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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Pangnirtung)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Cambridge Bay)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, March 15, 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. Curley to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon Premier, Ministers, and Members. (interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 023 – 2(4): Interim Financing Program

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to advise the Members of this House of a new program, the Interim Financing Program, that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has introduced to help new homeowners who are constructing new homes.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation has received many calls from Nunavummiut who are building new homes, who have an approved construction mortgage and who have been refused financing until there's substantial progress on the construction of their house.

Most banks in Nunavut consider interim financing a high risk and do not provide it.

Many first time homeowner clients need assistance to bridge the gap between their approved construction mortgage and the contractor's requirement for cash flow, especially in small communities with small local construction companies.

Interim financing up to 85 percent of the approved mortgage amount is now available to eligible clients of the Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program and the Material Assistance Program.

The Housing Corporation will mitigate the risk of this program by offering counselling, monitoring and by maintaining a close working relationship with clients, banks and

contractors. Funds under this program will be fully repayable upon the completion of the house.

Mr. Speaker, *Pinasuaqtavut* states that families and individuals in Nunavut have fair access to arrange an affordable housing option. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is demonstrating its commitment to *Pinasuaqtavut* by extending the range of affordable options to Nunavummiut by providing the Interim Financing Program.

Mr. Speaker, I'm looking forward to an exciting and challenging year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 024 – 2(4): Pro-Sealing Rally: Up the Anti

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today an important rally is taking place on Parliament Hill sponsored by the Fur Institute of Canada. 'Up the Anti' is taking place on the same day as worldwide anti-sealing protests.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is pleased to participate in 'Up the Anti.' My department has sponsored Nunavummiut to attend the rally and to help support the traditional seal hunt. Senior officials from our department are also present to lend a hand and show that Nunavut is committed to sending a positive message of Canada's sealing industry.

Mr. Speaker, by joining together at this event, Canadian sealers will raise a strong and unified voice to counter the false information being put forward by anti-fur activists who oppose the seal hunt at any cost.

It is important that we work together with other sealing jurisdictions within Canada because we share the same markets for our sealing products.

Inuit have been harvesting seals for many centuries. The use of the seal is still an important part of our way of life. Seals remain an important source of food and continue to provide an irreplaceable source of materials for traditional clothing, for a growing fashion industry, and for our arts and crafts. Sealing also provides a modest income to those that would otherwise be more reliant on government.

No one respects the welfare more than Nunavut's hunters. Seal hunting in Nunavut has always been conducted in a sustainable and humane manner using the whole animal. The hunting of seal is central to Nunavut's Inuit culture and it is a principal way that Nunavummiut pass along our traditions and our values to our youth.

The event this week in Ottawa will be seen across Canada and around the world. It will provide an excellent way for Nunavut to speak up for our seal hunt, and its importance to our way of life. It is again the time for Nunavummiut to raise their voices and be heard on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the Fur Institute of Canada for organizing this very important event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Picco.

Minister's Statement 025 – 2(4): Languages of Instruction Workshops

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to be able to update my colleagues on Languages of Instruction activity taking place across Nunavut.

During the month of February the department held information workshops in both the Qikiqtani and Kivalliq regions. The workshops brought together District Education Authorities, school administrators, and Inuit educators from our communities.

The Kitikmeot region has already undertaken Languages of Instruction activities. It is essential for the successful implementation of Languages of Instruction and the plan that community members be involved.

With the assistance of the District Education Authorities and school staff, the department will extend the Languages of Instruction workshops to our communities over the next six months. The workshops are designed to give communities the information they will need to ensure successful implementation of the model of the languages of instruction that they choose.

The successful implementation of Languages of Instruction also requires the establishment of Community Language Committees. The Language Committees will require representatives that are knowledgeable about their language. Members of the committees should consist of elders, District Education Authority members, school staff and other knowledgeable representatives from the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to also inform my colleagues today that we will be providing each District Education Authority with \$10,000 to assist with the cost of the Language Committee that each community will need to establish as part of the successful implementation of the Languages of Instruction.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me in wishing our communities success in the implementation of Languages of Instruction. This will be one of the most important decisions that will be made by our District Education Authorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Minister's Statement 026 – 2(4): Rankin Inlet Healing Correctional Centre

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

My department recently conducted consultations in Rankin Inlet and there is widespread support to construct a healing correctional centre in Rankin Inlet. The department's plan to complete a new correctional healing facility will meet the needs of all low risk territorial inmates from 2011 forward.

(interpretation) I am pleased that there will be a correctional facility in each of Nunavut's three regions. This facility will have room for 36 remand and sentenced offenders and will meet the Kivalliq's needs when it opens.

Rankin Inlet has many resources to offer our corrections team including elders, addictions and spousal abuse counselling services already in place. (interpretation ends) Reintegration of remanded and sentenced offenders from the Kivalliq will allow more community and family involvement in their healing closer to home.

Inmate counts have been increasing over the past few years. In response, the Department of Justice has increased the use of outpost camps during most of the year. As well, increased transfers to Ontario and the Northwest Territories have helped to limit the strain on the Baffin Correctional Centre and its staff.

After 2011, we hope to be able to house most of our inmates in Nunavut. (interpretation) I thank the community of Rankin Inlet for supporting this initiative. Their help and expertise in implementing this healing project will be central to its success over the coming years.

The preparations for the facility and training of staff will also provide jobs and business opportunities to the Kivalliq region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Ministers' Statements. Minister Aglukkaq.

Minister's Statement 027 – 2(4): Drop the Pop Campaign 2007

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The *Drop the Pop* campaign for 2007 started on March 12 across Nunavut. This made-in-Nunavut solution was developed by

the Department of Health and Social Services staff and is a success story I would like to share.

The first *Drop the Pop* campaign was held in 2004. Its goal was to help prevent diabetes by promoting healthy eating choices. Using a contest approach, it encourages kids to drop pop in favour of more nutritious drinks such as water, milk or real fruit juice.

Over the years, the goal has broadened to promoting healthy living such as finding enjoyable ways to exercise to maintain healthy weight. The *Drop the Pop* idea has been adopted and adapted by other jurisdictions, including the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, Saskatchewan, various school districts in Ontario, and the James Bay Cree Health Board.

Stories about it have run in national magazines for nutritionists, teachers and health promotion. This year, the *Drop the Pop* challenge is being held at the same time in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. With solid support from corporate sponsors like Arctic Cooperatives and the Northern Stores, each school that registers will receive \$350 for their campaign and each student who drops pop will receive a jelly bracelet and a temporary tattoo. The overall school winners receive a week of free nutritious drinks for each student. Last year, Quqshuun School in Gjoa Haven was the winner.

Mr. Speaker, *Drop the Pop* is funded by the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, and the Federal Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative. Arctic Co-op's are running messages on each cable service and the Northern Stores are using the posters as screen savers on their cash register.

I invite the Members of the Legislative Assembly to encourage schools and daycares in their constituencies to participate in *Drop the Pop* 2007 and perhaps take up the challenge themselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Curley.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 051 – 2(4): Inuit Heritage and Artefacts

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today it's almost a blizzard out there and everything is kind of quiet. I rise today to talk about our ancestors and feel that it is very important to our way of life today.

Such things as artifacts that have been taken by people not knowledgeable are supposed to be left where they lay. Not just those, but also the gravesites. They have to be preserved in Nunavut because we know that we don't have any written history.

Mr. Speaker, I received a call recently from one of my constituents in regard to the importance of the grave sites.

I listened to the elder that gave me a call. First of all, I would like to say that we respect the grave sites and the old grave sites, and the people that have lived in that area. Last week, when I was listening, I was told that when this individual's husband was still alive, they buried their daughter on the hill. It had a cross as a marker but last week, just recently, she stated that the grave has been moved so they could have a construction or housing area, so she was told.

She went over there to see what was happening. What she said was when she saw all of the earth removed from the grave; she found bones, human bones.

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

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I listened very carefully to that elder and I'm sure that it was very much part of her heart. She and her husband were there and it must have been very sad because they erected the cross as a marker there. Now that woman is a widow and she's very concerned every day about the daughter's grave being bulldozed.

Those are not the only things that we should be concerned about. There have been lots of times that the people would find artifacts that are in the graves and they have taken them away from Nunavut. I would like to tell everyone out there that this should not be happening and it should be written in our legislation. We should have our right to not have our artifacts taken away but this one happened recently.

Can we agree as Members of this House that it's too bad this happened to this elderly woman and we do not want to see something like that again done by anyone else?

I would like to encourage the members that have the concerns that I have and say that they didn't do anything with those people that bulldozed the graves but it's too bad that happened, and it's a very sad state. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 052 – 2(4): Dog Team Race from Arviat to Churchill – Hudson Bay Quest

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I rise today to remember the individuals and I think there's going to be a lot of activities happening in Arviat in the next week or so. I would like to state my support to the people who are going to be congregating over there.

On Saturday ... and David said he's going to be going to Arviat ... but on Saturday there's going to be a dog team race from Arviat to Churchill. I would like the people of Arviat and the participants to know that I will have them all in mind.

I would like to urge the people to participate and to remember the Inuit culture during this event. This is called 'The Hudson Bay Quest.' The elders, I'm sure, would like to participate in the race but wouldn't be able to do so.

I wanted to make this comment and I would like the people of Nunavut to know that there's going to be 'The Hudson Bay Quest' in Arviat. I would like to urge the people of Nunavut to give their support to those individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 053 – 2(4): Support for the Pro-Sealing Rally

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Economic Development made a statement about the pro-sealing rally and I would like to state my support for the people who are going to be participating in that pro-sealing rally.

