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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Wednesday, March 14, 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. Evyagotailak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

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

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 020 – 2(4): Update Midwifery**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon everyone.

Mr. Speaker, midwifery is a skill that we value in the Nunavut healthcare system. I would like to share with you briefly a number of recent developments that show how the Department of Health and Social Services is steadily improving the quality and availability of these services.

Midwives from across Nunavut gathered in Iqaluit in February. This is the first time such a meeting has been held, thanks in part to funding from Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. This is a special time for these women, a time for healing, for learning, and for appreciation.

A day was set aside to share information about traditional birthing practices and I understand the stories and demonstrations had the elders crying with laughter. It is clear that there is strong support for blending modern and traditional knowledge of midwifery.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the Midwife Association of Nunavut is to support and promote the reintroduction of Inuit traditional midwifery, as well as support the registered midwives practicing in Nunavut. The association will be joining the Canadian Association of Midwives with Natsiq Kango as the Nunavut representative on the national board.

Five students are now in the one year long Maternity Care Worker Certificate Program offered in Rankin Inlet. The curriculum for the second year of the program, which would grant a diploma in midwifery, is now being tested. The Maternal Care Worker/Midwifery Program is designed to strengthen the skills and increase the number of Inuit staff in the field of maternal and child health.

Mr. Speaker, work continues on what will become a *Midwifery Protection Act* for Nunavut. A tremendous amount of research and discussion has taken place already, and now, a legislative drafter has joined the process. I am hopeful the bill will be ready for the Legislative Assembly for the spring session.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note that in Nunavut, registered midwives have a working knowledge of and respect for traditional Inuit practices and childbirth. Low risk birth can and should take place as close to home for the mothers as possible when the appropriate resources are in place.

Mr. Speaker, the dedicated work of the Midwifery Implementation Committee over the past decade is making this possible and is to be commended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Simailak.

**Minister's Statement 021 – 2(4): Parnautiit, A Foundation for the Future – Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to inform Members of this House about the launch of *Parnautiit*, the Nunavut Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy, which I released last week at the 75th annual meeting of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada in Toronto.

*Parnautiit* outlines a clear policy direction for the government. It provides the mineral exploration and mining industry with confidence that Nunavut welcomes sustainable mining and the benefits it can bring, and provides a stable environment for its development.

Mr. Speaker, printed copies of *Parnautiit*, the Nunavut Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy will be distributed today to all members. We will also begin distribution of this strategy in Nunavut to representatives of the mining industry, economic development agencies, and communities.

The strategy is also available since its launch on the Economic Development and Transportation website. Mining holds a great promise for the growth of Nunavut's economy, but we cannot take this growth for granted.



We must work to create a reliable regulatory environment including the creation of new legislation and policy to ensure this promise is fulfilled and that Nunavummiut benefit fully from the mining industry in our territory.

Our strategy provides a blueprint for how this can be accomplished. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 022 – 2(4): CLEY Schedule of Vote 1, 2, and 4 Grants and Contributions for the Fiscal Year 2005-06**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I will be tabling in the House a list of initiatives funded under the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth through the Grants and Contributions program.

The department funds individuals and community based non-profit organizations that undertake initiatives that protect and promote Nunavut's languages, culture, heritage, arts, elders and youth, in addition to the recreation and physical activity area.

Mr. Speaker, as you will note from the list of funding initiatives, the department supplements its work to protect and promote Nunavut's culture and language by providing Nunavummiut with the opportunity to contribute their efforts and ideas.

I am confident that these community based initiatives contribute significantly to the department's mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Item 3: Members' Statements**

**Member's Statement 044 – 2(4): The Need for a Group Home in Arviat**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to draw your attention to the pressing need for a group home in the community of Arviat.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as one of the fastest growing communities in Nunavut, Arviat is experiencing some growing pains. There are a number of young adults who suffer from behaviour problems. The only way for them to receive support or counselling

for their behaviour is to be sent out of town away from their families, friends and daily lives.

Mr. Speaker, although families want to provide support and care for their loved ones, sometimes they fear for the safety of other family members when one individual is going through troubled and sometimes violent times. The situation is made even worse when there is overcrowding in the home. Having a group home in Arviat would help to alleviate some of these problems and improve the quality of life for all of the family. I would like some urgent consideration to be given to establishing such a facility in this community.

Mr. Speaker, I have written to the Minister of Health and Social Services on this issue but I have not yet received a reply. I would like the support of my colleagues to see this project put in the government's next five-year Capital Plan.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Arviat is a rapidly growing community. We need more resources and facilities to help us meet the needs of our increasing population. If we don't plan now for those resources then we run the risk of facing even bigger problems in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

#### **Member's Statement 045 – 2(4): Elder Care**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House today about a serious issue that was recently brought to my attention in Cambridge Bay that affects our most vulnerable constituents. Our elders' coordinator wrote to me to tell me about a recent home visit that she made to an elderly couple in the care of her son.

She visited the couple with the home-care nurse and an RCMP officer. When they arrived, they found the elderly couple in serious medical condition. The husband had limited mobility while his wife was found sleeping on the bathroom floor. They spent about 45 minutes at the house and then brought the elderly man to the health centre for a complete medical exam.

I do not believe this is an isolated incident in Nunavut. Our elders are among the most vulnerable members of our society. According to the government's response to a question, which I posed to the minister last November, there are approximately 1,000 elders in Nunavut today.

When elders advance in age, I believe that they deserve to live in peace and security, regardless of whether they are in the care of relatives or the government. I am very concerned that our Nunavut communities are not prepared or do not have the facilities to help those elders who cannot look after themselves.

It often falls upon or is expected that the children will look after them. In many cases, this expectation cannot be fulfilled. Many adult children do not have the training, experience, or financial resources to look after elders, many of whom suffer from conditions that require professional care.

In the Kitikmeot, we do not have any assisted living or long-term care facilities to provide 24-hour care to elders. Sending our elders away to live in the south or elsewhere in Nunavut is not the solution either. This runs counter to our commitment to following *Closer to Home* health care principles.

The elders' coordinator wrote in her letter, "This is a sad situation, and I only hope someone, someday, will see what we have witnessed. It has been going on too long and it has to stop." I echo her sentiments completely.

When the Government of Nunavut begins to prioritize our capital plan projects for 2008-2009, I urge it to shelve the expensive legacy projects and concentrate instead on projects in all Nunavut communities that will provide desperately-needed facilities to help our elders and other residents to enjoy an improved standard of care and quality of life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Member's Statement 046 – 2(4): Tribute to Susan Spring**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to a long-time resident of Iqaluit, a former co-worker, a great constituent of mine, and a good friend.

Life-long northerner Susan Spring has been a well-known and well-respected member of this community for a significant number of years.

It has been my privilege to have the opportunity to work with Susan on a number of occasions. Susan has been the manager of the Iqaluit Housing Authority since 1993. In this demanding role, she has earned the trust and respect of the community. This would probably explain why if you phoned her up and asked her how she was doing; her comment was always "tired and grouchy". It's something that job will make you do.

Susan has been a dedicated and tireless volunteer. She has sat on the board of directors of the Iqaluit affiliate of Habitat for Humanity; she has been the president of the Rotary Club of Iqaluit, and is a past recipient of the Andy Theriault Citizenship Award for Volunteer Service.

Susan will shortly leaving us to pursue new opportunities in the housing field. Her commitment to the Iqaluit Housing Authority over the last 14 years, as well as her commitment and contribution to this community will be greatly missed. I ask all Members to join me in wishing her well, and thanking her for her service to this community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Mr. Picco.

**Member's Statement 047 – 2(4): Sustainable Community Planning Meeting in Iqaluit**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our mayor, Her Worship Elisapee Sheutiapik from the City of Iqaluit, is currently exploring how to get started on developing a comprehensive long-term sustainable vision and plan.

Mr. Speaker, a long-term vision and plan will help Iqaluit to become a more sustainable community; a community that provides a high quality of life for us, for our visitors, our children, and grandchildren by enhancing and balancing our economic, social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing.

Mr. Speaker, in support of this initiative, the mayor has invited three guests that are at the leading edge of sustainable community planning here in Canada. His Worship Mr. Ken Melamed, Mayor of Whistler, British Columbia. Whistler has one of the most comprehensive sustainability plans in Canada and aspires to host the most sustainable Winter Olympic Games in history here in Canada in 2010.

Ms. Patricia Gordon is the manager of the Imagine Calgary Project from Calgary, Alberta. Imagine Calgary is the largest visioning project for a sustainable city ever carried out in Canada involving over 18,000 citizens.

