College.

The Cambridge Bay District Education Authority has given approval for the vets to establish a temporary clinic at the Killinik High School to permit students to be involved. The clinic will likely provide a range of services, including physical examinations, vaccinations, spaying and neutering, and advice to dog owners.

I hope that this important initiative will inspire some students to pursue a veterinary doctor degree after high school.

Mr. Speaker, there is much work to be done in all our Nunavut communities to help our dogs. I first raised this issue in May 2005 and was pleased to hear that the Government of Nunavut is working on a vaccination strategy. This was an issue that my colleague from the High Arctic raised last week, and I fully support action on the part of the government to support people in being responsible dog-owners.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to join me in recognizing the Diamonds in the Ruff organization for their volunteer work to help dogs in Cambridge Bay. I would also like to thank the Chinook Project for bringing their clinic to Cambridge Bay this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members' Statements. Mr. Alagalak.

**Member's Statement 040 – 2(4): Elders' Traditional Knowledge**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to voice my concern about the elders.

We have been requesting elders to assist us and usually we don't pay them. They don't get paid for the services that they provide. Sometimes they are sent to another community by the government so that they can tell us about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, about traditional midwifery, and so on, because they are the only ones who know about traditional midwifery.

This happened this year. The elders were invited to a community by the government and were there for over a week without receiving any per diem or getting paid for any of the services they provided. Just last week, they were invited again and were told that they were going to be paid this time around.

They were invited to a community to teach about traditional midwifery. When they went to that meeting and started working, they were told there was no money to pay them. This is elder abuse in Nunavut. We have to rectify this problem.

They are now here in Iqaluit the second time around. This is the second time they have been invited to a community. Maybe our minister doesn't know what's happening with these elders. That's the reason why I am bringing it up in the House. It's elder abuse.

If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be teaching traditional midwifery. They hold a lot of knowledge that the younger generation doesn't know anymore. They were there as the doctors a long time ago.

To me this is very important. When we go to Oral Questions, I will be directing some questions to the minister responsible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. Curley.

**Member's Statement 041 – 2(3): Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal**

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express concerns about Nunavut's new Human Rights Tribunal. A young constituent of mine recently approached me for assistance in resolving a situation. The constituent indicated to me that she had been fired from their job with a private company. According to my constituent, this was not a result of their job performance, but because of her living arrangements in the staff housing that the company provided.

In reviewing the public information materials that the Human Rights Tribunal has published, one of the prohibited grounds of discrimination includes marital status.

In my view, this constituent had a clear case for proceeding with a complaint to the Human Rights Tribunal. I was disappointed to be told by my constituent that the only and final advice the Human Rights Tribunal office provided was over the telephone. My constituent was simply advised to hire a lawyer.

I am aware that the Tribunal has very detailed forms for people to fill out when they want to make a formal complaint.

However, there are many Nunavummiut who simply are not comfortable in dealing with complex paperwork. I believe that such bodies as the Human Rights Tribunal must do a better job in assisting people who come forward with concerns. If need be, they should sit down and help people complete the proper paperwork. Their concerns should not simply be dismissed over the telephone.

I recognize that every case is unique, and that not all situations are actually cases of discrimination. However, when someone has the courage to come forward, they are entitled to receive a full, frank and formal explanation concerning their options.

I intend to encourage my constituent to approach the Tribunal again. This time, I expect them to receive the assistance that they need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Members' Statements, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Member's Statement 042 – 2(4): Recognition of Recipients of Long-Term Service Awards**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate a number of my constituents in Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak who recently received long-term service awards in recognition of their years of dedicated service to the public.

Mr. Speaker, over two dozen hard-working Government of Nunavut employees received their awards at ceremonies held in the two communities. Employees were present from the departments of Health and Social Services, Education, Justice, and Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, although time does not permit me to acknowledge each and every employee by name, I would like to pay a special tribute to Selena Tucktoo and Sarah Takolik of Taloyoak, and Rachel Hiqiniq of Gjoa Haven.

Selena received a 30-year award, and both Sarah and Rachel received 25-year awards. All three of these women work for the Department of Education. Their many years of dedication to building a positive future for our youth deserve a special acknowledgement.

Mr. Speaker, as MLAs, we often get caught up in the heat of debate and the crisis of the day. It is important that we remember that the essential services which are delivered to our communities and constituents would not be possible if it were not for the hard work that people like Sarah, Selena and Rachel put in on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the many committed public servants in Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak who make Nunavut a better place for all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

#### **Member's Statement 043 – 2(4): Remembrance of Vince Steen**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, the north lost one of its great advocates and leaders. Mr. Vince Steen was a no-nonsense politician and leader. He served as a Justice of the Peace and coroner. He was a founding member and served as Vice President of the ITC. He served as mayor of his hometown of Tuktoyaktuk and he was an MLA and a minister in the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, Vince was also a friend and a colleague during the 13th Assembly of the Government of the Northwest Territories in Yellowknife of myself and Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Steen always said what was on his mind. When he ran for a minister position in 1995, he had one of the best speeches that I've ever heard. Mr. Steen wasn't successful at that time to become a minister and ended up on a committee which myself and Mr. Barnabas was on and I was the chair of.

Mr. Barnabas and I used to get Vince to tell us about whale hunting and his life as a trapper. He was a very special person.

Mr. Speaker, when our committee held hearings in Tuktoyaktuk, it was very easy to see how well-liked Mr. Steen was in his home community.

On behalf of our Assembly and the people of Nunavut, we express our deep condolences to his wife Betty and his children, and we remember the important role that Mr. Vince Steen played in the formation of our Nunavut. May he rest in peace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a constituent of mine from Kugluktuk who is originally from Taloyoak, and who is living in Kugluktuk now, Alex Buchan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my constituents from Cape Dorset who are working at Nunavut Business Credit Corporation: Lucy Adla, Steve Hanna, and Allen McDowell. I would like to welcome them to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize a constituent of mine from Cambridge Bay, she's no stranger to the House, and I think she's as popular across Nunavut as I am. Her name is Ruth Wilcox, sitting over here.

Over the years, Ruth has served our community in many capacities: as hamlet councillor for a few years, she's been an active volunteer in Cambridge Bay, she's been actively involved with the Arctic Winter Games representing Nunavut over the years.

I welcome Ruth to the House. Welcome.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is always very good to recognize individuals in the House. I would like to recognize our Mayor from Rankin Inlet. Myself and Tagak Curley, Mayor Lorne Kusugak.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize these pages, on behalf of me and Tagak Curley, from Rankin Inlet. There is a boy, Joe Kayakjuaq-Curley. He is Tagak and Sally's son and he is named after Mr. Curley's father. When I was very small, my father used to be really good friends with Tagak's father. He had a lot of daughters as well as sons.

Another page for this week today is Candace Agiaq-Kusugak. That is the mayor's eldest daughter. I would like everybody to welcome them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All of these people have already been recognized in the Assembly, but I would like to formally recognize them as the Board of Directors of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation: Bob Hanson is the Chair, and Directors Ruth Wilcox, Ike Haulli, and Lorne Kusugak. Also staff members are Steve Hannah, Allen McDowel, and Lucy Adla. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual from Igloolik whose name was called already, my *Qallunaaq*, Ike Haulli. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I first shook Ike Haulli's hand I asked him if he was a qallunaaq. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome two of my constituents who will be pages throughout the week. Her name is Dianna Ell, (interpretation) and Raymond Ningeocheak's son who is over there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On this special day today I would like to take this opportunity to rise and acknowledge and recognize someone that is almost in the Gallery. She is sitting just behind the glass over there, and that is Mikle Langenhan. I just wanted to recognize her, and ask all members to join me in wishing her a very happy birthday today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Picco.



**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure introduce to the Gallery a very intrepid person from the fifth estate, that being Nunatsiaq News ... it may be the fourth estate ...Ms. Jane George.

Our House rules don't allow us to welcome people who have been here more than once, so I don't want to welcome people twice, but I would say a special hello to Mr. Haulli, and Mr. Bob Hanson.

I thank Bob for visiting me in the hospital when I was in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I would like to welcome the visitors in the Gallery. Oral Questions.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 039 – 2(4): Enforcement of the Wildlife Act and Regulations

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are in regard to my Members' Statement I made earlier on about the grizzly bear that was tired out and was kept in a mining camp. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Environment and again it concerns the enforcement of the *Wildlife Act* and its regulations.

Respect for our wildlife is a core value of our culture. That is why it is illegal for everyone to deliberately harass wildlife for their own amusement.

Can the minister advise the House what action he is taking with respect to an alleged incident that recently took place in the Kivalliq where a grizzly bear was deliberately chased and harassed by mining camp workers using a helicopter.

Does the minister know about this incident and what is the minister going to do about that?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister for Nanulik, Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first time I have heard about the harassment of the grizzly bear in a mining camp. We would like to get as much information as possible. My staff will deal with that and respond to the member.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was an incident that happened by the mining company and I am sure this was discussed by the Inuit organizations. There was a young person that was working at the mining camp. They did not want him to work there any more because he told about the incident.

I know that the mining company broke the law, the *Wildlife Act*. Just recently in Rankin Inlet, there was a bear killed that had cubs. He was charged right away. How come they charged the guy that shot a bear that was harassing people, and not the mining company? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): That is the first time we have heard about the harassment of the grizzly bear by the mining company. Whoever sees or hears about an incident of that sort should report it. The individual that shot a bear without knowing they had a cub, I have no knowledge of that at this time. I will get my staff to look into this and report back to the House. I know that we talked about the *Wildlife Act* in regard to polar bear harassment as well.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the wildlife officers are supposed to go and look or review the incident right away as soon as they hear about people breaking the *Wildlife Act*.