As you are probably aware, Sanikiluaq doesn't have any caribou so we rely mainly on the marine mammals. Seals are used for food and for clothing. The entire seal is used for different purposes.

A long time ago when there were still outpost camps, we relied solely on seal meat and its by-products. The seal was very important to all the members who lived in the outpost camps. It's very, very important but with the sealskin, we used it as skin for the *Qajaq*, it's used to make *Kamiik* for both human and dog. We relied a lot on sealskins and it's still being used today.

Mr. Speaker, the meat is still being consumed by Inuit. Even though there are larger populations in the established communities, they skin and the seal meat and by-products are still being used today.

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

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the members.

As I was saying earlier, we still go seal hunting. We still use the skin, the meat, and the by-products for both traditional purposes and also for commercial use. There are full-time hunters who sell the pelts as they have no other means of making revenue.

For your information, and we all know, that we do not club seals as our southern counterparts. As you are probably well aware, we use guns and the boys are taught how to handle guns at a very early age.

The seal is used for both traditional and commercial use. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 054 – 2(4): Passing of Metuq Nowdlak

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing yesterday of a well known and respected Iqaluit elder, Mittuk Nowdluk.

Mr. Speaker, Mittuk was a tireless worker for her fellow Inuit all across Nunavut. She served as a founding member of the *Inuit Qaujimanituqangit Katimajit*, and her wisdom and knowledge of *Inuit Qaujimanituqangit* issues were well welcomed by the members and the committee.

Mr. Speaker, Mittuk was well known for her sewing abilities. Her *Kamiik* were in great demand, and during the April 1, 1999, Nunavut celebrations, she made several pairs for the ceremonies and the RCMP.

Throughout her life she was always available to listen and to give wise advice. On behalf of our family, I'm sure, the members, and the Government of Nunavut, we would like to pass on our sincere condolences to Mittuk's family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, she will be missed. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 055 – 2(4): Constituency Meetings

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.... (*no interpretation*)... (translation)... I had the opportunity to meet with my constituencies of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak over the last two months. I enjoyed my meetings with them and visiting family and friends.

In Gjoa Haven I held a constituency meeting on January 11 and in Taloyoak I met with my constituents on January 18. I am pleased to report that both meetings were well

attended and that I was able to discuss a number of my constituents' issue and concerns with them.

Mr Speaker... Constituency meetings are a great opportunity to hear ideas, issues and to reflect on past accomplishments as well as a good opportunity to plan for the future. I would like to thank Sterling Firlotte and my Constituency Assistant Helen Tiriraniaq of Gjoa Haven as well as Maria Totalik and my Constituency Assistant Johnny Kootook of Taloyoak for helping me with the meeting arrangements.

I would also like to thank constituents in both Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak for meeting with me during my visits and for sharing with me their ideas and concerns. My constituents can rest assured that I will follow up on any items that require it and put forward their suggestions.

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Alagalak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize and welcome the Mayor of Arviat, Johnny Mamgark. With him also is the Senior Administrative Officer for the hamlet office, Carey Merritt. Thank you, and welcome.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not representing this individual but he does represent the whole of Nunavut. I have been working with him for quite a long time, I think approximately 20 years, and he's always very receptive.

This individual is the Second Vice-President of Nunavut Tunngavik, Mr. Raymond Ningeocheak, one of the very well known people in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize these individuals.

First of all, Raymond Ningeocheak, welcome to the Gallery. He has been living in Rankin Inlet for a very long time. And also Donna Napajuq, who is Raymond's assistant and also my cousin. We also have Danny Autut, who is the Human Resources person for Nunavut Tunngavik. Please welcome to the Gallery.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 058 – 2(4): Safety of School Facilities

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

There have been some accidents in the schools. We have had school fires and roofs have been blown off. There has also been mould build-up in the schools. I would like to just show you what studies have been done in the schools in my riding. There have been several concerns in regard to the Nunavut schools and how they should be safe. In regard to the schools being studied, the issue of health is one of the top priorities if there's going to be anything requiring capital expenditure. There are also some reports that were put together by the fire marshal.

Can the minister tell the House exactly what kinds of steps have been taken to ensure that Nunavut schools are safe and up to code? What has been done to address the studies that have been done over the years and what are the department's next steps going to be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. (interpretation ends) Minister of Education, Honourable Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, under Community and Government Services, the Department of Education works closely with them to monitor our facilities and all of those facilities across Nunavut, which also includes all Nunavut Arctic College buildings and our community learning centres.

All of our buildings have to be up to code and up to standards. On a regular basis, Mr. Speaker, we do inspections of the schools. If we find, for example, issues where there's mould in a given school, then that's addressed by the department.

At the same time the member mentions several different issues. For example, weather related issues: storm damage we know for example here in Iqaluit. Part of the roof blew off the Inuksuk High School. We had to close the school for a few days while the repairs were undertaken so that the roof was back in good shape so that the students were not at risk.

In all cases work is carried out to make sure that our schools are a safe environment not only to attend classes but also to be able to work in for our staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister provide an update on how often schools across Nunavut are inspected for compliance with health and safety regulations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Schools are part of the capital infrastructure that is in place belonging to the Government of Nunavut. Regular inspection takes place on an annual basis as well as on a need basis.

For example, if there is a concern raised in a given school, then that is followed up by the department in cooperation with Community and Government Services. At the same time, on an annual basis all schools are checked as with government buildings and infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to taking immediate action to address the school's safety issues identified in my constituencies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member's constituency has three schools, in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay. In those locations, there have been some concerns with one school in particular. It is my understanding that the department is addressing them.

However, if the member has other information about something that has occurred in the last several days, if the member can make that information known to me, then I will be able to follow up with the Department of Community and Government Services to ensure those issues are taken care of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I will. It is quite...of the inspections or (interpretation ends) having our school facilities inspected on a regular basis and taking immediate action to address any issues that are identified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, the government is mandated to ensure that we offer a safe environment and a safe workplace to work. In this case, when we are talking about our schools, we want to make sure and ensure that our schools are a safe place to attend school for our children.

When issues that arise are brought forward, they are fixed expeditiously, meaning right away. Sometimes there may be a concern raised where it might take a longer period of time to fix that issue, but when issues are raised they are fixed.

If the member is aware of something that has not occurred, then again, as I said earlier, if you would let me know that then we will follow up on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 059 – 2(4): RCMP Use of TASER Guns

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I tabled a document about this fellow who was shot with a TASER gun and he couldn't work for over a year. Because he couldn't pay his mortgage, it had to be taken by the courts.

Maybe as a punishment, it might be adequate but it's very wrong that the RCMP can do that. Can the Minister of Justice explain to me why they have to use extreme force? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was the first time I have heard of it. I want to have this investigated. The RCMP have a complaint process that you can go through. If you are not happy with their performance then you can go through that process.

I haven't heard this at all. I can have it investigated and get more information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So is the minister saying that the conduct of the RCMP will be investigated as the Minister of Justice and the information that you collect, will you make it available to the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The RCMP has internal investigations but I want to get more information as to exactly what happened. I can ask them as a minister to get more information but I can't say yes, I will do that but the RCMP itself has internal investigations and I can even provide them with the phone number in order to make a complaint. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I think there is a public commissioner and as we have a Minister of Justice who can give information to the public that this is not right, especially with regard to the TASER gun.

If it happened in Los Angeles, they would do an investigation if they were zapped 13 times because that's using force. As a minister can you tell me if those RCMP can be asked to resign? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, Honourable Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The RCMP has a Complaints Commission. They do an investigation and make the information available. That's the route they take and this is open to anybody. They can use that route.

Yes, I will definitely look into this further but the RCMP has their own rules or regulations, and if they break their own rules, then they can be dealt with internally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the RCMP use too much force but this has to be dealt with by the courts. When he was shot with a TASER gun 13 times, he got injured and he couldn't work anymore for the government. He was under stress.

Maybe as a Minister of Justice, I think he could be qualified for a fair and reasonable settlement, can you assist him? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to get more information because he seems to know more about this, and if he could provide me with written material, then I can check into this further.

As I stated earlier, the RCMP have their own policies, rules, and regulations, and they do their internal investigations. I would also like to thank the RCMP for protecting the citizens. If they use extreme force, then I try to get information, too, on those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 060 – 2(4): Renewal of KBDC Contribution Agreement

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

Mr. Speaker, yesterday and in the last sitting I've been asking some questions to the minister in relation to the contribution agreement that they have with the KBDC, Keewatin Business Development Centre, to offer and run some programs for the department.

It is my understanding that the current partnership agreement that they have with the Keewatin Business Development Centre ends March 31, 2007. Can the minister tell me if this agreement is being renewed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I anticipate that there will be a contribution agreement between the department and Keewatin Business Development Centre to assist with their operations in the upcoming fiscal year 2007-08. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department's policy on program partnerships requires partners to, and I'll quote; "... provide an annual business plan 90 days prior to the start of each fiscal year, the fiscal year of the partnership agreement to the department."

Can the minister inform me whether he has received a copy of the Keewatin Business Development Centre's 2007-08 business plan, and will he table it in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I have not received a copy of the 2007-08 business plan. I have heard though that our staff in our Community Operations Division in Rankin Inlet has seen a draft copy of the plan. When we do receive the business plan we will, approved by the Keewatin Business Development Centre Board, we would then negotiate a contribution agreement for 2007-08. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to seeing that information, and wonder if that was within the 90 day requirement that is outlined under the government policy.