Ms. Isabel Budke, Senior Associate with the International Centre for Sustainable Cities, or the ICSC is a not-for-profit organization, which is based in Vancouver, British Columbia. They spoke at a special council meeting yesterday and will make presentations at a community meeting here tonight at 6:00 p.m. at the Arctic Winter Games Complex. We hope that everyone with an interest in creating a more sustainable and prosperous Iqaluit will come out to share their hopes and dreams for our community.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage all Members of the House, the private sector, community and Inuit organizations, and all residents of Iqaluit to attend this important event tonight at the Arctic Winter Games Arena at 6:00 p.m. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Member's Statement 048 – 2(4): Income Support Guidelines**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I heard and it seemed like I was in shock and surprise about the questions being asked about social assistance.

The social assistance recipients, if they get assisted by their family, the government takes away a little bit of money that is for social assistance payments. Because I have known people that have not lived in Nunavut for a long time, go to social assistance, and when they get paid by cash, and then they go to social assistance as well and receive social assistance. People in Nunavut, when we find out that there are people facing hardships; we try to help them out because that's the Inuit way of doing things.

We were told yesterday by the government that the person that is in need of social assistance, the people can help the individual. That's what we do according to *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, and they tell us that we're breaking Nunavut's legislation because they take so much money off the social assistance recipients if they get assisted by the family.

This is the concern that I have. During Question Period I will be asking a question in regard to social assistance payment guidelines to see whether they're not breaking the law. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

**Member's Statement 049 – 2(4): The Need for Arctic College Facility in Grise Fiord**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the Nunavut Arctic College to be established in the High Arctic. I talked with some officials from Arctic College and talked about the plans that they have in place.

The government has provided accommodations for the students but I wanted to find out whether the hamlet employees will be running properly without having any Arctic College courses. There are also going to be courses for people who will be working at Housing through Arctic College.

They had courses in the communities in Grise Fiord not too long ago, but the federal government bought the building that was being used for accommodations. The Arctic College that was located in the school had to be taken out because the students needed that room.

To date, Grise Fiord does not have Arctic College courses, so I wanted to find out what kinds of courses the people of Grise Fiord will be receiving because there are no Arctic College programs there. At the appropriate time I will be directing questions to the Minister of Education. Thank you.

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

**Member's Statement 050 – 2(4): RCMP Use of Tasers**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the visit that we were given as the *Ajauqiit* Committee to see the RCMP answering machines, and I talked to the Commanding Officer about using TASER guns because the RCMP uses them to calm down suspects, or people that they're trying to assist.

Mr. Speaker, the concern that I have is I think we have to know what the rules are when the RCMP uses those TASER guns. Recently I was told by a young person in Rankin Inlet that they haven't been working at their present job for two years now because he is under a lot of stress.

He works for the Government of Nunavut. He and his children, and wife were to be kicked out of their house, and they're trying to sell the house through the courts. He has not worked for over a year because of a lot of stress because his shoulder was fractured, and it tried to heal for over a year. He's been to the Nursing Station so many times, and was out on medical travel to a southern hospital and the doctors in Rankin Inlet have dealt with him a regular basis.

But, even if he got a lawyer, the house that they had a mortgage on was taken away by the court, and he has never gone to court.

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

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said; what happened to that young man is just a sad state of affairs because he is also a hunter, and because of the fractures in his shoulder he cannot go hunting.

It happened as a result of the RCMP using a TASER gun. Perhaps it was not allowed. I think he should go to court. Apparently he was TASERed not once, not twice, not three times, but 13 times. They used it on his shoulder.

He has no home, he's got no house, and he cannot get a house. So, what he has to do is move to Chesterfield Inlet. I don't think this should be happening. This kind of stuff should not be happening. The RCMP need to restrain themselves if they are going to use TASER guns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I would like to recognize my constituent, our Mayor of Iqaluit, Elisapee Sheutiapik, and to also welcome the other individuals that are sitting beside her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Welcome to the Gallery, Madame Mayor, and the other individuals. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the Gallery Her Worship, Mayor Elisapee Sheutiapik, and His Worship, Ken Melamed from Whistler, British Columbia.

We have two other guests working with them on the Sustainable Community Program Plan that we spoke about earlier, Mr. Speaker. And, we have Ms. Patricia Gordon, who is the Manager of Imagine Calgary, the project from Calgary, Alberta.

We also have Ms. Isabel Budke who is the Senior Associate with the International Centre for Sustainable Cities, which is based in Vancouver, British Columbia. I would like to take this opportunity and welcome them to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 049 – 2(4): Government of Nunavut's Partnership Agreement with the Keewatin Business Development Center**

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation. It's probably a good thing he wears the Minister of Finance hat as well on this question.

Mr. Speaker, I know during the last sitting before Christmas I was asking questions in relation to a contribution agreement that his department has with the Keewatin Business Development Centre in Rankin Inlet. I was able to obtain a copy of last year's contribution agreement. I would assume that these contribution agreements have been in place for some time.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is: when they enter into these contribution agreements with these organizations, or societies, or non-profit organizations, do they follow all the government policies, as the previous minister indicated that they did, prior to entering into those agreements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Honourable David Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our guidelines have to be followed if there is going to be a contribution agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to hear that. I would like to ask the minister if he is aware if one of the guidelines of the policies, I believe it's in either the *Financial Administration Act* or the Financial Administration Manual, that outlines the grants and contributions to these organizations or societies requires that organization or society to be in good standing and has filed the appropriate forms with legal registries to maintain their good standing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is the way they are supposed to be; the organizations that we give contributions to have to go through legal registries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my next question is, is the minister aware in the particular case of Keewatin Business Development Centre, that the last statements they filed with the legal registries was four years ago, in 2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of this situation. It is the first time that I have heard of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the next question for the minister is why his department enters into an agreement with an organization where they continue to provide funding to them since 2003 when they weren't in good standing with legal registries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for bringing this issue up and I will make sure my staff look into this matter and rectify the problem if their office has broken our agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 050 – 2(4): Application Forms for Grants and Contributions**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. This is an issue that I have brought up on more than one occasion.

I was very pleased that some money was being made available to the people of Nunavut. But one thing I realized is that there is very high unemployment in the smaller communities. Usually they try to access the grants and contributions that are being made available from the government.

The problem is when you are applying for the grants and contributions, you have to fill out a lot of forms and go through hoops and everything just to access those funds. I would like to ask the minister if they have made it easier so that the people out there could access those grants and contributions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we became a new government, we were directed by our Premier to make sure that all business-related grants and contributions are readily available to the public out there and to make sure that the forms and paperwork that are required is made as easy as possible. We are working on making sure that the people out there who are making the proposals have an easier time accessing them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for responding to my question.

The government has monies that are available but it seems like they make it as hard as possible to access it, which is something along the line of income support and accessing those. When will the minister be able to show us the forms and paperwork that are required to access these funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, we are working on it and at this time I can't tell you when they will be made available but as soon as they do, we'll make sure that the information goes out to the Nunavut communities. It's totally useless if they're not easily accessible.

The hamlets are providing training and support to the people who are trying to access those programs. There's support out there available from our employees and we will keep working to make sure that they're as easy to access as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to finances, will we be able to see the changes after the beginning of the new fiscal year because a lot of people are discouraged from making proposals because of all the paperwork that is required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The economic development officers are trained to help any individual who requires help. You can also use the staff at the regional offices if you need further information, or you can also write to our department so that there's proper support being made available to the people of Nunavut. There is support out there; all you have to do is ask for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 051 – 2(4): Income Support Guidelines**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to supplement some questions that were posed yesterday.

We were astonished to find out about the government and how they treat the income support recipients. This is handled by Social Services and the Department of Education. Could the minister tell me if there's an agreement on how they can help the people out there through *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, for example, going out hunting and then sharing the meat in the community.

There is apparently a policy that states that if you help this income support recipient, a portion of their monthly monies would be clawed back.

If I help an individual with food, are you not breaking the traditional laws when you claw back on such incidents like that? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member raising the issue because there needs to be clarification.

What the member is saying is incorrect. There isn't a policy in place to take back income received or food donated or anything like that. Under the Income Support Program, if you are a single person on the program, up to \$200 per period of receiving a cheque from income support for unearned income and earned income you are able to keep that as a client.

Up to \$400 for a family has been put in place, and those changes were put in place proactively by this government over the past two years, it was 2004. So earned income exemptions have increased to \$200 for a single person, and \$400 for a family.

The issue that was raised yesterday in the House is a separate issue; that's the issue of where you receive a gift of an airline ticket in this case and how would that be factored in to that person's income support payment.

