



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

4th Session

2nd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 14

Saturday, March 24, 2007

Pages 811 – 879

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung)

Chair, Management and Services Board

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Striking Committee

Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

Striking Committee

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(Nattilik)

Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for Status of Women Council

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk

(South Baffin)

Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

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(Nanulik)

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(Amittuq)

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

James Arvaluk

(Tunnuniq)

Levi Barnabas

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(Iqaluit West)

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Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Saturday, March 24, 2007

Members Present:

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 Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Peter Kilabuk)(interpretation): Good afternoon, Members. I would like to ask Mr. Picco to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, Members, and visitors. Welcome to the House. It's a beautiful day outside today. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Notwithstanding Rule 27(2), I seek unanimous consent of the House to proceed immediately to Item 19 in our Orders of the Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The member is asking unanimous consent to proceed directly to Item 19. Are there any nays? There are none. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 1, Bill 2, Bill 3, and Bill 9 with Mr. Arreak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 4 – 2(4), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak): I would like 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 for the Department of Human Resources, followed by the Housing Association, I'm sorry Mr. Chairman, Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Are we in agreement to continue with Human Resources?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are all in agreement. (interpretation ends) Minister Tapardjuk, do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I would like to bring in my witnesses.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Does the committee agree that the minister have his witnesses with him at the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, can you assist them. Minister, for the record please introduce your witnesses. Can you introduce your officials, please?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Mr. Victor Tootoo, the Deputy Minister, and on my left is Mr. Bob Loehr, from Corporate Services.

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

We're on Human Resource. Branch Summary. Inuit Employment Plan. Page D-9 of 2007-08 main estimates. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$722,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page D-10. Human Resources. Training and Development. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,733,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 11 is an information item. Page D-12. Human Resources. Employee Relations. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,703,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go back to page D-4. Human Resources. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$18,019,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Department of Human Resources is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk, Deputy Minister Tootoo, and Mr. Loehr.

Mr. Minister, do you have any final remarks?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to say thank you to the members and to thank Victor Tootoo and Bob Loehr, and thank you members for passing my budget. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. If we could go this fast all day we could finish all the departments.

(interpretation ends) I would now like to ask the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to make his opening remarks. Minister Akesuk.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2007-08 – Consideration in Committee – Nunavut Housing Corporation

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to be able to meet with you today to discuss the 2007-08 Business Plan and Main Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to announce that the first 96 housing units under the Nunavut Housing Trust will be completed by the fall of 2007. In addition, the corporation has already ordered materials of 219 units to be delivered on this summer's sealift. This does not include the 20 units for Iqaluit that will be delivered under a Supply, Ship, and Erect contract.

During 2006 we continued to fulfill our commitments to *Pinasuaqtavut* in the following ways:

- Continued the homeownership programs including the:
 - Material Assistance Program
 - Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program, and
 - Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program, and
- Implemented a new funding formula for Local Housing Organizations.

Fiscal year 2007-08 Government of Nunavut funding to the Nunavut Housing Corporation will increase by \$3,633,000 from the main estimates of 2006-07.

Of this amount, 74 percent, or \$2,686,252, will fund the local housing organizations for their increased power and fuel costs. Specifically, \$1,425,652 will cover the increased power costs and \$1,260,600 for fuel.

Similarly, in staff housing, \$326,748 will go toward the increased price of power and fuel. Specifically \$102,542 will cover the increased power costs, and \$224,206 for fuel. To facilitate the delivery of the Nunavut Housing Trust, four staff positions will be added to administration for \$626,000. Those positions will be created in a three year term.

Mr. Chairman, in all material respects, the main estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation remains unchanged from last year.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2007-08 Business Plan and Main Estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, will you assist the official.

For the record, if you can introduce your official, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Peter Scott, President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Chairman (interpretation): Welcome, Mr. Scott. Does the chair of the committee have any opening comments? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes. Can I start?

Chairman (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Curley, go ahead.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide you with my comments as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development. The community has reviewed the 2007-08 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and had the opportunity to meet with the responsible minister in January.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the minister for providing members with many of the information items that were requested during the meeting. The sharing of information is essential to transparency with respect to the corporation's programs and policies.

The standing committee recognizes that the corporation's primary focus over the next three years will be the construction of new public housing units under the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy. Members noted that four new term positions have been created with the corporation for the duration of this initiative.

Members support the goals of the Delivery Strategy to increase private sector capacity in each community and to provide training opportunities for Nunavummiut. However, members would remind the corporation that the primary goal of the Nunavut Housing Trust is to increase the number of public housing units across the territory in a timely fashion in order to reduce the number of people on waiting lists.