Mr. Speaker, the contribution agreement with Keewatin Business Development Centre requires the centre to submit an annual report that allows the minister to table that report. Will the minister commit to tabling the annual report of Keewatin Business Development Centre during this sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will be tabling the 2006-07 annual report of the Keewatin Business Development Centre in the fall sitting of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would assume that this contribution agreement has been in place for some time and one of the things that I had asked for in our last sitting was a copy of those contributions agreements.

I understand that the one that I've seen a copy of for the 2006-07 year has a detail of expenditures that the centre is planning to use those contributions for. Would the minister be willing to commit for the last three years since 2003, the last year that they filed anything with legal registries, copies of contribution agreements to be tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Departmental staff brought this matter to the attention to the Keewatin Business Development Centre more than a month ago now. Our staff were informed that the centre prepared the documents for filing for fiscal year 2006-07 on November 22, 2006.

My staff will be checking with legal registries tomorrow when the office is open to confirm that these documents have been filed and that the centre is in good standing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 061 – 2(4): Power Bill Payments

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister for Energy.

Homeowners face difficulties and hardships as well as companies that are trying to start up. I was asked by my constituents to ask this question in the House. Bills arrive monthly but it seems like the payments are not operating adequately because they pay their bills and it doesn't...

For example, in Sanikiluaq the payment office is in the Co-op store for power bills but when they pay their power bills the payment doesn't show up for another six weeks. So even though they had paid for their power bills, their power sometimes is almost at the verge of being cut off.

So why does it take six to eight weeks to show up in the invoice? How come it takes that long for them to show up in six to eight weeks? Can the minister respond to me? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past couple of months, there have been issues raised with the delay in a payment being applied to an individual or a company. In this case it's a bill.

What the corporation has done is expedited the process, or speeded up the process of applying the credit onto the account. In the case in Sanikiluaq where someone would go in to the local Co-op store and pay on their bill, at the end of each week the Co-op store would send in to the Power Corporation billing office the amount of the payment, and then that of course has to be data entered into the person's account.

That has been expedited. We have a faster turnaround now from the individual stores but what sometimes occurs, very quickly, is when the bill is mailed out on May 15 the person may not receive it until a week later which is May 22, and then if they don't pay it for another week, the next billing cycle has occurred.

If a person has made a payment, they will not have their power cut off because the record of that payment, although not applied to their bill, has been applied to their account. And that's one of the major changes that have occurred since Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. I don't believe in a week's delay. The way it is now is sometimes the bills accumulate even before they apply the credit to our account. It takes about six to eight weeks before they could actually apply the credit.

Because our Co-op also takes care of payments for NorthwesTel and when they pay for their telephone bill, they send the credit to Iqaluit and they apply the credit to their account the following day and it shows up right away. That payment is already shown and that's the way it works.

It's totally different with the Department of Energy because they take six to eight weeks and sometimes the bills accumulate even before they show the credit. So could the minister do something about that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All the billing functions now for the Power Corporation are handled out of the Baker Lake office.

If a person pays on their account and then that payment is received like at a Co-op store as an example, we would call a payment agency. Then once that receipt is received, the person who's paying will have a copy of that receipt and will say you paid them on January 26.

At the end of that week, it might be February 1 when the Co-op store sends that information who has paid to the Baker Lake office. Then when it gets to Baker Lake it is applied to the account.

Given the timeframes that we're talking about, within a three or four week period, it may be the second billing period when the actual amount that was paid will occur on the bill but at the Baker Lake office the payment would have been recorded on the person's account.

We've just had some cases, for example, Mr. Speaker, where a person had paid on the 15th, and they were notified that they were going to have their power cut off.

Only when you miss, for example, two consecutive month payments do you receive notification of a power cut off. On the third month you would receive a 20-day notice, and then a 10-day notice, and then a five-day notice, then a 48-hour notice.

If the person has paid and has a copy of the receipt they have nothing to worry about and there is no interest being charged on the outstanding balance because it's been recorded at the office.

Again, I believe if the member would look at the account since Christmas, and in the last six to 10 weeks, that you will see that the accounting system has been more expeditious and up to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The one I saw in the last month's bill was the previous month's bill. Last month's bill contained the previous month's statements because the payment did not show for a month and a half, and it's too long.

So I was asking the minister if he can rectify the situation or if he can look into that to make sure that it's better for the people who pay their bills. I was wondering if the minister can look into that. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we'll do is we'll pick several different agencies across to see when the payments have been received by the Baker Lake office and ensure that they are put onto the account, whether that be a commercial account for a business, or if it would be a private account.

If it is a business, for example, I should note that if a business does less than \$2 million of business a year, they actually get a rebate back from the power corporation. That's not well known, but this gives me an opportunity to mention that.

So I will follow up and we'll follow up with the payment agency in the member's riding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to hear that the minister has committed to doing that. He also stated 90, 60, and 30-day notices, but they only see the 48-hour notice.

That is all we see before our power is cut off, so I just want the minister to know. This is not a question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 062 – 2(4): Long-Term Funding for Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre

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

Mr. Speaker, at our last sitting, I spoke of the vital and necessary services that are provided by the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre. When staffed, the Centre offers everything from addictions counselling to suicide prevention to healthy lifestyle workshops for youth and elders and people in-between.

Sadly, funding for these services is never guaranteed from year to year and leaves the organization itself in a very vulnerable position, and they are currently in a very vulnerable position.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell me what consideration her department has given to ensuring that multi-year agreements are available to community-based organizations such as the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Honourable Leona Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since then, we have initiated the review and to pilot two communities around trying to come up with a funding framework for community wellness centres and initiatives in each community.

We are looking at a pilot with the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre as well as the Clyde River Society, in trying to address multi-year funding arrangements for community based initiatives in the north.

At the same time, at the last sitting, I tabled the Health Integration Report which talks about development of a community-based wellness model. We are working in partnership with the federal government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to implement the recommendations in that report.

So we are moving forward in trying to address providing multi-year funding to communities by developing pilots in the two communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I read through the Health Integration Report and one of the actions proposed in that report was to examine ways to provide multiyear funding for health promotion and prevention activities in Nunavut.

My question for the minister is: who is responsible for acting on these proposed actions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Health Integration Report was done in partnership with the federal government as well as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. The whole idea is to integrate the services at the community level. There are pieces with health, some federal, some Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, but the Department of Health is putting in an implementation plan for the recommendations identified in the Health Integration Initiative. The federal government is partnered through that.

One of the things that have been raised by various community wellness groups is that they have to apply for programs on an annual basis. So the programs they apply for on an

annual basis are federal. We are working with the federal government and the two communities to try and pilot ways of addressing those concerns.

In terms of putting the implementation plan in as it applies to us, we will be doing that, but again it is in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated as well as the federal government and the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. The Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre provides essential public health and social services, which rightly fall under the mandate of the minister's department.

My question for the minister is: will the minister consider making a long-term financial commitment such as providing core funding to community-based organizations such as the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is part of the review that we are doing for community wellness projects such as Cambridge Bay. The framework we are trying to develop is a model we can use to support other communities that are interested in developing community wellness programs and services.

We are piloting those two. One is under the office of the hamlet and one is a society. So we are building on those two and working with their models and their history looking to try and address exactly the point that he just posed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her answer. Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre provides many vital and essential services and many times I have spoken about it in the House. The Executive Director is largely responsible for the funding that comes into the wellness centre.

She has probably put 50 percent of her time applying year after year for programs from the government and the federal government. The result is burnout for her and her staff with all the proposal writing they have to do.

My question for the minister: will the minister commit to providing the same level of counsellor services in Cambridge Bay if the overworked staff at the Wellness Centre cannot sustain the current level? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As part of this review on this pilot project, we are looking at ways to support community based initiatives so we will look at those.

We are trying to address providing core funding, ongoing funding, to the community-based initiatives. The challenge we have is that we need to pull the federal government into partnership with us because we have to meet their requirements as well in terms of reporting on funding that we receive from them.

So through these pilot projects and with their involvement, we're looking at trying to address not only the core funding issues but issues of what he had described. It is a pilot project that we have just started and I look forward to sharing some findings from those two projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 063 – 2(4): \$40 Million Funding from the Federal Government

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, and he's also the Minister of Finance.

The minister knows that BaffinLand equipment or material is docked in Pond Inlet such as salt for drilling and other building material and they ship them to Mary River by aircraft. Pond Inlet doesn't have any docking facilities to unload the ship. I talked about this last week as well.

I know that it wasn't March 19 but the federal government stated that when we don't have enough money invested such as urban transits need to be assisted, I just wanted to ask the minister if the \$40 million that they were expecting is going to come on March 19. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Honourable David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If he's talking about the \$40 million funding that is being requested by Fisheries and Oceans for docking facilities, they're still looking for that money to see where it's going to come from.

I'm not sure of whether there's going to be any other money coming from the federal government. If he's talking about the \$40 million, that's in the works at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Your first supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to thank the minister for his response. The reason I'm asking the question is because we have transportation by air and by boat or ship.

