



**Nunavut Canada**

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**Friday, March 23, 2007**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Friday, March 23, 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, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Honourable Patterk Netser, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable David Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Peter Kilabuk)(interpretation): Thank you. Good morning. I would like to ask Minister Simailak to say a prayer for us.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Premier, Ministers, Members, and pages. Just to remind you this morning that we have only two pages due to parent-teacher meetings this morning.

Thank you. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Mr. Picco.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 041 – 2(4): Early Childhood Resources**

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

I am very pleased to announce the development of early childhood resources in the form of a Nunavut Wildlife Theme Box. I'd like to thank you for giving us permission to show that box this morning. The box contains and is geared for pre-school children age zero to five years, and will reflect both Nunavut's wildlife, as well as all four official languages.

It includes posters, books, puzzles, fact-sheets, and a memory game. As you can see this initiative demonstrates that the Department of Education is including more culturally relevant materials and activities for our pre-school children. One of the props that are used is an *Okpik*. We also have a *Tulugaq*.

It gives me great pleasure to know that we are continuing to improve the quality of early childhood for our Nunavummiut children. Quality programs for culturally relevant learning help our young children develop and grow into successful, productive adults. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 042 – 2(4): Legal Interpreter Training Program**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I think the minister needs to take lessons himself about learning the proper terms for the birds and animals in Inuktitut, so it's good that he has some in his possession. I don't like being mistaken for an owl.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to report today that six Nunavummiut have successfully completed the legal interpreter training program. Since 1999 the Department of Justice, Court Services has partnered with Nunavut Arctic College to offer an eight week legal interpreting training program. Many interpreters from communities across Nunavut are interested in expanding their skills as numerous employment opportunities await them in the justice system and other areas of public and private sectors.

I would like to thank the Kakivak Association and First Air for providing sponsorship support for several of the students, in addition to the contributions of the students' employers.

(interpretation ends) The Nunavut Court of Justice, led by Senior Judge Beverly Brown, has always insisted on proper interpretation for Nunavut's public and inspired the creation of this training program. The graduates of this program are an essential component of our government making our justice accessible by providing Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtut translation to the parties and the public in our courtrooms.

Senior officials from Newfoundland and Labrador were in Iqaluit a few weeks ago to see first-hand how this program works. They are very impressed and are considering implementing a summer program based on our model.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker and members, please join me in recognizing the six graduates of the Legal Interpreters Training Program for their achievements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. We also congratulate the Legal Interpreters Training Program. Minister for Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Minister's Statement 043 – 2(4): Piqqusilirivvik Progress Update**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Piqqusilirivvik Steering Committee consists of Department of *Iliqqusilirijikkut*, the Department of Education, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, elders from the three regions, along with some Members of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajiit* and the Mayor of Clyde River.

Planning is well under way on the development of Piqqusilirivvik Inuit Cultural School. Their knowledge and skills on culture and tradition will be essential. As I committed in the House last session to provide a report early in the year, I have not been able to do that yet as there are several sub-committees working hard to develop the implementation plan.

I wanted to assure this House the government is continuing to draft an implementation plan and once the progress report is provided to me then the Piqqusilirivvik Steering Committee, I remain committed to sharing that information with the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Orders of the Day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

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

#### **Member's Statement 081 – 2(4): Sanikiluaq's Nuiyak School – An Aboriginal Education Success**

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share with you another success story from Nuiyak School in Sanikiluaq. Earlier this month, the Society for Advancement of Expertise in Education released a report, a ten-case study on schools which are examples of success in aboriginal education. The report praised Sanikiluaq's Nuiyak School for its strong leadership and integration of Inuit culture, activities, and innovative programs.

It's really shows how success can be achieved by outstanding principals such as Lisi Kavik, whom I spoke about earlier in session, and the staff at the school. As you know, I am a strong believer in the importance of culture and traditions. I am very pleased that this report linked academic success with respect for aboriginal culture and involvement of aboriginal staff.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Nuiyak School on this very successful report card. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Mr. Picco.

#### **Member's Statement 082 – 2(4): Animal Rights Groups**



**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great expectation and some apprehension that April 1 is almost here.

Mr. Speaker, usually on that day in many of our communities in Nunavut, the 24-hour sun has come. With many years of traditions behind us, we will venture forth in search of the elusive and the highly regarded sea lemming.

Mr. Speaker, with thousands of these ferocious creatures under foot and under water, hunting them and harvesting them for their sable, their ermine-like fur will help our economy.

But, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Greenpeace and the folks at the International Fund for Animal Groups don't like it. They say that the sea lemming harvest is cruel. They say that the sea lemming is in danger of extinction.

At last count, there were five million plus sea lemmings. Our hunt is regulated, monitored, licensed, and has been studied for the past 100 plus years, and found to be humane. The animal rights' groups love to show baby sea lemmings because they are cute and marketable.

But, Mr. Speaker, we don't hunt the baby sea lemming, and we don't club them either. Mr. Speaker, there really are no sea lemmings. But, like the other tall tales around our real seal hunt, it is hard to tell fact from fiction.

Our seal hunting is sustainable, regulated, licensed, and Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut, the hunting of seals continues to provide for food for our tables, *Kamiik* for our feet, and that is no tall tale. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

### **Member's Statement 083 – 2(4): Community Health Representatives**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning and good morning to my fellow members and people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about community health representatives. They should be available in all the communities in Nunavut. In my constituency, in Grise Fiord, we used to have a community health representative but we don't have one today.

The community health representatives have assisted the people of the communities, and they work to ensure that the people of Nunavut - adults, young people and children alike - are not exposed to sicknesses.

They talk to Inuit about being well in their bodies, and to be sure that store-bought foods are not expired. They talk to the public about anything that may be hazardous to their health.

Elders have worked with community health representatives very well in the communities. For that reason, Grise Fiord should have a community health representative because the people are not as informed as they were before, because there is no program over there and they don't have a worker as a community health representative.

At the appropriate time I will be asking questions about the community health representatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Member's Statement 084 – 2(4): Appreciation of Nancy Karetak-Lindell**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to represent my constituents and to speak on the topic that they wanted me to speak about.

This individual was elected in 1997, Nancy Karetak-Lindell. From my constituents I would like to say thank you to her for representing Nunavut in the past. She worked very hard to represent Nunavummiut. Even after her husband passed away she has truly represented the people of Nunavut.

Although she does not appear in my community too much, she is our representative in the House of Commons in Ottawa. As elected politicians the people in Nunavut appreciate this very much and I wanted to appreciate Nancy Karetak-Lindell for representing us in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

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

This morning I would like to state my appreciation for the people that are our staff, our Sergeant-at-Arms, and the media.

Item 6. Oral Questions. Just a minute.

Thank you. Before we proceed with the Oral Questions, at this time I would like to remind the members that we only have one Inuinnaqtut interpreter. Please make sure that you remember that.

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

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 108 – 2(4): Energy Issues

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. My question is going to be directed to the Minister responsible for Energy. All Members of the Legislative Assembly recently received a copy of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's most recent fuel stabilization rider application to the Utility Rate Review Council, URRC, that's dated March 2, 2007.

I want to ask the minister about an issue that the application raises, I don't believe that the prices have gone up for a long time; I would like to ask the minister what's happening with the application.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Fuel Stabilization Rider, FSR, is put in place to help cover the costs of fuel on an annual basis, from year to year. In this case the FSR was 7.87 cents a kilowatt hour. The application that the member refers to is decreasing that Fuel Stabilization Rider to 6.665 cents a kilowatt hour, so it is dropping about a cent. That's the application to the URRC. Any FSR has to be approved by an independent body, in this case the URRC, before it can be applied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, in the application I will quote. "Qulliq Energy Corporation has recently been advised that the Nunavut Government would like to move towards a true cost which will likely result in a greater range of fuel prices across Nunavut, but would prefer to wait until the next supply season."

Can the minister explain to the House today the reason why the Government of Nunavut wants to make this change and whether the government has made a final decision on that matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Almost 20 percent of the total budget of the Government of Nunavut goes towards energy, and energy related matters, whether that is the production of electricity, the importation of fuel, and so on.

What has been discussed in the House in the past, as well as the *Ikuma I* and the *Ikuma II* Reports, has been moving the government with an affordable energy fund to show all the

subsidies, make the subsidies transparent that are in place for the purchase and the distribution of fuel and energy.

The idea of going to the true price of fuel, you would factor in the cost of the transportation of the fuel, the distribution of the fuel, and you would also look at the storage at the POL sites, for example, Mr. Speaker, taking care of the storage tanks and so on.

Right now, when you look at the price of fuel at the pump, it includes the transportation costs, and the distribution costs. It doesn't factor in, for example, storage costs and other ancillary costs that are associated with the purchase of fuel.

So, when we talk about the true cost of fuel that is something that we're looking at. We're looking at the Power Corporation as a first step to start paying the true cost of fuel. There has been no decision on it. I would like to be in a position, as the minister responsible, to bring something forward in the fall for the House to review at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** I appreciate the minister briefing the members on the application.

It is quite important that Nunavummiut be informed as to whether or not there will be additional costs assessed to the consumers. I would like to ask the minister exactly what he means by true costs being levied against Qulliq Energy Corporation or the consumers in general.

I want to assure the minister that when he is considering the true costs being applied to consumers, whether or not the consumers use all the fuel that was bought the previous year, the consumers must pay for it regardless of whether or not they use 50 percent of the supply or three quarters of the supply.

Do you mean 100 percent of the supply be levied against the consumers? I think the question is clear. So that's the kind of questions that Nunavummiut are asking today. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member raises an interesting point, and that point being that 100 percent of the fuel purchased by the Power Corporation is purchased through the Petroleum Product Division.

The actual cost of that fuel has increased from over \$20 million three years ago to over \$30 million last year which is the last year we have actual figures for. Moving to the true

cost of fuel would mean that the actual cost of actually purchasing the fuel, the storage of the fuel, distribution of the fuel, would be factored into that price.

Right now, it's hidden through the different subsidies that are in place and at different costs. We artificially take that price and set a rate for the territory. We use what is called a blended rate.

So, the cost of shipping fuel, for example, to Resolute Bay may be more than it is to Chesterfield Inlet, but we try to take that price and make it a blended cost. So when we talk about moving to the true costs of fuel, that is what we're talking about doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** I would like to urge the minister to seriously consider that Nunavummiut need not be levied or charged for true costs when in fact they are not even using it or spending it because they only use maybe 50 percent of the supply that the government bought.

So could you consider that Nunavummiut be assessed a certain percentage of the cost up to a point, maybe three quarters of the supply instead of 100 percent of the supply bought, because it's sitting in a container which has nothing to do with the consumers that you are intending to recover your costs from? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I want to thank the member for raising the question. Two days ago in the House I tabled the proposed Energy Strategy for the Government of Nunavut and we talked about true pricing of fuel, how we purchase fuel, how we generate electricity.

I can ensure the member that, with discussion on our tabled document, we would be bringing forward our energy strategy, probably in the session in May. Then we would have an opportunity to have some further discussion.

At the end of the day, what the Government of Nunavut is trying to do is protect Nunavut consumers without highly, wildly escalating prices. At the same time, trying to demonstrate what those subsidies are that are in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 109 – 2(4): Community Health Representative for Grise Fiord**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health. In my Member's Statement I

mentioned that there needs to be a community health representative in Grise Fiord. To date, there hasn't been any position being advertised for that position in the community of Grise Fiord.

Can the minister give me the status on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to speak to my staff to find out why that position has not been advertised and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister advise me and the Hamlet of Grise Fiord once this position is being advertised so people in Grise Fiord can apply for this position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will do that. I will provide this information to the hamlet as well as the member as soon as I get this information on the status of the position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 110 – 2(4): Client Travel Policies for Patients and Escorts**

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services in dealing with a topic that has received a lot of attention by all members in the House and that is client travel policies for patients and escorts.

In one of the guiding principles of the Client Travel Policy, it indicates to be fair to everyone. This means to make good, responsible decisions that are the same for everyone. It also means that making the reasons for decisions are clear and understandable.

My question to the minister is: when the department or officials are deciding on escort travel, how do they ensure they are following the policy the same for everybody? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A decision on whether a person requires an escort or not depends on the patient needs. On that basis then that policy is applied. The medical condition of the patients is considered first and foremost. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I guess my next question is, also in the policy it states only one escort will be approved per trip. I am just wondering if the minister can confirm if that is the case or if there are cases where multiple escorts would be sent out on a trip. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, case-by-case, the condition of the patient; sometimes two individuals are sent, depending again on the condition of the person and the serious nature of the patient's current condition. Normally, the practice is only to allow one escort. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the policy it says, "Where there is a special circumstances the executive director must recommend any change and the director of client travel may approve more than one escort."

I would like to ask the minister if she is aware of what types of special circumstances would be taken into consideration there to allow for multiple escorts to go? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the condition of the patient; it all depends on the condition of the patient and how serious the person's condition is when those situations are applied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have asked those questions because in the document that my colleague tabled other day that breaks down the medical and escort travel by region. In the Baffin region, for ages zero to 16 there was 2,450 patients sent out, 1,225 escorts. In the Kitikmeot region for the same age group, 866 patients sent out,

650 escorts with those patients. The anomaly here in the Kivalliq where they had 1,706 patients sent out and 1,824 escorts sent out.

I would like to ask the minister if she could bring forward justification to the House since you could have over 100 more escorts sent out than patients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, case-by-case, every situation is different. I am aware of when escorts have been away with the patient for an extensive amount of time; two, three months at a time in a hospital we do switch-overs with families. Or it could be that there is a requirement, like I had mentioned earlier, the state of the person's condition. Again, it varies on a case-by-case basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 111 – 2(4): GN's Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

I have been reviewing the minister's recently tabled Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy. In particular I was reviewing an action item on page 20, "Following an independent review, the Government of Nunavut will facilitate a workshop in partnership with the federal government, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the three Regional Inuit Associations, Nunavut Planning Commission, Nunavut Impact Review Board, and the Nunavut Water Board."

This is a review of the permitting and regulatory structures. I know it's a kind of a daunting action item. In other words, the government will facilitate a workshop with Government of Canada, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Kivalliq Inuit Association, Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Nunavut Planning Commission, Nunavut Impact Review Board, and the Nunavut Water Board.

I can certainly see why the mining sector is confused about our regulatory permitting process, and why it's so slow and complicated.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell me what the current status is of the independent review of the permitting and regulatory structures in the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The review has not started yet but they are identifying what they will review at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On page 52, in the timeline identified there, on the review issue that there be a Request for Proposal in the fall of 2006, and a final report for March 2007; the resources are \$75,000. Can the minister tell me if there has been a consultant hired to conduct an independent review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to check into this further. I will have to get more information and give him the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Oral Questions. Your second supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very impressive report. It was distributed to mining conferences in southern Canada and was tabled in the House. The action items are impressive. That review is identified as an action item and is very important for the mining sector in Nunavut.