What we did say is: if, for example, you gave a ticket for someone to go to a funeral or on a compassionate case, then it's not deducted. However, if someone is on income support and you give them a ticket and they fly from Iqaluit to Pond Inlet for example, and they're in Pond Inlet for three months, then they're not looking for work, they're on a vacation if they're visiting for that period of time.

In that case, the income support worker, when that person goes in and says I would like to have income support, I'm up here visiting Pond Inlet, I've been here for several weeks ... the idea of the Income Support Program is to help people who are in need and help people make healthy choices.

That program and the directions haven't changed for the last ten years even when the member was the minister. Those programs were in place. What we have done is enhanced the program since that time as I've just explained. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I used to be the Minister of this portfolio, but what we're saying is that there has to be a change so that we can include *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*.

What I'm trying to say is that you're looking at them in segments, for example, airline tickets. We all know that this individual's sister in Clyde River has a brother in Igloolik, and we know that they haven't seen each other for 20 years. At times there is a family reunion for up to six months. They haven't seen their brother or sister for 20 years, so we help them to get back and get reacquainted.

My question is; are you revamping the policies and regulations so that we can include *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member just made a good point. The point on the Income Support Program is that in each case it has to be judged on its own merits; it's on a case by case basis.

For example, if there is a person who is 55 years old, and they go to Igloolik from Pond Inlet for three weeks to visit a family member, then that wouldn't be considered earned income because they're not there for three months and they're not opting out of looking for employment and so on.

The income support worker in that case wouldn't subtract or deduct the money. It's on a case by case basis. However, if there were someone who was 25 years old and received a ticket and went from Pond Inlet to let's say Qikiqtarjuaq, and stayed there for three months, then that would be considered unearned income, and there would be a case judgment made because of that.

We have incorporated *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* within the policy and I want to add that as the members all know, we've taken the child disability benefits, the universal care benefits, and Co-op refunds last year and took them from earned income under the program so that they would not be counted. That was incorporating *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* from information that we received from people in Nunavut.

At the same, Mr. Speaker, the program is undergoing review right now, and the last official review was tabled in the House in 2001 and we have made several changes to the program.

There's also the appeals process if someone feels that they have been discriminated against in the program, they have that opportunity, too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this issue, and he talks about case by case. If we had a great social worker that came from our community and who understands the community, then yes, that could be used. If we had a social worker who came from Toronto and who's not very good, then they won't use that, even though it's the same thing. So you need a good guideline or goal.

Like for example, in the smaller communities, in the community of Grise Fiord, there are many small communities and everybody knows each other. They know if the family bought a couch or a cell phone, the income support worker knows but in Toronto nobody will know. So therefore you need a good guideline so that the smaller communities that know each other, they're disadvantaged by that.

My question is: you state that you are now reviewing or you're preparing to enhance that, perhaps the income support guideline or rules to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. When do we expect to see the income support guidelines or goal on that area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification again, the Income Support Program is not delivered by social workers anymore. The Income Support Program is delivered by income support workers. Ninety percent of them are from their home communities; they're not someone from southern Canada that moves into Arctic Bay or any of our communities. They do know their community and they do know the individuals. They work very, very hard for us.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, over the last several months and the past two years, we've had several communities turn back the income support contract with the department because of those issues. At one point we almost had half the communities and hamlets in Nunavut delivering the Income Support Program. Right now, I think we only have five or six because of some of these issues that we've just talked about.

The government has increased the income support amount by 15 percent in the last two years. We put several enhancements as we've just talked about. There is an amount of over \$400 available for unearned income. Those are changes; \$200 for a single person.

The program enhancements that the member's asking about with the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, those are ongoing within the department itself in cooperation with our delivery agents which includes the hamlets and the income support workers.

I would hope to be in a position to bring more enhancements forward and update the members in our next session, which would be in about two months, I guess in May. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 052 – 2(4): Support for Arctic College Facility in Grise Fiord**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke about this issue during my Member's Statement in regard to the Municipality of Grise Fiord. They don't have an adult training centre or Arctic College.

So my question is: how are you going to provide support to the community of Grise Fiord when they don't have any Arctic College there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Education. Hon. Ed. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. The adult educator that was working in Grise Fiord left the community and the space we were accessing in the school had to be used and facilitated for the school programs itself, so we lost access to that space.

The college right now is looking at the availability of space in Grise Fiord to run some programs through. We are looking at running an ABE program first of all, which is an Adult Basic Education upgrading program and to hire somebody within the community itself that would be able to facilitate that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The members of the council told me when I met with them that there might be two units available. One of the units is on a private lease while the other unit belongs to public housing and is not being used.

Perhaps the Arctic College could use either one of the two units I have mentioned. Perhaps the minister can fix the unit up to code. Would the minister commit to provide funding to the municipality to access them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, we have to ascertain what space is needed in the community. For example, if we can be successful in hiring someone directly from Grise Fiord, then the opportunity for needing housing would not be there.

The learning space or learning environment would have to be a classroom or something similar to that. Again, we would have to review what is available in the community. I am not sure right now if the units the member was talking about would be conducive to that. That is something we have to review.

I know that the president of the college, Mr. Clendenning, is working on the issue and as soon as I have an update, I will update the member, in writing, to the member and to the community of Grise Fiord. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 053 – 2(4): Release of Inmates from the Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre**

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to Justice. The Department of Justice recently held a community consultation in Rankin Inlet with plans to build a new correctional facility.

At the public meeting, some members of the public wanted to be assured that inmates would be returned to their home communities when they were released from the facility. Can the minister confirm that inmates in the new correctional facility will be returned to their home communities once they have been released? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister of Justice, Honourable Paul Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we do this daily, returning them to their home communities. Sometimes they stay in the community if they are going to school and if they are trying to complete their training or education.

It is reviewed case-by-case but we try to return all the inmates to their appropriate communities. Before they are released, we review where they are going to be released.

That is how we operate as part of our daily operations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** First supplementary, Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. My constituents in Kugluktuk have similar concerns that have been raised about the Ilavut Centre. I have been informed that a couple of inmates that have been released are now making Kugluktuk their residence. Can the minister confirm this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some inmates try to complete their education and when they have to be released ... prior to their release they stay in school and I am not too sure exactly with these individuals. They try to keep them in the communities even though they have been released to complete their education.

That only occurs after they investigate, or do a review whether they're dangerous to the public or not. According to what I have heard that individual has family in the community.

We do try to return them back to their home community. But if it's going to enhance the individual or the community then staying there is what's going to occur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Your second supplementary, Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that these two inmates that have been released, they're not going to school or have a job.

(interpretation ends) What is the department's policy on returning former inmates to their home communities after they're released from the Ilavut Centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each inmate that is about to be released is assessed and the general practice is that inmate is returned to the community where the offender committed the crime. In some cases, the individual may be trying to complete an education in the community. They're allowed to do that. In some cases, they may have found employment so they have become contributors to society.

Each case is assessed on an individual basis to see if there's a need to release the individual in the community, or not. Generally, they're always released in the community that they are convicted from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

#### **Question 054 – 2(4): Cambridge Bay Doctor Termination of Contract**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Last month our doctor departed Cambridge Bay to return to Vancouver. Her one year contract was terminated after only four or five months in the community. She actually wanted to stay two to five years. I received many, many letters, emails, and concerns from my constituents about the doctor leaving. People had talked to me and contacted me wanting her to stay. They've never had such a good doctor in years.

My question for the minister is: can she tell me why the Department of Health and Social Services, or the College of Physicians and Surgeons, terminated her contract in Cambridge Bay, yet offer her work in Rankin Inlet or Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq.



**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't speak to the individual person's confidential file. I can speak generally to what we tried to do in terms of dealing with the situation that arose in the work place.

Yes, the member is correct in that the members of the community had expressed concerns about her departure, as well as to myself. From the standpoint of providing services internally, we have issues that we needed to deal with and respond to.

At the end of the day a decision was made to offer her a transfer to a community where there were other physicians there along with her to work with her. This particular individual in Cambridge Bay was alone as a physician, and internally we had to address some matters that I cannot speak to in the House. To provide a solution to that, we put her in an environment where there were other staff to work alongside with the individual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. It doesn't shed any more light on the situation that we already know, and I'm sure my constituents would like a lot more details, given the fact that we really like to...you know, have the doctors stay there permanently.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the College of Physicians and Surgeons is responsible for hiring and firing doctors in Nunavut. So my question to the minister would the minister explain to the House the review process the college used to determine termination of this particular doctor? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health hires all the physicians in Nunavut. The Director of Physician Services is located here in Iqaluit. That individual provides support and assistance to doctors throughout the north.

At the same time we have contracts with Manitoba that hires from them and we work with them on contract. But, all the hiring for positions in the north is done through the staff here in Iqaluit at headquarters for the Nunavut Territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

My constituents, there could be as many as 30 or 40 have expressed their concerns that they wanted this particular doctor to stay. I understand what the minister is saying; there might have been some internal reasons for her having to leave.