I'm sure that the federal government has a lot more money than we do as a territorial government. Can the minister encourage the federal government to get that funding available as soon as possible so we can get some docking facilities to transport these materials or supplies to our mining companies? Can he give that reason to the federal government to ask for that \$40 million? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have been in ongoing negotiations with them and asking the federal government for that funding so that communities can get their docking facilities. We have not stopped negotiating for that funding and we will continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell the House about the review that they did on the seven communities that need docking facilities? Can he let us know about that before the end of this session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't clearly understand him, if he can rephrase his question. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk, can you clarify your question.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

You said last year that they were negotiating for \$40 million to build docking facilities to the seven communities. But, you can be looking for that \$40 million for years. While the federal government is looking for the money they could probably get tired of waiting.

Can the minister tell us during the March session what he has heard from the federal government so far? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're waiting for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to tell us if they have received that sum of money so the seven communities can get their docking facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think we can just sit around and wait as the Government of Nunavut for that funding because the federal government and the Government of Nunavut have stated there has to be economic development; that economic development has to be continued.

So this is part of it. Can the minister inform the Department of Fisheries and Oceans that this is part of economic development for Nunavut? Can they at least let us know right away what is happening with that funding?

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is dealing with trying to find that sum of money and there was a review done on the seven communities that need the docking facilities.

They know what they're doing, and they went to the communities to find out their needs too, so they should be in a position to know what is going on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral Questions. Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Question 064 – 2(4): Hydro Energy Project

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Energy with regard to hydro.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard and we have noticed here in Iqaluit that sometimes the power goes out here in Iqaluit on and off on occasion. If they start the hydro electricity power, what stage is that at right now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The actual efficiency rate for the Power Corporation in Nunavut is almost 95 percent, which means the power stays on 95 percent of the time. That is actually a good thing.

The power employees work very hard, and sometimes in bad weather and so on to keep our power on.

On the hydro, we've identified several locations, as a corporation, work has been ongoing with the local hunters and trappers association as well as informing the public on the next

steps of the hydro, and that will be a feasibility study. The feasibility study will look at the short-listed sites for the opportunities for development of a hydro project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will Nunavut get any money for hydro or energy issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal budget will be released on Monday and I understand that we have to wait as usual to see what's in that budget because there may be some opportunities there.

At the same time the federal government has come forward with different energy related matters looking at renewable energy, as well as looking at opportunities to reduce the greenhouse gasses. We're hoping to be able to access some of those funds, too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that the communities are growing in numbers, especially in Iqaluit. I'm sure that they have to find alternative energy. How much money have you requested for that hydro project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had an opportunity to meet with several different federal ministers on energy related matters, and I have written Minister Lund and other ministers concerning opportunities for Nunavut.

We haven't stated any dollar value that we would like to see in any type of program. Again, we are optimistic that maybe next week when the federal budget comes out that there may be some opportunities for Nunavut there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of my communities, Grise Fiord, brought out an Energy Plan. Has the minister supported the request of the plan that the people of Grise Fiord made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Hamlet of Grise Fiord recently contacted our office with some exciting news and plans that they have underway for looking at alternative energy in the community of Grise Fiord.

We have corresponded with the Hamlet of Grise Fiord and suggested that if there's an opportunity to provide logistic support, as well administrative support that we would be doing that.

Again, we have endeavoured to set up a meeting with Grise Fiord and the hamlet representatives in the coming weeks to be able to go over their ideas and the plan that they have to leverage some funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 065 – 2(4): KDBC Annual Report

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, my question is for the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, earlier the minister had indicated that his regional department officials were working with KBDC to get the information to legal registries to get in good standing. He also indicated earlier that his regional staff have received the business plan for this coming fiscal year.

So I would also assume that the department, since 2003, has received annual reports as required under the contribution agreement that show how KBDC spent the money that the government provided. Can the minister confirm that his department had received those since 2003? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I will have to ask my staff at Economic Development if they have been receiving annual reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know one thing that the department should have on its own is a copy of the contribution agreement that outlines how the funds are supposed to be sent.

Would the minister commit to tabling the copies of those contribution agreements with all the appendices attached to it since 2003, will he commit to tabling those in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know why he is looking at that. I asked if he would commit to tabling that information, that his department should have copies of those contribution agreements within his own department; they would keep a file on that. I asked if they have them; they must have them. Will the minister commit to tabling in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I responded to your question. All I can say at this time is that I will look into the matter and take it from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know why...maybe he's not sure the department doesn't have those copies, so maybe that's why he is going to look into it first, before he can commit to it. As well, when they're looking into that, will he also look into tabling the reports that the department has received since 2003, the annual reports on how those funds were spent, as well in the House. It doesn't have to be at the same time, those may take a little longer, but would he commit to tabling those as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will commit to tabling the annual reports that he is asking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Question 066 – 2(4): Barge Stuck in Baker Lake

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to Mr. Simailak. The Keewatin is concerned about a barge that is ice-locked outside of our community and we look forward to using it again.

I would like to ask the minister if there is going to be any delay due to that barge being ice-locked. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, the Honourable David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I looked into this matter and the only response I got from that company is that they will use it as soon as it's free, but they didn't tell me if there were going to be any delays. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's hard to tell if there are going to be any delays, or not, but we are concerned as we have to transport the housing materials from Churchill up to the Keewatin communities.

I think it's very important to find out if there are going to be any delays due to the situation. Usually the materials that are needed for summer construction are sent up to the communities that get ice-free first, and there might be cases where we will have to air transport some of these materials. Can you elaborate on this further? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will talk to the company again and get all the information we need before we make any plans for spring or summer construction.

Usually, the barge comes up around July to Baker Lake. I will talk to the company again and get further details on whether there is going to be a delay or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After you had your first meeting, did you get any indication whether it is going to create a problem for the construction companies? There is more and more mining development and exploration going on in the Keewatin area.

It's very important that we get all the information because there is going to be a lot of transportation requirements prior to construction season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two that are ice-locked in Baker Lake. I don't know if they are going to stay in the Keewatin area. I will make sure that I pose those questions and get some responses from that company prior to the construction season.

If it is going to be an overload or a huge traffic requirement, then we will have to look at alternative methods of transporting all the material to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your final supplementary, Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): As the Member for Sanikiluaq stated, he only had one minute left but in any case, on this issue, and in regard to the barge, are you going to be able to get this information before the end of this session?

I think the Keewatin communities have to get this information first-hand so we can make plans for the spring and summer. Could the minister commit to getting that information before the end of this session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make sure my staff looks into this issue. I can commit to getting the information prior to the end of this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. We have two-and-a-half minutes. Mr. Kattuk.

Question 067 – 2(4): Financial Support for the Hunters

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): I would like to direct my question to the Premier. We heard about the farmers getting financial aid from the federal government. We also have people who make money through harvesting animals.

Is it possible for these people to get financial aid also because we heard that you were going to be having a meeting pretty soon with your counterparts? Is it possible to access some of these monies for Nunavut so that the hunters could get financial aid through the program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no idea of what's going to be happening with that pot of money but we will find out once the federal budget is announced. We will know exactly what's going to be happening come Monday, March 19. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): This will be my last question. If there's money available for Nunavut, is it possible to consider the hunters getting financial support through that program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are having discussions with the federal government, especially on the issues of the environment. We will have discussions on the same issue next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. (interpretation) Question Period is now over. (interpretation ends) Item 7. 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. Tapardjuk.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 039 – 2(4): CLEY Schedule of Vote 1, Vote 2, and Vote 4 Grants and Contributions 2005-06 Fiscal Year

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: Grants and Contributions for the 2005-06 Fiscal Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Please bring the documents to the officer's table. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Mr. Netser.

Tabled Document 040 – 2(4): 2006 Environmental Rights Act Annual Report for the period of January 1/06 to December 31/06

Tabled Document 041 – 2(4): Ministerial Meeting Report – Intergovernmental Ministers Responsible for Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut January 2007 to March 15, 2007

Tabled Document 042 – 2(4): Communications Protocol Between Ministers Responsible for WCB, Governance Council of the WCB, Workers' Compensation Board, and Members of the Legislative Assembly (draft) March 15, 2007

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table three documents. One is the 2006 *Environmental Rights Act* Annual Report for the period of January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, the minutes between the WCB Ministers for NWT and myself. And also the Communication Protocols for the WCB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Please bring the documents to the officer's table. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Tabled Document 043 – 2(4): Drop the Pop Posters

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the ‘Drop the Pop’ Poster that’s part of the current ‘Drop the Pop’ Week, which I referenced in my Minister’s Statement. The posters are available in all four languages. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Ms. Brown.

Item 18: First Reading of Bills**Bill 05 – An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act – First Reading**

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Election Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Brown. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand please. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 5 has had first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

Bill 08 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – First Reading

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand please. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 8 has had first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 2, and 3 with Mr. Barnabas in the Chair. Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole we will take a 20-minute break.

>>*House recessed at 15:07 and Committee resumed at 15:34*

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

Chairman (Mr. Barnabas)(interpretation): We will go back to our meeting. We heard the opening comments from the Minister of CLEY and the Chairman of the Standing Committee finished his opening remarks.

At this time I would like to ask Mr. Tapardjuk if he is ready to bring his officials to the witness table.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I want my officials there.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Sergeant-at-arms, can you escort the officials to the witness table?

Thank you, Sergeant-at-arms for escorting the officials. Mr. Minister, for the record, can you introduce your officials please? Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left, David Akeagok, my Deputy Minister for Culture, and to my right, David Kolot, Finance Comptroller.

Chairman: I would like to remind members of the following: According to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak and according to 77(2), subject to the discretion of the chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opening remarks by the chairman of the standing committee. The Department of Culture is used and people are happy about it and they use that department.