I know that this individual that shot a polar bear with cubs did not know that it had cubs. Why did they charge him right away?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't respond to that at this time. We all know that we are not to kill polar bears with cubs. If they do, they are charged. This is dealt with by the wildlife officers in the communities because it's in the Act that they're not supposed to kill polar bears with cubs.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. That person was a young man but knew how to hunt. In the *Wildlife Act*, Section 160 of the Act requires the minister to appoint an Advisory Committee of elders to review methods and technologies of harvesting wildlife because they couldn't see the cubs. Can the minister tell the House who has been appointed to the committee? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): I can't respond to his question at this time because every hunter tells different stories and telling them that they didn't know the polar bear

had cubs. Those incidences are usually investigated and after the investigation they are charged. That's the only response I can give. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Mr. Alagalak.

**Question 040 – 2(4): Traditional Knowledge Workshop – Elders Honoraria**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

First of all, during my Member's Statement I said that I was going to pose questions. The elders that were here from February 15 to 28, they were here to teach without getting paid.

I wonder if the minister is aware that they were here and today as we speak, they are presently teaching. They were just told today that they weren't going to make any money and just before they left their community they were told they would be making some money. Is the minister aware of that? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the member to clarify which conference he's referring to. There have been a number of conferences with the Midwifery Association, which is outside the department. I also know this week Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is also hosting a conference on the subject.

I can speak to the workshops that we've held in Rankin Inlet in developing the Midwifery Training Program in partnership with the University of Winnipeg. Those individuals and elders that participated in the development of that curriculum were compensated according to the policy that we have in place to compensate elders that we use for consultations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Can you tell us which workshop you are talking about? I don't think you even know. I thought you would know more about this.

I'm just told that it was sponsored by the Department of Health. I don't know any other Department of Health, so that's why I'm referring to the Department of Health. I'm pretty sure you might know more about the people that were here from February 18 and they went back home on February 25. It's between that time that they were here in Iqaluit and they're the ones that I'm talking about.

Currently, the group that is here, I believe they came on the 13th and will be returning this coming Friday. Just hearing those dates, you might have an idea, but if you are not aware of those, I wanted to pose questions because they are very important. Personally, I don't know exactly who they are, or which workshop they are attending. I feel very strongly that they should be compensated fairly. Until we get more information, maybe we can have further discussion on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Like he said, he will pose more questions later, after he gets more information. Oral Questions. Mr. Mapsalak.

#### **Question 041 – 2(4): Income Support Eligibility**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister for Income Support.

I have raised these questions before and I've also told him that I would bring it up again in the House. People who are on income support, there are criteria that they have to follow in order to qualify. I want to ask this question because I was approached by a person who was on income support and his or her airfare was paid for by one of their siblings to visit another relative.

This person was penalized for being out of town and because their airfare was paid for he didn't qualify for income support. Is this part of the criteria? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister responsible for Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On income support there are two major criteria. If a person is eligible for income support, it is a program of the government of last resort meaning that person has no other income, they are not working, and they are not eligible for pensions, and so on.

It brings forward a different type of program, or a number of programs to be filled out, and the person could be eligible for. The issue that the member is raising is about unearned income. When you're on income support there is an allowable amount of money that you may be eligible to earn while you are on income support, or social assistance.

Unearned income is money that you may have received while you are on income support. As an example, Mr. Speaker, if you won \$5,000 on bingo, that is unearned income. You didn't work for it, but you won it, and it would be subtracted off your income support.

If you receive a ticket, for example, airfare; if I give a person two free tickets and they're on income support then that is considered unearned income and would be deducted off of their amount of eligible money that they would receive because you would want to place the cash balance.

However, there are exceptions. If a person, for example, is attending a funeral and receives a ticket free of charge, then that would not be subtracted from their income support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not very clear. His ticket was bought by one of his siblings; it was not his own money.

The way I understand his response is how can he look at it as cash when it's already used? I wonder if the minister can answer how this can be deducted from the income support that he applies for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've been involved with the Income Support Program for many years in Nunavut. We've also had an opportunity to review the amounts that have been paid and we've increased the amount under the Income Support Program. However, there have to be rules and regulations under that program.

Income support is meant for people who are not able to receive employment, there are no jobs available. It's a program of last resort. If you're on income support and you win, for example, unearned money like bingo, that's taken off. If you get a gift of a ticket, if I give someone a couple of tickets and have them go somewhere, then that is also under the program criteria subtracted off. If it's for a specific cause for example, then it isn't.

As I said earlier, on a case-by-case basis, if you received a ticket to go to a funeral, then that probably wouldn't be considered earned or unearned income and that's why. However, a gift, for example, to go visit someone, then that would be considered unearned income.

The member has raised this before and I've had discussions with the member on it, and through the department right now, we are reviewing this because I believe, as the member has stated, that there are instances where unearned income, for example, in a ticket may, at some point, be permissible but we're not at that point yet.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, very quickly, any person who is on income support also has an opportunity to appeal a decision. We do have a Nunavut Appeals Board for Income Support, and that would be the proper mechanism to take if the person is not pleased with the decision made by the income support worker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This definitely would have to be changed because it's not cash. Because we have relatives in different communities it's because they're compassionate that they pay for their tickets. I wonder if this section can be looked at. Yes, I'm in full agreement if they win bingo, then I agree, I have no problem with that.

Once they do the review, I wonder if this can be looked at very closely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Education, Mr. Ed. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, under Income Support, income support is delivered throughout Canada in our ten provinces and our three territories. The majority of those rules are similar across the board. However, as the member has said there may be some areas where it gets a bit grey under compassion or what have you, there may be a need to exclude those monies as unearned income.

I am prepared as I said to the House, to have the department review it and then see where we can make some adjustments. However, if you open up the program and say that any type of gift, then the program will open itself up to a lot of different logistic as well as financial and administrative issues with the program.

I understand what the member is saying if it's just a gift from him or me to some family member but where do you decide what a gift is? Is it just an airline ticket, is it a car, is it gas, it could be anything. So that's the reason, although the member brings up one area of it and a narrow focus, it's actually broader than that.

So I commit to the House that we will continue to review it and hopefully get back to the member on where we are with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I still don't understand. We all know that the income support they get is not adequate and there needs to be changes made to it because it applies to the relatives.

I wonder if the minister can commit to looking into this as soon as possible, even if it has to be slightly different from the provinces.

Can the minister check into this in the very near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, I appreciate the member's question.

He has raised it not only in the committee, but also to me one on one personally. I have asked our people within the department, our Income Support specialists to review this issue. Again, it's not singularly on just the airline or a free ticket; it impacts the whole program when you look at the abilities of a program to exclude unearned income as part of income support.

So that's where it is. I will make that commitment to the member, and I would hope to be in a position in our spring session, probably in May, to be able to look at bringing forward a concrete answer to the House and to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time, before I allow anyone to ask oral questions I would like to acknowledge and welcome the First Air officials. I'm sure we'll see each other tonight.

I wanted to welcome the officials from First Air because we could hear their phones ringing. Oral Questions. Mr. Peterson.

#### **Question 042 – 2(4): Developments Concerning the Workers' Compensation Board**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Workers' Compensation Board.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the Auditor General's report on the Workers' Compensation Board was tabled in this House and the Legislative Assembly of the NWT last year. During our last Session, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability reported to the House. Last week, the NWT Minister tabled in his Legislative Assembly a number of important items, including a draft communications protocol involving MLAs in both legislatures.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell us today when he plans to table these items in this House, so that Nunavut's MLAs can be aware of these recent developments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for Workers' Compensation Board, Hon. Patterk Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To answer the member's question, we will table the recommendations in the House during the next sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that. I hope he commits to tabling it very soon and not in the last week so that we have time to look at them while we're here.

I understand that the minister recently hosted his NWT counterpart in Iqaluit to discuss issues of common concern. Can the minister tell us today what issues they discussed and what decisions they made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Amidst all the polar bear activities, I haven't really been briefed. I'm going over my briefing notes on the Workers' Compensation Board file, but, yes, he was here. If my memory serves me correctly, we were discussing the... oh my God, I'm going to have to take this question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The minister has taken the member's question as notice. Oh, says he can respond to that. Minister Nester.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were discussing the YMIR for this year, and it's been raised, with Cabinet approval, from \$67,500 to \$69,200, effective January 1, 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for not taking that question as notice. I appreciate the answer.

We are expecting a new *Workers' Compensation Act* to be introduced here and in the Northwest Territories very shortly. Can the minister tell us today what input he's had in development of the new legislation and indicate what his specific priorities have been in developing the new Act? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be bringing that up tomorrow in a motion to the House and I believe the consultation with the new Act has been going on for two years now. We expect to see some final changes in the Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Yes, the consultations and reviews have been around for a couple of years now and we've been



involved quite a bit on our side. We extended an invitation to our Northwest Territories colleagues to come here this year to meet with us and talk about some of the changes.

The current legislation establishes a position of a Workers' Advisor. The Deputy Workers' Advisor is based in Cambridge Bay. Mr. Atima Hadlari is our Deputy Workers' Advisor.

Can the minister tell me; in his view is our Deputy Workers' Advisor receiving adequate support and resources in fulfilling his important responsibilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to talk with the Deputy Workers' Advisor to see if he's getting adequate support, and if he's not then we would ask the fiscal workers to make accommodations for him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Question 043 – 2(4): Audit of NBCC Offices**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation. First, I would just like to say that it is very nice to hear the eloquent sounds of Mr. Picco here in question period. I think if the members and the public were listening to those half-wit comments that he has mentioned that he heard yesterday, he doesn't have to worry about it. Welcome back, Mr. Picco. I think he's all here.

My question for the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, first a reminder that I haven't forgotten that all the questions that I had asked the previous minister on November 27, 28, 29, 30 and December 4; there were a lot of commitments made for information to get back to me. I am still patiently awaiting that information.

That line of questioning had to deal with concerns that I had with the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Board of Directors that was just here earlier, and KDBC in Rankin Inlet.

Unbeknownst to me, at the time, and I heard after that, that there was a rather large contingent of auditors from the Auditor General's office at the NBCC office in Cape Dorset.