I wonder if the minister can say if an independent review has been started. Can he give me an idea of when it will be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is very important to consult with the different communities Ikaluktutiak, Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, and Clyde River. There was one in Ottawa, Vancouver, and Toronto.

There were a lot of people that were involved and they were very beneficial in setting this up. As I said earlier, I'll have to check with my officials and get back to the member.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I hate to keep harping on the same issue about the over-regulation, red tape and bureaucracy in Nunavut. We keep hearing about how we have to develop our economy and all these regulations are holding up the development of our economy.

The minister's says the review hasn't been completed, it hasn't been started. He also mentioned in one of the action items that a workshop will occur with all those organizations. I wonder if the minister can tell me when he thinks the workshop will actually occur. Will it occur in 2007 or in some future year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On page 40, action 1-6, in his supplementary question, the independent review has not started but it will follow through. At that time, then the workshop will be held. Thank you.

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

### **Question 112 – 2(4): Medical Travel From Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

During Committee of the Whole yesterday she stated something and I would like clarification, but I want to make a statement with regards to medical travel. Back in the 50s and 60s, we used to go down to Moose Factory, especially people from the Belcher Islands.

In the 1970s they would go to Churchill, and in the late 1970s we would go down to Moose Factory, too. This was not our doing; it was the doing of the government. Nowadays, Sanikiluaq residents have to go to Churchill or Winnipeg.

The minister indicated yesterday that she would talk to her officials as to why Sanikiluaq residents don't go down to Ottawa? I would like to ask the minister if she has talked to her officials about this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have asked my staff to review that current arrangement for Sanikiluaq patients travelling through Churchill and Winnipeg to explore whether there are other ways that we can provide better service to community of Sanikiluaq around health.

One option is perhaps they should go to Ottawa; the other option is maybe Iqaluit. Instead of chartering to Winnipeg and Churchill we can look at Sanikiluaq being chartered to here, or Ottawa.

So, we are just looking at that; no decision has been made, but because of the high cost of the service, we're looking at ways of trying to reduce the costs of medical travel, and we are exploring just what those options might be at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister.

We hear in the House that the boarding home in Ottawa is constantly full and a lot of times they have to put people in hotels. And, here in Iqaluit the boarding home is constantly full. Those things will have to be considered, too.

But, I would like to share with the minister that she will have to consult with the residents of Sanikiluaq. They should participate in the process if they're going to be talking about this. I wonder if the minister will be able to consult the residents of Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're just exploring at this point in time. No decision has been made. We're looking at the cost issue. The concern that the member raises related to the aircraft; that's all part of it.

The boarding home situation in Ottawa of course is part of it, as well as here. But, we are just exploring the options and we will consult with the community whatever we decide to do.

At this point in time, the arrangement will continue to be with Winnipeg and Churchill. But, at this point in time, again, I want to reassure the member it is just an exploration. We are exploring what options we have of how we can provide better service to Sanikiluaq. That is basically where we are at, and I will keep the member informed as well as the community in case there are any changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 113 – 2(4): Fuel Prices**

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is a supplementary to Mr. Curley's question with regard to energy.

This glass of water I drank it where I left a little bit to compare it with the fuel tanks. Sometimes the fuel tanks get refuelled when they are very low and they just did that in Arctic Bay.

My question is the residue at the bottom, maybe it has the price of last year's and the following year when it's refilled, then it is a new price including the residue that was left at the bottom. How do you justify the cost from the old fuel and the new one? When it's fixed, how do you justify the cost of it?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Your question is toward the Minister responsible for Petroleum Products, Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the fuel prices going up and everything else goes up. I'd like to state at this time the price of fuel went up in November by 10 cents a litre, and the taxes. Even though that might be the case the cost of fuel is constantly going up, it's not like that. I can state that the remaining fuel that was left is added on with the new one because we don't have any other tank.

PPD orders once a year. If you can remember in 2003 the cost of oil was \$26 a barrel and every single year it constantly goes up and in 2004 it was \$40 a barrel. It's the same size barrel. The barrel is the same and the price keeps going up. In 2005 the price was \$60. In 2006 it was \$78 a barrel. The fuel went up considerably higher.

What I would like to say is that the residue from the previous year and the new supply is 10 cents a litre, and it applies to the whole of Nunavut. It will be the same. I can't predict what the cost will be in the fall time.

That's my explanation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with you. I know that we need order because they have constituencies that need to be informed, too.

The second question that I would like to pose is now that it's springtime and I am sure that you'll be looking to purchase fuel at the best price. Once you find out where to buy the fuel and you state the quantity; approximately 20 billion litres, do you tell them how much you want, or do you tell them since you're fuel is the best and it's most cost effective way, go fill up the 25 communities and then after you deliver the fuel we'll find out how much it costs. How does that occur?

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work with the Department of Finance when we work on the prices of fuel and also we work with Petroleum Products Division, since they are responsible for that. We purchase different kinds of fuel, and we look for the most cost effective way. There are hardly any options, but we expect to purchase fuel on hedging, for example, diesel.

I could talk about the differences with the diesel beginning from 2003-04 to 2005 as to how much it costs and the price. I can report to the House on these but the diesel in 2005 \$1,653,224 the price of that, and gasoline \$20,854,470, and jet A-1 \$55,474,994, and AV gas, which we also purchase too, it's not a huge volume because not too many communities use that; \$241,245. In total cost: \$137,813,364.

So those are my responses. I can also table that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): I don't want to make a supplementary question because she did not answer my question. My question was do you purchase fuel ahead of time, like for example, for the year 2005 there was 115 million litres purchased and in 2006 there were 99 million litres purchased. You purchased fuel by telling them the quantity that you want, or purchased the fuel ahead of time and then once the ship delivers the fuel to the community then find out how much it would cost.

So I would like the Speaker to let me know if I can ask a second question.

**Speaker** (interpretation): You asked the question so your next question it's still the second supplementary. Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the member if he can ask the question again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): What I'm trying to say it does not state here in this document what the policy is when you purchase fuel from whatever company you purchase your fuel from, wherever you purchase your fuel from.

And I'm sure if there was a bid, or if there was a request for proposals, and if this company won, we don't know how much fuel we'll need in Pond Inlet, Kugluktuk, or Arviat for example.

We don't know how many litres of fuel they'll require in the communities, but fuel will be delivered to the communities, and then after you deliver that fuel. Do you pay for the fuel delivered, or do you purchase 137,813,364 worth of fuel ahead of time? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for asking those questions.

The fuel is purchased from Shell Oil, from a Montreal refinery, and from Edmonton. I have not identified how much fuel will be delivered to the communities, but Woodward's Oil Limited, (interpretation ends) provides marine transportation and delivery of Government of Nunavut fuel to the communities in the Baffin and Kivalliq regions.

Northern Transportation Company Limited provides marine transportation and the delivery of Government of Nunavut fuel to the communities in the Kitikmeot region. As a condition to the contract extension, Woodward's implementation will include all Government of Nunavut requests, enhancement to equipment, safety, and environment procedures in their 2005, and succeeding operational plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated that they had increased at 10 cents but they required an increase of 26, but with the government's assistance, they would increase the fuel by 10 cents a litre so that the communities would not pay too much.

Was this increase for both gasoline and diesel? Did you also provide a subsidy for aviation fuel; A1 jet fuel, or JP4, used for helicopters? Did you provide a 10 cent subsidy to for them as well? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is how it is in the communities. Yes, the price of various fuels had the same price according to my understanding; that's how it was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 114 – 2(4): Continual Monitoring of Contaminated Marine Mammals**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Environment.

I would like to make a statement because this has been a concern of mine. Although the minister is not really responsible for this, we have been impacted with regards to sea mammals such as seals and whales that migrate through the Belcher Islands, travelling to the Keewatin.

We harvest them for subsistence. Beginning in 1980 they identified that the whales are contaminated with mercury. My colleague from Sanikiluaq made a statement about a seal that was tagged with a radio.

They travel all over the place and these mammals travel through the contaminated waters. So I would like to ask the minister if there is continual monitoring of these waters and how do you work with the Department of Fisheries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to sealing, it has moved to the Department of Economic Development. So I believe that he should be directing his question to that minister. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Premier if you can clarify which minister is responsible for that question. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is responsible for the trading of sealskins and wildlife issues are the responsibility of the Department of Environment but these two departments work together to lobby the federal government and to work with the federal government. It seems like the question is more leaning towards the Minister of Environment and I'm sure he can respond to that question.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the member rephrase his question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Please rephrase your question, Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated my concern in regard to the hydro construction and when building those it can become hazardous to marine mammals. In regard to this ... (interpretation ends) ... contamination with the marine mammals, is what I'm talking about, the concerns we have and how the minister is working with Fisheries and Oceans to see how they are working together in the prevention of contamination to marine mammals in Hudson Bay. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising the issue.

Mr. Speaker, all marine mammals, including beluga whales (interpretation) and also the narwhals and bowhead whales, walrus, seals, and fish are the responsibility of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and they have the jurisdiction. But we want to have a close working relationship with the federal government in regard to these issues because those are our same issues and concerns, too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The marine mammals in the Hudson Bay waters are a food source for the people in Sanikiluaq and in the Kivalliq region and we have concerns about seals, and we have seen seals that are dead. We blame the hydro dam being built in Northern Quebec.

I think there's a (interpretation ends) monitoring process for prevention of contamination to seals and whales, and other marine mammals, including shellfish, being done through Fisheries and Oceans in conjunction with the Wildlife Office in Arviat or Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation) Do they have a monitoring system yearly, or do they just do it once a year to do the monitoring of the marine mammals in the Hudson Bay area? What is the process to make sure that those marine mammals are not getting sickly?

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not been sitting idle on this, we have been involved with the assessment of the environment with the government and made a report to Mr. Kattuk's constituency, of which they need to do more review on the impact on the animals after the hydro dams have been built, we still need to do more reviews on the animals we use for subsistence, so we are open to the federal government's environmental assessment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't have much assessment reports on activities done around Kivalliq waters... I am not sure who to direct this question to; perhaps to the Premier. Can the Premier make a report available to the regular members on how they are monitoring the marine mammals and what kinds of projects are being done by the federal government's DFO, or can the biologist provide a report on the health of marine mammals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the issue of constructing a hydro dam on river has an impact coming from Quebec to Nunavut, that is



why they worked together with the federal government's environmental assessment people, and they have said that they don't have enough information, and that this requires an assessment on the impact of marine mammals.

I expect them to start on their work and yes, we will work together with them since the federal government has the jurisdiction over the waters, our government can't really do anything about it, but we do provide support and will continue to provide support for we use those marine mammals for our subsistence, and once the assessment reports are complete I will table them in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with our Premier. We will be working together with the federal government. There are usually organizations that request funding to do studies on global warming and I feel that we have to be able to be involved in the studies on global warming.

I would like the government to request some funding from the federal government, along with Fisheries and Oceans to do some studies on the food that we have. Can the Premier work with Fisheries and Oceans to make sure that our marine wildlife is monitored regularly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have helped and assisted the people of Sanikiluaq because they're closest to the hydro dam.

We will continue to help them and work with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on the monitoring of those marine mammals, and to work with the various Departments of Environment because of our concerns because we're going to be living here for a long time and our foods have to be monitored regularly. This is going to be an ongoing process. I'm sure that we will continue to assist the monitoring, even though it's not really our responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 115 – 2(4): Income Support Assistance for Hunters**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to Minister Picco, Minister of Education and Income Support.

I would, first of all, like to say thank you to NTI for enabling us to help out with income support and also the Harvesters' Assistance Program for the Inuit of Nunavut. The income support recipients are the ones that do a lot of hunting.

As they are hunters, we have to be able to assist them because we have no way of getting any money, except to go out hunting for food. We sometimes assist them with gas and equipment purchases because of the high cost of buying equipment and food items in the communities. As they are hunters, we have to help them out.

I know that the Inuit people assist those hunters with the amount of \$400. We talked about income support yesterday. The people that give out that money to those income support recipients get penalized because they're receiving money as assistance from the public. Why do they penalize them for the amounts that are given to them just so they can go out hunting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Education and Income Support, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the Income Support Program, unearned income up to \$400 is available to the family, as well as \$200 to an individual.

I'm not aware of any case where any type of assistance that's been provided to a hunter who is on income support and continues that type of practice has been taken or put against their Income Support Program.

If the member is aware of an individual case where a person has their income support deducted because they received assistance for hunting, then he should make that known to the House and to me in writing, and we will follow it up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will write to the minister and I don't want to say the names here in the House, so I'll give him the information.

Mr. Speaker, my second supplementary question, even though we try to help them by giving them airline tickets, like the Member for Akulliq said that we're trying to help the hunters because they might be short of food. They receive money to buy skidoo's from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and there is nothing else for them to go out hunting with.

I think some of them have to spend well over \$100 for repair work for their skidoo. If they are trying to buy gasoline for their skidoo, they have to spend over \$20 to get the gasoline for the snowmobile and other things just to go out hunting.

If you are going to be taking money away from them, are we providing any service to them? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I think there is some confusion here. If a person receives an airline ticket; and the member raised a couple issues, so I will deal with them one at a time; if a person receives a ticket to take a vacation to go visit someone for three months, they are not making a productive choice. They are not in the community looking for work.

It is the same thing as the EI Program. If you are on EI, the program says you should be seeking employment. If you are on income support when you are in the community, you are supposed to bring it around to a hamlet and have that pro...

**Speaker:** Excuse me. A Point of Order has been raised. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas:** A Point of Order, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) There are no jobs in the small communities. I'm sorry. If they are looking for a job in the small communities, there is nothing. We have no other choice but to help them.

**Speaker:** Mr. Barnabas, I don't see a Point of Order in that, it being a clarification more than anything. We will allow the minister respond to your question. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member. What I was trying to clarify, that is the way we look at the airline ticket. On the hunting, if a person is out supplying their family with food, that is a productive choice and their income is not deducted.

If they receive money for a machine, that is not deducted; if they receive money for gas, it is not deducted. That is why I said, if the member has a case where someone has received money from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to actually have a carry-on, buy a machine, buy gas, to help them supply food to their family, and they have that deducted, then let that information come forward to me.

I am not saying in the House by a name, but in writing, and I will follow up because that, for clarification, that is not how the program runs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Members. I would like to inform the members that the Question Period is now over. Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 8: Returns to Written Questions\***

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

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): I'm tabling a response to Written Question 2 – 2(4) filed at the table by the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Thank you.

\*See Appendix for full text of Return to Written Question 2 – 2(4).

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Orders of the Day. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. (interpretation ends) Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. (interpretation) Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Tapardjuk.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 059 – 2(4): CD – Guidelines for Nunavut Territory Archaeology and Palaeontology Permits**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my appearance before the Committee of the Whole on March 16, the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Rankin Inlet North recommended to table the guidelines for the Nunavut Territory archaeology, and palaeontology permits.