When we first started going to school when the schools first came up in Chesterfield Inlet and other communities, they were told to forget or not to use our language or culture and we have heard that if they spoke in their language then they got slapped on the hand. We were also told when we first started going to school in the late 1950s to 1960s we were discouraged.

The Inuit culture or the Canadian traditions, some of them were demolished. For example, at the age of six, once you go to school, especially in the Kitikmeot, they wouldn't go home for six years. By the time they got home after six years, they would lose their language.

In other parts of the world, the culture...they wanted to do the same in Canada where we lose our culture so that we would just agree with whatever is going on.

Just recently, around 1940 some communities were moved by the federal government to the High Arctic and Coral Harbour. Not that people wanted to. It was the doing of the federal government. We're happy that we can defend ourselves. Mr. Curley was saying yesterday that the Qangualuk family just disappeared. The federal government, especially the Nunavut Government will have to do a review on dog slaughter. There was a commission on the High Arctic relocation and also on the residential school students. The government now knows of the mistake they made.

The Qangualuk family that were abducted we have to find out. We are very happy with the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, not just for the Inuit culture in Nunavut, but there should be a report done as to how the Inuit helped. For example, there is now Captain Henry Lawson, who arrived to Pond Inlet from Vancouver because he was very capable. Those people who assisted them are still alive: Panipakoocho's son, Qajaaq's children told us. I believe they did for two or three years, I can't remember if it was two or three years.

When Henry Lawson and his crew couldn't do anything else, even to help them pee because their hands were so cold that they couldn't pee by themselves.

The Inuit stories of how they helped with the foreigners according to using their culture they helped them survive. There is nothing in there that mentions the Inuit. When my grandfather was still alive, when they still had sail boats, during a big storm the *Qallunaaqs* just wanted to go on shore. My grandfather was manning the boat and they wanted to just go on shore but he wanted to set anchor because he had to run forward because they wanted to go on shore and they dragged the anchor and they were able to stop.

Those are the stories that we don't hear and I am very happy that the older staff of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth in Igloolik and here in Iqaluit will assist the department and I expect while some of the elders are still alive... we have lots of grandchildren.

They have so many grandchildren. We should start going out camping just with our families and extended families so they'll start to understand how the Inuit were, and it can be used today, like sharing, and living together. I will be raising more questions on this later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We are on general comments on Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. I don't have anybody else on the list under general comments. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Directorate. On page F-5. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,350,000. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague, the Member for Tununiq.

I, too, feel strongly about the traditional Inuit societal values. I think we have to help the government but our way of doing things is not the Inuit way. For example, if we go in a building, like in Rankin Inlet, if you go to a board room, you won't hear people talking in Inuktitut.

I feel that is embarrassing. Our elders get intimidated if they go to an environment like that. It shouldn't have to be that way. We want to be able to speak in Inuktitut and show our culture, but we are losing our tradition. Most of it is gone.

For example, if you look at people by age groups, there are more young people. The men and women who can really do what they used to do a long time ago are outnumbered by the people who are not capable anymore.

There are still some people who are around because they would refer to them as real men, but nowadays they only say they can be a man. Mr. Chairman, maybe you can tell me, we would be able to call them men only if they could survive alone out on the land.

Once you are able to survive all alone, then you earned the respect of being called a man. How do they call it now? I believe it's the same way with women.

They are not listening to the elders once they become teenagers. They think they can do whatever they want, and then they start doing their own thing and we can't really control them. There's a lot of bullying around in the schools, our teachers even get scared.

I think the Minister of Education can say that there are times the teachers are fearful because they're not using the Inuit tradition when they...(interpretation ends)...maybe not necessarily smarter...(interpretation)...we were told because they were older to respect them and to listen. I want this brought back to us.

When we are visiting we have to start helping but it seems like for whatever new thing we want we have to get a committee going in the community. We have to take part, even if they're not registered, there should be groups. Will they be able to meet so that our elders won't be so intimidated? Nowadays, the teenagers there are a lot of them.

Maybe in about 10 to 20 years, we have to give them something so that they'll be able to be good leaders at that time. We have to promote this in our communities and in Nunavut.

I always support our teachers because they work really hard. We give them a big responsibility. The women and elders who work in the schools help make improvements, and if we start recognizing them for their participation, and to encourage and help them to be proud.

One thing that I could state is that we should rebase our culture and our language because that's one of the majority things and the biggest things. A few days ago I heard from the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth that individuals don't want them to

speak Inuktitut in their office. In their meeting that individual started speaking Inuktitut but the superior was not happy with that individual.

Do you want to see this continue, Mr. Chairman? I don't think so. We have heard already that in the past in the school when we spoke our own language we were reprimanded. When we have employees who do not like to see Inuit people speak their own language, how come that individual has stated that? We need to investigate this if it's true or not.

The government would say, "Give me the name of the individual so I can look into it." No. You, as a minister, have been given the mandate to investigate. So you can look into that and investigate; you have that mandate and the authority but as regular members, we don't have any funding to do any investigations. Sometimes we don't get it and sometimes we're denied our request.

So Mr. Chairman, I would like the minister to look into this issue. I don't believe we need employees like that who oppose Inuit language and culture, and yet we want to incorporate it and use it. I don't think it states in the policy that Inuktitut language should not be used in the workforce. So that's the first one I wanted to point out. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I did not hear a question. Mr. Minister, if you would like to respond. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are very sensitive to what we hear and we're going to work very hard to incorporate Inuit societal values.

Yes, that is a concern, and also Inuit societal values, we are doing an assessment on rearing children, and we do have funding to review that. Also, as a government, we have goals and objectives in all the government offices that we use the Inuktitut language by the year 2020. That is part of our target and goal, and that's what we're initiating now.

But, when you don't know of any incident that has occurred, or not, whether one of our employees did not want the employees to speak Inuktitut, I do want to look into that because it contravenes the government policy and the government objectives and goals.

I have asked my deputy minister and the one on my right if they have heard of any complaints about that, and they have not heard of any complaints. Once we hear that we do want to investigate because this should not be occurring with our employees when we are promoting Inuit language and culture. Individual staff should be in support of Inuit.

So, Mr. Chairman, I agree with what has been stated and what I have heard under general comments. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. We're under Directorate. Page F-5. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I am a bit confused on pages F-6, F-10, F-12. What is the difference between those pages? Perhaps on page F-5 I could probably ask the whole question but I would like to be told which page the support for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is to strengthen Inuit culture and to promote Inuit culture.

So my question is: I don't know who, or Petaloosie Atakkaalik, for example, from Pond Inlet, who does cultural programs, and elders who have many grandchildren as I alluded to earlier on in regard to the extended family. When we talk about family in English, they only talk about the single family unit and in Inuktitut you include your extended family that goes all the way to Pond Inlet and to Rankin Inlet.

What I'm talking about is within the community. The extended family within the community would like to go spring camping but the grandparents don't have any funding so therefore they can't go out camping.

In the spring time, if they could be assisted with a fuel subsidy and a group subsidy they would appreciate that. On which line item would I find that if there were less than 100 extended family members? Where can we find that line item where they can go spring camping?

We're very proud of the cultural instructors such as Petaloosie Atakkaalik. The only time they get compensation or get payment is when they work with non-family members under grants and contributions.

Is there a funding line item for large extended families to be assisted in that form? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Page F-13. There are two line items that could be used. There's the grants line item of \$150,000 and the contributions line item of \$100,000. It's on page F-13. So that's what Mr. Arvaluk was alluding to. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Inuit traditional knowledge, it states here under Directorate, (interpretation ends) coordinates the development of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* initiatives across government and provides administration support to the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*.

(interpretation) With that, I would like to ask the minister, since he's responsible for this, has this entity been established, or who gives authority to the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): There are two questions, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*, the Traditional Knowledge Committee was established in 2002 and it provides advice and support to the government in regard to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*.

This committee, *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*, is to provide support and advice to the government but in the year 2005, this has been the second year that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit* was amended so there are now 15 members in *Katimajit*. There are 15 members and there are three subcommittees and those subcommittees consist of five members. Their mandate varies - some deal with social issues, some deal with mapping, and some deal with reviewing legislation.

The *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*, although they may be under the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, the ministers all know that the department would like to use this *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*. They can request for *Katimajit* to review various things or policies.

Like for example, just to explain further, the Department of Human Resources would like to establish a servicing policy when we're planning in preparation for the policy, we invited *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*, Inuit Traditional Knowledge Committee, to get their advice as to whether the policies that we're proposing are foreign to Inuit culture, or if they are part of Inuit culture.

Prior to them being selected, we had asked all Nunavummiut to nominate a name, and we selected from all the nominees. The Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth appoints the members of the *Katimajit*, but we're open. Having said that, there is another committee called *Tuttaarvik*; that's an internal *Tuttarvik. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit* is not for government but outside of government issues. Perhaps if they come from outside of the government they can observe the government better from the outside. So that's how it's been set up and it has been very beneficial.

For *Piqqusilirivik* School we have members from *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*, and this *Katimajit* Committee helped and assisted on Bill 16. They got input from this committee of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* for health. On December 12 they'll be holding their committee meeting here in Iqaluit to review how they can enhance policies. They have no shortage of discussions with Inuit societal values to look at the detrimental or deteriorating factors of Inuit societal values; whether it is legislation...sometimes some legislation opposes the Inuit societal values. So we're now reviewing them.