I am just wondering if the minister can confirm whether or not there was an audit going on there and give us an update on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, the Honourable Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there were people from the office of the Auditor General, and also people from our Department of Finance's internal audit services in Cape Dorset performing an audit on the NBCC. That audit is ongoing. It should be completed in the next few weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has been going on for a few months now. Can the minister provide any information as to any concerns that the auditors uncovered or have raised with him in the process of the audit they have been doing so far? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That audit is still ongoing. It is not complete yet and I am not in any position to comment on it at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your second Supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also understand that the gentleman, I'm not sure if his title was CEO or whatever the position for NBCC was, is no longer there. I am just wondering if the minister would be in a position to indicate if there had been any staffing changes as a result of the audit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, that audit is still ongoing and I am in no position to comment at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess this must be a serious audit if it has been going on for so long with the minister not willing to make a comment on it until the final report. There are issues we need to touch on.

What are some of the issues that have been identified by the Auditor General? He indicated it should be done in the next couple of weeks. As soon as you get that report from the Auditor General, will he provide it to the Members of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as I mentioned earlier, the audit should be completed within the next few weeks. I will treat it the same as any other audit report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Question 044 – 2(4): Kugluktuk Arena**

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services. In my Members' Statement earlier, I updated this house on the current status of the Kugluktuk arena.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister tell me why the project to complete the installation of artificial ice in the Kugluktuk Arena was not included for funding under either federal infrastructure funding program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, member. Minister of Community and Government Services, Honourable Levinia Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to thank the member for asking the question. We set priorities for health and safety issues and this funding we received was mainly for water and sewage issues.

Half of the funding came from the Government of Nunavut. It was used for buildings. In Kugluktuk, the Department of Community and Government Services had to consider very carefully how this would be set. We just followed the priorities that were set. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 045 – 2(4): Training for Local Community Librarians**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, he's not here?

Mr. Speaker, there have been some concerns with training and staff turnover at the Rebecca P. Idlout Library in Pond Inlet. I know that as Minister of CLEY, one of the objectives of his department is to enhance library services through patron-oriented access and through professional development and training of staff. These measures support our goals of improving literacy in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister update us today on the status of hiring the community services librarian in Baker Lake and the training of a local librarian for the Rebecca P. Idlout Library in Pond Inlet? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the first question concerning libraries, they work them out of Baker Lake. If the member would like to send a written letter, I would be able to look into it.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): I didn't hear anything about the Baker Lake librarian, but in any case, could the minister tell me what training his department currently provides to local librarians in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, in regard to the question and what training is available, I can't respond to that question at this time. I will be able to respond once I know what training is provided. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think we'll be able to finish this subject for today.

Mr. Speaker, the department's budget for community library support has not increased by a penny since 2006-07. What kinds of operational support are provided to community libraries in Nunavut and how will the department try to enhance its services? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, there are two types of libraries; there are ones that are available in the schools and the ones that our department deals with are operated differently. Some of them are contracted out to the hamlets and some of them are under Education. The library services are done through Baker Lake and we have to follow our rules and regulations in regard to the services and libraries.

The public libraries are a little different and they go through our department. We look at how we can enhance their services, especially the books that are written in Inuktitut, we are trying to increase the numbers that are available in our libraries.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think he'll be able to answer any of my questions but maybe he can respond to this one. Can the minister

commit to working with the Rebecca P. Idlout Library Board to address its concerns so that they can start working out of there as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can commit but I would like to get everything in writing so that we can look into the issue to start the process. That's not only with the libraries but for any of the services that are provided through my department. We can deal with it once we get something in writing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

#### **Question 046 – 2(4): Polar Bears Listed as Endangered Species**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under Ministers' Statements, the minister made a statement in regard to polar bears. We were told that the polar bears were going to be listed under endangered species. Are we talking about the American Government, or are we talking about the scientists who are proposing to do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): In regard to the question by the member, it's the American Government who would like to list polar bears under endangered species. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've been hearing on the news that this minister is opposed to this proposal. What is the minister's department going to do on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I went to Washington on March 5 to state our opposition. We will be writing a letter to the American Government before April 9 and make a statement saying that the polar bear population is not depleting. That's what we're doing at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it possible for the American Government to come up to Nunavut, or can the minister extend an invitation to the

American Government so that they can see our environment here in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had already told their government that they were more than welcome to come up to Nunavut and I also told them that they should be trying to do that since they live way down there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the minister in making this statement and extending an invitation to the American Government. They should come up here and see the different species that we have. The Inuit have known the polar bear for a very, very long time. The American Government should come up here and listen to our elders and get informed about traditional knowledge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

#### **Question 047 – 2(4): Docking Facilities and Community Freezers**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

When we were talking about the docking facilities, they were going to build some in the Nunavut communities following the economic opportunities. They wanted to build those docking facilities in order to enhance fishing of turbot and shrimp.

At this time, some of the smaller communities have food processing units and they have aging freezers, which would be adequate for fishing possibilities. The smaller communities will not be getting anything at all through this venture. Is it possible for you to work with CGS and the other departments to make sure that the freezers and the meat processing plants are updated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Member. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Honourable David Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can work with those departments that the member mentioned in his question.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are many communities without docking facilities in Nunavut. The federal government stated at the time that the

Canadian provinces had to get highways. I asked this same question before with the minister at that time to see whether the federal government can be requested to make sure those smaller communities in Nunavut can get those docking facilities because they have to have those facilities in order for the ships to offload in the communities. Will the minister to look into my request? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will look into it to see whether the communities will be expecting those facilities in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was a study done in the communities to see which communities would be given those docking facilities. When will the next review be done by the federal and Nunavut Government on those facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fisheries and Oceans are looking for \$40 million for seven communities that should be receiving those docking facilities. As well, the Nunavut government has been looking into funding those facilities in the communities. We are working with Fisheries and Oceans and we will be working with them again to make sure those facilities are done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure there is money left over from the Department of Transportation. If there is any money left over, I would like the minister to consider Grise Fiord and the other smaller communities to make sure they have those docking facilities as soon as possible.

If there is any money left over in his department, see if they can perhaps start giving them docking facilities.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, we don't have any money to upgrade those facilities or for any emergency facilities for the communities. We are working with the federal government. The federal government is looking at the \$40 million in order to upgrade those facilities.

I would like to assure the member we are doing our best to make sure that there is some funding available for that.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Curley.

**Question 048 – 2(4): Cost of Energy for the Consumers**

**Mr. Curley:** My question today is to the Minister of Energy. Welcome back. The minister provided the consumers of Nunavut last summer, I believe, called *Energy Facts and Figures*. The first paragraph actually stated that the oil prices are going up with no end in sight.

I believe the minister was wrong. That statement was misleading to the consumers of Nunavut. The prices of oil went sharply down within a month or so. Could the minister tell the public when will the consumer expect to enjoy the lesser cost of energy compared to the world prices today? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Energy, Honourable Ed. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your welcome back from the member.

The issue around the pricing of oil, gas, and energy is very complex. There is a lot of volatility in the marketplace when it comes to the price of gas, at the pump for example. So we've seen in the last week, as the member has and the members in the House, on TV where the prices have gone up from \$0.97 in some jurisdictions to \$1.13 in the last 72 hours.

In the last few weeks, we have actually seen where there is a gas shortage and gas stations had to close in Ontario because of problems with supplies that directly resulted from a fire at one of the major refineries. While I can say to Nunavummiut is that the price right now is again increasing per barrel.

As the member knows, we buy our oil based on the rack price, usually on the world market; sweet crude, usually from New York. That is the pricing of a barrel of gas or oil at U.S. prices. That price is continuing to go up again. Right now it is about 20 percent less than what it was at this time last year.

However, when we get into later on in May and other months when we start buying the fuel, it may be higher. It is difficult for me to forecast what those prices may be and what the impact to Nunavut consumers eventually will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavummiut are paying for one of the highest worldwide prices that occurred last summer, around \$74 per barrel.



That is a price that they charge to the consumer. Since then, the oil prices have gone down, as the minister has indicated. The prices fluctuate obviously throughout Canada, but we pay one time, a world price in Nunavut. Even if the world price drops within a month, there is no mechanism within the pricing arrangement that we have to lower the cost of fuel.

But, the minister has, at his discretion, the ability to review the power subsidies that are available, and the minister has not reviewed that policy. In view of the prices that went up, could the minister commit to the consumers that he will in fact be reviewing the electricity subsidy in hopes of helping the consumers? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for Energy, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut has been very proactive when we look at the actual costing of fuel and the impact to consumers in Nunavut.

For example, last year, the full brunt of the amount of the purchases for fuel, as the member has indicated, was not applied to the consumers in Nunavut. Indeed there was a heavy subsidy put in place.

At the same time, on the energy costs, the Government of Nunavut moved very quickly last year. We actually increased the amount of the subsidy per kilowatt-hour from 700, to 1000-kilowatt hours for the six-month period in the winter months when most people would have higher energy consumption.

At the same time, the Government of Nunavut is looking at opportunities to hedge the cost of fuel purchases. What that means is: when the Hedging Policy would be in place, is that the Government of Nunavut purchase the oil on the world market at a lower price, or at the world market price, which would be lower at that period in time, meaning if the price per barrel would be \$57 or \$60, then we would purchase it at that price under a Hedge Fund, and when the fuel is delivered, that cost savings would be passed onto the consumer.

So hopefully that helped answer the member's question when we're looking at possible help to Nunavut consumers with the fuel purchasing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's... I hope sincerely he's trying to satisfy the consumer that they are getting a fair share of subsidies from this government.

The part I can tell; the latest subsidy increases that were applied to Nunavummiut were based on about two year's fuel increased rate, not this latest fuel world market problems that we have today.

So I believe the minister must correct himself that the power increase and subsidy that were adopted by the government were based on two years ago, a year and a half ago, not recently as last summer.

So I would like the minister to clarify that because I believe the minister is now faced with the fact that the world prices are normally applied when the fuel has been bought. It's not fair, in my view, to try and recover that within one year from consumers in Nunavut.