My question for the minister: does the College of Physicians and Surgeons assign a higher priority to health centre employee concerns about a particular doctor over the concerns that come from community residents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the individual was well received by residents of the community.

When I make my decision as a department I have to look at it from the context of the services that we're providing to the residents in a community. Some of that information is related to personnel internal issues. I cannot speak to them externally, but I want to reassure the member that all factors were considered.

But, at the end of the day we needed to look at the issues and concerns that arose internally within the Department of Health and the services that we do provide to our patients. In this particular case, the individual is still with us within Nunavut, in a different community, with a broader working team and supervision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. It's good to know the doctor is back in Nunavut somewhere, and she is a very good doctor from what I understand.

The minister said that this doctor needed to be with other doctors. In Cambridge Bay we are supposed to have three to four doctors. We only have one because of housing concerns. Could the minister commit to me that she will hire this doctor back to the health centre in Cambridge Bay when they increase their doctor coverage to three to four, as they're supposed to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Member. Minister of Health, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will consider his offer and pass that along to my staff. Any individual is welcome to put their names back for any recruitment initiatives that we have within the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

#### **Question 055 – 2(4): Qangualik Abduction**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Premier.

First of all, I would like to thank the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth ... I would like to compliment him on his work on the abduction of Qangualuk. He was doing a superb job on this event from the 1940s.

I would also like to thank him that there will be a memorial put up and I thank you very much that you invited me there. I wish to be there during the memorial gathering.

There are a lot of questions that are in our minds that are not answered. Who were those people who abducted those Inuit? I think there should be more investigation as to how this happened for the benefit of their descendents and to the people in general. Does he agree with me? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am very happy with the minister that he has worked on this to try and find out. As a government, it has been kind of hard, and we have talked with our Member of Parliament on how they can assist us.

We haven't put this on the backburner; we have been dealing with it and working with it so we can help the children and the grandchildren of those people. We haven't closed this project and we're going to be working on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I know it's hard. I think there are things that we can use. The minister sent correspondence to Foreign Affairs requesting the Russians to investigate this. I would like to ask the Premier if he has contacted the federal government other than our Member of Parliament. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have worked very closely with my colleague and he has been working on it. I know I will be assisting this minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. As a society we have gone through various hardships where dogs were killed, and QIA has said that they will be interviewing more Inuit.

I can say that relocation of the people who were moved to the High Arctic, there have been reviews, and they have been compensated. Those tragedies or disasters have to be worked on.

We're talking about the abduction of Inuit. According to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, we have to find out what happened to them. It would be very beneficial if we could understand, so there should be an inquiry.

Following the *Public Inquiries Act*, you have the authority. I believe there can be an enquiry into this since you are the Premier. Can you start on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (translation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We totally agree that this is a serious matter. CLEY has dealt with this matter well and I will continue to try and work together with them. If we can imagine for a moment how *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* works, whichever party is at fault will be dealt with accordingly.

As a government we were never part of this, so therefore how can we know? There is no way we can tell at the present time. We've asked the federal government to look into this matter, as my ministerial colleague has already delegated this matter. Therefore, by way of channelling this matter this way, we can obtain better information and find out what happened.

It is unfortunate that we weren't even a government at the time. This definitely needs to be looked into. There is no doubt we're going to delegate the federal government again to look into this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I offered the Premier a very important tool; that he has the authority to issue and order a public inquiry through the laws of this government.

He can put under oath those individuals that were involved. There was a priest, they believe, that was involved around that area who may have some information, RCMP archives may have some information, the Roman Catholic Diocese may have some information. There may be some correspondence even with our own government because Canadian sovereignty was already being enforced in that part of the world.

I believe the best tool is to order a public inquiry so that individuals wishing to appear can be cross-examined and information can lead to other sources. So, will the minister undertake to order a public enquiry so that he will not have to worry about how to go about this? The inquiry officials will take care of the difficult questions. If not, why not?

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a government, in no way, shape, or form were we a party to this situation.

So it is difficult for me to respond to the question because we support the families in learning about what took place. We have been cooperating with the family and with my Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. And, we will continue to do that.

But, to accuse our government of trying to hide something, that is what public enquiries carry out. As a government, we were in no way, shape, or form involved in this incident that may have taken place.

So for me to try and find a solution, it's very difficult for me to do that but we will continue to pursue this matter with our national government, which has responsibility for international relations in trying to get to the bottom of these matters. (interpretation)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

**Question 056 – 2(4): Group Home for Arviat**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I mentioned earlier in my Member's Statement in regard to group homes, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Under the federal government, I was a social worker in Churchill and I would visit the group homes. They're mentally challenged; they have to be assisted. I would like to ask the minister because it's very difficult if you hear in your mind as to where constantly there's noise all over where the parents have children like that.

So for that reason, the residents of Arviat have thought that it would be better and the population is increasing. The minister spoke of the significant savings in medical travel due to the ability to provide ultrasound services to patients in their home communities.

It seems to be the same thing with those patients and when they're increasing...but if we make a group home in the community, I'm sure there would be significant savings in that area, too, because that's what she pointed out yesterday. Can the minister update this House on what savings could be achieved if a local group home provided living, counselling, and support services, instead of sending patients with behavioural problems out of the community; out of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I agree with the member's concerns regarding Nunavummiut who are sent outside of Nunavut because we don't have the facilities to take care of them here.

I'm in agreement with the member that it would be nice to have a facility in Nunavut. For example, there's one in Igloolik and there's one in Gjoa Haven; we don't have enough facilities, so we're looking at getting four facilities in Nunavut.

Also, there are two facilities that were passed in the budget last November, in Clyde River and also in Taloyoak. There's a facility under public housing.

Our staff in the communities have home-care facilities. Would it be cheaper to have a facility in the communities? I think this would be costly to operate those facilities in all communities. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is that way but some of the facilities are not for those types of people. What I am talking about if you have not been to Arviat is, it is very difficult to have those kinds of individuals. The person would be holding on to one son that is mentally disabled while the other one is normal.

It seems like they have to do this type of work 24 hours a day, seven days a week and they don't get any help from the family. It gets very difficult for them. They are under a lot of stress and don't know who to turn to. When I became a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I talked about this many times but the government has not heard me.

Perhaps, if we could get some funding from the government to take them to Portage Place or Brandon Place, maybe we would be able to understand more. I can understand how stressed those people, the parents, are. We could also get a three or four bedroom facility in Arviat.

Can the minister tell me how many people are in that condition in Nunavut right now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how many individuals are outside of Nunavut. Within Nunavut, there's a facility available with staff to care for those patients.

There are many patients that are being taken care of outside of Nunavut because there is a lack of facilities and services in Nunavut. The Department of Health and Social Services and the government have recognized this problem.

There are two facilities that are going to be built to help address the lack of facilities in Nunavut but there is not enough funding available as of yet. Because of that, the patients that have to be taken care of every day are sent outside of Nunavut to be taken care of since there are no facilities available to them in Nunavut.

I agree with your comments completely and they are recognized but because of the number of patients that have to be taken care of, there are some funds available. We are behind on that; we have patients that we take care of inside of Nunavut, for example, in the facility in Chesterfield Inlet.

But all the communities in Nunavut are experiencing that same problem. The patients that need care have to travel outside of Nunavut at this time to receive those services because we can't take care of them here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Just before we begin, I just want to let the members know that if you are going to ask a question and respond, be straightforward about the question with as little preamble as possible. Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not going to bite anybody. I would like to ask the minister again, I think the minister received a letter from the Mayor of Arviat. There are houses that could be renovated very easily with not a huge amount of dollars. Or you could rent or lease them.

Can the minister tell me, for sure, that under the five-year capital plan whether there could be a group home built in Arviat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have been looking at ways of trying to incorporate more facilities to build in Nunavut for homecare and continuing care facilities, amongst all the other priorities. Those are the areas that I had put forth within the government.

I also want to say to the member that the Department of Health has homecare program support services in the communities to try and provide some assistance to the families that care for individuals in the communities. In Nunavut alone, we have over 1,000 clients at the community level where homecare workers provide assistance to individual families caring for disabled children or individuals that are ill at home.

Yes, we are looking at trying to increase the continuing care facilities in the north as part of the overall capital planning process of the government. Right now we have two that are in the works in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 057 – 2(4): Income Support Eligibility**

**Mr. Kattuk**: Oh, boy. At the last minute.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) I would like to ask a question, I will not ask my question at this time because I have supplementaries to ask. My question today is to do with social assistance for food.