Members recognize that the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy is a new initiative for the corporation. Committee members encourage the corporation in its monitoring of the effectiveness of the strategy and recognize that adjustments may need to be made to adapt to challenges as they arise over the three year delivery period. It is essential that the corporation be successful in the delivery of the \$200 million Housing Trust in order to better make the case for additional federal funding for this important portfolio.

Members note that the corporation intends to undertake a housing needs study in 2007-08. Members recognize the importance of accurate data when the corporation requests additional funds from the federal government for the construction of new public housing units. Committee members encourage the minister to work together with other interested parties to fund a comprehensive housing needs study.

The standing committee noted that the one of the corporation's priorities in 2007-08 is to prepare a draft Nunavut Housing Strategy. Members also note that the completion of a Housing Strategy has been an element in each of the corporation's recent business plans, and we urge the Minister to share the draft strategy as soon as it has been completed.

Committee members recognize that climate change is having a negative impact on some of the units in the public housing stock. However, members urge the corporation to work together with the Department of Community and Government Services to take advantage of the lengthened shipping season to bring materials into the territory earlier and increase the length of each construction season.

Committee members note that Government of Nunavut employees have now seen their second rental increase since the introduction of the Staff Housing Policy in 2005. Members remain extremely concerned that the government's ability to recruit and retain staff is being negatively impacted by the lack of staff housing in many communities in Nunavut.

The standing committee cautions the government that many of our new facilities, such as the cultural school, trades school and regional health facilities will not be able to function at capacity if the Government of Nunavut cannot offer staff housing.

Members look forward to an update from the minister on the impact of the Staff Housing Policy, especially when they're constructing hospitals, and rent increases on recruitment and retention across the Government of Nunavut, as well as on the number of applications to the Rental Assistance Program that have been received and approved to date and how many have received the Rental Assistance Program.

Members believe that further efforts must be made to communicate the benefits of home ownership to Government of Nunavut staff and to encourage and facilitate the move from staff housing to private accommodation.

Members appreciate the corporation's efforts to ensure the local housing organizations are funded at adequate levels and encourage the corporation to continue monitoring and possibly adjusting the funding formula as demands on local housing organizations change.

Members appreciate the corporation's efforts to assist seniors to stay in their own homes through the introduction of the Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program, and we thank the minister for that.

However, members have heard from elders in various communities, such as the Keewatin, that there are quite a few elders who are living in their own homes who are afraid that they will lose their homes due to rising maintenance and operating costs.

Members are also concerned that the perception exists that elected officials must become involved in each case in order to ensure that elders receive appropriate assistance. The standing committee urges the corporation to better communicate all of the options that elders have if they own their own homes.

Members noted that the minister recently tabled the corporation's 2004-05 annual report and that the 2005-06 annual report is overdue, and it has not been tabled.. The committee understands that the corporation is making efforts to complete the 2005-06 report and emphasizes the importance of meeting the legislated tabling requirements.

That concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed.

Lastly, I would like to thank our staff member, Andrea Witzaney, because she works very hard and diligently and I would like to thank her for that. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Before we proceed I would like to remind everyone that according to Rule 77(1), everyone has ten minutes to speak, and

according to Rule 77(2), at the discretion of the Chair a member may speak more than once but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I also would like to inform the members that when you're going to ask your questions, please be to the point and ask them according to the page that we are reviewing according to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Are there any general comments? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to welcome you, Mr. Minister, and Mr. Scott. I would like to thank the corporation for providing training opportunities during the construction of the units. The hamlets didn't know or they were confused, they believe that it would be better to have one training unit constructed.

I would urge the Housing Corporation to work closely with Nunavut Arctic College during the training program as they proceed so that the municipalities would know. The hamlets don't understand how other communities, like Clyde River, are completing the training programs and how successful they are during the training through the trades program.

I would like to urge the Housing Corporation to provide information and ask questions to the Arctic College to find out how many students are needed in order to bring in instructors.

During the time when I consulted with the hamlets in my constituency, the units that will be built through the Nunavut Housing Trust from the \$200 million, they are set differently with the way the construction will occur. Some units will be used as training for construction and also to improve the housing shortage.

The hamlets in my constituency have a concern that according to the report that was given to the hamlets, if it's going to occur the way they stated, that the Housing Corporation will construct the units, first of all. And secondly, we were told that they could be used as access programs. Is that going to be the case? Thirdly, they said it could be an access program. These units could be bought by Inuit, but we have a concern with the units that have been identified.

We were concerned. Are you going to reduce the number of units that are going to be allocated to a community when you realize you are lacking funds? It looks nice on paper but the costs will increase because as you go further north the cost of living increases. For that reason, we would urge the housing corporation to make sure they construct the number of units they promised to allocate to the hamlets.