Having said that, will the minister commit to having a better system of applying fuel rates and the matter in which it is recovered should perhaps be delayed up to two or three years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for a point of clarification, since April 1, 2005, instead of charging the full rate for power and the amount of the subsidy, we charge what is called a half, the Iqaluit rate, which would be 19.49 cents per kilowatt-hour. That is a tremendous subsidy to the consumer.

However, again, the member is correct when he says that the impact last year of those increases were almost 30 percent of the price that we pay for fuel, opposed to the last two years before that.

That's why we're trying to look at other energy opportunities; look at ways of purchasing fuel for example on the hedge funds.

The member specifically is speaking about the fuel rider, the FSR that is put in place by the Power Corporation to recoup their extra cost for power. If I extended that as the member mentioned, over say 18 months, we purchase fuel every 12 months. So when I purchase fuel in June and that costs us \$70 a barrel, and then I apply the fuel rider and so that in October when I figure out what the total cost is, if I only leave it on for one year and I don't recoup those monies, the following June, in less than nine months, I'm purchasing fuel again.

So then, the consumers, instead of having that taken care of in the first 12 months, might have to have it extended for 18 or 24 months on top of any extra increases. That's why under legislation we have the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund and the FSR, and that's why we try to do it within the 12-month period instead of extending it over a longer period of time.

The good news, Mr. Speaker, is that we're actually lowering the FSR by almost a cent, 7.98 cents down to 6 point-something cents in the coming weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) If you recognize the clock, the Question Period is now over.

Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

#### **Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

##### **Tabled Document 027 – 2(4): Government of Nunavut’s Response to the 2005-06 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the following document: Government of Nunavut’s Response to the 2005-2006 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Can we have those at the officer’s table? (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Mr. Arvaluk.

##### **Tabled Document 028 – 2(4): Letter to CLEY from Rebecca P. Idlout Library Board Regarding Initial Training and Ongoing Support for Local Community Librarians**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of CLEY said that if he receives a letter about libraries that he would be able to respond. I wish to table today a letter from Rebecca P. Idlout Library Board dated February 12 to Mr. Stenton. That was last month.

I do believe the minister has not looked at this letter yet. The letter talks about the people of Pond Inlet wanting some assistance from his department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Could you bring the documents to the officers’ table? (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Ms. Aglukkaq.

##### **Tabled Document 029 – 2(4): FASD Calendar 2007**

##### **Tabled Document 030 – 2(4): Patient Charters for Sanikiluaarmiut – Letters to Ministers of Health and Social Services and Economic Development and Transportation from Kivalliq Air**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have two items I would like to table today. First I would like to table the FASD Calendar for 2007 that was designed using the posters from the FASD Poster Contest. These were the posters that hung in the Legislative Assembly through November 2006.

The second item I would like to table today, as I committed yesterday, is the correspondence exchanged between the community of Sanikiluaq, Kivalliq Air, myself, and the previous Minister of ED&T in reference to the medevac services provided to the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Please bring the documents to the officer's table. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Brown.

### **Item 16: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 05 – An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act – Notice**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Thursday, March 15, 2007, that Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

#### **Bill 08 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Notice**

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Thursday, March 15, 2007, that Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 1, Bill 2, and Bill 3 with Mr. Barnabas in the Chair. Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:12 and Committee resumed at 15:37*

### **Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

**Chairman** (Mr. Barnabas)(interpretation): Welcome. We'll go back to our meeting. During Committee of the Whole, we were dealing with Bill 1, Bill 2, and Bill 3. What is the wish of the committee, Mr. Evyagotailak?

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with Bill 1 and the review of the main estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Is the committee agreed that we will continue with the main estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2007-08 – Consideration in Committee – Community & Government Services**

**Chairman** (interpretation): I would like to ask Minister Brown if she wishes to bring her officials to the witness table.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Yes.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Does the committee agree to bring the minister and her official go to the witness table? Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials to the witness table. Thank you. Welcome Minister Brown and your officials. Please introduce your officials for the record, Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is the Deputy Minister Pam Hine, and I also have with me Mike Rafter. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Brown. Yesterday we were on page J-5. We'll go back to J-5. I would like to recognize Mr. Arvaluk who was posing questions.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question I was asking before in the main estimates 2006-07, revised estimates, \$5,000 is in there now. The way I think I understood it is that because it is too...given to the hamlet council for the fuel price costs. Why is it under the directorate?

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): I think it is \$5 million, not \$5,000.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The \$5 million was to assist the supplementary for Petroleum Products Division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): So, do I understand that when the fuel prices went up, I believe it was close to \$20 million. How come it is only \$5 million to assist the Petroleum Products Division?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk. Madame Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Under 2006-07, the fuel costs cost more so we had to ask for another \$5 million for Petroleum Products Division and the stabilization fund was going to be a one-time thing to be applied to 2006-07. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. We are still on Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. J-6. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$7,647,000. Are you agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): We'll go to J-7. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Community Support. J-8, J-9, J-10. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In her opening remarks, she stated that prices went up 30 percent for the transportation, beginning 2002 to today. There has been an increase of 30 percent. Due to the rising costs, and looking at the communities, there is no consideration given to the rising costs.

Where would they show that increase for the operation of the hamlets? There's even an increase under sewage services. Can the minister explain to us why there doesn't seem to be too much change from the previous years and why is the amount increased in the budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it was starting from 2002, in the communities; there was an increase of 30 percent because of rising costs.

To what he's saying, the funding that is given to the communities, the funding that was used and starting from 2006-07, there is a slight increase in 2007-08. Maybe there is an increase of \$2.5 million to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. If that is the case, there should be an increase, especially with the fuel and electricity costs. The prices keep going up. The grants that are given to the hamlets for operations and maintenance remain the same. At this time, the hamlets in the communities must be going through very difficult times, especially when their funding is not increased. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member. The communities are visited in the regions and they review the funding that they get. In fact, just recently in February, we received funding from the federal government and that was divided amongst the communities.

Because of the rising cost of fuel and transportation, there was an increase of \$2.5 million to each community, which will be used for fuel, electricity, and utilities. I personally signed the funding that was given to those communities but they were different amounts depending on the size of the communities. The bigger communities with bigger responsibilities received more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. That being the case, when the costs are going up, especially the private businesses that are serviced by the hamlets, does the minister know if the costs affect the private businesses and owners? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand your concern and question. We only deal with the hamlets and we make sure that they don't go into deficit. In some cases, a lot of communities their funding is in the black and we're proud of that.

So in order to avoid them going into a deficit, Community and Government Services and the hamlet administration staff review their funding regularly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Madame Minister. We're on J-9. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): I just want clarification on page J-7. Main estimates, 2006-07, \$4,839,000, and the revised, \$2,934,000.

If they were making \$100,000, that is 30 PYs. Did you have to lay off some employees and then put them back in 2006-07? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are three vacant positions, and they were not laid off. There were no layoffs. At this time there are still three vacant positions. So, that's why the funding varies from year to year, to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): If the three positions were filled, without using the \$2,934,000, once these three positions are filled it would be \$4,579,000.

How much money are they earning? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. Rafter to respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Rafter.

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To clarify, there were approximately 18 positions that were vacant during the course of the year. And, the funding was reinstated during the course of the year to several under funded initiatives, from salaries, from vacant positions to several areas within the departmental budget that were short of funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rafter. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** This is my last question, Mr. Chairman. Then you are expecting to have these 18 PYs reinstated, or at least filled to spend \$4,579,000. Is that correct? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's what we want to do and we expect to see it occur that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. We are on page J-7, J-8, J-9, and J-10. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On J-8 there is an item there called; Grants in Lieu of Taxes. It says to provide grants in the amount equivalent to property taxes for property owned by the Government of Nunavut, to municipal taxing authorities. As far as I'm aware, Iqaluit is the only municipal taxing authority in the territory.

My question is, you look at the revised main estimates for the 2006-07 year it was \$1,890,000 up from the original main estimate, which is exactly the same as what's been proposed for the 2007-08 year. So I was just wondering what happened there; it was higher. Maybe did we lose some property that that amount is going to go down pretty seriously? Why isn't it the same as the \$1,890,000 that was revised, too, last year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have been trying to address this but the GN is in the process of reviewing forced growth. We hope to address the need very soon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe a question for the 2006-07 year, the 1.890, is that more like the actual amount that was paid out for a grant in lieu of taxes for the 2006-07 year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we did forecast the need in the order of \$2,100,000 for 2007-08. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that's the case, I'm just wondering how come it doesn't show it in here with the amount that you're forecasting that that's what you're going to need; it's just under \$1 million short of what you're forecasting. I'm just wondering if I could get an explanation to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the one on my right, Mr. Rafter, to respond to the question.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Rafter.

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the minister is correct. In 2006-07 we paid about \$1,890,000 to the City of Iqaluit for grants in lieu of taxes. The numbers aren't finalized for the 2007-08 year yet. They're going to be somewhere in the order about \$2,100,000 and some of this information has become known over the past number of months after the final drafts were prepared. We would expect to be able to meet this by going forward to the management board during the course of the 2007-08 year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rafter. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure all of the taxpayers in the City here would be happy this year because they all pay their taxes and they'll be happy to hear that

the government is going to pay all its taxes as well for the property that it has here in the City.

So I guess I'm just looking for a commitment, even though it says the \$1,200,000 here that the government is planning on paying its full amount of taxes to the City of Iqaluit, it's roughly \$2,100,000 for the 2007-08 year. I would like to confirm that that's correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No forced growth was funded this year and the government will revisit the issue in 2007-08. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. We're on page J-7, J-8, J-9, and J-10. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I would like to ask the minister that in some communities the Municipal Funding Program is used mainly. I think they also get funding under Airport Operating Services, but the council wasn't too happy. Is the airport going through the Transportation Division or is it coming through Community and Government Services? Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you are correct; it is going through Economic Development and Transportation. They have that responsibility for the airports. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Yes, that's what I figured, and I'm sure that the minister heard that we were facing a difficult situation in Rankin Inlet. I'm going to pose a question later in regard to that.