This compact disc contains, in all four languages, copies of the guidelines currently used to request permits and licenses related to archaeology and palaeontology. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Item 14: Notices of Motions**

#### **Motion 005 – 2(4): Amendments to Rules 18 and 39 of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly – Notice**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice of a motion regarding amendments to Rule 18 and 39 of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly.

I give notice that on Monday, March 26, 2007, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Rule 39 be amended by adding the following subsections:

- (5) A Minister may, under the item “Returns to Oral Questions”, rise to supplement his or her initial response to an oral question posed within the previous ten sitting days.
- (7) A Member may, without notice, at the conclusion of oral question period, move that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. If the motion is approved, the time shall be extended for thirty (30) minutes.
- (8) Only one motion under subsection 7 may be entertained by the House on a sitting day.

AND FURTHER, that Rule 39 be amended by renumbering subsection 5 as subsection 6; and subsection 6 as subsection 7, and subsection 9 as subsection 10;

AND FURTHER, that Rule 18 be amended by adding the following subsection:

(4) Notwithstanding, Rule 18(1) does not apply to Rules 39(7) and 39(8).

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Picco.

**Motion 006 – 2(4): Extended Adjournment – Notice**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move an Extended Adjournment Motion.

I give notice that on March 26, 2007, I will move the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay that notwithstanding Rule 4, when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, May 29, 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Motion 007 – 2(4): Amendments to Rules 97 and 101 of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly – Notice**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like to give notice for a motion regarding amendments to Rule 97 and 101 of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly.

I give notice that on Monday, March 26, 2007, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Rule 97(6) be amended by striking the present Rule and replacing it by:

(6) The Clerk shall ensure that copies of *Hansard* are distributed under the authority of the Speaker;

AND FURTHER, that Rule 101 is struck and replaced by:

101 Under the authority of the Speaker, the Clerk shall be responsible for the production and distribution of *Hansard*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Picco.

### **Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 09 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act – Second Reading**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*, be read for the second time. And, pursuant to Rule 67(2), that it be ordered into Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Nunavut Elections Act* to make further improvements identified from the experience gained during the 2004 general election, and suggestions made by some members.

A number of housekeeping amendments are also included. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Can I ask the honourable member to clarify the motion because there appear to be two in what was just read? Minister Picco, can you please clarify your motion.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm moving a motion to move that Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Question being called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would seek unanimous consent of the House to waive Rule 67(2) and have Bill 9 referred directly to the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 9 has had second reading and will be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. I apologize; I have too many things to read. Members, Bill 1, Bill 2, Bill 3, and Bill 9 with Mr. Arreak in the Chair. (interpretation ends) In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 4 – 2(4), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Members, you are to proceed directly into Committee of the Whole and you may take a break for lunch at around noon and report back to the House at 1:00.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Arreak): I wish to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 1, Bill 2, Bill 3, and Bill 9. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 1 and the review of the main estimates of the Department of Environment, followed by the Department of Human Resources, and then Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Are we in agreement we first deal with the main estimates for the Department of Environment?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Are we in agreement that we bring Mr. Netser to the witness table? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Mr. Chairman, can we have a health break for ten minutes so that we can at least all be brightened.

**Chairman** (interpretation): As the Speaker stated, we will be taking a lunch break around noon. What is the wish of the committee? Did you want to take a ten minute break? All those in favour, and those who want to proceed. Thank you. We'll just proceed if that's the majority.

Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the officials.

For the minister would you introduce your officials.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On my right Simon Awa, Deputy Minister, and on my left is Jane Cooper, Assistant Deputy Minister.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. We're on page I-5 of the 2007-08 Main Estimates. Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. (interpretation) Any further questions. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman I am not exactly sure what my time allocation is but in my opening comments I wanted to ask the minister if he could table the harvest policy. Is it possible to table it in this Committee of the Whole? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Today is a new day and you have just been allocated a new timeline. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): In regard to the commercial harvest they are the responsibility of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. What about the commercial caribou tags. How do you distribute the tags and what are the guidelines. I think that's under your responsibility. I think they're a little different from the commercial harvest tags. Could you respond to that, please?

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the commercial caribou tags, and I think you're referring to Coral Harbour, when we harvest the caribou there is usually a quota system set. We set a limit for the year before we identify how many caribou tags there will be for commercial use.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I was referring to the Commercial Harvest Policy. It would be in our community, but I believe that there are standards set and I believe there is a total allowable harvest set. Who do you give those commercial tags to and how do you come up with that decision?

I believe there is a policy or some kind of regulation. That is what I wanted. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have a Commercial Harvest Policy. We only permit conventional harvests. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there is going to be a commercial harvest, whether it is caribou or musk ox, it would have to be under the hunter and trapper organizations because they don't just give the permits to anybody.

Is there a permit guideline or policy, because without regulation or policy, this will not proceed? They will not give out tags. If it was that easy, then we can do a lot more in the Keewatin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) If there is an interest in commercial harvest, then the Department of Environment will have to do a study of the population and whether we should support a commercial hunt. We go by the population of musk ox or caribou.

If we feel the population is too low, then we decline those requests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, minister. We are on I-5. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under I-5, we all know that since the creation of governments in 1867, at the time the federal government which is responsible for waters and oceans, they have no idea. The people who live up here, we are responsible for the land and maybe some lakes. The minister is fully aware of this.

The concerns from the Belcher Islands, the river is going to be a danger because some rivers are being diverted to one, as Mr. Alagalak mentioned the seals that go through with mercury in them. They contaminate and they go up the Hudson Bay whether it is whales or seals.

We know that in Montreal, the St. Lawrence River has a very high content of mercury. I wonder if the Department of Environment can set up a protocol whether the department can be given the responsibility of Fisheries and Oceans. In Hudson Bay, around Davis Strait, the federal government in Ottawa will not realize it. They will probably look in the computers. They will not look up here.

The harvesters and the renewable resources with the Department of Environment see this every single day and they know.

How can we fix this or maybe come up with a memorandum of understanding where the ... if the federal government and Government of Nunavut can negotiate to share the responsibility of Fisheries and Oceans, and to get more funding from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Before he gets a response, we can only approve if there's ten of us, if there's anything to be approved, please try to make sure we have a quorum if you're going to step out. Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is correct that the animals on land or water are our responsibility but the Fisheries and Oceans is handled by the federal government. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs are talking with the federal government on devolution asking if the Department of Environment can be responsible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you. Looking at the hunter and trapper organizations, they're given the responsibility for the quota of polar bears. They're given the quota and then they organize or fix as to when. And it's the same thing with whales because both of those are on oceans.

There's nobody from the federal government, and yet we can harvest those. It seems like the federal government are just using the Government of Nunavut conservation officers for no price, free of charge. Under formula financing, I don't know if it specifically states there. How is it that the federal government gives you the authority to manage some animals through the Government of Nunavut department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He said the polar bears are marine mammals. They're not marine mammals, they're land mammals. They're recognized as marine mammals and they're recognized by the American government, they might be called marine mammal.

We have negotiated with Department of Fisheries and Oceans and we have agreed to do the work for Department of Fisheries and Oceans to set a quota for whales, and if my deputy minister wants to supplement my response, he can. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Awa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been asked by the Department of Environment to start talking with Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The member is correct that we don't have too many people representing the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. So they just assigned their task to us and this has always been the case.

It's very expensive when we are given the responsibility from Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The federal government doesn't even give us funding. So, for that reason, we have been asked to start negotiating or having talks to see if we can come up with an agreement, and if not, you can do this.

So this has been put before us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the information. I know it's not your responsibility but we have to start. I brought this up with the Department of Transportation about a deep sea port, or docking facilities. Due to the winds, lives have been lost.

And because of the high winds and spilling of oil, because the anchor line broke, and the others just pulled the anchor because the federal government knows that the winds can get very strong in the summer time.

Pangnirtung and Grise Fiord residents especially, and once our winds get strong, it comes from Davis Straight to Pond Inlet. And once it starts approaching, they won't be dragged, but it's from the waves because when the waves start going 15 to 20 feet high, this can destroy equipment.

The communities have to get docking facilities because if not, the boats that are in the water get wrecked, and that causes pollution, too.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you. The docking facilities, this was one of the questions that were raised with Economic Development, they are trying to negotiate with the federal government, and we agree with the member. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): This will be my last question. Will you be writing a letter to the Federal Department of Environment saying that the Department of Transportation wants docking facilities?

As the Government of Nunavut, for those communities who don't have docking facilities, they lose equipment and damage is done to the environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes this is already being worked on by the government, so we won't be writing a letter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. We're on page I-5. Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,526,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page I-6, which includes I-7 and I-8 of the Main Estimates. Environment. Branch Summary. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Do I understand that we are on page I-6. We are under Program Management, under Contract Services, \$2.5 million; what is that for? My question is, in 2006-07 it's about three to four times larger than the previous years. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We're on page I-6. Program Management. Along with page I-7 and I-8. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What my colleague is talking about, polar bear and caribou management, we do surveys in the High Arctic and we do surveys with the helicopters. Because the helicopters are used for surveys, we have no other choice but to use them. That's what's used for High Arctic surveys. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): So the federal government acknowledged the fact that they relocated people from Northern Quebec to the High Arctic for sovereignty purposes. Are you going to get the funding back from the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we provide support to the federal government. If my deputy can try to correct that but we get a small amount for that from the federal government. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Awa, did you want to make a supplementary response?

**Mr. Awa** (interpretation): I can't really make a supplementary response. The survey of wildlife, not just polar bears and caribous, we do need to do a survey on other wildlife such as musk ox.

Our wildlife, as the minister responded, we need to utilize the helicopters and airplanes for aerial surveys and we need to purchase fuel for the helicopters and airplanes. They have to be brought to the survey area. So that's why it's so expensive and that's one of the reasons why it's so expensive.

This funding is inadequate so therefore we get additional funding through the federal government and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and they do provide funding for research, too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you. I'm finished.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question, although I had asked this question previously to the minister in regard to the hunters losing their hunting equipment. This line item is used for compensation and benefits, if you can clarify that for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Disaster compensation is for natural disaster compensation. We set aside that \$80,000 annually for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): I want to get a clarification. My colleague, Mr. Arvaluk's comment in regard to the hunters losing their hunting equipment, could they be provided with some assistance through this line item? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's for natural disasters. If hunters lose their equipment due to a natural disaster, they can apply, but sometimes the hunters deliberately leave their equipment so that the natural disaster can destroy it in hopes of getting compensation. So we have to be very careful when we allocate funding. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many individuals have used this and how much funding was used? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$80,000 was depleted by January. It was all used up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page, I-7 it states here that contributions to the outpost camps \$251,000. How much is used for support in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to Mr. Mapsalak's question the funding is allocated to all the regional wildlife organizations annually. At the end of the year we get a report to review how they expended that funding.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way it is explained it seems like it is geared towards one. Do you know if they are used for that specific purpose, or can it be used for other things? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding is up to the discretion of the regional wildlife organizations, within their policy guidelines. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Mr. Minister and your officials.

The \$317,000 the hunters and trappers organizations on page I-7 ... (interpretation ends)  
The contributions to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board support Nunavut's hunter and trapper organizations core-funding requirements.

(interpretation) When I made a statement I asked questions about the hunter and trapper organizations, about the fact that they don't have adequate office space. They do a lot of work for the Department of Environment, and they have to work with the government.

Where can we find the line item to provide funding for the hunter and trapper organization offices? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with the hunter and trapper organizations very closely, and we do appreciate that fact that they provide a lot of support to us, but I am very sorry that we don't have any funding to provide their offices. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the minister can consider, although I know that there is no funding at this time, but if he can consider bringing new funding or we can get new funding at the end of the fiscal year. Can the minister consider providing office space for my constituencies that don't have hunter and trapper organization offices? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): The hunter and trapper organizations are independent associations. The Government of Nunavut is not responsible for them but we do provide funding for them. We do provide contributions. Therefore, I can't really respond whether we can consider providing support.

If we did have funding, we would be willing to provide support for them. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I am aware of the fact they are independent but their responsibilities have an impact on the government. They do a lot of work for the government.

Is it okay to have papers all over the place? If I don't have an office myself, anybody can look at my confidential documents when there is no office space. Can the minister commit to providing some assistance to the hunter and trapper organizations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hunter and trapper organizations' correspondence or their papers, they have to take care of those. If they don't have any office space, they would have to consider how they should take care of their confidential information. That's their responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recognize the clock for lunch hour.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. It is 12 p.m. We can take a lunch break. We'll be back at 1 p.m.

>>Committee recessed at 12:03 and resumed at 13:05

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you for returning. We're dealing with the Department of Environment. We are on pages I-6, I-7, and I-8.

Mr. Barnabas was questioning the minister. I think he was finished. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask a question. I just wanted to find out if this program can have some funding. I think we have been dealing with this for quite a number of years - a laboratory, especially to do with parts of walrus meat, because we usually send out samples to be tested.

I feel that, especially to do with the land animal samples that we send out to laboratories to be tested for trichinosis from the walrus. Have you had any thoughts about having some funding for laboratory use? Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They hunt walrus a lot in Coral Harbour, and the hunter and trapper organization receives sample bags. Whenever a walrus is caught, they usually take sample of the meat, and the dead ligaments, and muscles, as well as other body parts to be tested.

It would be good to have a laboratory in Rankin Inlet. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that just for marine mammals, or can you send samples such as land animals. And who does the testing?

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the responsibility of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. For land animals, whenever there is a suspected disease in the body parts of an animal, they usually take those out and send them to our wildlife officers and they send them down south for testing. They test for things such as growths in animals.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like there are a lot of parasites growing in the walrus, and whenever there are parasites in walrus, they usually send samples out for testing.

I feel that there should be a laboratory in Nunavut so that we can get our tested samples returned as soon as possible. We have seen parasites and other sicknesses in animals and marine mammals.



I wonder if you can get a laboratory based in Nunavut so we could have those samples sent to the Nunavut area, instead of taking them down south.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for a very good idea. (interpretation ends) I can commit to, having talked with Department of Fisheries and Oceans, to have a lab set up in maybe Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials to our lovely Chambers.

Just a question that I have is on page I-8 and deals with community organized hunts and there's \$45,000 budgeted for that. I am just wondering if the minister could let us know what the uptake has been on that in the past. Is it a well-utilized program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community wildlife hunts funding is well utilized and it's well received by the communities that apply for that program. We really don't have plans except for caribous, etcetera. They can apply to that funding and I can tell the House that it's well applied. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister just inform us as to what process and how a community would go through to apply for funding under that program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The local hunters and trappers organizations can submit an application for hunting assistance to conduct the hunt. The hunters and trappers organizations provide additional financial assistance, or in-kind funding, to enable these hunts to take place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is a great program. As we know in all our communities that there are people and individuals living there who don't have the ability to go out and hunt for themselves. This is a great program for a way for them to be able to obtain country food.