Though my answer might be lengthy it is because we have such a huge responsibility. We will continue, as a government, we have work to do on Inuit societal values. This committee is very beneficial and when we need them, they're usually busy so we get their assistance when the government is planning and settling down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. The reason why I wanted to ask this question is because you stated that whenever the elders want to be involved with something they should be invited to participate, such as wildlife issues, is a most important thing for the Inuit; hunting; going out on the land. That's the most important thing for the Inuit and we want them to be involved in those, especially the Nunavut Government departments that are dealing with polar bear issues.

The *Qallunaaq* people would say that the bears are in decline but the Inuit people say that they're growing in numbers, and other things such as belugas are declining, according to the government but the Inuit have to be involved in those studies.

Those are the types of things that the elders deal with, too, because they are recognized as a committee, or as a body. Do the elders groups, or *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* committees, are they involved with wildlife issues? If you can understand me, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Yes, it's understandable. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders, and Youth has been asked if the elders can be involved in those types of things because it is right in the law whereby we have to involve the committee that deals with *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*.

The wildlife department has asked us about that already and we want to encourage the department of wildlife to find out from them to see if they need any assistance that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Committee would be involved. We are just open. They want to be involved in the legislation, the *Wildlife Act* and others. That's what I can say right now, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is good to hear because we would like that committee to be recognized because it is very important for the hunters. The Inuit values have to be respected.

I just wondered if the minister could tell me whether they can have more funding for those projects by the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Committee to be involved in the government legislation. Is there any money put aside? Will there be money put aside for those types of projects where you can involve the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Committee.

Is there more money to be spent on people projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Within our department we have some funding set aside that the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Committee could meet three times a year. That is the money we have set aside. If the other departments want to be involved; if there are going to be some Inuit people that are going to be involved in the work they are doing in their own departments we could do so.

There is only money in my department for them to meet three times a year. The committee would meet. Perhaps, if we could divide the money up, they could probably meet three times in one year. That is the funding we have for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short comment. The government departments have to have the advice of the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Committee. Whenever they go to a community they should involve one of the committee members so the government could be more understood by the public.

I encourage the government departments to involve those committee members and to set aside some funding in their own department to involve those committee members when they go to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. We are on page F-5 and F-6. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under page six, when the minister was talking, I would like to give him some support. I think it was last year that I tried to get some written material on wildlife issues from the communities but I don't think this is going to happen.

Within your department, Mr. Minister, if somebody starts writing down the information on wildlife and if the project was to go ahead before the elders are all gone, it would be very good to make history for each community, like the wildlife office asks you guys to find out but not just to do oral history but written history on wildlife years ago.

I think there should be written accounts of the hunting methods and things like that because we have mostly non-Inuit wildlife officers in the communities. The studies today say that everything is in decline and some communities didn't even have any polar bears at all but now there are polar bears everywhere.

Can the minister tell us whether this project is a good project? Baseline information, there's no baseline for the non-Inuit to look at. The Inuit have always been closer to the wildlife. I wonder if this type of thing could be started in the community whereby they do wildlife research and have the stories written.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is a very good idea and CLEY has been taping Inuit stories or Inuit happenings since 2003.

There's only a certain amount of money that we have as a department. We've been trying to gather data from the communities so they can put it in the form of a book: all kinds of values of the Inuit, such as survival and hunting skills, and other things because there's nothing out there right now that's written that comes from the Inuit; that comes out of the mouth of the Inuit people, the elders. That's what we're trying to gather right now; we're trying to compile them in tape form.

This winter and this summer, if the members can approve the budget, that's what we want to do. We want to do Resolute Bay, Whale Cove, and Gjoa Haven; we would like to be able to tape them this coming summer because we have to have these types of knowledge and there's nothing written coming from the Inuit. We have to have it written down so we have some written form of what the Inuit know.

The *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* Task Force identified that there should be some information gathered and written down. In Igloolik, they started in the 1980s; I think they taped almost 600 hours of information.

We have recognized that *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* has to be written down but because of lack of funding, we can't really have that big amount of money and we would like to be able to do that. So whenever we get some extra funding, we would like to start that up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Yes, I am very proud of the answers you are providing for us because it is very important we have written data from the Inuit because non-Inuit say they have history and they write their history down.

If I was to say, "Who were the first people that went up to the North Pole," a lot of us would know who they are, from the accounts of the written material that was produced. Everybody believes that whoever went up to the North Pole, the first person that went to the North Pole is that person but there is no evidence whatsoever.

He wasn't there. It is in the history books. There was a Canadian that first went up there, Captain Barclay, 87 degrees up there. He had a boat with Robert Peary. He came back 18 days later. He did not go up there. Peary was up at the North Pole for one week and went back to the camp, coming from a far-away country.

I think these are not true. The Inuit tell the truth about what happened and the government is saying that they are trying to protect that the first ship that went up north was in the 1870s. Charles Frances Hall tried to go up to the North Pole but they got lost.

The history has to be written. There was somebody that went from Cumberland Sound. These other explorers got lost and the ice crushed their ship. There were 11 non-Inuit and eight Inuit. They came from Davis Strait from north of Grise Fiord and they would hunt along the way, such as polar bear and seal.

They were going through the Davis Strait for about six months. The Americans were involved and they were starving to death. The Inuit helped them out. The Canadian people have helped out a whole lot and the Americans have belittled them.

There has to be a written history book. That way we can have Canada recognized a lot more than the Americans. A lot of people feel that the Inuit people did not do anything to help out but they were the only ones that kept those people alive. For that reason, I would like to support the minister in getting written history such as Sir John Franklin who was assisted by the people of the Kivalliq region.

I feel this kind of history should be in a written form so the students in the schools can know exactly who were the people that supported those explorers. They didn't do it by themselves. If we can have those written history books in schools that would be good. Can you do that Mr. Minister?

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, of course. We will be talking about the grants and contributions later but if anyone would like to put a proposal together, they can apply under grants and contributions before March 31.

If anybody has any oral history or a history of what happened in the past, we would like to get him or her documented because of course we would like to make sure that our history is preserved. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like this is coincidental, and Tagak has been talking about the Qanngualuk's abduction.

I was looking for Martha Nashook's story about the abduction of that family, but for the record, I think that this should be documented. You said that there were approximately 600 hours that have been compiled and entered into the website. Are they on the website so they will be accessible to the public out there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Research Institute handles this project, and also the Inullarik Society based in Igloolik.

They are the ones who compile all that information, and I know that they are not on the website, but there was a program called *Anigialq* that was put on a disc and you can get a copy of that.

I'm not exactly sure what the research council is doing but we are a little bit reluctant to put them on the website because they are not copyrighted. If we should make it available on the website, then there is the possibility of someone taking those documents and copyrighting them.

I think it was just recently that the council was reluctant to put it out because of this possibility. There are a lot of researchers who go up to Igloolik to look at what has been documented and also taped.

Some of the teachers have taken some of these compilations and used them in the schools. Because of this possibility, I can't respond to your question of whether this documentation is on the website. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know exactly where you are coming from but I would like to ask another question.

If you are reluctant to put it on the website, is it possible for you to get an e-mail address so that the stories and history and so on could be sent to the research council because it would be free that way. Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): The Nunavut Research Institute, I think is being run by Arctic College, and I believe they're the ones that you should ask because they're the ones who are holding onto those documents and tapes.

I think it would be best if you ask that question to those individuals. We would like to do that sort of program, too, in our department but we can't do so due to finances.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Under directorate, in response to Mr. Mapsalak's comments, you stated that you try and make sure that the government departments are using *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and to make sure that the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* are implemented into the drafting of the policies.

Just a couple of days ago I heard about income support, and it doesn't seem that they're using *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. It's under the Inuit societal values; if at all possible, you have to help your neighbours by way of food, or if I know of a hunter, I can give him possibly an old machine so he can use it in his hunting expeditions. The problem is there would be a claw back in his income support because that machine is considered a gift.

Inuit give things to anyone who needs it in order to help that person. In those types of cases, is it possible for your department to talk to the other departments to make sure that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is used in their policies?

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do try and make sure that the departments are informed and I'm not sure how many went out to the communities but we did make recommendations to make changes to the Income Support Program.

If there should be another review, it's not under our responsibility as CLEY but the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* council is available as advisors. The government has the Income Support Program because, of course, they pay for the people. If they didn't, there wouldn't be such a program. If an individual has no money coming in, there is money available to assist that individual.

Even if we have those programs available, they can look at it again but I think that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is using it, or the department is already using *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and we can discuss it further. We would like to get other ideas from the individuals out there.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I would also like to make another comment. If the budget is approved, then the government can start using it following the *Financial Administration Act*.

Even though we don't want to give out the money, we also have a legal requirement. So what I'm thinking is that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is within the government. Is it possible to make it a legal requirement so that Inuit societal values are implemented into their programs and services? I just wanted to make that comment.

We have seen changes to the place names only at the wish of the community. Following the Inuit custom all the places have names, for example, Kangirsurjuaq, Kangirsugaapik, we have place names for the communities and their surroundings. When the Europeans came in they gave them English names; Baffin Island, I don't know who Baffin was. They started giving names and calling Baffin Island, Baffin Island even though it doesn't look like a Baffin. But the Inuit give the communities names from the look of it.

Is it possible for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth put Inuktitut place names and the Peary Caribou. They don't look like Peary but they're called Peary Caribou.

So I would like to reinstate the Inuit traditional place names. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I totally agree with you. We set up a committee in January 2005 to do traditional place names. The Chairperson of this committee is Miriam Aglukark. Amie Kipsigak was involved also. They have had meetings. We also have to include Inuit Heritage Trust. We work with them and just recently we signed a document where we have compiled over 20 place names around the Pond Inlet area. After that meeting we met with them around Clyde River.