With regard to the \$1,500,000 that you just issued a press release on, that this line item will be used to help communities regarding energy. My question under that line item; what kinds of criteria do you have? Is it a fuel subsidy criteria, or do the proponents have to sign application forms?

What is going to happen out of that money? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we all heard through the media that \$1,500,000 was allocated to the communities, and each

community's funding allocation varies according to what kinds of the services that they were going to be using it for, whether it is water or sewer. The funding was already allocated, and they did a study in each region. The Kitikmeot region studied how much was expended last year. They followed the actual expenditures.

That's how the funding was allocated even though the amount varied in each community. That's how their funding was allocated to support the municipalities, like when the fuel prices increase, for example, and also for the energy increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Perhaps the Deputy Minister or her officials can respond as to what kinds of criteria were used and how much did Rankin Inlet or Arctic Bay get? Are there any criteria that they have to use, or did you just allocate the money or distribute the funding to the communities following the population numbers? What were the criteria used? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will speak English. (interpretation ends) It is based on a formula. It was actual expenditures from prior years. That's what it was based on, when the money was being divided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you. Yes, I would like to... yes, could that criteria, if so, and then just a press release that was provided to us on February 19.

Could the minister provide us with a more specific outline of the program? Is this a one-time program, or will it be annually? Will it be as it states, based on the increased power and fuel costs only? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask Mr. Rafter to respond to that question.

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

**Mr. Rafter**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The allocation of the \$2,500,000 was based on prior year results in hamlets audited financial statements that was based on consumption at that time and taken into account in addition to that was the level of the Fuel Stabilization Rider. So it was intended to offset the incremental costs related to heating fuel, electricity consumption, and the Fuel Stabilization Rider. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rafter. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Do I understand it then that each community will be eligible and they will be provided with a portion of that funding? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's how it's going to be. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. It's going to be beneficial to the communities. I will conclude with that for now.

My next question, I think the minister announced during the committee meetings in regard to the lottery programs are going to be reviewed. I think they're being continually reviewed. Perhaps the minister can update us on the lottery regulations and programs. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, the Government of Nunavut uses the legislation, which was adopted from the Government of the Northwest Territories upon division. Much of this legislation contains materials that is not relevant to Nunavut, and needs to be put in a Nunavut-specific context in order to better reflect the needs and experiences of Nunavummiut.

The Department of Community and Government Services is currently working on amendments to the *Local Authorities Election Act*, and the *Civil Emergency Measures Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask another question to the minister in regard to the amendments. We would like to be informed as to why there was an amendment. The reason why I am asking this question is you definitely will have to have a public consultation as some of the communities don't have any money for their lottery program, and I think bingo is part of that. There is no money left for some of the family members; they don't have any money to buy food any more because all the money they had is spent on playing bingo.

I would like to ask the minister if she could tighten up the regulations. I think they have to be under a charity status. Is it true that as long as you say that you're a sports group

and not necessarily have a charitable status that you can hold bingos, or do some fundraising along that line? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the comments that my colleague was talking about, I can look into the regulations. I, personally, would like to see a public consultation in this regard. The hamlets are responsible for the lottery regulations and I know exactly where you're coming from.

I would like to hold public consultations so that we can hear from the residents of Nunavut. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you. I'm sure that there are going to be quite a lot of people who will be making comments on this issue. It is getting easier and easier to get a gambling license.

Even if the organizations are not registered, is it possible for them to get a license and are you comfortable with that as the Minister responsible for that? If it's going to be an organization that is not a registered group, I think the government will have to make a decision and have it run by an independent gambling commission aside from the hamlet council.

I think we should consider looking at the options we have and look at our southern counterparts and see what kinds of regulations they have. Usually what happens is if (interpretation ends) ... the government, okay? They are outsmarting you, so whenever the family allowance night is happening, and the time the family allowance, and GST payments are coming in, the groups will line up as a big event for bingo night.

It's not surprising to see a \$15,000 bingo night almost every week or every second week in larger communities. So, should this kind of affair be regulated a little more seriously? I think that's the question you guys have to look at. I really truly believe that we need an independent licensing commission, or gambling commission for that matter; formalize it so that it's not only those groups.

Let's say a sports group needs to raise money, go down and get a bingo night a few weeks at a time before the big event happens. So it seems to be there are no regulations whatsoever that works to really manage and control it.

I think there is room to control it. There is room to improve that. Can the minister really have a more formal, very formal gambling public consultation in review of the proposed legislation so that there will be a formal announcement as to what is happening to these kinds of things that I am raising. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Act in itself is outdated, and we have to look at it and update it. I think your suggestion is great about having consultations.

I really am in agreement with that because right now, all our organizations, even though they're required to file a regular report of their earnings, and what took place in their activities, it's difficult to promise the outcome right now as it is because of the outdated Act.

So as the minister responsible for this, I think it's important for you guys to hear that we will push for community consultations and that way everybody will have input, and that way we'll have informed direction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I have a final question with respect to bingo. Bingo is the only one that I know. There might be a whole lot more gambling programs that are contained within one license. I don't know.

Bingo is the only one that I do know of. I don't think I've ever really played bingo myself. I do want to ask you a question because I did find out from a young person in the community; how much does a bingo card cost? They said; it depends. It depends on what? It depends on how big the jackpot is.

So should the bingo cards or for individuals be regulated because when I look at the whole income support recipients, to have to pay a \$20 bingo card for regular bingo nights is really something else.

I normally see welfare bingo cards when you happen to walk into somebody's place when it's a bingo night on their tables. You see a whole slew of them on the table. During the larger events, you're always told that it costs about \$30 a bingo night. It may not be a big thing here in a place like Iqaluit but I can tell you it means a lot to income support recipients who depend on any scrap of money to try and buy some food.

So I'm just really quite concerned that I think gambling is out of control in Nunavut and we've got to put some serious thinking into it. Will the minister continue to keep us up-to-date on what she's doing about the gambling programs? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I concur with the member's statement. We do not promote gambling but it's out there. Of course, it's difficult to regulate certain behaviours. I think we all know that. Of course, there's room for

considering change. So I agree. I would like to see community consultations to have discussions with the communities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's \$1.5 million that was given to the hamlets through Community and Government Services that was for the fuel rider.

Even though that was the case, and to supplement Mr. Mapsalak's comments, there are private business owners who are not eligible for this or don't have access to this money, especially the larger amount that's given to the smaller communities.

My question is: are we going to be able to give financial support to the private business owners? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know exactly where you're coming from but as a government we can't help everybody. We have very limited financial resources and I do want to help everywhere we can but as you are probably aware, the cost of living has increased dramatically this year and it's ever-increasing.

I believe, and I'm sure that I'm not the only one, that on November 1 there was an increase in the fuel price and since that increase; we heard that it had a domino effect on the services and programs that are available out there; food, for example, at the retail outlets.

On more than one occasion in Rankin Inlet we hear that the cost of food is increasing almost on a daily basis. I don't think it has anything to do with the fuel cost. One five-pound bag of oranges used to be \$5.99 and it's now \$8.99.

Even here they're about \$12, \$13 and potatoes are the same case. Even though there is an increase in fuel I don't think that this constant increasing of prices doesn't necessarily have anything to do with the cost of fuel.

I was just in Yellowknife recently, because we couldn't go to Rankin Inlet; I bought a \$0.28 bias tape. At the NorthMart here it was \$2.02, exactly the same item. So it was very, very cheap in Yellowknife and then you come over here and it was \$2 plus, and it barely weighs more than an ounce. I'm sure that it goes for every item that is made available at the retail outlets.

We see increases almost on a daily basis, but it's not necessarily due to the fuel costs. I know exactly where you're coming from but I just wanted to state some facts and I would like to tell you that we can't help everyone out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand exactly where you're coming from, but again on J-8, I have a question regarding the Disability Council. We had a meeting with them at that time and on J-8 there's \$40,000 set aside for senior citizens and disabled persons grants. I think for Health and Social Services there's approximately \$90,000 that's made available.

What is this \$40,000 going to be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's for senior citizens and disabled persons. That \$40,000 comes from Community and Government Services and they can get 100 percent grants for such things as Iqaluit residents for their property taxes. The other communities can get some assistance from the Department of Finance who are seniors and disabled persons. These are just for senior citizens and disabled persons for paying their property taxes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had a thought while my colleague was talking about the topic of gambling, and the minister indicated that we know it's out there; and something that we really can't control people's behaviour.

I also heard here a number of times, and this government, that you can't help everybody; we don't have the resources to help everybody. Also, the fact that they'd like to do some consultations and look at considering some different changes.

I know in other jurisdictions throughout the country they do have casinos that are operated by the government. They're looking at it as going to generate revenues. Would that be something that this government would look at setting up - government-run casinos? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Member. Any suggestions that we have from you are welcome. You belong to the government too. It's up to you too to decide. We all can jointly have discussions on this issue if the government wants to have casinos or not.

I don't know. It's up to the people, and the people elect their government, and we're all people so, we should work together to see if we want that or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's just like with alcohol, and drugs, and gambling. It's a problem that's out there; a lot of the social problems that it causes. If, and I hope not, but if that's a direction that the government decides to go in to look at generating revenue, that they do a thorough consultation on that to make sure. The government, I don't care if it's me or anyone else in here, I don't think making a decision like that is up to us to make.

If you look at it, it would just benefit us as a government. We'll have more resources, but the people that it will impact are the people that are out there in the communities, and at the community level. If they are looking at different options like that of revenue generation then there is a thorough consultation done to make sure that the input of Nunavummiut is taken into account especially on something like that.