It says in here contributions to assist with transportation costs of organized hunts for eligible communities. I would assume that all communities in Nunavut are eligible, if not, which ones aren't and why? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All communities are eligible for that program, however, we try and look at communities that don't have easy access to animals such as caribou, because they are common and the people of Nunavut really love caribou meat. That's what we try and do is to allocate it for communities that don't have animals close by to hunt and mainly it's for caribou. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the minister have information of how many communities have accessed funding? Have all the communities that have applied, were they able to receive funding under this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The communities that benefited from this community hunt in 2006-07 was the Ikayutit Hunters and Trappers Organization from Arctic Bay, Aiviq Hunters and Trappers Organization in Grise Fiord, Hall Beach Hunters and Trappers Organization, Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Organization, and Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Organization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Were there any applications for assistance from any communities that were turned down because of lack of funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there was not.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought Mr. Tootoo wasn't done so...Mr. Chairman, I would like to welcome the minister and his staff. My colleagues have to ask questions from I-7. I know there are quite a few caribou and other wildlife that have parasites that threaten what we harvest.

A lot of hunters, like me, are always looking around to see how healthy the caribou or musk oxen are. Nowadays, we start seeing these little white worms or bugs in between the muscles. I'm sure it's not only in the Kugluktuk area, but other areas.

We were always told to bring some samples to the communities for the wildlife office to check and send out for testing. Most times we never get the results. I would like to ask the minister if the samples that were given to your department, are the results given to the hunters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do encourage our staff to report on the results of the tests that the member is talking about. We would like to know which communities have sent samples out and have not been given results. We can follow that up for the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know there are studies going on. These studies have been going on for a long, long time in the Kugluktuk area, Bathurst Inlet, and Cambridge Bay on wolverines. How much longer will your department be doing studies on wolverines? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand this survey is ongoing and it will be quite some time before the survey is done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. Again, one of my colleagues asked questions on community organized hunts. I'm sure our community had applied for some grants and they also had some hunters that went out already.

I just saw some pictures a couple of days ago, yesterday in fact, on how much caribou was on the sled. I thought this was the hunt for the hunters and trappers. I was trying to phone a friend of mine because I recognized his kamotiq from his home. All these caribou was outside his home on a kamotiq. I guess they just arrived and one of the staff members from the government happened to take some pictures.

I haven't been able to get hold of him yet, but I am just wondering if Kugluktukmiut did another harvest for the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have a record of the hunters and trappers organization in Kugluktuk applying for funds for this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under I-7, the hunters and trappers organizations received \$317,000. When was that? I think \$317,000 all the way out through the years.

Everything is pretty expensive now. Whenever we see the government's budget, it just seems like the price goes up and the prices go down, but the main estimates don't seem to go up or down.

I just wanted to find out if there is going to be a fluctuation of funding. Hunters and trappers organizations are a very important part of our community because they bring in food, and then they then deal with the Hunters' Support Program, and they do fisheries; they do all kinds of stuff.

On the previous page, there is \$143,000, on I-6. I'm sure that ... compensation and benefits? \$8,143,000. I just wanted to find out why there is always an amount of \$317,000 for the hunters and trappers organizations when compensation and benefits is a huge amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): That \$317,000 has been spent since 1999, and a contribution goes to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to support Nunavut's hunters and trappers organizations' core funding requirements.

The Minister of Finance is listening to the question and stuff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): I might not make sense but I have been hearing from the people of Pond Inlet that the nets that are used for beluga hunting are not going to be used for this upcoming summer. Is that a fact? And, what is the reasoning not using those beluga nets anymore?

With the beluga nets there was no loss. With the beluga, you shoot it in the head like seals, but not with the narwhal. We all know that you cannot shoot it in the head as you will lose them. You have to know exactly where to shoot it, and usually if you use a gun, you tend to lose the narwhal the majority of the time.

What I want to ask the minister is, is it a fact that beluga nets are not going to be used anymore? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you. This is the first time we're hearing of it, but this is the responsibility of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

I'm sure that if it was a fact they would have informed our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the minister.

Then I would assume that it is not a fact then, if the minister has not heard about this issue. My last question is; I keep getting letters from the hunters and trappers organizations and they have been trying to get the portable school for a very long time.

This portable school is not being utilized and the hunters and trappers organization would like to gain access to this portable school. Has there been a response from your department on this issue?

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you. I don't know anything about it but with this \$317,000 that's allocated to the hunters and trappers organizations, that's for their operations and maintenance. It is not for other things. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the minister be able to respond to my question before March 31? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the portable school, we don't know who owns that building and I have never seen any correspondence coming from the Pond Inlet hunters and trappers organization. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Minister Picco might be able to respond to that question.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very quickly, on the disposal of assets, if the portable school has now been vacated, then the local District Education Authority should be contacted, along with Community and Government Services and make a submission to

Community and Government Services for usage for that asset for whatever community organization would want it; in this case with the hunters and trappers organizations.

It wouldn't specifically go through the minister's department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They have done exactly that. They have talked to the District Education Authority and they wrote letters to Community and Government Services. Now that the government knows about this, I could find out when and who they directed that question to.

If the letter has not been shown to the management by the staff, is it something that requires disciplinary action? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you. I have no response to that.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk, are you done? Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it was about two years ago we started hearing about the snow geese and the greater snow geese. We live very close to a bird sanctuary and there are thousands of birds that utilize that sanctuary.

We like snow geese and greater snow geese as part of our diet but we've been hearing about the geese becoming more and more inedible. Does the minister know anything about this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the snow geese and the greater snow geese, we heard about the avian bird flu going around, cholera. We heard about birds contacting these diseases but we heard that the birds that do make it to the north do not have that disease because if they did they would have died en route, on their migration.

So if you see any dead birds please make sure that you bring the carcasses to the hunters and trappers organizations. I can assure you that to date there have been no cases in Canada. We are assuming that if they contact that disease that they would have died off before they reached North America. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): I was talking about the greater snow geese, and the snow geese. I thought that Nunavut was just part of the rest of Canada because we have a large population of non-native people living up here now.

I would like to make sure that all the information is made out there. There are people from Arviat who have relatives from different parts of Nunavut and they send birds out to the other communities. You tend to become cautious when you hear about the diseases that have been contracted by migratory birds.

I didn't understand what kind of disease you mentioned, but with the geese that I am talking about they don't come from overseas. You could probably obtain that information from the Canadian Wildlife Service and make sure that there are no diseases that have been contracted by our birds.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): I said avian cholera but I made a mistake. It was avian influenza that has killed our birds. We are working with the Canadian Wildlife Service and we want to make sure that the hunters and trappers organizations are informed if there has been a detection of any disease. We work very closely with the Canadian provinces too on this issue. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alagalak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to see the department seek information and report on the health of these birds; the snow geese and greater snow geese, and probably Canada geese. There is probably some sort of report prepared every year because these are one of the birds that attracts the world on hunting expeditions. You know, after what opens for any bird hunters to increase their take per day and then there has been a lot of movement of those bird hunters in Nunavut.

I'd like to really obtain, as soon as possible, before spring comes on us. Maybe distribute information among the people who live nearby the sanctuaries across Nunavut. I would suggest that to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. That was more of a statement than a question. Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will instruct my department to give out information packages to these communities that have bird sanctuaries within their area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. My question is regarding an issue that I don't see here; the Fur Incentive Program, I think it is.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): With regard to buying pelts and furs, we gave them to Economic Development and Transportation and it is no longer our responsibility.

(interpretation ends) We work on behalf of Economic Development and Transportation in purchasing these fur-bearing animals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): It is a program that is very well liked by the communities, in Arviat especially, and it is up to us to help the youth.

I think this program is running very smoothly, and there has been no change to date there.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member for Arviat indicated I think it was yesterday, that our staffing in Arviat was working hard in purchasing these fur-bearing animals, so I can safely say that it's a well run program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Yes, we are aware of that. The caribou are tagged for studies, and we hear in the Western Arctic the population of caribou is declining rapidly by the Caribou Management Board.

Can we get an update as to how that is? And, do they feel that the caribou in Nunavut is declining over here, too, or is it different from the Western Arctic? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We hear from the Western Arctic that there is a concern due to the fact that the population is declining rapidly, but in Nunavut we don't think the population is declining. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I think the caribou is tagged, and in the Keewatin region, the hunters and trappers organizations are not informed, I feel there is a lack of public information especially to the whereabouts of the tagged caribou. Talking with the hunters and trappers organizations, they say that they are in that area.



I wonder if this can be improved by informing the public. They usually post stuff like that at the post office. The other fall, not until winter time, for a year and a half, the caribou were quite far, and we had no idea.

I wonder if that information can be provided to the public or in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can take that suggestion into consideration. We'll consider the member's request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Yes, maybe in the spring time I will be able to bring that up when we start again.

Another I question I have, because the minister knows, and his officials, in my opening statement, the hunters and trappers organizations are overloaded with work. I wonder if the minister feels the same way because they are given all kinds of responsibility.

My colleague, Mr. Arvaluk, mentioned the same thing. Does he also feel the hunters and trappers organizations have too much work to do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We ask the hunters and trappers organizations to work with us, and once they agree, we work with them. We are not pushing them to do something that they can't handle, and we usually ask them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. They represent so many members in the community, and they keep the community informed. They are helping the government quite a bit.

I know you don't push them but they are very beneficial to the community. How is their assistance? Is it adequate?

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are satisfied with them and we thank them often because we work with them quite closely. I have witnesses in Coral Harbour that when it comes to walrus and when we have to collect samples. I

don't know what detailed arrangements they make between them, but we know they are very beneficial. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I think Nunavummiut should be more informed because the hunters and trappers organizations have a great responsibility.

If there is information to be heard, then it's usually their job to inform the public because they've worked with the government for so many years now, and they are operating in so many communities.

The hunters and trappers organizations should start producing an annual report, they should submit a report because it can be part of the contribution that you get, so that we can get adequate information from the hunters and trappers organizations and not have an excuse; "Oh we never knew about this."

But, if we can get an annual report, then we won't have an excuse to say we didn't hear about it.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Yes, we will definitely consider this. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Nowadays, everybody gives annual reports, and they can be put in a database and sometimes ... with *Inuit Qaujimanituqangit*, when they request them, but if it's part of the annual report, then we can have a lot of information.

For example, my colleague to my right gave me a picture of... and looking at the data, it was very interesting. Don't just think about this and try to implement. The \$317,000 is for 26 communities so how much do they get? Is it the same amount? Or is it bigger in some communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Keewatin they're given the same amount and in the Kitikmeot and Baffin they're different. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. My colleague next to me, James Arvaluk said that I believe they get about \$12,000. This is so outdated and if they are able to produce an annual report that \$12,000 is not enough and we ask so much of them.

I would definitely appreciate if the minister can check into this further because they're workload is not decreasing and this is mainly a comment. My other question is; there are conservation officer's maybe you can ask your conservation officers to have more patrols, not to the people but to see when people are out or to the outpost camps. Maybe you can ask your conservation officers to do more patrols because there might be some unnecessary killings in some areas of animals?

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The areas that are close we can definitely do patrols. If there is mining exploration, or mining camps but due to the financial restraints that would be hard because it costs quite a bit to go out on patrols, that's why we have limited patrols because of financial restraints.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. The conservation officers should enforce the regulations in the *Wildlife Act*. Sometimes they don't even bother enforcing due to lack of funds. It seems like we don't want to put them on hold. Maybe even just once or twice if there are not too many mining camps because as Inuit we try and investigate.

I wonder if the department can do the thing that way you would get a lot more support, and more participation from the hunters. Maybe you might sound too negative; that's why they are hesitant to participate in what is asked of them.

If you can look into this and consider this. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

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

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials to the Committee of the Whole today.

I'd like to ask the minister about an issue that came up a number of years ago that affected a number of my constituents, and other parts of the Kitikmeot, and that was the polar bear population in the McClintock Channel area. The issue first arose in 2001. There was a moratorium placed on the hunting and harvesting of polar bears.

I would like to ask for an update on what the situation is with that polar bear population in 2007. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The moratorium has been lifted and I can say that the population of polar bears in that region is getting better as the years go by. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. Perhaps the minister can give me an indication about how well the population is recovering by providing information on how many tags are allowed to each hunters and trappers organization in each area that harvests polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we allocate two tags for the McClintock Channel population. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Is that two tags per hunters and trappers organization, or two tags total? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is for that zone on the McClintock Channel so it's two tags for the whole area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for clarifying that number. Could the minister tell me why the number is so low? Two seems like a fairly low number. I don't know how many previous tags were allowed but why is it only two if the population has recovered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The recovery for polar bears takes years. It takes a long time for a population of polar bears to increase. That is why we are diligent in allowing only two tags for that area. As the years go by and we see the numbers rise, then we can certainly look at revisiting the figures under the memorandums of understanding with the hunters and trappers organizations and maybe allowing an increase here and there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for explaining that. Can the minister indicate how closely the department works with the hunters and trappers organizations when they are reviewing the decision on when to increase the numbers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** We currently have memorandums of understanding with the hunters and trappers organizations and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. It is a very complex issue and very technical and I don't really want to try to get into that but we have a memorandums of understanding with the hunters and trappers organizations on the allowable harvest for that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. I certainly appreciate why you don't want to get into a technical answer there. Maybe you could clarify, are the hunters and trappers organizations currently satisfied there are only two tags or are they putting pressure on you to increase the number of tags? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can say that no hunters and trappers organization is ever satisfied with the allowable harvest we give to the communities and I'm sure the members from that area are not satisfied with the numbers either. That is all I can say. Thank you.

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

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

I wanted to follow up as well on the Community Harvesters Assistance Program where you have \$251,000 identified. Do you have a list by region of all the outpost camps that receive funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Community Harvesters Assistance Program, we divide it into three regions because Nunavut has three regions.

In the Baffin region we give \$150,000 to the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat who administers that fund for us. For the Kivalliq region, it's \$50,000, and for the Kitikmeot region, it's \$50,000 as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. I wonder if I could ask the minister, if, for the information of the standing committee and the Members of the Legislative Assembly, if he can provide a list of all the outpost camps by region and how much each outpost camp received out of the funding that was approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way the Community Harvest Assistance Program funds are spent is decided on jointly between the department's regional wildlife managers and the regional wildlife organizations. This allows the money to be spent in areas that are deemed most important by each region, but I can commit to giving him the information that he is asking for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. I look forward to receiving that information. I think it would be very useful for us to know how many outpost camps there are in Nunavut and how much each one receives.

An issue came up several years ago when I was Mayor of Cambridge Bay. In the community you would walk by them all the time, but you would never see them. They are not visible. Some of them are well hidden, and that's the environmental hazards in the communities.

I remember we had a meeting with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities one year where we passed a resolution calling on the Government of Nunavut to help hamlets to undertake an inventory of environmental hazards in each community.

We roughly estimated the cost to each hamlet would be about \$30,000 to \$32,000. I wonder if the minister could tell us if his officials are working with say the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to, at some point, take some action on inventorying those environmental hazards, and seeking funding from the federal government or other sources to clean them up in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department is involved with the hamlets in identifying contaminated sites, and when we do that we give them over to the appropriate department that does the physical work of cleaning up the contaminated sites, and I think it depends entirely on the budget as well too.