The Inuit Heritage Trust again compiled a list of traditional Inuk place names. For those who would like English names I think there were two that were denied. So we're doing exactly that to date. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. We're on Directorate F-5 and F-6. Operations and Maintenance. \$3,350,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn to page F-7 and F-8. Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,626,000. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want our language to be an official language. I was told that within a particular office they didn't want the Inuktitut language to be used.

Will you tell your employees not to say those things? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Very much so. I can't wait until we finish because I want to find out so bad. That is not acceptable because that is not the direction that the government wants to take.

We're trying to go the other way where we're trying to make the Inuktitut language the official working language. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to thank the minister very much. I even have the name.

I know the employee but you can find out for yourself. I would prefer that you work with this following your rules. This is unacceptable or maybe there was no policy or rule in this particular office. Maybe that was why. Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): We had no idea that this was the case and I am not particularly happy about the incident and I will certainly investigate. I will write to the managers within our department not to have that kind of attitude, and I will advise the directors within Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and Human Resources. That's all I can say at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response of the minister. I wish to thank him. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on F-7. Official Languages. F-8. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials for coming today. I have a question on page F-7.

In your paragraph description you mention including grants and contribution programs for community based language projects. Can you provide us with some information on the types of projects you funded in 2006-07? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let my deputy minister respond to that.

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

Mr. Akeeagok: Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk just tabled the 2005-06 grants. That covers all the grants that fell under these two categories.

For some of the grants, I'll just pick one out of Cambridge Bay: the Revitalization of Inuinnaqtun language and Culture. I don't know the specific program details but that is one of the projects that we have funded under the Community Based Language Projects.

There are others within that that we do fund on totally different varieties of projects from there. There is one on Inuit clothes and techniques. There will be a poster, I believe, that shows how to make igloos, and things like that; that is all in Inuktitut. Also, Inuktitut language recovery and revitalization strategy; things like that that are being worked on by

non-government departments that have put in submissions as to how to promote the language a lot more. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his official for that answer. Could the minister provide us with a quick overview of how you will advertise the program, and how organizations would apply to submit their proposal to the department for consideration and approval? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. We advertise through Nunatsiaq News, and News North, and through CBC Radio. We advertise those and it is up until March 31 that they can apply.

Maybe we are ahead. We anticipated that the budget will be approved so we have advertised already in anticipation that our budget will be approved so that they can start early in the fiscal year because they have committees for recreation and other things. We have a review committee where they look at the applications and after March 31 then they review those applications.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I'd like to ask the minister if it has ever come to his attention that the review process and then flowing funds to the successful applicant, if there have ever been issues in terms of delays, hold-ups, anything that could affect the project from starting on time and completing on time.

I know you mentioned that you try to review them at the end of March; you advertise now in anticipation of funding budget being approved so that proponents can get started as early as possible in the next fiscal year.

I am aware of a project in Cambridge Bay, in fact, the deputy minister mentioned it, where they did put in an application in March of last year. It didn't get approved until July. I don't think they got their first payment until this month. They had to cash flow and finance it with bank loans, and credit cards. That doesn't seem like a very efficient process to me. I am wondering if you could shed some light on the process and ways to improve it if there's a bottleneck somewhere to ensure that the money gets flowed to successful proponents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): The comments you made are very good. In regard to the official languages the federal government and Nunavut Government have an agreement in place in recognizing...a cooperation agreement it's called.

We have to apply annually. Last year we got behind because it wasn't signed. The federal government wanted to sign an agreement for so many years but we didn't agree to that. We felt that they should recognize Inuktitut and not just service...it's because we couldn't come to an agreement and that's why it was delayed.

What my colleague just mentioned, we will definitely give more consideration and it is very important to have good communication. Hopefully this year we will have a better year that there will be agreements: the cooperation agreement between the federal government and Nunavut, we signed an agreement in regard to the official languages.

The others that are from the Nunavut Government are to help others but somehow the official language is kind of separate and that's why it was delayed last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that candid answer; the reasons why their funding was delayed.

I know that there's the one applicant, the one proposal in Cambridge Bay, but there's probably several across Nunavut. They're all obviously worthy projects because your department approved them. I'm wondering how you work with those proponents during the fiscal year to ensure that their projects didn't fall off the table and they do continue on to successful completion.

I mentioned the group in Cambridge Bay. Although they had the funding approved through your department, they had to apply for a bank loan and they had to use credit cards to pay for their costs, and there were interest charges and all that.

They finally got their first instalment but there is a second instalment of funding that is supposed to get paid to them. I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the minister could commit to ensuring that they review all the affected groups and organizations that received approval last fiscal year to ensure that they get their funding before the end of the fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my assistant deputy minister respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister explained, sometimes we cannot expend the funds that are in until we get confirmation from the federal government that we will get the funding for the cooperative agreement.

Sometimes what we do is we do review them early enough and then we do provide a letter indicating that their projects were approved, however until we get the cooperative agreement, the funds cannot be expended.

So we do have to put a qualifier on. It is not necessarily the funding that is being approved here. What is being approved here on F-3, the \$300, this is strictly within the department so this can flow a lot easier.

It's just the cooperative agreement it becomes three parties. So, there are creative ways of doing things within that, and we try and do the best. For this fiscal year we had some staff changeovers and that probably delayed it, and compounded the problems. Our wonderful folks that are doing the projects have felt that impact.

But, hopefully it doesn't take as long as it did for this year. We do evaluate ourselves on a yearly basis, and this is one that we will do where we'll see what kinds of improvements we can make on that particular file. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. We're on pages F-7 and F-8. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes we don't even use proper words or proper terminology, even in the House because we don't have any guidelines.

Like *Asuilaak*, the Inuktitut dictionary, could he tell where it is at and how complete that project is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, they have Inuktitut names. It's a dictionary with both Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun, and we are working hard to use those languages.

The dictionary is in electronic form on the computer and the employees of the Government of Nunavut use it. That's as much as I know but they continually accumulate or correct words into the dictionary.

At this time there are 80,000 terms in the dictionary. This is continually ongoing, and it's progressing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it on a website? For those of us who live in Pond Inlet, if we want to get a term, for example, my sister Joanna Awa, when she was a small child, when we first went to Pond Inlet, my father told her in Pond Inlet that he wanted her to learn the Pond Inlet dialect.

So he asked her; why don't you bring in a hammer from inside. But, in Inuktitut hammer means nice rock, so she brought in a nice rock to the house. He asked her what she was doing with a big rock. And she told him it was the best looking beautiful rock.

Yes, we have different dialects. My father was asking for a hammer called *Kautaujaq* in a different dialect. With all these different dialects, are they written in the *Asuilak* dictionary too? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, they continually collect Inuktitut terminology for the dictionary, and we have a committee...what do they call the committee? We definitely need to come up with Inuktitut names but we have a terminology committee. They have a terminology committee. We believe that we will continue to enhance the Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun dictionary.

It will progress. You can find it through the website. I just don't have the website address with me but it's already on the website.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you. Is it in the website of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We're on page F-7 and F-8. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if we can take a short ten minute break. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. I will take a ten minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:02 and resumed at 17: 20*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Let's resume the meeting. We're on page F-7 and F-8. Official Languages. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask what's the status of the *Official Languages Act*. Although you may have talked about it what's the status of the *Official Languages Act* and when do you expect to table it in the House.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been continually working on that, and we've made a press release on the progress of that. At this time when we're drafting up the bill but to date there are still a few questions that we need to respond to.

There are going to be two Acts: one the *Official Languages Act*, and the other is on the protection, the *Inuktitut Languages Act*. Due to the fact that we have to work on them together is why we're a bit slow with the progress. At the end of March, on the 30th, if we're to meet to that date, we wanted to table that bill if we're going to meet until the end of the month. We expect to complete the session on the 27th of this month. We are unable to table it, but we wanted to table the bill during this session. Perhaps we will just table the bill so that the public can see the contents of the bill.

NTI and the Official Languages Commissioner still have questions that need to be answered. So in order to allow for the response I believe if we table the bill during this session they could be reviewed and consulted with the public. In the next session we want to table it as a bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank the minister for his response. If we were to vote on the *Official Language Act* it would probably be a Nunavut-recognized Act, and not throughout Canada. Will they be able to use it in the courts, the Inuit language?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. It states in the Act that the Inuit language has to be used in which department, or which agency with the Inuit have to be used so it has to be recognized by the courts.

Although it states that, there was an agreement recently within the Cabinet that the government departments will have to follow the Act as well because it's going to be protected under the Act, and the government has to use the Inuit language when they're servicing the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. When you were looking at reviewing the problems that might be encountered

with regards to the *Official Languages Act* and the rights of individuals, have you listed them, or would there be any problems? It just seems like the official languages should be dealt with very quickly but I guess it's not so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are some stuff that we have not agreed upon yet but during negotiations with the people that we're working with, we're reaching an agreement, especially to do with the service providers in the government departments such as the receptionists and the individual that's dealing with the public have to know how to speak Inuktitut, oral as well as written.

The interpreters have to be competent and the social workers will have to try to learn how to speak Inuktitut, as well as the RCMP, if they're going to be dealing with emergencies, will have to be able to speak Inuktitut, such as the private sector as well. If they're going to be servicing the public such as say in the hotels and in the restaurants, they will have to follow the Act.