We have heard that a person who is out of their home community down south to go to the hospital cannot receive social assistance while they're away. If that individual comes back from the hospital and comes back to their home community, would that individual be able to receive social assistance still, or not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister of Education, Honourable Ed. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two clarifications on this instance. If a person who is on medical travel is at a hospital or staying at one of our boarding homes, then their needs are taken care of while they're in Winnipeg, or Iqaluit, or Ottawa, or wherever that may be.

However, the household still would receive income support based on the number of people that were in the household. When the person returns to their home community, then they, as an individual, are eligible for income support payments for the period of time when they land in their community and further onwards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been told that because the individual was in the hospital, even if they got back home, they couldn't receive social assistance. The minister talks about the adjustments to social assistance. The social worker was probably not told. After they get back to their community, they have to wait about a week or two, maybe because they figure that they're still in the hospital. Would that adjustment be made so the individual can receive social assistance when they come back home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When individuals leave their home community on Monday and they go to Winnipeg for a hospital appointment and they're in there for three weeks, they wouldn't be eligible for income support payments while they're in Winnipeg because their needs are being covered while they're at the boarding home, or in the hospital, or what have you, in the hospital.

However, the members of the household who are in the community are covered. For example, if it was in the community of Sanikiluaq, when the person comes back from hospital, and is back in Sanikiluaq, from that day forward they are eligible for income support again because they are back home in their home community.



But, they do not receive income support payments while they are out of the community at a hospital, but their family would still receive it, excluding them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I talked about... maybe he's about 20 years old, and he lives at his parents' place but he was in a hospital down south and could not receive any social assistance.

It doesn't seem right because he is an adult, and still living with his parents, and the parents are probably receiving social assistance. I'm trying to give you information. I'm just talking about a person that doesn't have family members in their community.

What about the people that don't have any family members? Will there be an adjustment made for those too? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we're reviewing the income support program we are looking at opportunities for program enhancements, and those include possible rate increases on different categories on income support.

The basic eligibility for income support in this case, we wouldn't be looking at that in particular because income support is a universal benefit. You have to apply for it, and you have to be eligible for it, and there are program criteria for it.

Any individual living in Nunavut who is over the age of 18 can apply for income support, but not everyone is accepted. It's based on what their needs are. In this case, specifically, if you're a single person for example, and you're living with your parents, and you have to go to a hospital out of the community, during that period of time while you're out of the community, you are not eligible for income support.

That is something again that we could look at, but I don't see a big swell of change for that eligibility requirement within the Income Support Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): I don't believe the minister is going to respond to any of my question on this, so I'm just going to leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Question Period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Curley.

## Item 7: Written Questions

**Written Question 001 – 2(4): Enforcement and Implementation of the Wildlife Act**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I directed some questions to the Minister of Environment regarding wildlife. At that time, we were told that if an individual makes a kill he is prosecuted. My first question:

1. How many charges have been laid under the *Wildlife Act* since it came into force on July 9, 2005?
2. What were the circumstances involved in the laying of each charge?
3. Section 241 of the *Wildlife Act* provides that alternative measures may be used to deal with a person alleged to have committed an offence instead of judicial proceedings. On how many occasions have the provisions of this section been used?

And I would like to acknowledge and thank a former member from the High Arctic who actually put that provision in the Act; Rebecca.

4. Section 160 of the *Wildlife Act* provides that the minister must appoint an Advisory Committee of elders to review current, traditional and historical types, methods and technologies of harvesting wildlife in the context of the guiding principles and concepts of *Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit* and to advise the minister on those it considers humane and safe. At present, who are the members of the Advisory Committee?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Written Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Written Question 002 – 2(4): Support to Community Libraries**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I directed some questions yesterday to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth in regard to community libraries. So at this time I would like to ask a Written Question.

1. As of March 14, 2007, what is the status of hiring a Community Services Librarian for the Nunavut Public Library Services Headquarters in Baker Lake?
2. What training does the department provide to local librarians in Nunavut? (interpretation ends)
3. The department's budget for community library support has not increased since 2006-07. What types of support does the department provide to community

librarians in Nunavut provide and what plans does the department have for enhancing these services during the 2007-08 fiscal year?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Written Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Written Question 003 – 2(4): Akitsiraq Law School Program**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Written Question is to the Honourable Paul Okalik, Minister of Justice regarding Akitsiraq Law School Program.

1. As of March 14, 2007, what was the total cost of the Akitsiraq Law School Program, broken down by category of expenditure?
2. What were the Government of Nunavut's total expenditures in relation to the Akitsiraq Law School Program?
3. How much funding for the Akitsiraq Law School Program was provided by the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation of Toronto, the Government of Canada, and other third party sources?
4. What allowances and benefits were provided to students enrolled in the Akitsiraq Law School Program?
5. How many students were initially enrolled in the Akitsiraq Law School Program?
6. How many students graduated from the Akitsiraq Law School Program?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Written Questions. 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. Arvaluk.

**Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 031 – 2(4): Nunavut Representative on Board of Directors and Payment Agents – Letter from the President and CEO of NorthwesTel**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of the correspondence I received from the President of NorthwesTel in reply to my letter. I am very pleased to note that the company has committed to me to address the issues of payment agent services in our communities and the need for Nunavut representation on the company's board of directors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

**Tabled Document 032 – 2(4): Financial Statements for Keewatin Business Development Centre**

**Tabled Document 033 – 2(4): Notice of Directors Societies Act File from Keewatin Business Development Centre**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. The first one is the financial statements as of March 31, 2003 for the Keewatin Business Development Centre, which would have been the last year that they filed for society status to be able to keep in good standing.

And also, Mr. Speaker, included in this package, I would like to table a copy of Notice of Directors under the *Societies Act* that also has to be done on an annual basis in order to keep the society in good standing. This is the 2002... It's the last one that they had done, so I would like to table those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Please bring the documents to the table officers. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Tabled Document 034 – 2(4): Ministerial Meeting Report – F/P/T Ministers of Social Services May 29, 2006 from Department of Health and Social Services**

**Tabled Document 035 – 2(4): Ministers Report – F/P/T Ministers Responsible for Status of Women October 2006 from Department of Health and Social Services – Saint John, New Brunswick – October 2006 FPT Report**

**Tabled Document 036 – 2(4): Ministerial Meeting Report – F/P/T Canada North West FASD Partnership Meeting September 2006 from Department of Health and Social Services**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following: Federal/Provincial/Territorial Report: Municipal Services Conference in Ottawa, May 29; Ministers Responsible for Status of Women's Conference, Saint John, New Brunswick, October 1 and 2; Canada and Northwest Partnership Meeting in Yellowknife, December 27 to 28, 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Please bring the documents to the table officers. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Mr. Simailak.

**Tabled Document 037 – 2(4): Parnautit, A Foundation for the Future – Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following document: *Parnautit, A Foundation for the Future – Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Picco.

**Tabled Document 038 – 2(4): Letter from City of Iqaluit Regarding Creating a Sustainable Iqaluit Initiative**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to be able to table a document on *Creating a Sustainable Iqaluit*, March 14, 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Item 16: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills****Bill 04 – Workers’ Compensation Act – Notice**

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, March 16, 2007, that Bill 4, *Workers’ Compensation Act*, be read for the first time. 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 Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break. Hold on...I will recognize Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to return to Item 5 on the agenda. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. The member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Go ahead, Mr. Kattuk.

**Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don’t recognize people very often but there is an individual here from Sanikiluaq who just came in. I would like to recognize a very good individual, Sanikiluaq’s grandchild. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. We will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:15 and Committee resumed at 15:44*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Barnabas)(interpretation): Good afternoon. We'll start the Committee of the Whole. In Committee of the Whole we are 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 Community and Government Services followed by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Are we in agreement that we continue with the main estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Chairman:** Minister Brown, do you want your staff to sit with you at the witness table?

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Yes, I do.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to bring the officials?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Sergeant-at-Arms. Have Minister Brown's staff to return to the chambers.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Welcome Minister Brown and your officials. For the record, could you introduce your officials please?

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, my Deputy Minister, Pam Hine and also to my left, Mike Rafter, our Finance Comptroller.

**Chairman:** Yesterday, we were on Page J-11. Turn to J-11. Mr. Curley has the floor.

**Mr. Curley:** I believe I completed my marine contract questioning at that time. I remember one thing clearly, that the minister committed to providing when the marine contract would end to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** We are on Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Government Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$58,026,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I don't know the details on page J-12, I have a question. The Government Services 2007-2008, \$58,026,000, do I understand that the Government Services, are they government employees? Like compensation and benefits, that is what they are usually under.