And take it basically away from the government's decisions to make; I don't think it's the government's decision to make. I think it's the people's decision to make. Hopefully, if that's a direction that the government wants to look at, that that would be the process that it follows. Go to the people first to see if that's really...you know...do we have to resort to that to be able to make money to provide services for our people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Quite frankly casinos have not been in our forecast, but since you brought it up, I'm happy to have a discussion about it.

It's very difficult to predict what the results of consultations would be. It's a good process, it's an open process, and I thank you for suggesting that again because I think it's favourable to have consultations.

At this time we do not consider casinos as a revenue source for the government. As the ministers, we have not even had discussions about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. We're on pages J-8, J-9, and J-10. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and her officials for coming today.

I want to start by directing some questions to the minister on her opening comments. She made a statement in her opening comments on page 2, where she said; "Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be able to say that as a whole, municipal performance is better than ever."

I ask the minister if she could expand on that statement. What does that statement mean: "... is better than ever." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have gone to all the communities except for Clyde River, Cape Dorset and another community. There are only five communities that I have not visited. But I have promised to go to Clyde River, Arviat and Cape Dorset.

It's good to see that the hamlets are trying to run their affairs effectively. If you look at J-7, there under the business plan, you will probably be proud of it, too, that the hamlets are not having financial difficulties.

The senior administrative officers and the hamlet councils are in a better position right now. I know that there are a lot of problems that are encountered by the hamlets but we all go through hardships. Although they have buildings that are not very new, they have facilities such as arenas and they have been in a better position since a long time.

I feel that if you can look at our business plans on J-7, they are in a better position as opposed to previous years. It's under business plan page J-7. I would like to thank the member for the question he asked. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I agree with the minister that they are improving but what I have noticed over the year is that there are ups and downs even if the chart that's there on page J-7 shows that. There are ups and downs like the stock market; you just don't know what you're going to get the next day or the next month.

When we have municipal elections, the mayors and councillors change. We have high turnover in the staffing at the hamlet levels in key areas such as senior administrative officer and accounting staff in particular. They're on top of the finances every day. When they turnover, if you have a good senior administrative officer or a good finance manager and they leave, and when they're replaced with someone who's not as experienced or doesn't have the sufficient training, you could run into difficulties.

I'm aware of the fact that in Kugaaruk, for example, the Senior Administrative Officer there, Mr. Elwood Johnson, he's been into that community twice to help them with debt recovery. I'm aware that the mayor of the community, I think he just recently wrote to the local newspaper expressing his concern that that Senior Administrative Officer was going to be leaving this November.

I wonder how the minister and her department helps communities to provide stability in the senior administrative officer position and the finance officer position within the hamlets long-term so they won't have a good year followed by three bad years, followed by a couple of good years. I think the communities like stability and stability is probably

what you should strive for within the municipalities. If the minister could answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the member totally. We all have ups and downs and from, time to time problems do arise unexpectedly. I agree with you totally and we agree that we'll do our best to help with training through the Municipal Training Organization.

I guess we've gone a long way since the 60s and 70s to now. I think the member will know what I mean because he has been a mayor in his community and he also belonged to Nunavut Association of Municipalities and those were good, productive years that brought us to this date.

Of course, Mr. Johnson is an asset and we're all going to miss him. Community and Government Services, they try and help assist and also the community development officers; they assist in training for senior administrative officer when they're asked to.

Yes, that's a very good question about what they would do about retention to keep them for a long time because some of the senior administrative officers are staying longer. I guess the best answer is to build our capacity in our communities, and to train our own. In that way maybe we would have more stability in the hamlets.

(interpretation) That's it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Brown. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for her answer. On J-7, in your description of community support, you describe some of your roles are to monitor and evaluate municipal operations.

Could you expand on what you mean by monitoring municipal operations? What exactly does the department do, or how do they do it to ensure that they're right on top of municipalities to identify any problems that may arise or develop as a problem? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and attempt to answer that.

What we mean there is that we do receive financial statements on a monthly basis from the communities, and also the regional staff, and sometimes other staff does community visits.

I encourage mayors and councillors to call me. I think communication is the best tool we have. It cuts off more problems if you have better communication. So basically, the most important part is about financial statements. We make sure they're healthy.

I know that Community and Government Services is always working closely with the communities to make sure that their financial statements are up to par. We are often asked to come and visit the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Minister, do you have staff in each regional office that works with the hamlets, works with the senior administrative officer and the finance officers to review financial statements, to prepare financial statements? Could I get a reply to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the regional centres, in the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Baffin regions, there are ten staff members who visit the hamlets in the communities.

If asked to come to their communities then they usually go. We usually give help to the communities if they request our help. Yes, the regional offices and Community and Government Services and the hamlets work together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I guess I could narrow it down: do you have a certified general accountant or a certified management accountant? For instance, do you have a designated accountant who can work specifically with hamlets on their hamlet finances to prepare financial statements, work to develop budgets, and so on and so forth, and those types of documents?

I know there are staff out there helping, like you said; ten staff. But is there one person designated where their only job is to help the hamlets to work on their financial statements preparation, audits and that sort of stuff? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do have accountants, and those accountants work with the communities.

On some occasions, if we require accountants, we then get special contracts. We do have them on staff. They are very important and they also train people in the communities to keep track of the hamlets in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Further along there is a description there it evaluates the municipal operations. I know there is a report that was prepared by the Municipal Training Organization, entitled, 'The Nunavut Municipal Performance Measurement Program' for the fiscal year 2005-06 data.

Is it a requirement of the Department of Community and Government Services that the Municipal Training Organization puts the report together for your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The report that are produced every year, and this report is put out every year by Municipal Training Organization stating what they have done: what training they have provided and which ones are completed. All those are in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. There is actually very good information that in there, quite a bit of information, charts and graphs. I supposed it's like a snapshot in time that shows what happened in the last year.

I'll ask my next question about how you identify current conditions. If a hamlet runs into difficulties, do you have a group of people, or an individual that will go into a hamlet and evaluate whether current issues, development and make recommendations to you, as the minister, on how to proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's how we work, exactly as the member said. I also thank the member for saying those and we try and assist all the hamlets within Nunavut before we produce an annual report. Sometimes our staff ask the specialists if they need their assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

When a hamlet is identified as being in difficulty, or is in difficulty, can a request come from the Mayor and council for help. If it doesn't come from them can you unilaterally make a decision to go in and work with the Mayor, council, and staff to rectify their difficulties? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We track the performance. We like to be invited by the, like you said, the Mayor and the hamlet council. Invitation is always the healthiest way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that. I agree with you. It is good to be invited, but sometimes people don't invite you because they don't want to let anybody know that they're in difficulty so you have to go in and deal with the issues.

But when you do that, and a report comes out that this is what has to be done to correct it, how do you communicate that to the Mayor and council to get their agreement or support to concur with your recommendations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On occasion we go to the communities but we work with the Senior Administrative Officers and they work with the staff. For example, in the regional centres, our regional directors work mainly with those if they have to get together, or if we notify the communities before we go there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

The reason I'm kind of harping on this is because it just seems odd to me that a hamlet will only take six months or a year to run into difficulties and then it takes two to three years to work themselves out of those difficulties.

So if your department was monitoring them more closely to identify that they are in difficulties earlier than say six months or a year into their fiscal year, you could then take corrective action to reverse whatever they're doing. That way, you don't have these two or three-year cycles where hamlets are forced to make tough decisions that affect a lot of employees and affect services in the communities.

I'm just trying to get a sense of how you as a department can get in there earlier and work with the hamlets, negate the problems, or quickly turnaround the problems, and avoid the two to three-year recovery period that we keep hearing about year after year after year.

There always seems to be four or five hamlets in some form of great difficulty where employees are being laid off, or wages are being slashed, or services are being cut. It puts a lot of people in a lot of pain. It's usually the support staff that are affected first, but also the people within the municipality are also affected.

I'm trying to get a sense of how your department could get in a little faster and help hamlets before they dig themselves into holes so deep that it is going to take years to work themselves out of it. If the minister could comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a good monitoring system but hamlets make their own decisions, too. Also, spending is easier than saving and recovery but I concur with what the member's saying because sometimes that does happen.

So we need to make sure we have good communications with the communities, with the mayor, and with our regional office but we do have community visits that seem to always work because we talk about issues. It's easier when the staff goes in the communities and they meet with the council; they open up and they have discussions.

So that's one way of doing it but I encourage that the visits are on a regular basis because sometimes, like I said, they can communicate with each other and we find out the problems earlier than later. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

On page J-15 of your business plan, there's a comment under 2006-2007 priorities related to a land review process. The status of the land review process states that there would be a study where we expect firm recommendations to be forthcoming before the close of the fiscal year, which has only a couple of weeks to go. Can you give us an update today on the status of those firm recommendations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How does the committee feel if Mr. Maley comes to the witness table?

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. Is there any objection to having Mr. Maley come to the witness table? Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort Mr. Maley to the witness table. Squeeze him in somewhere there. Thank you. Welcome Mr. Maley. Can you respond to the question that was asked earlier?

**Mr. Maley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the member please repeat his question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Peterson, please repeat your question.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Maley for asking me to repeat it.

I asked; there was a land review process that is under way in this current fiscal year. There is a statement here under page J-15 that; we expect firm recommendations will be forthcoming before the close of the current fiscal year.

I wanted to know if they have an idea of what the firm recommendations are going to be in respect of the land review process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. For the record, Shawn Maley, I will introduce him. He works for Community and Government Services and he is at the witness table. Mr. Maley.

**Mr. Maley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question.

In response to that, the land review process was initiated; the need was brought forward for a number of reasons. One was that there were some complaints about some slow processes related to land transactions.

There were some questions about how municipalities were to proceed with quarries and so forth. So the department committed to a process to review these types of land transactions and so forth.

We've completed that, and we will be able to share that in the near future, keeping in mind that the process was not totally in our control; part of it was with land registries and some of the municipalities.

But, we have completed that and we'll be able to bring forward our findings in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Maley. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Maley for that answer. I think Mr. Maley probably knows where I'm going with this line of questioning.