I think this year we are talking with Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay is one of the communities that we are currently talking with at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

It is a relief to know that you are working with the hamlets because it is quite a serious issue in many communities. I think we should undertake as much as we can within our resources to help the communities to clean up the hazards, or identify them.

Mr. Minister, on page I-14 in your business plan your priorities in 2006-07, you said work with the Nunavut Water Board to review water licensing conditions for development projects. Your status is “ongoing completed reviews and provide a recommendation to date.”

Can you provide me with an overview of how your department works with agencies such as the Nunavut Water Board, Nunavut Impact Review Board, and the Nunavut Planning Commission? What is your role in assisting them to do the work that they’re commissioned to do in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Land Claims Agreement we are required to work with these individual boards to implement programs and if there is any that need to be done, such as harvests; umingmak harvest in Cambridge Bay, we have to deal with the Nunavut Impact Review Board. These boards were set up in place under the Land Claims Agreement and under that agreement we have to work with them in order to process the work that we have to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I think you do have to work closely but I am just wondering how much input do you have into the final decisions that these organizations make with respect to applications under their jurisdiction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have any influence in any way. We just provide information that is asked by these boards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Recently an issue arose in the Kitikmeot region pertaining to the Miramar Mining water license application to the Nunavut Water Board. The Nunavut Water Board rejected their application, and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association wrote a letter to the Nunavut Water Board. They were quite concerned because the Kitikmeot Inuit Association feels that the application, itself, should not have been rejected, outright and that the Nunavut Water Board was too hard on the applicant and that the Nunavut Water Board could have imposed conditions to be met by the Miramar Mine before they went into production.

The rejection of that Nunavut Water Board license seriously jeopardized the project. They had been reviewed and approved by the Nunavut Impact Review Board; they were reviewed and received the final approval by the minister of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The Kitikmeot Inuit Association had it approved and in fact they had an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement in place ready to proceed.

There are a number of Inuit-owned businesses in Cambridge Bay that are involved in the project. It has a lot of employment opportunities so the rejection of the Nunavut Water Board license application has put everything into a bit of indecision of where and how they are going to pursue it.

I understand that the President of Kitikmeot Inuit Association has written letters and a minister wrote a letter to you. I wonder if you have had a chance to talk to the Nunavut Water Board to see what their specific concerns were that they had to outright reject the water application license. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The particular project that he is talking about is the Doris North Project. The water license application was rejected due to a number of deficiencies that were highlighted by the Water Board.

I understand Miramar is due to resubmit this month, so we have a few days for that resubmission. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I was just wondering, if the minister himself had a chance to take a look at the Nunavut Water Board, and what their specific issues were ... there were some really serious outstanding issues there, issues that the applicant can overcome in time to get the project license approved so they can proceed this spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These independent boards are bodies that we as ministers don't talk to directly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Can the minister indicate if he has a Government of Nunavut representative on the Nunavut Water Board? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we have a member on there but I stand to be corrected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I believe the Government of Nunavut has members or appointees on most of these boards. One of the issues I have raised, yesterday and again today with other government ministers is delays in applicants getting their permits to proceed. There seems to be a lot of red tape and other issues surrounding some of these applications.

The proponents are not totally clear on who they apply to or how they should proceed. There seems to be ... even the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, who does a lot of work in that area. They deal with mining companies every day. They are confused as to why the Nunavut Water Board outright rejected the Miramar application.

I think it is important that the Government of Nunavut, if they are interested in economic development for the future of Nunavut, try to find a way to balance the environmental protection with resource development so that they co-exist. We shouldn't throw up all kinds of hoops, hurdles, and red tape if proponents are spending millions and millions and millions of dollars. Communities are involved. There are lots of community consultations, and compliance with stuff. We should try to find a way to work with the proponents to ensure that they do satisfy the environmental considerations and that the projects are not unduly delayed.

Timing is everything in the mineral resources sector and, in the Kitikmeot anyway, we do depend a lot on the various mining companies. We have a close relationship with many mines for the last 25 years plus a lot of employment and business and other opportunities for our community that people are going to depend on.

I urge the minister to participate in that workshop that Minister Simailak is going to have later this year. It is always good to find a way to speed up the process and hear everybody talk together and find out how we can move forward. If the minister wants to comment on that, it would be much appreciated. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member makes good points. However, the Government of Nunavut cannot speed up the process within these institutions of public government; however we are concerned with it.

We need to ensure that the environment is protected for future generations of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Moving right along. We're on page I-6. Environment. Branch Summary. Program Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$13,735,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Page I-9 is an information page. Go back to page I-4. Environment. Departmental Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$17,261,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Are we agreed that the Department of Environment is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Thank you, Minister, Ms. Cooper, and Mr. Awa. Do you have any closing remarks, Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to say thank you to the members and to thank my officials for being able to attend here with me. I will take into consideration your concerns. (interpretation ends) We will reflect on the statements made by the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. At this time, we will proceed with Human Resources. I will ask Minister Tapardjuk of Human Resources to make his opening remarks. Minister Tapardjuk.

### **Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2007-08 – Consideration in Committee – Human Resources**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, and members of this committee.

I am pleased to present the proposed main estimates and business plan for the Department of Human Resources for 2007-08. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Human Resources has been allocated a budget of \$18 million which is unchanged since last year's budget.

Through internal reallocations we have increased our complement of 91 staff to 94. This includes 16 Management Intern positions that are assigned across most government departments.

While keeping in mind the fiscal restraints the Government of Nunavut faces, the Human Resources Department has re-profiled internal money to support program requirements that are consistent with the principles of *Pinasuaqtavut* and support the guidelines of *Article 23* of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

About 30 percent or \$5.4 million of the department's budget for the fiscal year is allocated for Inuit representation in the workforce, and to do training and employment initiatives.

We will endeavour to increase the representation of Inuit in the Government of Nunavut by providing departments with tools and technical support to achieve 56 percent Inuit employment by the end of the 2009-10 fiscal year.

In addition, we will continue to lead the implementation of the Inuit Employment Plan by working closely with the departments to develop a more defined plan, targets, and shared accountabilities, taking into consideration the challenges of current budget constraints.

The Department of Human Resources has conducted an employee survey to provide Government of Nunavut employees with an opportunity to provide input to ways to achieve the government's target of 56 percent Inuit representation by 2010 and will act on those suggestions.

The department has also proposed the concept of an Inuit Peer Group Program to the *Tuttarviit* Committee to be initiated this fiscal year. This program is designed to create a positive office atmosphere consistent with Inuit societal values and will support employee retention and increased staff productivity.

About 44 percent or \$7.9 million of the department's budget is allocated for the effective management of its recruitment, retention, training and development programs. We will continue to look for new ways to improve our Centralized Equipment Services, and the casual hiring process.

For example, the department is piloting a project with the Nunavut Skills Development Database to improve accessibility to casual employment opportunities for residents of Nunavut in their communities.

The department is continually enhancing the staffing process and guidelines to provide a responsive and transparent recruitment process to all government departments and to ensure the consistent application of the priority hiring policy which provides employment priority for beneficiaries.

In 2007 and 2008, the Priority Hiring Policy will be reviewed as per Cabinet's request. We will continue to provide training to Staffing Practitioners within the Department of Health and Social Services, Education and Nunavut Arctic College by communicating and advising them of Government of Nunavut approved staffing process and guidelines.

Through our Sivuliqtiksat Program, we continue to provide Government of Nunavut departments with a supportive and effective internship model to assist them in meeting their *Article 23* targets. This program has recently been expanded from 14 to 16 positions and we are offering more internship opportunities in our decentralized communities.

Providing Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun language training opportunities to employees remains a priority for my department. This coming fiscal year, we will be working in partnership with Nunavut Arctic College, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, and *Tuttarviit* to complete the Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun language training needs assessment which began last year.

Through our ongoing partnership with Nunavut Arctic College and the expertise of language specialists throughout Nunavut, we will offer an expanded and diversified language training program for both first language and second language learners of Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

We are currently working with the Department of Finance to develop a comprehensive human resources strategy for finance positions in the Government of Nunavut. The strategy will provide a plan of action for strengthening our capacity, expanding our knowledge and skills and increasing Beneficiary employment in the area of financial management.

The Summer Student Employment Program continues to be successful and funding is maintained at \$950,000. With the ongoing support and cooperation of all Government of Nunavut departments, we will continue to provide training and employment opportunities that provide bridges to full-time employment for Nunavut students.

The remaining \$4.7 million or 26 percent of the total budget is allocated for management of operations and job evaluation, employee relations, and employee wellness programs.

A two stage implementation of Leave and Attendance, the last module of Phase 1 of the Human Resources Information and Payroll System will be complete in the summer of 2008. Completion of this phase combined with the planned incorporation of selected modules of Phase 2 will enable departments to use the system and reporting capabilities to improve human resource management throughout the Government of Nunavut.

The review of the *Public Service Act* and consultations will be completed in the fall of 2007, and will reflect the objectives, policies and practices of the Nunavut Government.

The Act will be introduced in the legislature in the spring of 2008. We will also research and develop a database for job evaluation information and will implement a Language Skills Profile for Government of Nunavut job descriptions.

The department will develop and implement an attendance management program and have targeted a minimum 30 percent level in resolving grievances.

In 2007, the Human Resources Department, working with the Department of Finance, will continue negotiations on the new collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union to replace the one that expired on September 30, 2006. The negotiations have begun and the first face-to-face meetings were in mid-December.

The Department of Human Resources will continue to provide wellness programs by delivering year-round courses and workshops designed to improve the well-being of employees and to ensure safe working conditions.

The programs and services of the Human Resources department continue to support the goals and priorities in *Pinasuaqtavut* and are culturally sensitive to Inuit societal values. To enable us to carry out our tasks in leading and developing the government's public service and providing human resource management support to Government of Nunavut departments and agencies, we will need the resources identified in the draft main estimates.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer your questions.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Would you like to appear with any of your officials today?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, I do.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-arms, if you would escort the officials, please. Before you do that, do we agree that the officials can go up to the witness table? Are we in agreement?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Victor Tootoo. He is my Deputy Minister for Human Resources. On my left we have our Corporate Manager, Bob Loehr.

**Chairman:** Chair of Standing Committee on Government Operations' opening comments. Please proceed. Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Mr. Chairman, I am extremely pleased on this lovely Friday afternoon to be able to provide you with my opening comments to the 2007-08 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Human Resources.

The standing committee notes that the proposed 2007-08 budget for the department is \$18,019,000. This is the same amount that was budgeted for the 2006-07 fiscal year. This represents a 66 percent increase over the department's initial 1999-2000 budget allocation of \$10,836,000. The department's total number of PYs has increased by approximately 11 percent since the 2004-05 fiscal year.

The standing committee notes that the Government of Nunavut's overall vacancy rate continues to remain static at approximately 20 percent. In other words, one out of every five positions in the Government of Nunavut stands vacant.

Approximately 42 percent of the vacant positions are located here in Iqaluit, where there are approximately 311 vacancies. A number of other communities also have a significant number of vacancies.

In January of 2000, the Government of Nunavut-wide vacancy rate was approximately 25 percent. It remains unclear to the committee if reducing the government's overall vacancy rate to 10 percent is a realistic goal in the short or even medium term.

The standing committee recognizes that the department has Government of Nunavut-wide responsibilities in the areas of job evaluation and classification. The committee continues to be concerned by what appears to be a high rate of growth in the number of Government of Nunavut positions classified as being in the management categories.

According to the Government of Nunavut's quarterly Inuit Employment Plan Report, in January of 2000, there were 233 positions across the Government of Nunavut classified as middle management.

That number has since grown to approximately 432; an increase of over 85 percent. By contrast, the number of administrative support positions has actually decreased by almost 15 percent over the same period of time.

According to the Government of Nunavut's September 2006 Inuit Employment Plan Quarterly Report, there were a total of 473 casual employees employed with the Government of Nunavut, of whom 311 were Inuit.

181 casuals were employed by the Department of Health and Social Services. In the past, concerns have been raised with respect to the excessive use of casuals to fill positions on a long term basis.

The standing committee is supportive of efforts to ensure that casual hiring concentrates on bringing Inuit into the Government of Nunavut's workforce. The committee also notes

that the department has implemented a number of recommendations from its recent audit of the casual staffing process.

The department's business plan indicates that it is continuing to develop a new *Public Service Act*, which up until today, we thought may be introduced in 2008. The standing committee would wish to see the Nunavut Employees Union and the Federation of Nunavut Teachers have meaningful involvement in the development of this legislation.

The committee has also noted the minister's commitment to fully consider the issue of whistle blower protection in the development of the Act. The idea of reintroducing binding arbitration into the Government of Nunavut's collective bargaining process is worthy of careful consideration.

The standing committee also notes that the most recent Annual Reports of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut of the Legislative Assembly has recommended that senior Government of Nunavut officials be subject to the same legislative standards of ethical conduct as ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee looks forward to the new Statute providing for the Public Service Code of Conduct and clear conflict of interest rules. According to the 2004-05 Public Service Annual Report, 421 Government of Nunavut employees received a \$1,500 bilingual bonus. The 2005-06 Public Service Annual Report does not provide data on the current numbers of employees receiving a bilingual bonus.

According to the department's 2006-07 business plan, a draft of a new Language Incentive Policy had been completed. Recent ministerial correspondence to the standing committee indicates that no new initiatives in this area have been approved, as a consequence of the Government of Nunavut's fiscal restraint measures. The standing committee supports measures to compensate for, and encourage the use of, Inuit languages in the workplace, especially with respect to front-line positions that directly serve the public.

Mr. Chairman, the committee notes the department's focus on the Government of Nunavut Inuit Employment Plan. According to the department's own Inuit Employment Plan statistics, 888 beneficiaries were employed by the Government of Nunavut in January of 2000. A total of 1,377 beneficiaries were employed in September 2006, an increase of 55 percent.

Members note that the overall Inuit employment rate in the Government of Nunavut is approximately 48 percent. Members note with particular concern that the Inuit employment rate for headquarters positions in Iqaluit is just over 33 percent. In other words, only three out of every ten filled Government of Nunavut jobs in Iqaluit is staffed by a beneficiary.

Members note that the government has set a target date of March 31, 2010, for 56 percent or more of all positions across all occupational categories to be filled by beneficiaries. This is an ambitious goal, given that 700 new beneficiary employees will need to be hired in order to achieve it.

Members note that the middle management and professional occupational categories presently have the lowest levels of beneficiary employment. Members urge the department to continue its efforts to work in partnership with other entities to secure training investments from the federal government in order to help us achieve our long-term *Article 23* goal of building a representative, qualified and professional public service.

The success of the Akitsiraq Law School Program provides a model worth emulating for producing the next generation of Inuit teachers, healthcare providers, accountants and other professionals.

A revised Government of Nunavut Priority Hiring Policy was tabled in the House on November 28, 2005. The Policy provides that Nunavut land claim beneficiaries who meet the qualifications of a given position have priority over other candidates. The standing committee firmly supports this policy. The department's 2007-08 business plan indicates that it will conduct an interim review of the policy in 2007.