Under Municipal Transfer Payments, \$45,132,000, I would like to ask, although I might be wrong, the total for \$58,000,000 for the department of Community and Government Services, and also in the previous page we had seen \$6 million for compensation and benefits and on J-11, \$6,687,000 under Compensation and Benefits.

I would like to know that. Under Contract Services this \$6,787,000, how many employees do you have working at the government? The funding that was allocated to the communities or municipalities is smaller than Compensation and Benefits.

So as I stated earlier on, the government's regulatory and legal requirement expenses take over the funding that is supposed to be used for communities because the government is using huge sums of money.

Could the minister tell me how many person years is that, \$6,887,000. And under contract services, \$14,146,000, what do contract services mean on that line item. I understand what it says, but I would like you to use examples to explain that. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In total there are 309 employees, and there are 30 in the Petroleum Product Division. In total there are 339 employees.

And in regard to contract services, I will ask Mr. Rafter to respond to that part of the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is \$14,146,000 for contract services under the branch of government services. The funding there includes significant funding for informatics, and about \$11.5 million of that is for leased property. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This may not be a question, but 309 employees in 25 communities. Yes, I know that they deliver fuel to the communities, but what I'm trying to say that isn't it about time that we review... that as a government... our government to assist the municipalities to be self-sustaining and capable.

The municipalities or hamlets that we represent, I know the communities or Community and Government Services, Hunters and Trappers Organizations, Housing, nursing, they are not responsible for that. They provide funding for the maintenance and operation of hamlets.

The 300 employees of the Government of Nunavut; why do we need that many employees within the department? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have many important responsibilities within our department such as fire marshals and search and rescue. We also take care of procurement procedures and practices and we are also responsible for all Government of Nunavut buildings and properties that belong to the Government of Nunavut.

I will ask my Director of Finance to respond in detail on the finances. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rafter**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could just add to that, I thought that the minister's comments were very thorough but the majority of the departmental employees are under Capital Planning and Technical Services which are responsible for the construction of facilities across the territory for government as well as for the maintenance of those facilities.

There are 110 person years under that area, 45 positions within the department that directly support communities and the amount of funding that goes directly to communities, there is approximately \$46 million of the \$47 million annually.

Direct support for communities is in the order \$53 million for the Department of Community and Government Services. Government Services has 72 employees as well in support of Government Operations, Informatics and Procurement are the primary areas, as well as management of leases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want the minister to know that in my community we have volunteer firefighters, volunteer search and rescue people,



and we have volunteer alcohol and drug committees, we have volunteer recreation committees, and we have volunteers for coaches. They are all volunteers in my community.

I'm sure that people who are providing some funding are living in good homes. It seems like we're leaning to one side too much. If you're not a municipal worker, you're all volunteers. That's how they maintain the firefighters, search and rescue, and recreation committees.

I know that we can volunteer, but we now hire people in the communities. The people who are capable and qualified are not working in the workforce and they have to volunteer in the evening even though they have a full time job for recreation, rescue and alcohol committees.

So are you prepared to look into that, or are you looking to review that to make sure that we keep the communities happy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We appreciate the volunteer groups very much. We acknowledge and recognize them.

The firefighters are now taking more training. When they took their training, it became evident that all the communities of Nunavut became enhanced drastically. Yes, we are reviewing that because it is also part of our *Pinasuaqtavut*.

Yes, we need to do more training in the communities so that the communities can become self sustaining and capable. So, we acknowledge and train all those volunteers such as search and rescue and we do want to provide more services, and we do provide annual meetings for them.

Usually the municipalities are responsible for their recreation committees. Yes, we acknowledge the fact that we need to develop and enhance, but as the Department of Community and Government Services, we will encourage everyone to work well and we do give out recognition awards and we acknowledge the fact that they are volunteer groups.

I'm very sensitive that it is due to a lack of funding that they are not being paid. Yes, we are working very hard, and also would like to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers.

The firefighters were in town last week to take part in the training and they really appreciated it. The firefighters themselves, in turn do training at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. We're on Community and Government Services. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the Minister and her officials back to the House today.

Mr. Chairman, on page J-16 of the business plan, under 2006-07 priorities, there is a priority to develop a long-term Government of Nunavut office space plan and the status says that work has begun on the drafting of an executive summary for ministerial approval.

Can the minister provide some information to the House on the status of the drafting of that executive summary? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The work has begun on the office space report. It's an extensive undertaking across this government. At this point ten communities have been fairly documented in terms of their space requirements. It was completed several months ago.

A contract more recently was awarded to consolidate the information into an executive summary and bring it forward with a comprehensive report over the remainder of the fiscal year.

We're hoping, prior to the sitting of the fall Legislature, to have a comprehensive document on space needs completed for the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Can the minister provide me with an update on the office space survey that was conducted in Cambridge Bay last year; I believe it was sometime last summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can he elaborate more as to which one he is talking about? I know he is referring to Cambridge Bay, but which particular one. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to elaborate for the minister. I'm not sure what the minister is asking. There are Government of Nunavut employees in Cambridge Bay, in various building locations, so I assume that you survey all the needs of all the Government of Nunavut employees and you will have a report to guide you on future development and procurement of office space in Cambridge Bay to meet their needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, for that member. We have that. Yes, we do. We can provide that information to you. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. I hope that I can get that soon.

Minister, a couple of years ago in the House we reviewed a tabled document on leases; it was quite an informative document. It helped our MLAs to see what contract leases existed in Nunavut, which communities, which locations.

We noted that a number of leases were in an overhold position. We were quite concerned about those overhold leases because some leases expire in 2007 and then we would be in overhold. It was our belief, as a standing committee, that those leases should have been reviewed and then negotiated for renewal, or termination two or three years before the expiry date.

I am aware in Cambridge Bay that there's one large lease that expired in 2006. I believe it's probably in overhold at the moment. I want to ask the minister what is the situation with that lease at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I can answer that. The office building that you're referring to is the Enokhok Development Corporation, and it holds 117 staff members from different departments. Status on overhold, and the lease between EDC and the Government of Nunavut expired on February 28, 2006.

There was an engineering assessment report completed by a third party in fiscal year 2006. In the report it indicates that the building is structurally sound. The report also indicates the building requires some updates as a building envelope.

As part of the Community and Government Services mandate to negotiate with EDC, there is an understanding that upgrades in the amount of \$2.2 million will occur. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. I noted in the Auditor General's Report from 2001 that the Auditor General felt that the Government of Nunavut was locked into a lot of long-term leases that they inherited from the Government of the Northwest Territories.

That particular lease was a 20-year lease, \$1.1 or \$1.2 million dollars annually over the term of a 20 year lease, that's \$22 million, and there was some concern there that at the end of it all, the government was not going to have the building, they wouldn't own the building.

So I'm wondering; we expressed our concern two years ago about the government's processes not being as expeditious as they should and not identifying these over-hold leases and expiring leases early enough to allow the government to properly negotiate renewals or extensions.

I'm wondering if the minister can indicate to me today if the government, if she says the lease is an over-hold, is the government currently in a review situation with that particular lease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently working on this and it's true that we took over these from the Government of the Northwest Territories. They started leasing it in 1986, and in 1999, when our government was new; we just took over the lease because it ended February 28.

Yes, the only thing I can say to what he said is; it's true. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. When I read the Auditor General's report, the Auditor General said that the government should get good value for their money and that they should do extensive calculations to ensure that the government gets good value for their money when they enter into leases.

So there have to be some lease versus buy decisions. I'm sure that they're going through those decisions, can the minister take us through the process that her department initiates when they enter into those kinds of reviews to buy or lease? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do all sorts of things to make sure that we are within the guidelines, especially when we are dealing with acquisition stages.

We provide program assessments, needs analysis, cost estimates, preliminary assessments, funding, requests for proposal, requests for tender, expressions of interest, also review of responses to the above. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that overview. Can the minister indicate or confirm that when you went through this process that there was a request for tender, or a request for proposals that went out in the community of Cambridge Bay, for office space, for all those 117 employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask my deputy to respond to that.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Government of Nunavut leasing of real property, the authority to provide the assessment is with Community and Government Services and it is up to the department to make sure that part of the process, which is the assessment process to the acquisition, that there is enough valid information to see whether or not we need to go out for request for proposal or expression of interest.

This is done on the needs of the programs of our departments, the availability of space and the needs of the space, and also on the financial position as well as to how we go forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hine. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Ms. Hine. Again, in the Auditor General's report she mentioned that the total value of the leases should not exceed the value of the building being leased, otherwise why lease them, why don't you just buy it? Can the minister confirm that that analysis also was included in their review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising those questions. I'll ask Mr. Rafter to respond, thank you.