I'm sure it's not just a situation that is a problem in Cambridge Bay. It's been a problem that has probably been affecting us for 20 or 25 years. It seems like the lands department in every community in Nunavut has issues in terms of approving, or reviewing applications, and then going through the necessary paperwork.

There is a lands officer to go through the necessary paperwork to make sure that the legal documents are complete and correct, and that they cannot be challenged. What we're finding in many Nunavut communities, particularly where people are trying to sell or buy houses, or property when the bank says the lawyers are dealing with the lands departments. They're running into difficulties in the process, to secure legal documentation for properties for loans or mortgages.



It's jeopardizing homeownership, it's jeopardizing some businesses that are seeking financing from banks, and even from the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, when the legal documents are coming back incorrectly prepared. On top of that it's costing homeowners, and potential homeowners and businesses thousands and thousands of dollars in legal fees to deal with lawyers. It's really a big issue.

I am wondering how this new process; this new review; when it's complete; will it be a system that, when all the recommendations are enacted; will it result in a potential turn around time on land applications, and lease documents, and other documents? Would it be within a month turn around, similar to what happens if you're down in a city like Edmonton, or Calgary, or Victoria where you make an offer on a house or a business? They have to pay for it. If you turn around in a month, it's not going to drag around for six months. Is that what you're striving for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Your time for questioning is over. Madame Minister, who is going to respond? Mr. Maley.

**Mr. Maley**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, member for your supplemental question.

That's the plan. We recognize that the process hasn't been completely smooth. As most of you are aware municipalities took over the responsibility for land administration back in 1996 and since then; and currently since the creation of Nunavut; we've provided, and continue to provide training for local lands officers. Currently this year I think we've had about 27 people go through some of our MTO training.

There have been issues outside of the department's control as well, with land titles, and so forth. This year we've gotten together with all the parties involved and we've tried to streamline the process. Our goal is, as the member stated, to have a short period of time between when the transaction is initiated and when it is concluded. Our regional offices have lands officers there to assist.

Also there have been problems with the land assembly itself; some land not being surveyed; some title under minister's caveat, because land titles, because it is a property transaction it has to be completely formal. We have had some problems there, but I think we're almost there. I think that with the community's cooperation and land titles I feel a lot better about where we are now. We're hoping that this year the members will see some of those improvements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Maley. We're on Community and Government Services. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Community Support. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$63,248,000. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page J-15 of the business plan it states there is a priority for 2007-08 continuation of Water and Sewage Pilot Project will roll out to some additional participating communities.

Could the minister expand on that description, or what does that all mean. What is the role of that; is it going to be three communities, five communities, or 25 communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for the question. It's not within my briefing notes so I will ask Mr. Maley to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Maley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. As you know we've commenced with the pilot project this year. The whole intent of the pilot project was to provide more flexibility with the municipality, in terms of the Water and Sewer program, but at the same time contain costs for the government by maximizing community efficiencies.

What we were finding before was that communities that were astute were able to deliver water adequately but then spent a lot of their time trying to hide some of the funds that were generated by water and sewer.

So in recognition of this, our concern was costs in terms of the government's costs, as well as ensuring that efficiencies are achieved, we rolled out a pilot projects where communities were more in control of the funds but agreed to deliver a certain amount of water. This has been very successful in Chesterfield Inlet, Kugaaruk, and Pangnirtung. Thank you, Minister, for the briefing.

>> *Laughter*

And so, we're going to wrap up the program at the end of March and look at how we did. Indications so far are very good and there are a lot of Senior Administrative Officers interested. So we're hoping to identify three to five communities this year to continue on with that three to five more additional communities, depending on their financial health and so forth. But that's the intent this year, three to five communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Maley. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Maley for the answer. I just wanted to ask him about ... he made a comment that hamlets were hiding some of their

funds. Just exactly what were they doing with the water and sewage subsidy program funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Maley.

**Mr. Maley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I suppose hiding is probably not an appropriate term...

>>*Laughter*

...but what I meant to say is that communities were spending a lot of time examining the rules and trying to find efficiencies by playing with the rules themselves, and I suggest it didn't make any sense. We agreed to pay a certain amount for water delivery, they delivered it, and therefore we should pay them that.

Instead, because of the water and sewer program had a bunch of rules, it was kind of like an onion, it was layered with all different rules and it was just an opportunity for stick handling around with rules to make things work better for them.

So the pilot project allows us to look at and understand our costs and pay for that. They deliver the water. If they make a profit, they get to keep it and they can use it in other areas, and they don't have to sneak around doing it.

So it rewards their efficiency and at the same time we now understand how much it's going to cost us as government and we get water delivered for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Maley. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Maley. I guess Senior Administrative Officers can't be accused of hiding things from the government; a good Senior Administrative Officer.

With respect to water and sewer in the communities, who's responsible for setting water rates within the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the municipalities themselves set the rates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. So when they set the water rates, could you give us an idea of what process they go through to set the water rates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they set the rates, they need a municipal bylaw for setting up the water rates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. When the hamlets set the water rate in their community, and an individual, or a company, or a group of individuals disagree with the water rates, what are their avenues for appeals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the by-laws are very important. They set their rates through their by-law. For groups that are not happy, or pleased with the rates, they have the opportunity to voice their concerns with the first and second reading.

Before the third reading of the by-law, they have to notify the public, or put the by-law in a public place. At that time, individuals who would like to make complaints on the price of water rates have that opportunity to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I understand that part. I understand also that there should be an element of fairness in the water rates. So if there is an increase in water rates at the municipal level, it's not fair to discriminate against a small group of people, say 20 people out of a population of say 1,500 people. What can they do to appeal the process if that water rate is going to unfairly discriminate against them and result in them having to pay an enormous amount of money, when their neighbour next door, across the street is paying 10 percent of what they have to pay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All I can say is that there is no appeal process because municipal councils are elected and are accountable to their residents.

When they set the by-law, everybody in the community should be aware of that by-law. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I'm sure the department has probably reviewed this, but, similar to the Qulliq Energy Corporation, which is a public utility, was any thought ever given to the notion that the municipality, because they provide a utility, say water, that they are also a public utility and should be subject to the *Utility Rates Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will reroute that question to Mr. Shawn Maley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Maley.

**Mr. Maley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. Really, the process that we have in place right now is still a carryover from the GNWT days. I can say that it hasn't been problem-free. There has been at least one occasion where an appeal process may have been helpful in resolving some of the problems.

We discussed the issue with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, and at this point in time, there is yet no agreement or conclusion on where we want to go with it. A utility rates format is one potential option, but there are other options available in terms of creating an appeal level in there.

So I guess my response is; at this point in time there is nothing in place to deal specifically with this kind of a situation, but we are talking to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities about it. Potentially it is something where they could bring forward recommendations some time in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Maley. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Maley for that answer.

We don't like to think that those things could happen in small towns because we're all friends and neighbours. Sometimes the hamlets are under financial stress and they make decisions that are hopefully for the betterment of everybody in the community. Somehow through some oversight, a small group of people fall between the cracks. They are greatly affected and it causes a lot of hardship for them.

We always hope that that doesn't happen. It is expensive enough as it is to live in a community, and if they're not able to benefit from the Water Subsidy Program it puts an additional hardship on them, especially if they're a large family. I hope that NAM and

Community and Government Services work that out for the betterment of Nunavut communities.

On the same page there is another priority for 2007-08 to complete the Municipal Taxing Model for consideration. We have heard about that for a couple of years now. I am wondering if the minister or Mr. Maley could update us on where that's going for the next fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Maley.

**Mr. Maley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. Where we are with the Municipal Tax Review, it's a priority for 2007-08. We've done a lot of research in this area. We're looking at options for municipalities to generate revenue outside of necessarily just the government. However, in consideration of this we want to make sure that our data is solid. So what we've been doing is gathering data, mainly using larger communities as the base in terms of potentially what they could generate for revenue.

Where we are right now is that we've looked at other provincial models, where they've also done this, and we're also looking at the NWT, where they have enabled every community the potential to be a taxed-based municipality, and they're collecting taxes on behalf of the Commissioner over there right now.

We're not really in a position, at this point in time, to rule anything out, but hopefully by the end of 2007-08, and as per our business plan, we're hoping that we will have a model worked out and be ready to be introduced to the Legislature in terms of their review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Maley. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Maley for that answer. We'll look forward to some additional information as the year goes on.

In our opening comments yesterday, we mentioned that our standing committee is concerned that the Regional Granular Program didn't receive any funding in the 2007-08 capital estimates, but you have a priority in 2007-08 to establish a brand new program.

Could you update the House on what work you're going to do to establish the Granular Program, and then where the funds are going to come from to establish the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This department is in the process of developing a strategy and going forward with the plan for a new Granular Process. It is at the stage that the Granular Strategy will be shared with the members before the fall session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister give us an idea and I know you're going to go forward to develop a Granular Program, and share information with us, but where do you anticipate finding the funds to establish that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Maley can respond to your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Maley.

**Mr. Maley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question.

Where we are right now is: the granular program since the Department of Public Works froze it with the Government of the Northwest Territories back in 1994 or 1995, whenever it happened; there were studies, beyond studies, beyond studies.

So what we decided to do was rather than spend any more money on studies, we're accumulating those right now, we're developing our data, and we're doing that all internally. So there are actually no real costs at this point in time.

However, the granular program eventually is going to require a significant investment. At this point in time we don't know what that means, and we don't know the magnitude of cost.

So our commitment, as per our business plans, is to more formally define what it is we're going to do and what we think the potential costs may be. And then the task will be how that gets funded, whether there is an opportunity to partner with other interested organizations or attract other third party funding remains to be seen.

Our commitment at this point in time is to at least develop the plan for adequately re-sourcing that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Maley. Mr. Peterson.

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

On page J-9, the Community Development Fund is \$1,050,000 budgeted, the same figure as previous years. It says to provide a reasonable amount of funding to communities to be used for locally-determined administrative projects. Could the minister provide us with an indication or idea of what are the costs to the locally-determined administrative projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me put my glasses on first.