In September 2005, Cabinet approved a new process for use by the Staffing Division of the Department of Human Resources. The process provides for the consideration of current Government of Nunavut employees as well as other Nunavut residents, with a minimum of one calendar year of residency, before applicants from other jurisdictions.

There is no change to the Priority Hiring Policy, which provides first and foremost consideration to qualified Nunavut Land Claims Beneficiaries. The Government of Nunavut's own system of employee recognition provides long-term service awards to public servants who have been with the government for at least five years. This benchmark would appear to be a better starting point for determining who constitutes a long-term northerner, rather than just one year of residency.

Members note with concern that the gap continues to widen between the number of beneficiary males and the number of beneficiary females employed by the Government of Nunavut. According to the Government of Nunavut's most recent annual reports on the public service, 304 beneficiary males and 775 beneficiary females were employed by the Government of Nunavut in March of 2004. In March of 2006, there were 382 beneficiary males and 1,038 beneficiary females employed.

The recruitment challenges in this area are clearly linked to such broad social issues as levels of educational attainment.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee strongly supports such valuable initiatives as the Summer Student Employment Program. In 2006, a total of 207 Nunavut students



participated in the program and gained valuable experience. Approximately 50 percent of the program participants were from communities other than the capital.

The issue of workforce morale is important. Although the standing committee notes with approval that the Government of Nunavut's turnover rate has decreased from 31 percent in 2000 to 16 percent in 2005-06, the issue of work place absenteeism in the Government of Nunavut is clearly a problem.

The committee has noted that the department is working on an attendance management program to address this issue. The number of active grievances increased from 96 in March of 2003, to 117 in March of 2006.

The impact of the Government of Nunavut's new Staff Housing Policy on employee recruitment and retention across the government must closely be monitored. Recently ministerial correspondence to the standing committee reveals that the Government of Nunavut's exit interview surveys are now addressing this issue. The initial data indicated that approximately 40 percent of employees recently leaving the public service identified it as being a significant factor.

The Government of Nunavut's Collective Agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union expired on September 30, 2006. The committee will be monitoring with attention the progress towards a new collective agreement that is fair to employees and affordable to the government.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed. Thank you.

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

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

General comments. There being none, I'll go to page D-5 of the 2007-08 main estimates. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome Minister. Before I proceed, where do we bring up government staff housing; in this department, or under Nunavut Housing Corporation?

I want to talk about employees, not specifically housing. Can somebody make that clear to me? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Human Resources is responsible just for employees; the Housing Corporation is responsible for staff housing. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): So how much do they have to pay for staff housing? If they have to pay for staff housing, would that fall under the Housing Corporation, too? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, this is not handled by the Department of Human Resources, only by the Nunavut Housing Corporation and also by the union because they are negotiated through the union. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll wait on that. Under Directorate, D-5, on the second page of the committees opening remarks in 2004-05, in the Public Service Annual Report, there were 421 Government of Nunavut employees who received \$1,500 per year bilingual bonus.

Then it also states beneath that 1,377 are beneficiaries. How come only some of them get a bilingual bonus? For example, I'm speaking in Inuktitut because I want to make it clear and if I want to talk to the English speaking people and I want to be understood, I'll speak that language.

How useful is it? Is it only if they are teachers or if they work at the hospital? My reason being that all bilingual people whether they live in Pond Inlet, they are constantly used by English speaking people because they speak two languages. I don't think either of them gets bilingual bonuses. Can you differentiate who is eligible for a bilingual bonus and who isn't? Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Our policy is if a person is bilingual in English or Inuktitut, the service providers, the receptionists who will deal with the public and any essential service providers, they get a bilingual bonus. Not only Inuktitut speaking but French speaking as well get the bonus.

Some positions you don't need to be bilingual. For example, an employee sitting in front of the computer all day does not need to be bilingual. In the job description it would specifically state that you have to be able to speak two languages. In that case, if you just sit in front of the computer, there is no bilingual bonus. So for that reason, I know there

are more Inuit beneficiaries who work but that is one of the reasons why not all of them get bilingual bonuses. It specifically states in the job description whether they will receive a bilingual bonus or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you. The positions that require the persons to be bilingual, especially if they are bilingual; can he table a document as to which positions need to be bilingual? If I am in transportation, and if I deal with the public because I'm in a transportation section would I be entitled to that \$1,500, or just the people who can only speak English? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. I don't have that information in front of me but I definitely can provide those documents to identify which positions are eligible for bilingual bonus. It's to appreciate the individual's performance because of the extra qualification that they need.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very clear because all the employees should be able to speak English and Inuktitut, even though it might not apply to the elders, but I don't think that is the case though.

My question is under Directorate. If I recall correctly the decentralized offices are in Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, and Igloolik. If they can't get anybody local to get to a managerial position, in the meantime they hire non-beneficiaries more on a casual basis, or contract them for three or four years. Is that still the case?

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like for example, beneficiaries, or individuals who are the beneficiaries of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement if they were not qualified and they hired a non-beneficiary individual to train a beneficiary as a manager; is that what your question is? I would like to ask him if he can clarify his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Yes, exactly that way. Like for example, sometimes it's obvious that some individuals are not working hard enough to train the beneficiaries. In Iqaluit we have internship managers. They are taught to change and to mature. I don't see that actually occurring in the communities where the government offices were devolved.

So how did you review and how did you look into to this to improve this?

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. The way it is set up in each department we ask the departments if they could get an intern. The departments have to request the interns through our Department of Human Resources, and then the Department of Human Resources would ask the departments if there is a possibility of getting an internship in the department. Yes, this is going ahead. I think there is an increase of two or four from last year.

We would like beneficiaries to take on the managerial positions. That is our target so that beneficiaries can take over the Government of Nunavut staff. This is open to all the communities that have received devolution and to other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you for the clarification. I will be monitoring this because we hear that the individual that are supposed to be teaching beneficiaries, they just work and just try to get the permanent job.

My second question, although I alluded to it to the Minister of Health and Social Services, I do want to bring it up. Back in the Northwest Territories days, the Social Service Worker had qualifications.

The qualifications are still the same. For example, a pilot for a DC-3; I can't be a pilot for a Boeing 737 jet. It would be senseless. That individual would not be able to pilot the jet. The community's knowledge and their traditions, you have to know the community affairs, traditions, that way you can become a good social worker.

They need to be successful in dealing with suicides, especially with the young people, because the social workers cannot understand these individuals. Once he tries to find out what this individual in Pond Inlet is doing, he gets a psychologist from Toronto, and that individual doesn't even know how this individual was brought up, how this individual was raised.

So the social worker has no knowledge whatsoever of community residents and this individual works for the government. Have you considered the qualifications for the communities or for Nunavut? Perhaps you need to use Nunavummiut, or communities. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Human Resources are responsible for services, but the departments, like the Department of Health and Social Services have been given authority to hire medical health professionals.

The Arctic College also hires their own, and the Department of Education. Human Resources have given them that authority. Although they have that authority, the Department of Human Resources provides support to the departments.

For example, if Social Services wanted to hire a social worker, we provide assistance to Social Services through interviews. We have an individual from Human Resources and from the department sit through the interviews.

If we are asked by Health and Social Services to review and help them when they are trying to hire an individual, we are open to providing assistance if we are requested to do so. If we were requested to look at the job description, we are very open and readily available to provide support.

But mainly the departments are more responsible for the work that I just mentioned for the Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Education, and also the Arctic College, outside of our responsibilities and the services being provided. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very short time already. I guess my question is, under the Directorate, the policy and qualifications for social workers is very important. We could have, in this Legislative Assembly; we are told the dress code is suit and tie. It shouldn't be like that, we said. We should include traditional clothing too. Parliamentary systems usually speak English. It shouldn't be like that. We should be able to speak Inuktitut and have an interpreter. So it is.

How is it so hard to come up with a policy requiring social workers to be fluent in Inuktitut, be an elder and know the background of the community and its people in the qualifications? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We are now on Human Resources. The department provides services for all the departments of government. Each department can respond to you, but it is up to you, Mr. Tapardjuk, if you would like to respond.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): The Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for that and also because it is in legislation. They have to abide by the legislation. As long as they don't amend that legislation, we will continue to do it the way we work with the Department of Human Resources.

We provide support to the departments by way of following the requests of the departments. Perhaps my colleague can respond to Mr. Arvaluk's question but with the Department of Human Resources we just provide services and assistance because they are legislated. Therefore, we have to follow their rules. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): I said that was going to be my last question but I still have some. In D-5, under Directorate, it states (interpretation ends) agreement is up. This department also provides leadership in core areas including, policy research and development, legislative change, financial management, and human resource systems. Directorate also provides support to the minister by providing briefing statements and response to issues raised in the Legislature, which is here.

I think it is important to note that there has to be research done now as to what qualifications should there be for some of the employment conditions, especially for social workers, teachers, etcetera. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, we are continually reviewing that because there is an article in the Land Claims Agreement that some job descriptions are written as overqualified so we were asked to make sure these qualifications are following the realities.

I think half of the job descriptions have been reviewed, perhaps 80 percent. We still need to review the qualifications. Some positions are requesting qualifications way beyond what the actual qualification should be.

If any of the departments request assistance from our department we have staff that can provide assistance to the departments. Yes, we are considering this and yes, we are concerned about that, and yes, we are still reviewing it continually.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time we'll take a 20-minute break.

*>>Committee recessed at 15:06 and resumed at 15:31*

**Chairman** (interpretation): We can resume our committee meeting. Please return to your seats. Order. We are on page D-5. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,198,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Page D-6. Human Resources. Branch Summary. Staffing. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials for coming in this afternoon.

I have a question on your business plan here; page D-15, under Recruitment and Staffing. Your second bullet down says, "... to manage a fair and transparent recruitment and staffing process."

I guess my question in that regard is; you monitor all the Government of Nunavut departments and ensure compliance, but my question would be: who monitors the Department of Human Resources to make sure that you're complying with your hiring practices? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will get my Deputy Minister Victor to respond to that question.

**Chairman:** Victor Tootoo.

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the member for the question.

When we have concerns about the staffing process, they normally show up in the form of appeals, and we have appeal committees in each region as well as here at headquarters, and the appeal committees are made up of an independent outside person, as well as somebody in our department who was not involved in the competition.

So, that is the manner in which we normally monitor the transparency and accountability of the staffing process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Tootoo for that information. One of the areas that I'm concerned about in the government is when it comes to direct appointments of positions. I would like the minister to explain how the direct appointment process works to ensure that it is done in a fair and transparent manner? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question.

For example, for those who are directly appointed by the Cabinet, we would have to go to the cabinet to make a direct appointment. Say a job has to have a highly educated individual that is going to be directly appointed or the ones that get directly appointed under *Article 23* of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement we try to do a direct appointment on those people because the department want to have those employees.

We have to consult with the Cabinet Members if there is going to be a direct appointment. That's the way it is at the present time and how the department requests someone to go and work for their department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Minister, could you explain to me how individuals in the government are identified internally to receive a direct appointment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will get my deputy to respond to that question.

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

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The majority of the people identified for direct appointment are identified from the department. In a number of cases, they are individuals, and for the majority they are beneficiaries, but they are individuals who, for various different reasons, didn't win a competition, or are very close to being able to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position but need a little extra help and a little time and training to get into that position.

Departments identify those people, who they have worked with, and normally there is some form of working relationship with those individuals already, and they are interested in furthering the goals of *Article 23* in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, and ensuring that we have more beneficiaries in positions, in our civil service, and for also advancing those individuals, beneficiaries along the career path. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Can't the same objective be achieved by a competition and those individuals apply through the competition process and then go through the interview process, and still give the successful candidate a job? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. (interpretation) Minister, for the record please make sure to say who is going to respond to the questions.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I'll get Mr. Tootoo to respond to the question. Mr. Tootoo.



**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned earlier there are cases where in competitions for positions the beneficiary candidates are not suitable because they didn't score high enough in the competitions. There are instances where they are very close to passing and the departments have requested that we not go into anything beyond priority 1, land claim beneficiaries. The departments have confidence that the individual with a little bit of training and a little bit of help on the job can fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the position. That's why in some cases that is why competitions are cancelled and we proceed with direct employment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister, Mr. Tootoo for that answer. Another interesting type of method to award jobs to individuals is something called a transfer assignment. I wonder if the minister could explain, for the record, what a transfer assignment type position is and what it entails for people to be appointed to that job. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation):** Yes, say for instance the people that get a transfer, some of them want to be transferred to another department. If there was to be a job that the individual can do, they are able to try for the competition. If they want to be transferred to another department for a while because they want to have a change of duties, and go back to the same job they were doing, this option is available to them. That is what the employee requests. That is the way it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. If I were a government employee with the Government of Nunavut and I was tired of my job and I want to take a break, I just pick out another job in another department and say I want to transfer over there for six months, is that how it works? It doesn't seem right to me. Can you clarify your last statement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation):** I will get my deputy to respond to that question.

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

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The normal process for a transfer assignment is not a six-month time period. Usually the minimum is one year and definitely the maximum is three years for a transfer assignment.

Employees are not the ones who identify transfer assignment opportunities. It is management who decides that there is an opportunity to fill a position with a transfer

assignment and if there are qualified individuals within the civil service who are valued employees, and we want to ensure they have the opportunity to try a position and still have the option of returning to their old position or a similar one within their old department as a form of job security and as a form of retention and we use that option. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tootoo for that answer. If there's a situation in the community where there is a vacant position in a department that a number of employees know about and they are all interested in applying for that job, and they all think they are qualified, but the management decides they see one person in another department and they approach that person, and ask if they are interested in a transfer assignment; then the process kicks in?

But what happens to the three or four other individuals who may have been interested in applying for that job? Perhaps one of them was even more qualified than the individual that went over on a transfer assignment.

How does the process help those people when you state, "manage a fair and accountable recruiting and staffing process"? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, I will also have that question answered by my deputy minister. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The percentage of positions filled by transfer assignments, as opposed to those filled by competition, or some form of competitive process is very small.

It's the management of the department who bring forward the request for a transfer assignment. It is incumbent upon the management of each department to ensure that the morale in their department is not negatively affected by these forms of staffing.

I can't speak to the specifics of any particular position. I'm not exactly certain what the member is referring to, but I can say that for the most part that management in the departments are very concerned about retention of their current valued employees. From my understanding, and my perspective, they have, for the most part, made the best efforts to ensure that their current employees are not negatively affected by these forms of staffing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Could the minister or Mr. Tootoo tell me; if an individual or individuals were interested in a vacant position that was filled by a transfer assignment, or possibly even a direct appointment, can they appeal those decisions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I'll have my deputy respond.

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

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that if the person is an employee within the Government of Nunavut, and they have a concern about the staffing process, there is an avenue for them to appeal that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Tootoo. Perhaps just for the record, Mr. Tootoo could clarify what that avenue is. Is it a normal Government of Nunavut appeal process or do they have to write a letter to the minister or a Member of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I'll have my deputy respond.