The thing that we had the problem about the most is, although it's being resolved, community governments; are they going to follow the official language, or are they going to be protected, or are they going to be following the protection of languages? The problem that we had was the federal government don't really want to give us a lot of money to the municipal governments for whatever they're going to use the money for.

These are the types of things that we're dealing with right now with regard to the *Official Languages Act*. NTI and the Languages Commissioner's Office are working together with our department in dealing with the *Official Languages Act*.

We feel that we're going to have to agree in Nunavut that the Nunavut languages and the service departments that deal with the public will have to agree to follow the *Official Languages Act*.

Yes, we're continuing and that's what we're dealing with and that's where we're at right now. We would like to be able to provide the Act before we prorogue as an Assembly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand a little bit better. I think you're trying to agree with each other voluntarily. Nobody suggests that if you don't agree, and then it can't be done. But as a government, if we agree to the legislation, if there is a binding agreement, then it would have to be followed because at the present time they don't really have a solid foundation for an agreement between the departments and the other agencies.

The people who have contracts with your department... but we could also deal with the courts, whether it's under the constitution. But, I know a lot more people in Nunavut will be happy when their languages are protected, and when their languages are recognized.

I think the people out there are expecting that this legislation be provided as soon as possible, if you can continue and work vigorously to make sure that this legislation is provided to the House so the public can get their hands on it.

There are a lot of people who don't have answers to what they want. English and French is already recognized, but here in Nunavut, we have to have the right to have the *Official Languages Act* recognized.

Can the minister provide us with the ongoing work that is happening with regard to the *Official Language Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I agree with the member.

We feel that a lot of people expected to have a Nunavut Agreement which is in effect right now, and I know Inuit are expecting this legislation to pass. After a certain number of years, it will receive assent from the Commissioner and then become a law at a certain time.

I think it's going to be looked at for another five years before it becomes legislation, and we have to know how much it is going to cost. So, when we table it in the House, it would become an Act for the committee to review, and it becomes a public document.

Before the first reading is done they can hold public consultations to see what they think. I think it will be some time in April that we want to have it provided to the public for a month because Jose Kusugak is our advisor on the Language Bill.

He is getting feedback from the public out there. Before the Legislative Assembly has prorogued then we want to be able to deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like the minister stated, there are a lot of things out there that could try to keep it from becoming an Act because Canada is a bilingual country. They have not said anything about there having to be plans in place.

We can use Greenland as an example. I think no matter how much it costs for the government, agencies, and the private sector, if it becomes law then it will be very good

for Inuit. You don't have to be nervous about what other people might be thinking about. It would be recognized.

Lastly, I would like to ask a question. We're using Inuktitut right now. What is our status as Inuit speakers? If we're going to have Inuktitut as a working language how can you get that going? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have an act at the present time. When we get legislation that protects the Inuit language, the *Official Languages Act*, and protection of the Inuit languages, we have to be protected under the law because we have to preserve them.

So that's what we're looking at right now and this is the first time it is going to be done here in Nunavut. We wanted to provide a piece of legislation for the protection of the Inuit language so it would be dominant. That's the thing that we want to do in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I think today we should start saying that we have to say what we mean by a certain thing. We hear about different languages but nobody says anything about it. I expect that if there could be someone that deals with the protection of language, if I was to ask you what do you mean by negotiations using Inuktitut? Every day you have negotiations with public servants. What do you think it means when it's in regard to languages?

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we can use the Inuktitut language there is a committee in place that deals with that. I think they come from the government departments and they have a meeting for meanings of different words.

This committee has been doing that for the new terminology and the government jargon to be compiled together and to use that same Inuktitut meaning because there are so many different ways that you can call a certain thing, even though it is just one item. So we're trying to use the same language for a certain thing all the time.

The people that use Inuktitut and English meet once in a while but it's continuing and they have a...if I was to say negotiation; you're trying to reach an agreement. This is what it means in Inuktitut. I am sure that other people would say it differently. It's basically, trying to agree with each other. That is the way I would say it.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I feel that the minister responded to that like trying to agree with each other is a meaning of negotiation. So I feel that that terminology is good. There are all kinds of people that would say that they're arguing. I feel negotiating is better than arguing. So when you try to agree with each other would you be arguing or how would you say it? This word *Aivaniq*, what do you think it means? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, that's like dialectal differences because of course, a hammer is said differently from one community to another. From what I understand then as a person from Amittuq, *Aivaniq* would be an argument or an angry argument and trying to win over the other. That's not negotiation that would be an argument. That's how I understand it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Well, he is the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and not an expert in languages. That is for the information of all the members. He could make mistakes.

We are dealing with F-7 and F-8 of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I think I have three minutes. Thank you. The minister responded appropriately. If we're going to be proud of our language, I think we should have an accurate definition of a word. There are some people out there who say argument instead of negotiation when they're speaking in Inuktitut.

I think we have to set an example to the people out there and he said when he was making his response that in the Amittuq dialect that it would be how they would say it. I think that we'll have to make sure we have proper definitions so that the younger generation will have an understanding or be well versed in Inuktitut. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I didn't hear a question. We are on page F-7 and F-8. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for the minister. How many different dialects are there out there? I know that they're all in Inuktitut but there are dialectal differences. How many dialects of Inuktitut are there out there? How many do you use when you're promoting the Inuktitut language? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not exactly sure how I can respond to that question but if you're putting it into Inuktitut, that individual would translate it or put it into their dialect. We have an office in Kugluktuk where they translate into the Inuinnaqtun language. We also have another office in Igloolik where

they do translations from English to Inuktitut and vice versa. We also have another office here where we use different dialects.

That's how I would respond to your question. In regard to dialects, I can't really respond to your question because I don't think we even try to find out how many dialects there are and which one is most preferred by Nunavummiut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am concerned because when I went to the *Ahiarmiut* area, the inland people, I didn't even understand their language.

They still have their own distinct dialect, and it's quite hard to understand them because they have a very distinct dialect. I think that we have to preserve their dialect because it is used by a certain group of people.

Not everyone will be using that same dialect throughout Nunavut. I know that they are the hardest of the dialects that I've heard, and each of our dialects is distinct. With the language that we use every day, there are slight variations.

Some of them are quite hard, and I don't think you would even understand them. Is it possible to promote dialectal differences and also to preserve them? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, very much. The dialects in the regions are very important and it identifies which region you come from depending on which dialect you speak.

There are none preferred, more or less, but one thing that I think we will have to consider in the future is the Inuktitut language. It would have to be mandatory for the Inuktitut language to be spoken here at the Legislative Assembly for example.

In Greenland, they use the Greenlandic or the Queen's version of the Greenland dialect in the House, but when they go home they each use their own distinct dialect. Is that something that our department or this House will have to consider? All dialects are very distinct and something to be proud of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the preservation of the Inuktitut language, I think that we should be promoting them and using the Inuktitut language.

Of course each of us have a different dialect, and we want our dialects to be preserved. There are some *Ahiarmiut* who now understand our Inuktitut dialect, and we are able to understand their distinct dialect.

Your dialect identifies where you come from. From what I understand, or the way I see it, they are from Nunavut. I think that they are a very important, distinct group of Inuit who have their own customs and who have their own distinct dialect.

We don't have an interpreter who speaks in that distinct dialect, and some of the people, especially the elders don't understand some of the dialects. They might hear you, but they won't understand you.

My question is: how can we package it and preserve it, possibly through the schools and to set aside some funds that would be used for the preservation of dialects in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's on this page that we have grants and contributions available for language promotion and protection. We have money set aside for promotion and protection.

If you would like to do a program promoting and protecting the Inuktitut language, we can give assistance. Once the bill is legislated there would be a terminology committee, who would do the compilation of terminology. We do have money set aside for the promotion and protection of the Inuktitut language. Usually we get those funds from a third party, or from the federal government. Through our department there is money available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to hear that. The people out there are listening I am sure. They'll be aware that there is money set aside for promotion and protection. That was my last comment.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. We're on page F-7. Official Languages. And F-8. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,626,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. On page F-9, F-10, and F-11. Culture and Heritage. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had made this comment at an earlier date in regard to culture and heritage. I think the minister can recall the comments that I made.

The government puts together promotional material where each community is described and there's one on Coral Harbour. It is said that the people of Coral Harbour in the early 1900s moved, or died off, but that information is not quite accurate.

I am not sure what you can do but I think that you should be involved in bringing, or getting the accurate information. There are some people who have now moved to Rankin Inlet where our grandfather David Alagalak and my grandfather moved over there and then there's two that moved to Igloolik.

The anthropologists are saying that the original Coral Harbour people had died off. So I think that we have to get the accurate information out there because they are descendents of the original Coral Harbour people. When I talk to them, they feel like they are a very small family and they feel smaller than the rest of the population. So I think that we have to make sure that we promote that type of stuff.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): There was some interview taping done in Coral Harbour. As I mentioned earlier we were recording in some communities, for quite a number of years, and we deal with so many communities in a year, and the stories that we hear, we are collecting them.

I don't think we've reached Coral Harbour yet, and that would be really good to give interviews and record those. After that, then we would be able to work further from there. We'll definitely have to look into this and what he just mentioned; we'll keep that in mind.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I move to report progress.

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

At this time I would like to thank Minister Tapardjuk and his officials. I would like to ask Sergeant-at-Arms to escort them from the witness table. Thank you.

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 is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Simailak. The motion is in order. All those in favour, please raise your hand. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for March 16:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 4
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 5

- Bill 8

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 1
- Bill 2
- Bill 3

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 16, at 10:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:02*