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in fact, a lease/buy assessment was done on the property in question. One of the things that the department is obligated to do is to perform a lease/buy analysis if the transaction over the window of time for the government's consideration is valued in excess of \$1 million. The department was required to carry forward some recommendations to the Financial Management Board several months ago.

The department started working on that based on the office space needs assessment, a study that was completed. As it turned out the lease/buy recommendations were done. The lease/buy recommendations validated an option; the option was to enter into negotiations to extend the existing term of the lease for a period into the future. I hope that adequately responds to the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rafter for that answer. Can the minister indicate or tell us if the recommendations have gone forward to the Financial Management Board to renew the lease, confirm the new lease, and if so has a decision been made? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the answer. As I mentioned in my opening comments, this line of questioning, this issue was raised two years ago and at that time we were concerned that the department wasn't beginning an analysis early enough to allow them sufficient negotiating time to get a good deal.

Mr. Rafter just commented that several months ago they started a lease/buy analysis and the recommendation came forward to extend the lease. Minister, in your opinion, if you only started a several months ago, do you think you got a good deal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in my opinion, I believe at this point in time we do have a good deal simply because the EDC building is approximately 33,000 square feet and is occupied 100 percent by tenants. FMB provided direction as required under the Government of Nunavut's Leasing of Real Property Policy. 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. Can the minister tell me why an RFP was not tendered out in Cambridge Bay for the provision of the office space to give other developers an opportunity to participate in that economic opportunity? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department did go to great effort over the past number of months to review options that would accommodate this government's needs in Cambridge Bay.

The department does recognize the member's concerns. We do make every effort to utilize public or RFP or public tenders. In this circumstance, based on the assessments that were completed it was felt that the value that was able to be negotiated through this was the best value for the government.

The government does make every effort to utilize its scarce fiscal resources to the extent that it can and it was felt at this point in time that that was the best option for the government. I'm not sure if I totally responded to the member's question but thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Rafter. I guess what I'm getting at here is that it doesn't actually have to apply only to this particular lease but to all Government of Nunavut leases.

If you're only starting a review in the year that it's in overhold and not starting it two to three years prior to the lease expiring, I have the question of whether the government's getting good value in these small communities where there is only a certain amount of office space. You lose your negotiating advantage when you're into overhold for a year or longer.

So I'm wondering if the minister can confirm and commit that all leases that are on overhold one to three years, that their department is reviewing those leases and keeping in mind the fact that they may need office space where they have to provide themselves with a sound negotiating vantage when they have to enter into negotiations with the owners of buildings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order to answer that question, I guess, I could say that as the GN we do try and make every effort to get the best value for the money. To say that the building that is in the subject here; it was not in the capital dollars, so that's the best we could do this time around. 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 minister mentioned that there's \$2.2 million in upgrades and the minister is also saying that the government tries to get good value for money. Somewhere in the equation I have to answer the question whether the employees get a good office building for the money.

We're all well aware that that building is old and it needed upgrades for quite a few years. I've heard many complaints from constituents that actually work in that building.

I was wondering if the minister could confirm that that building will be upgraded material-wise to suitable standard to meet the 2007 modern office building criteria. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are fully aware of the fact that it's an old office building; it's 20 years old. We have addressed this issue. Just for an example, right here in Iqaluit there are offices that are more than 20 years old; just look at the Brown Building. I wondered how many years that one is but it is still being utilized. They do upgrades on them.

In this case, there was a third party independent and professional technical evaluation of the property that was done, in addition to our own in-house assessment. Upgrades and improvements at the landlord's expense will increase the lifespan of the building and its value.

Upgrades and improvements amounting to \$2.2 million will be completed over the first two years, as I have mentioned, of the lease at the landlord's cost, and these stipulations will be included in the lease agreement. Transferring some EDC annual maintenance service to CGS will allow us to tender the services. This will ultimately provide better value to the GN, such as snow removal, snow clearing, janitorial services, and direct fuel billing. Scheduled O&M will be performed on a GN approved schedule and reporting will be required. At the end of the day, at the end of the lease the GN will own the building. 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 provide us with financial figures? What is the annual lease renewal for that building? What is the term of the lease? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department is in the process of negotiating some of the final arrangements with the lease. I can say the base lease rent is, in fact, 20 percent lower than the average lease cost to this government across the territory. I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rafter for that answer. What is the average base lease cost to the government across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some aspects of the cost is due to the fact that it's under negotiation and on a basis that are considered, I would think, privileged information. That is just one of those aspects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I don't think I understood Mr. Rafter. He said privileged information; we are Members of the Legislative Assembly, we are the guardians of the public purse. You did say that your review made some recommendations to Financial Management Board, so, surely you must have some figures that you can provide to Members of the Legislative Assembly on that lease.

I would appreciate it if you could provide that information to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Your questioning is over. Once the other members have had a chance to ask questions you can begin again. Madame Minister.

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

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

**Mr. Rafter**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I perhaps didn't articulate what I was trying to say as well as I probably should have.

I didn't mean to imply that I couldn't or shouldn't try to provide a full response to the member's question. I do have to solicit some direction to confirm what it is within the agreement that I can publicly disclose.

I would certainly request that I at least be given an opportunity to do that and will respond again more fully to the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rafter. We're on government services. J-11. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe we can just take a short break so that Mr. Rafter, or the minister and her officials can find out what they can let us know or not, because I, myself am very interested in finding out how much we're going to be paying for buildings. I'm going to be asking about the terms of the lease as well for a building where we already paid \$24 million.

So I would like to ask if we can take a break right now, and he can find out because I certainly am very interested in having that information provided to the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We will take a short break. I'm asking the members if they agree: would you like to take a short break, members? With that we will break for five minutes.

*>>Committee recessed at 16:29 and resumed at 16:50*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Let's resume the meeting. Before we go back to the page, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Arvaluk. I was out of order. When the Speaker sits on this throne we can go back to an item. So you'll have to wait until then.

We're on Community and Government Services. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering if the minister or her officials could provide us with the numbers for that lease that we were talking about before. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, for the question member. As required by the GN Leasing Policy, CGS received directions to negotiate a new lease with the existing landlord. These negotiations are still in progress; they're still in process. Therefore we are unable to provide the details until the lease has been signed. We have followed that process ever since 2004 that I know of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a little discouraging if the official said they already knew what the base rate was going to be and they don't want to provide that information to the members of the Assembly. Given that I would like to make a motion.

**Committee Motion 001 – 2(4): Deferral of Consideration of 2007-08 Main Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services**

I move that the consideration of the 2007-08 main estimates and business plans of the Department of Community and Government Services be deferred and the committee proceeds with the consideration of the 2007-08 main estimates and business plans for Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Before we proceed with the debate on the motion I have a few comments to make as to procedure.

Every member has the right to speak once the motion is made for a total time of twenty minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first. The mover of the motion has the right to the last replies which closes the debate. To the motion. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really believe that members of the Assembly of this government have said that they want to be open and transparent; they've already indicated that they do have an agreement with the landlord on that facility for a base amount and it was detailed stuff that they were negotiating.

So I would like to say that we are entitled to that information; the details on it; they have made a decision on it; it is public money that we're going to be voting on in this budget. So I think until we get more information that this department be deferred. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Are there any further comments to the motion? Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's different ways to approach the debate on issues regarding the budget of the Department of Community and Government Services. One way would be to, at this time, cease and desist debate on this line item, but continue with the rest of the budget.

We've had the department on debate for the last couple of days and we don't want to see the House fall behind schedule.

So maybe an opportunity exists here where we could just stop on this page and everyone knowing that we can come back to it and continue on with the department. If we stop the department right now and go on to another department, we still have to come back to it anyways.

So I'd rather see the majority of the department be completed and then be able to come back and debate the issue that has caused some concern for the members. That, Mr. Chairman, would be a proposal that I would make on behalf of the government on this issue.

My question to you, Mr. Chairman, would the members entertain that opportunity with the motion? I think that would be a fair...because I do understand that there are some concerns with the line item. So instead of just holding up the whole bunch of debates on the department, we defer that line item and continue on with the rest of the budget for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. (interpretation ends) I'm asking you if you're making a motion to amend the motion. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be highly irregular for a Member of the Cabinet to make a motion to defer an item in the budget for debate. What I'm suggesting is maybe one of the members or the member who moved the motion would accept what I have suggested and do that motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. (interpretation ends) Are there any more general comments? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** I think that delay will probably not succeed at this moment because if a member wants to amend the motion and you really should have a partner, he doesn't have one right now so I think we should stick to the motion and get on with the vote. And I have no problem with the motion as it is and the minister deserves a bit of rest right now so I think we would do well in getting rid of the motion and proceed with the other department. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Arvaluk, to the motion.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The motion is not saying that we scrap this part of the budget, Government services be deferred; simply just deferred for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Everyone is allowed to speak to the motion once. So I'm asking if the mover would like to make his last comment, or are there any comments to the motion from the members? (interpretation ends) Mr. Tootoo, you're the mover.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with Mr. Curley and Mr. Arvaluk, so we're not saying we don't want to deal with this department; we just want it deferred for now and move on to the next department on the list so that time isn't wasted and we can move forward and continue to work and progress through the main estimates of the government. So I will leave my motion as it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation ends) All those in favour, please raise your hands. All those opposed.