**Chairman:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The process is not a normal appeal process because the majority of the transfer assignments, I may be mistaken, but I think all of the transfer assignments are for non-unionized positions.

So the process is that employees would write a letter to the Minister of Human Resources to have him address their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Tootoo for that information. It was useful information.

On page D-16 of your business plan, there is a reference to ongoing priorities for 2006-07; "The casual staffing audit is now completed. Recommendations will be presented to Human Resources senior management and Deputy Ministers' Committee and some recommendations will require approval from the Nunavut Employees Union.

Can you give the members an update on the casual staffing audit and how it went and what kind of recommendations are coming out of there or have come out of it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. There was a casual staffing audit that was done. A number of recommendations came out of it and some of those responses are contained in the response to the standing committee and in the letter, and this issue was raised there as well.

There are a couple of matters that are before the union as we noted with regards to changes in some of the terminology about the use of casual employment. There were a number of administrative changes that were made, including the addition of more resources to deal with casual staffing as well as reference checks and those kinds of things mainly on the administrative side to ensure that our casual staffing process had similar accountability and transparency as well as level of rigour as our permanent staffing process does. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Tootoo for that. Casual staffing has been an issue for a number of my constituents for quite a few years but I hope that will improve the process that you just outlined.

You mentioned also on the same page, there's a tracking system that has been developed for the casual employment opportunities in Iqaluit. Are you going to be doing the same in the other communities in Nunavut, implement a tracking system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was only developed for Iqaluit but in the future all the other communities will have a similar tracking system set up. At this time it's only for Iqaluit but we are also working on having the other Nunavut communities set up a tracking system, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the answer. One of your priorities for 2007-08 is to conduct ongoing compliance audits for delegated recruitment of Nunavut Arctic College and Health and Social Services nursing positions.

Could you expand a little bit on what that priority means? Are there problems in those two organizations with the way they hire under delegated recruitment, or do you just want to ensure that they're complying with the delegated recruitment process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will refer this question to my deputy minister, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The audit of delegated staffing authority is an ongoing thing. It's not because there are particular issues that we've noted anywhere in any of the delegated authorities. It's a regular course of business.

When we audit, it's on a test basis. We would go in and we would look at certain competition files randomly chosen, and determine whether or not those files have gone through the process, followed the Priority Hiring Policy, make sure that the interviews were done and that all of the documentation exists for questions and answers in the interviews and that the competition was awarded appropriately; and if there are any appeals; what the grounds of the appeals were. Whether the appeals were upheld or denied. Those are the kinds of things that we review in our audits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Tootoo. If in the course of your audit, if you detect any irregularities, what are the next steps? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will refer the question to my deputy minister.

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

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As with any other form of audit, an audit report is generated and if there are concerns raised within that audit report it's discussed with management of the organization. If that's Nunavut Arctic College, if it's Department of Education, or if it's the Health and Social Services, we would meet and discuss the

areas of concern in the audit and provide any training or support necessary to ensure that those areas of concern are addressed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Tootoo for that information. It certainly sounds like there's a rigorous ongoing compliance. We do have to have faith in the Human Resources department because there are well over 3,000 employees. There's a lot of work in that area.

How many employees would you have engaged in monitoring compliance with the delegated recruitment? Is that one employee; is that six? Do you have a special division in there to ensure there is compliance to delegated recruitment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, I will refer this to my deputy, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have staff located here in Iqaluit to review the headquarters files. We also have staff in Igloolik, Cambridge Bay, and Rankin Inlet to do the reviews in those regions. I am not certain of the exact number of all of those employees. There are delegated employees within the Staffing Division here in headquarters and within each region that are qualified to go and do audits of the staffing process where we have delegated that authority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Victor Tootoo for that information.

In the last three reports we saw from the department, dated September 30, 2006 identified a total of 732 positions vacant across the Government of Nunavut. That is a vacancy rate of approximately 20 percent. That seems to be the number we've been dealing with for the last three years, 20 percent vacancy rate.

I am wondering if the minister could tell us when he, or the Government of Nunavut, realistically expects the employment in the Government of Nunavut to reach 90 percent in its positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, I will refer that to my deputy minister.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tootoo. I'm sorry.

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is quite accurate that the current statistics show the same vacancy rate as the last set of statistics showed. Personally, I find that a bit encouraging given the state of the Canadian economy and the competition for scarce resources, and the qualified individuals that we have with places like Alberta where it is booming and they're basically hiring thousands of people from all the country and paying perhaps more competitive wages and salaries in the private sector than can be offered through the public sector.

As to our guess, it depends on a number of factors. As members know, and I'm certain that the minister has pointed out, there is a nursing shortage across the world, and not just across Canada, and those are affecting our recruitment efforts in that area.

There is a dearth of qualified financial managers, accountants, throughout the country and that is affecting our recruitment of people in that area. And the economy of the country in other areas; are all factors that will play into our efforts to recruit, retain, and increase that number, so that we would have a 90 percent retention, again, only a 10 percent vacancy rate.

I couldn't hazard a guess as to when that might be, but we continue to make best efforts to ensure that we move forward with that progress as we continue to negotiate our collective agreements with the unions to have those signed and agreed to, and the other areas in our department, where we look at other things that we can do as a government to retain and to recruit staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I guess an obvious question then is if it's around 20 percent in the last few years, my question becomes why departments are allowed to increase their number of positions in organizations if almost every one out of every five Government of Nunavut positions is vacant and has been. The numbers are consistent; year after year, 20 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I'll let my deputy respond to that.

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

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is quite correct that the actual percentage has remained the same but if you looked at the sheer numbers, we have more people employed in the Government of Nunavut than we did two years ago.

So the fact that the vacancy rate has remained the same, while the numbers have increased over time, means that we are recruiting and retaining more staff. The process for increasing staff and for changes to the level of person-years is done through the Cabinet and Financial Management Board submissions, and through the budget process. Those are all discussed here in the House.

We as a department do not control the number of person-years in other departments, nor do we control the resources. We merely assist them in recruiting and retaining for those positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Earlier I mentioned 732 positions across Nunavut were vacant. The interesting anomaly in that is that approximately 42 percent of those vacant positions are here in Iqaluit. That works out to being about 311 positions.

The other interesting anomaly is only 33 percent of the Iqaluit-based Government of Nunavut positions are presently filled with beneficiaries. I think reading through your report; it's the lowest in Nunavut of the 25 communities.

I'm wondering if the minister could give us some information on what specific factors account for the relatively low levels in Inuit employment in the Iqaluit-based positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): In Iqaluit the number of beneficiaries who work in Iqaluit is the lowest. There are various reasons. The Nunavut Government has an office here in Iqaluit and when you try and recruit Inuit employees we fight over the qualified Inuit. There's Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and they want to have the best staff. And then there is Qikiqtani Inuit staff. They also have an office here and they want the best qualified people to work for them. And then there's the federal government who also has an office here and they want the best, too.

There are a lot more job opportunities and they want the best qualified beneficiaries and we try and recruit the best qualified beneficiaries. Even in human resources there is an Inuit Employment Division that does the planning and training. We are trying to develop this.

We have a concern here in Iqaluit; there are not enough Inuit who are qualified so that is why we have come up with internships, training manager. The Government of Nunavut is



not the only employer, there are a lot of other organizations that also want the best qualified beneficiaries and there are not too many of them so we tend to fight over them.

That is why the number seems to be lower but we are always pushing to get a policy so that we can attain the number and we will be working on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We are on page D-6. Human Resources. Staffing. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I'd like to ask the minister on the Staff Housing Policy. All the staff that are in GN housing do they all pay rent? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be the responsibility and I'll ask the Minister of the Housing Corporation if he can respond. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't hear his question, if he can repeat his question.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Curley, can you repeat your question, please.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): My question was under the Staff Housing Policy. Since it has been implemented, are all the GN employees who are in staff housing pay rent?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Akesuk this was deferred to you. Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the GN employees, if they are in staff housing, pay rent, if they're in a Housing Corporation unit.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. There is Government of Nunavut housing. The housing that is not under the Nunavut Housing Corporation; are they under one now because whether it is Government of Nunavut staff housing or ... so an employee pays rent if they're in a staff housing unit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): We will get into the Nunavut Housing Corporation once we complete Human Resources. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We only deal with Human Resources. We don't deal with any kind of staff housing at all because that is the responsibility of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. So, there are no housing benefits. Because it indicated (interpretation ends) it comes with housing, staffed position, (interpretation) and once they advertise that housing is provided ... it isn't like that anymore?

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I'll let my deputy respond.

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

**Mr. Victor Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has a Staff Housing Allocation Committee, and they are the ones who determine which positions get advertised with or without housing here in Iqaluit.

And our role is that we take direction from that committee; when we advertise the position, if it's with housing, then that's the information that comes from the Staff Housing Committee which is chaired by employees in the Nunavut Housing Corporation who are responsible for staff housing, as well as the Staff Housing Policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley**: There is a relationship with the staff housing... I don't think we can call it a benefit now, but long ago positions used to come with housing and these were much more attractive to people that are applying for government positions.

So, am I correct in saying now that Human Resources has no involvement whatsoever in establishing a policy that any position comes with housing? Or whether it is medical personnel, if you guys are responsible for recruitment of these people, who determines whether or not housing should come with a certain position? How is that determination being made? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As he stated, there is a Staff Housing Committee which is under the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be there, and we are not dealing with housing. We are under Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, then I understand, whether it's a manager or minister... so it's not up to the staff to indicate whether housing will come with it, only

the committee. So, it's only the Staff Housing Committee who has to the authority to say if a housing unit will be provided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were told this is the responsibility of the Nunavut Housing Corporation not by the Human Resources. Nunavut Housing Corporation will be at the witness table right after Human Resources and this can be discussed then.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I'd like to ask the Minister of Human Resources so they can't recommend to the housing committee because I am wondering if they are capable of making policies. If the job requires housing, I know I will be raising the same question but I don't know if they can make policies under professional services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): The Nunavut Housing Corporation has the responsibility and the departments because they're the ones once the job comes out they decide what benefits they'll have. If it's identified by the department then they give that to us then it is the responsibility to take that but the staff housing part is handled by the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. We will be going to the Nunavut Housing Corporation right after Human Resources, so at that appropriate time you will be answered. Thank you. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): But I wanted to be responded to. I don't think the Nunavut Housing Corporation has the authority to make policies, I thought it was up to the Cabinet which positions require housing?

We're told that one of the difficulties in retaining medical staff is because there is no housing. If we can get an idea if it's not the Human Resources, or Nunavut Housing Corporation, or the Minister of Health. The doctors position if it's advertised, who decides if it requires staff housing? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. We're on page D-6. Staffing.

At this time this department cannot respond on behalf of the Nunavut Housing Corporation so I think we need more direction. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Specifically, on issues around housing and staff housing, that is under the daily work of the Minister of Housing. The Minister of

HR, as the agency that hires all positions in Nunavut for the government, has a small role to play in the housing issue. It is not part of the collective agreement in Nunavut. It is not part of any job offers decided by that tribunal of people when they're looking at hiring people.

So the member's questions on housing, who decides, what job is housing, that's all a part of the group when they are looking at the hiring process, itself. Local hires, indeterminate hires, and so on. However, for the purpose of our budget here today, and for the next couple of days, the Minister for Staff Housing would be in a position to answer those questions when his budget is up in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. House Leader. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask the minister; some departments have essential staff and we are in a shortage of staff and there are vacant positions. I would like to get clarification.

Is having no staff housing part of the reason why there are vacant positions? Is that one of the reasons why you can't fill the positions of the nurses and the doctors? Is it the same reason as the other departments, because there are a lot of vacant positions? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. For medical health professionals, such as doctors and nurses, as the Minister of Human Resources we have given the authority to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Human Resources authority has been given to the Minister of Health and Social Services, and to the Minister of Education. For the hiring of teachers and doctors and nurses, these are the essential employees so these departments are responsible for hiring and staffing for the nurses and others. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are you finished? Human Resources. Branch Summary. Staffing. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one small question. Last winter, when we met with the Minister of Human Resources, I urged the minister in the smaller communities, if he could hire summer students to work in government departments.

During summer break, students have no place to go, and no place to work. Some students end up receiving income support during the summer because there are no employment opportunities. I was wondering if the minister can update me in regard to the hiring of summer students in the smaller communities, the communities that are not decentralized. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We ask the departments how many students they can hire during the summer. For example, the Department of Education, how many students can you hire for the summer?

We hire summer students based on the departments' needs, and that's how it's set up. I'll conclude with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to be fair to everyone, to all the students but they usually hire in the smaller communities and in the larger centres in the communities they usually hire the students that are related to them.

How are you going to deal with nepotism? So they don't hire the relatives of the staff of the GN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, we encounter this problem. We are aware of this problem, and we know about it.

In the government policy it states that government employees cannot hire their relatives, just like their father, daughter, or mother, and others. They are not allowed to hire their relatives.

It is quite difficult in the smaller communities. Even in the larger communities, that is what happens with some of the departments. For, example, if there is a government employee, and there is an employment opportunity open, and they ask an individual Government of Nunavut employee, "Who can we find as an appropriate employee," and that individual, I'm sure, would look into hiring his or her relatives. This is not allowed and we do not encourage that.

I am sure we will have to consider it carefully. We usually ask the departments if they can hire summer students and how many they can hire. Once they identify that we can start working on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Yes, I clearly understand that in the smaller communities it becomes difficult. Even in the elected entities. I just wanted to point that out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman for allowing me to speak to this.

**Chairman:** Human Resources. Branch Summary. Staffing. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,081,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** D-7. Human Resources. Branch Summary. Community Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,773,000. Agreed? Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Community Operations is on this page, Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot regions have offices in Igloolik, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. Is there an office in Iqaluit as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, in Iqaluit we have our headquarters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Does the Iqaluit office perform many or the same functions as the offices in Igloolik, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I'll have my deputy respond to that question.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Victor Tootoo.

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the headquarters operation is contained in other areas of our budget. This is for the three regional offices. We do provide the same services as we do in community operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Tootoo. In Cambridge Bay, the office serves the entire region, including Cambridge Bay. Why would you have an office in Igloolik serving Igloolik and the entire Baffin region? Why do you have to have two offices doing essentially the same thing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I'll have my deputy respond.

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

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Igloolik office serves the Baffin region. The headquarters office serves Iqaluit for staffing and also serves the entire region for staffing.

By that, I mean our director of staffing is located here at the headquarters office, and that division provides support to all the regional offices.

We have an Employee Relations Division here in Iqaluit at the headquarters that provides programs and services to the entire region through our regional offices. We have a number of other divisions within our department that do the same thing, and our headquarters is located here in Iqaluit.