In the communities, you saw the amount and it was \$1,006,000. And for the communities there are some that are going to be used for training in all communities. We're going to be using the Municipal Training Organization to provide the training. It has benefited a lot of the communities. They are also involved in the organization of the training program that is provided by Municipal Training Organization. They make plans on what the hamlets are going to be doing. Again, they're going to be the trainers.

I keep saying repeatedly that there were 700 hamlet employees that were trained through this organization. We will hear what has been happening next year but the benefits are included in the setting up of these plans and also having their employees trained through this organization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister clarify, are these funds transferred to hamlets, or are they held within your department, and then your department determines the projects? Can you clarify what is locally-determined? Does the hamlet determine the projects, or is that the regional office that determines the projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Municipal Training Organization has their own funds but they collaborate with the hamlets when they're setting up the training programs. The money goes to the Municipal Training Organization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. On the same page; J-9, transfers from other government departments. There is a little bit of an increase there this year. It looks like \$3,902,000. So the initiative to transfer resources



from various departments to municipalities, can you clarify what that means? What are you transferring from various departments to municipalities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been no change in the monies that were allotted in 2006-07, and it's still the same amount for 2007-08.

These monies are used through an agreement with the communities. The hamlets are responsible for building maintenance. The communities also take care of the government facilities. That is done through an agreement with the Government of Nunavut and the hamlet councils as was requested by the communities. The hamlets also create employment for welfare recipients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister clarify? There will be one agreement and that's an agreement between the hamlet and Community and Government Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is an agreement between Community and Government Services and the hamlet. That is what the hamlet requested: to have an agreement and to be able to become self-reliant. I could probably say that it's called empowerment.

For example, the community of Cape Dorset, that is what they're doing right now. They are in charge of building maintenance, and they also deal with social assistance. This has been very good for the community of Cape Dorset, for them to have that empowerment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Just clarify for me minister, you mention welfare program but if I recall correctly that might be under the Department of Education Income Support? Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** My light did not come on. Sorry. Yes, that is true. They are under the Minister of Education, but it is different in each community. I talked about Cape

Dorset. Perhaps if I could get Mr. Rafter to respond to that question, he'll probably state it more clearly. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Rafter.

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In most communities, facility maintenance and the employees that perform that maintenance form the majority of the agreement for the Asset Maintenance Transfer Agreement; it's called Empowerment Agreements or CTI Agreements. In some communities it also includes transfers from other government departments. For example, Department of Education with income support, the Department of Justice, Community and Government Services, Department of Health, they are all involved in the agreement in Cape Dorset.

It's is a more comprehensive agreement than in some other communities. I think at the time, the Empowerment Initiative was designed or being piloted in Cape Dorset to see what programs could be delivered on a community basis to promote employment within the community rather than have government employees delivering these services, move them forth into the communities.

I hope that responds to the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rafter. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rafter.

It does clarify a little bit because it's a bit confusing in your description here; one agreement, because in Cambridge Bay, for example, I think the hamlet has a separate contract with the Department of Education for income support.

So that was telling me there is more than one agreement. Would you clarify that some hamlets would have one agreement and some of them might have separate agreements: two or more.

I want to touch on page J-10, under the Community Government Asset Protection Program. There is nothing budgeted for this year, and that's the program that provides start-up finances to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities for affordable insurance coverage, which we know as NAMIX.

I know the initial design of the program is for it to be self sustaining and self funding after three or four years. I wonder if the minister could tell the House if her department considers that program to be up and running, successful, and self sustaining, and will not require any further funding from the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. (interpretation ends) The insurance program has been a very effective and cost effective approach to providing municipalities with adequate insurance for their infrastructure assets, mobile equipment, and for their staff and operations, indicators from NAMIX.

However, having said that, that ongoing funding will be required and the department has put forward a submission to the Financial Management Board in response to this. We anticipate a favourable response and look forward to the continuing support from the Members of the Legislative Assembly on the NAMIX program.

Discussions are still ongoing with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to explore the remaining needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I don't know how successful the program has been in terms of savings over the years. I know in my community it was fairly effective the year when the community hall was damaged in the fire. They were very proactive and we were able to get our community hall up and running again within seven months of it being damaged by fire.

So that program was very effective to our community. Can the minister give us an idea or an update on what the savings have been to the municipalities and the government as a whole since the establishment of the NAMIX Program versus if they never had that program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, I would like to recognize Keith because he was the president of that organization that helped start up NAMIX. Just to reaffirm, it is very successful; it has been very successful, and I think it's well appreciated. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. There's another person. I recognize Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I would also like to ask a question on that topic. This is a very good subject, making sure the hamlets have insurance. Your department has requested some money from FMB. Can you tell us how much you have requested from FMB?

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$1,500,000 is the request that we will have for FMB that would be used for one year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that \$1,500,000 is going to be used for one year, would that funding be put in there until they're self-sustaining, or when the \$1,500,000 is spent, what happens then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're doing some planning every year; that \$1,500,000 would be used for one year, and from there we will ask NAM how much more money that they will need for the following year. The municipalities have been quite helpful. So after one year, after that's spent, then we will find out how much more money that they would need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask another question on the \$1,500,000. Would that \$1,500,000, if agreed to by FMB, would that be used in 2007-08? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Madame Minister.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's for 2007-08 if agreed to by FMB.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): \$1,500,000 is not a huge amount. I think your department would have to get supplementary funding. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance if they would be able to agree to some more funding.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Rafter respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rafter**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry. I misspoke when I was speaking with the minister a moment ago. It's actually funding for, and from, the 2006-07 budget. If we go to Directorate on page J-5, you'll see in the first column for 2005-06 actual

expenditures somewhere around \$251,000. In the next column, beside that under Contract Services, \$98,000, and then you see \$2,300,000 under Revised Estimates.

The funding has already been set aside for this purpose. The department has been working diligently on setting aside funding for the NAMIX projects over the course of the year and was able to set that funding aside just before the documents were finalized in early December. So the funding is set aside. The intent would be if the Board approves the transfer and the one-time top up to the NAMIX; the funding would be released to NAMIX in the immediate future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rafter. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley**: I don't know whether to take your word for it, or not, but I think it would be most important that the minister would make a correct statement. I am sure the formal announcement because if the minister did indicate that they're seeking approval from FMB in the amount of \$1,500,000. So I'm not 100 percent sure which word I should take right now but it would be important before this review is done; to have a correct version so that we'll know whether it takes a motion, or what not, to support the NAMIX program.

(interpretation) Maybe they should make a more formal statement. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if the FMB approves the amount for \$1,500,000 for NAMIX for 2006-07 it would be used for that year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. My colleague asked a question. So there are no plans for 2007-08 if it will be funded again; if NAMIX will be funded again for that year. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$1,500,000 will be used and we will be having discussions with NAMIX and CGS because this is very important and it has to go through. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. We're on J-7. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Community Support. Total. Operations and Maintenance. \$53,248,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Going to J-11. Government Services. \$58,026,000. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Can the minister advise us in regard to the procurement contracts in regard to cargo contracts? What is the status on this, in regard to the supply ships? Have you considered if these contracts end? For example, they should open... maybe there are a lot more ships and aircrafts that have come up, maybe putting it up for contract. We have so many contracts with ships.

**Chairman:** Madame Minister.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 2006 sealift season was a success. Most hamlets received more visit services than in previous years. The Community and Government Services office did not receive any formal complaints from contractors or from the public with respect to Government of Nunavut sealift carrier contracts.

The sealift contractor NTCL, out of Churchill, had some issues. They were late getting started and they had some organizational issues. Once the season got moving, all went well. The sealift office has been made aware.

Usually there are construction projects experiencing some delays due to the NTCL schedule of the delivery of goods. So, I wanted to update you on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister a question again in regard to... I think some marine contracts were extended. I wonder if the minister can table the marine contracts listing how long they have been contracted, or if they have to be renewed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government of Nunavut signed a five-year contract with Eastern Arctic Shipping, Nunavut Sealink and Supply, and Nunavut Transportation Company, NTCL. At this time, we have been working with NTCL and NSSI and third, NEAS.

The government put out a request for proposals regarding the fuel supply transportation from 2007-2012. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. Somebody wants to make a motion. Mr. Mapsalak. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): We still have time. I would like to ask another question. I wonder if the minister can table something about the different marine contracts. I think some of them are leaning towards option two.

I believe the contracts were for three years. I wonder if the minister can table a listing of how long we're going to be using them, or if she can point out as to which contract it is because we provide a monopoly using the zones and the government seems to support that. With the different regions, I wonder if the minister ... I know there was a report out in regard to that. This system has been used for 60 years or more.

I wonder if the minister or her officials ... this should be an open market now. Why don't they go through that route because if it's an open market, the prices would be down? If there is a monopoly, the prices in stores will cost quite a bit. I don't like high prices. I don't know about you guys but if there is an open market, and the minister says that she believes in free enterprise, before the contracts are awarded because I believe there could be competition.

If there was no competition on the freight on airlines, the prices would be even higher. Even if you can provide us with some statements in regard to that, whether it's adequate or not, but I lean more towards the open market. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member for Rankin Inlet North's comments, we have talked about this at the Cabinet level but we haven't come up with a decision. We look at all those options and what we should expect in the coming year. Some contracts will be ended soon but we have to maintain that we provide the best service.

As you stated earlier, the annual report, you already asked for a consolidated report. I'm sure that we can do that in a report form, especially with all the information that has to be provided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are probably a lot more questions. I would like to make a motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried.

At this time I would like to thank the minister and her officials, Mr. Rafter, Mr. Maley, and Ms. Hine for being here. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort the officials from the witness table. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Barnabas.

### **Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Evyagotailak. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hands. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for March 14:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills



19. Second Reading of Bills

20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 1
- Bill 2
- Bill 3

21. Report of the Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 14 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:53*