(interpretation) There's a tie vote but I have to support the motion. So we will defer the consideration of the Department of Community and Government Services. So at this time we'll move on to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

I would like to ask Mr. Tapardjuk to do his opening comments for the department, I'm sorry. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the officials from the witness table, and I would like to thank the officials, Mr. Rafter, Ms. Hine, and the minister. Thank you.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Order. Minister for Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Opening Comments, Mr. Tapardjuk.

### **Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2007-08 – Consideration in Committee – Culture, Language, Elders & Youth**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleagues, it is my pleasure to present to you the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for 2007-08, Business Plans and Main Estimates. The department plays an important leadership role in the Government of Nunavut for preservation, development, and enhancement of Nunavut's culture, heritage, language, and healthy active living opportunities for Nunavummiut.

I seek your support to approve the departmental budget of \$16,219,000. As the lead department in incorporating Inuit societal values, and language through the development and implementation of policies, programs, and services for Nunavummiut, my department has increased the members of *katimajit* to 15 members and has restructured the *Katimajit* to three working sub-committees of five people based on interest and experience.

This will ensure the assistance to the other departments is expanded and will guarantee that *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* is reflected in government policies and procedures. My department is implementing two *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* initiatives entering into the second year.

A Project Coordinator is working with *Piqqusilirivik* Steering Committee in the planning and establishment of governance programs and services for *Piqqusilirivik*. A report is forthcoming with an implementation plan outlining the cost, process, and timeline.

The other initiative is on the Inuit societal values pilot project involving elders and the goal of building a stronger community based on Inuit societal values, wellness values, and approaches.

There will be evaluation to document effective practices and to attempt to fight issues with recommendations. The role of elders has always been very important and crucial in our history to addressing social wellness issues. The *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit*, and other elders have been, and continue to be actively involved in this process.

These estimates reflect my department's renewed commitment to creating more culturally based programs on Inuit societal values.

The 2007-08 main estimates assure that my department will continue to address the long-term health of *Inuktitut* and *Innuinaqtut* through the enhancement of translation and terminology services.

Continued funding will be provided for literary prizes and language awards in connection with the Language Week activities. The Official Languages Branch has been diligently working on developing new language legislation that will play an important role in strengthening the Inuit language at all levels of the government and society, while maintaining and respecting minority language rights. It is my intention to introduce the two draft legislation in the near future.

The department's Culture and Heritage Branch is responsible for direction and planning on issues facing the conservation of Nunavut's heritage resources and the administration of Public Library services.

In 2007-08, resources have been provided to expand and enhance the Archaeological Training Program, and a phased implementation of a Human Remains Repatriation Strategy.

The department and Inuit Heritage Trust plans to co-host a repatriation conference to consult with elders and others in the development of a repatriation strategy. The department continues its efforts through the trilateral working group to secure external financial and technical support for the Nunavut Heritage Centre.

Funding in 2007-08 will enable the Community Programs Branch to promote departmental grants and contributions to implement the Elders' Needs Strategy as well as the Youth Developmental Strategy, and the Active Living Campaign to encourage Nunavummiut to be physically active.

The Sport Nunavut Branch is responsible for the development of amateur sport in Nunavut, and delivers programs and services for the development of athletes, coaches, and officials in Nunavut.

Sport Nunavut is an active participant in the Pan-territorial Sport Development Strategy, and funding in 2007-08 will be used in preparing for our participation in Western Canada Summer Games and the Arctic Winter Games.

In closing, I would like to highlight that in the 2007-08 main estimates, \$5,455,000 of my department's budget is allocated to grants and contributions to empower and build capacity in communities throughout Nunavut.

This highly successful program provides funding to individuals, not-for-profit community-based organizations, and local governments for social, cultural, language, sport, recreational youth, elders, and community library projects.

My department recognizes the importance of supporting these projects at a community level as means of preserving and promoting the Inuit societal values. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. At this time I would like to ask the Chair of the *Ajauqtiit* committee if he has any opening comments to make. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to deliver the committees opening remarks as we begin consideration of the 2007-08 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Later on members will have an opportunity to make comments and questions regarding the estimates.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee *Ajauqtiit* has had an opportunity to meet with the minister and his officials. The minister was able to provide an update on his department's proposed expenditures for this coming fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, members are pleased that the department continues to make efforts to encourage Nunavummiut to preserve our language through the awarding of the annual Nunavut Literary prize during the annual Language Week activities.

Members are also pleased that the department is in the process of developing two new pieces of language legislation: the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language*

*Protection Act* for introduction during this session. Members look forward to reviewing these bills after they have been introduced.

Mr. Chairman, members noted that the department continues to pursue negotiations with the federal government on a Canada/Nunavut Cooperation Agreement for French and Inuit languages that will meet the needs of Nunavut. Members expect to be fully informed on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, members noted that departmental officials have been to Cambridge Bay and Clyde River to evaluate the two Inuit societal values, Wellness Pilot Project that were undertaking in 2006-07. Members also noted that the department is developing an Inuit Societal Values program for Nunavut. Members look forward to being updated on the success of these projects.

Mr. Chairman, the committee is pleased that the department is working on its plan for establishing the government's framework for programs and services for the new *Piqqusilirivik* Cultural School in Clyde River, and its satellite campuses. The committee looks forward to monitoring the progress of these initiatives and continues to stress the importance of ensuring that an Inuinnaqtun component is included in the school.

Mr. Chairman, members noted that the department is continuing its efforts through the Trilateral Working Group to secure internal financial and technical support for the proposed new Nunavut Heritage Centre.

Members also noted that the department is working on the implementation of a Human Remains Repatriation Strategy, our cultural artifacts and human remains cannot be repatriated until such facility is built in Nunavut.

Members are also aware that the department continues to work on the development of amendments on the *Historical Resources Act* and look forward to these being introduced.

Members would like to congratulate our athletes, artists, and performers who recently participated in the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse. Members support the department's effort to assist our youth in participating in such events, as well as promoting our cultural and our traditional sporting events on the national stage.

This department is responsible for Nunavut Public Libraries. Building strong literacy skills is an important element of a healthy society.

The committee has noted that there are a number of vacant positions in the department's library service office in Baker Lake. The committee hopes that the department will be able to move forward in filling these.

Members applaud the department for its practice in tabling comprehensive annual reports in the grants and contributions spending, as this practice is important for the transparency and accountability of public funds.



Members look forward to reviewing the 2005-06 annual report, which has not yet been tabled.

This concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that regular members will raise their own comments and concerns on the department's 2007-08 main estimates and business plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. At this time I would like to ask the minister if he will be bringing any of his officials to the witness table. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, I do want to bring officials.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Does the committee agree to bring the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Agreed. Sergeant-at-Arms if you would escort the officials, please.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Tapardjuk, for the record, I would like you to introduce your officials at the witness table.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have on my left, David Akeegok, who is the Deputy Minister for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, and on my right, another David, David Kolot, for finances.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome. Before we proceed, at this time I would like to remind the members of the following; following Rule 77(1) the members will have ten minutes for general comments, and following Rule 77(2), at the discretion of the chair, the members can make more than one comment as long as the other members have had the opportunity to make their comments.

(interpretation ends) I suggest to the members that where ever possible, you ask your detailed questions during the page by page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have general comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My general comments and my questions to Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, I haven't completed them because of the motion that was made earlier.

This has to be very well prepared when we're dealing with this because it deals with Inuit and culture. I move to report progress at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk, and I thank your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials from the witness table.

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

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. There's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Arvaluk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to Item 5. Thank you.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation) The member is asking consent to return to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Arvaluk.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my friend Denis Nutarak from Pond Inlet.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Denis, welcome. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was afraid you weren't going to see my hand up. I would like to recognize a person from Rankin Inlet, from my community, and he's our Mayor Lorne Kusugak. Welcome. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Brown. Welcome, Mr. Mayor.

(interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) There's no more. (interpretation ends) 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. A reminder; a meeting of the Full Caucus tomorrow morning at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 15:

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
  - Bill 5
  - Bill 8
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 Thursday, March 15, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:28*