A large portion of the staffing activity for our territory is here in Iqaluit because of the large numbers of staff located here in the capital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Just to clarify then; if there is a vacant position in Iqaluit, the Igloolik office is not involved in the competitions from your interviews through to eventual hiring and relocation? Would that be a fair assessment of what I see here on this page, and from what Mr. Tootoo told me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will refer this question to my deputy.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Victor Tootoo.

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is my understanding as well. The member is correct, that if there is a staffing action for here in Iqaluit, then normally the Igloolik office would not be involved with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Tootoo for that answer. Given the large number of vacancies in Iqaluit, it concerns me that perhaps the Iqaluit office could be more proactive. I know what the minister said earlier, there's lots of competition.

But, perhaps the Iqaluit office should devote a considerable amount of their time to understanding why there are so many vacancies in Iqaluit and undertake to increase those numbers.

I know that if we had a large vacancy rate like that in Cambridge Bay, there would be a lot of upset people. But, if you have two offices in the Baffin; Igloolik and Iqaluit, and Iqaluit is concentrating on one community, I would think that they should be able to devote a lot more time and energy to recruiting and hiring, staffing those positions, and retaining the positions.

I wonder if the minister or Mr. Tootoo could comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will get my deputy to respond to the question.

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

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the Staffing Division here in Iqaluit, as well as other areas of our department were devoted more resources, we could certainly do more work. There is no question about that.

I can understand the member's concern about the level of vacancies here in Iqaluit, but I do know that our staffing officers and staffing consultants, as well as the director of staffing here in Iqaluit, handle two to three times the industry average of competitions.

Therefore, they don't have a lot of spare time to try to address some of the more further looking problems. That is why we have our policy folks, and that's why we have other areas of our department to try and help them in that area. I think that the folks in the staffing division here in Iqaluit are extremely busy. I don't think that; I know that.

I do know that they also have the same concerns that the member has raised, and so does our minister. Our minister has spoken to me about this on a few occasions as well, and we do what we can with the resources that we have.

If some of the factors change, as I noted earlier, like things in the Canadian economy, and the shortage of professionals, then we won't be doing so much staffing, and we will be able to do more proactive things like the member has raised.

We do take that as a serious concern and we are striving towards those goals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I'll apologize to the Staffing Division. I am not saying they are not working. I think maybe more could be done. Maybe you have to have a meeting internally to channel



more resources to their sector to help them in their recruitment efforts. Year after year we keep hearing that here in Iqaluit that there is a large vacancy rate going on, and you are always crying about the rate of unemployment in Nunavut. Here we do have a large opportunity for folks. I am sure that there are many factors involved. I certainly hope that they can treat it as a high priority.

I wanted just to ask the minister and/or Mr. Tootoo; earlier Mr. Tootoo mentioned that one of the ways they are monitored in terms of how well they're doing their job. They monitor all government departments but I asked who monitors them. Mr. Tootoo mentioned the appeal process.

I am wondering if the minister or Mr. Tootoo could give us an overview of the appeal process, or the numbers of the appeals for Nunavut by region. Give us an idea of how many positions have been advertised. How many appeals have come forward, percentage-wise and number-wise? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will get my deputy to respond to the question.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Victor Tootoo.

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for the question. The staffing appeals is one of the things that I look at as an indication of the integrity of our staffing process, and I think it's one of the most important factors for our department in statistics.

Staffing Appeal Committees, as I mentioned earlier, they exist in all three regions, as well as here in headquarters, and they're made up of a private sector chairperson, a GN representative, and an NEU representative. All GN employees and Nunavut Land Claims beneficiaries have appeal rights on NEU positions.

Some of the stats, I do not have them broken down by region, but I am certain that we can get that information and provide them to the members, but I do have some stats to provide.

In the fiscal year 1999 to 2000 we had a total of 13 appeals; two of which were upheld, ten denied, and one withdrawn.

In 2000-01, there were a total of eight appeals; two of which were upheld, and six were denied.

In 2001-02 there was again 13 appeals; 11 of which were denied, and two upheld.

In 2002-03 there were a total of 16 staffing appeals; only one of them was upheld, and 15 were denied.

In 2003-04, there 31 staffing appeals; six were upheld, and 25 were denied.

In 2004-05 there were 29 appeals; eight of them were upheld, and 21 were denied.

In 2005-06 and that's the last year we have final information for so far, there were a total of 43 appeals; only four of them were upheld, and 39 were denied. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Tootoo for that information. There is a definite trend or increase but that is probably because there are more positions being added to the government.

Under the appeal process are casual employees allowed to appeal competitions? If they see someone get a job that they think they should have had, or had an opportunity on and didn't receive, can they also appeal with those positions? Would those figures include casual employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, it is a different policy altogether, Mr. Chairman. It's just the hourly paid casual employees.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I have another question. It's on a different page.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. We're on page D-7. Human Resources. Branch Summary. Community Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,773,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Page D-8. Job Evaluation and Organization Design. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I just want to get a response under D-16. It says that Human Resources has... is the information ready and can you provide that to the House on ongoing compliance.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, we can provide a document to the House. The Nunavut Arctic College and Health and Social Services recruitment, such as doctors that are needed by the Department of Health, and the teachers, under Nunavut Arctic College, or teachers that... I can provide the information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. D-8. Human Resources. Branch Summary. Job Evaluation and Organization Design. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister; one of the priorities for 2006-07, and it is continued for 2007-08 is, perform audits of Government of Nunavut jobs for inflated qualifications, and the status; approximately 85 percent of the audits of the qualifications have been completed.

My question: what does that statement mean: inflated qualifications? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Say for instance some job descriptions have a qualification because the qualification is too high. We want somebody who is really qualified on some things. So what we're doing is monitoring them or evaluating them, and that has been completed.

For example, for a secretary or receptionist position, perhaps for the Department of Finance; does that individual have to have accounting qualifications? Those job descriptions, such as the receptionist clerk, will that person need to have accounting qualifications?

There are also some job descriptions are written up so that the person has to have so many qualifications; we want to be able to write the job description to correspond to that person's duties. Those are the types of things we are doing right now. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. When a department identifies they have to have a position, they create the position to get funded. Then they have to write a job description. I thought the job descriptions go through your department in the first place. At that point you review the process and the qualifications and then a pay level.

How do these positions slip through the process and then become inflated qualifications to get the job? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We grandfathered these from the Government of the Northwest Territories and we are now making changes to make them made in Nunavut. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. How many positions have been audited; 85 percent is a lot. How many positions does that number represent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will have my deputy respond.

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

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the exact numbers on what they audited but if we did the math, if there are approximately 3,200 positions within the Government of Nunavut, then 85 percent of that is about 2,800. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Tootoo for that answer. In the course of the audited qualifications, how many positions did you determine had inflated qualifications? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very excellent question. We will look into it as we are curious to know the numbers also. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that a commitment to provide that information? Okay. If you identify a position that has inflated qualifications and has an incumbent in that position, and the incumbent is being paid at a pay level five or six based on their inflated qualifications, you will have to reclassify that position at a lower level.

What happens to the incumbent in that position? Do they still get paid at pay level six or do they have to take a pay cut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We would not lower the salary, but if this position comes up again it would be re-classified to the right position.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Peterson. Thank you. D-8. Human Resources. Branch Summary. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. On the business plan on D-17 could you give us a clarification on the first bullet: priorities for 2007-08, to work with the Department of Finance to develop a salary surveying capability?

Mr. Minister, could you elaborate further on this priority? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will have my deputy respond to this question.

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

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What this is, is the ability in our government to look at other jurisdictions, and other similar type jobs and determine whether or not we're paying comparable and competitive salaries to similar type positions. It's a joint initiative with the Department of Finance, as they administer the pay of our pay and benefit system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for that clarification. On the fourth bullet it says to implement a language skills profile for Government of Nunavut job descriptions.

Could you elaborate the fourth bullet; exactly what does that mean? Are we talking about the Inuit language, or are we talking about all three languages? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, we're referring to the three languages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): And to elaborate further is it in reference to the bilingual language, or are we just talking about languages, or language skills? I am sure that there are some Government of Nunavut employees who would like to receive the bilingual bonus, or would like to eligible to receive those bonuses.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, it's being reviewed. For example, usually the jobs are identified in a department. For example, if it was a receptionist position, this individual would have to speak both Inuktitut and English. That would be identified in the job description as a requirement, and then they would be qualified for the bilingual bonus.

What we're trying to do right now is that there is a possibility for a concern. For example, if they didn't speak Inuktitut and then learned Inuktitut in three years would this individual be eligible to receive that bilingual bonus? So we're still looking at that with the cooperation of Nunavut Arctic College.

So that's what we're trying to do at this point. We have to be reasonable out there and be able to be put out there in Inuktitut, English and French. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Page D-8. Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question so that we get a Mr. Tootoo, Mr. Tootoo situation going. Mr. Chairman, my opening comments talked about this issue.

Since January 2000, the number of executive and management positions in the Government of Nunavut has grown by 62 percent, however the number of positions classified as administrative support has actually decreased by over 15 percent.

The number of positions classified as middle management has increased by over 85 percent since January of 2000, so that now there are over 600 executives, senior management and middle management positions throughout the Government of Nunavut. In 2000 there were less than 400 such positions.

I would just like to ask the minister or his officials, what accounts for that significant increase in senior management and middle management positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will defer that question to my deputy.

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

**Mr. Victor Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is quite correct that the number of positions in senior management has increased but so has the overall number of positions within the Government of Nunavut.

What is that attributed to? Well, there are a number of things that happened. Every year the budget gets higher, and the demand for programs and services are increased because

our population gets higher. But also in 2000, the government was very young and very new, and a lot of the departments have restructured and have changed.

I would characterize it as the natural evolution of the bureaucracy in terms of an increase in the overall positions, and that doesn't necessarily mean all levels of positions will increase all at the same time. The government has changed considerably since the year 2000. The demands for programs and services have also changed since then. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo for that response.

I guess, given that scenario, and that line of rationale as to why that has happened, if you look at the front line workers being your teachers - your healthcare workers, your social workers, your front line positions - that the demands in that area would increase as well, and I would guess that this would be more in that administrative area that your people in the trenches are actually out there delivering programs and services to people, not the middle and senior management positions.

So, given that, can we expect to see some increases in that area soon, in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will defer that question to my deputy, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Victor Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it's the processes like these that determine the changes in the government. As we sit before the Committee of the Whole in the Legislative Assembly, that's where it's determined what resources are allocated where.

And so, if the members are concerned that there aren't enough resources allocated to the front line, I think this is the most appropriate place to address those concerns.

I know that within our department we would certainly welcome any additional resources that the members would consent to add for addressing frontlines. But we also are, as all of you are aware, of the constraints that the government is under in terms of funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation) We are on Human Resources. Branch Summary. Job Evaluation and Organizational Design. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$809,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to recognize the clock and report progress.

**Chairman:** Is that a motion? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Yes.

**Chairman:** We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk, Mr. Brad Loehr, and Mr. Victor Tootoo.

I will now rise to report progress.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Arreak.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and the main estimates and would like to report progress. Also, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there any seconder? Thank you. Mr. Barnabas. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you. Sorry, before we go, the Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise on a Point of Privilege.

**Speaker:** Please proceed, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Point of Privilege**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise under Rule 20(1). My Point of Privilege today concerns a Tabled Document 052 – 2(4) which was tabled in this House by the Member from Nattilik on Wednesday March 21, 2007.

Mr. Speaker, this document is a copy of the minutes of the meeting held by teleconference between Kitikmeot mayors and Senior Administrative Officers.

I draw your attention to the fact the minutes reveal that the conference call was held on the afternoon of Monday, March 19, 2007 at 2 p.m.



The minutes indicate that, and I quote, “The topic of the teleconference was to ensure that the recommendations of the Electoral Boundaries Commission were supported in the Legislative Assembly during the Wednesday, March 21, 2007 vote.”

As you and all Members of this House will clearly recall, because of the blizzard that occurred on Monday, March 19, we did not actually sit on that day. I did not give my notice of motion in relation to the report of the boundaries commission until the afternoon of Tuesday, March 20. We did not consider and vote on the motion until Thursday, March 22, 2007.

The only conceivable way in which that conference call could have been held on March 19 was if a Member of this House violated caucus confidentiality and provided them with advance information. The institution of caucus is formally recognized in our *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*. It provides a forum in which all members may speak candidly.

This ability depends on respect for the principal of caucus confidentiality. It is similar to the need for the regular members of our standing committees to respect budget confidentiality during our annual reviews of the government’s draft main estimates, capital estimates, and business plans as well as supplementary appropriations.

Mr. Speaker, one of the privileges we all enjoy is freedom of speech. I believe that my ability to speak freely has suffered damage as a result of this incident, and my ability to publicly articulate the reasons for moving my motion was compromised before the public had an opportunity to hear my reason for moving the motion. I would ask that you rule on this serious matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I will review your Point of Privilege and provide a ruling at an appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. There is no debate on the Point of Privilege principle at this time, according to our Rules of the House. Thank you.

Sorry, I did not get your last comment. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** My Point of Privilege is that as a member I can seek support from my constituents at any time on any given subject.

**Speaker:** Excuse me. Please take your seat, Ms. Aglukkaq. Thank you. As I just indicated, there is no debate on the Point of Privilege that was just raised. I will not allow any continuation of any debate on this matter. Thank you.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk (Mr. Quirke):** Orders of the Day for March 24:

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
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 1
  - Bill 2
  - Bill 3
  - Bill 9
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 Saturday, March 24 at 1:30 pm.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:10*

# **Appendix – March 23, 2007**

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

**Asked by:** James Arvaluk, MLA (Tununiq)

**Asked of:** Hon. Louis Tapardjuk, Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

**Date:** March 14, 2007

### **Question 1:**

As of March 14, 2007, what is the status of hiring a Community Services Librarian for the Nunavut Public Library Service Headquarters in Baker Lake?

### **Response to Question 1:**

The competition for the Community Services Librarian closed on March 9, 2007. The department is attempting to schedule the screening of the applications.

### **Question 2:**

What training does the department provide to local librarians in Nunavut?

### **Response to Question 2:**

The Community Services Librarian provides training to staff of Nunavut community libraries to ensure a consistent standard of public library service is being provided to all patrons in accordance with established NPLS policies and procedures. This training is delivered through various forms such as annual community visits to review the state of each library's collection, and to assist the community librarian with program development. Training and support is also provided through ongoing correspondence via telephone, fax, and email.

### **Question 3:**

The department's budget for community library support has not increased since 2006-07. What types of support are provided by the department to community libraries in Nunavut and what plans does the department have for enhancing these services during the 2007-08 fiscal year?

### **Response to Question 3:**

The proposed budget for the Nunavut Public Library Services will not increase for 2007-08. The department provides operational funding for community libraries in the form of contribution funding. A total of \$352,000 is distributed annually to 10 community libraries. The department also provides ongoing program and technical support through the work of the Community Services Librarian and the Systems Librarian. Following the

staffing of the core Nunavut Public Library Services positions, in 2007-08 the department intends to convene a workshop for community librarians to address the issues affecting community library programs and services.