We know we have a housing shortage and that the Housing Corporation faces many challenges. The units that are being built, the four-plexes, there are young people starting to move into those different 'plexes'. Sometimes we need single family units. The single family units are deteriorating and aging. Some people don't want to move into the single family units that have been renovated because they know they are very old. The family

members would like to move to a new unit if they didn't qualify or weren't eligible for homeownership.

Another issue that has been brought up by the infrastructure committee chairman is regarding elders' facilities. In previous years, our elders in my constituency, or my riding, have been brought down here to the elders' facility. The Housing Corporation has now started setting up seniors' facilities. We would like to thank them for caring for our elders and their families. They are being looked after by the health department. I would like to thank the Nunavut Housing Corporation for that.

For the homeowners to make improvements within their units, they have to pay for the units themselves, and would like some assistance from the Nunavut Housing Corporation. If their units are incomplete, sometimes they can't reuse the funding. That creates problems. Especially when the units are not completed, even though the funding was made available, it can't be used to complete the unit.

For that reason, that funding that is appropriated, should be used until it is all gone to make sure the unit will be completed, especially when material has to be shipped annually by ships. When it is like that, the homeowners are not very satisfied with the way it is done. That is all I have for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I would like to remind members we are dealing with this Operations and Maintenance budget for 2007-08. My next speaker is Mr. Curley. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you. In his opening remarks, the minister didn't mention government staff, government buildings. Yesterday when Human Resources were at the witnesses table, this was handled by the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Staff housing wasn't mentioned. It states under the mission that Nunavummiut should be able to access clean and safe housing units for the wellness of the community. Even though it states that, people are paying 25 percent of their income for public housing unit, but, government staff are charged by the size.

This is different for those two different types. Inuit usually have more children, so they require bigger units. So, they have to rent a bigger place, and sometimes they pay 40 percent of their income.

Inuit employees who work for the government who are in more menial positions, or the front line workers, because they have so many children and because they require larger units, and their income is not great, they spend a lot more money on their rent.

For that reason, even though we have a constant shortage of housing, and public housing, they move to the public housing units. In some communities there is government staff housing that is empty.

It's because government employees rents are way too high, and once people who are in public housing get a government job, they don't want to move to the government housing units because they know they're going to have to pay a lot more whereas if they stay in public housing, they pay only 25 percent.

They can't be forced to move because they're not doing anything wrong; they have no reason to be evicted. What I'm trying to say is that it is a slow processing procedure, but there are more Inuit getting jobs with the government, because there is an increase.

A lot them who are in public housing don't want to move to government staff housing because of the high rents they would have to pay. For example, for a two bedroom government unit they would pay \$1,300 a month plus the services and electricity.

What I'm expecting some time soon is that the Housing Corporation should start considering setting rents the same way for government and public housing because the government wants the Inuit to work for them. There is enough of a public housing shortage. On top of that there's further shortage because they don't want to move. What I'm asking is that they be treated the same.

The other thing that I would like to mention, in the communities there is not enough space, not just for perishables but for parts for the furnace or electronics. There are no heated warehouses, or units, or storage areas. In Pond Inlet, some of them try to construct a little shed and they store their paint and stuff in their shops because those are dangerous. If the place is too crowded, then it gets dangerous. Those are the things that they will have to consider.

Those are my general comments for now but I will be raising questions later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Are there any more general comments? There are none. (interpretation ends) I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page L-4, 2007-08 Main Estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Departmental Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Grants and Contributions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I would like to ask a question regarding the Housing Corporation because they are responsible for the public housing units and staff housing. Have they reviewed where the rental part is similar to go by percentage of their income? The reason I prefer percentage is because there are unemployed people or the elders so they wouldn't have to be evicted from their units if they can't pay, especially in the smaller communities. It's impossible now to have a place to sleep. Will you do a review to see if the public housing unit tenants and the government staff housing unit tenants are charged similarly?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. One of the reasons they're different is that the public housing units are occupied by tenants, which a lot of them don't have regular income, and the government staff housing with regular income. We have identified under the Nunavut Housing Strategy to include that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I wonder when that will be completed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We want to complete that by this year. Once we got that \$200 million we decided to concentrate on how to spend that \$200 million. Hopefully, this year we will be able to finish the Nunavut Housing Strategy. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I wonder if you can consider a policy, especially for the Inuit who have children because they require bigger units. Maybe in the meantime they can make a policy where a large family, if there's one person working in that family they have to occupy a bigger unit and they have to pay \$1,500 or \$1,600 a month.

Depending on the number of dependents I wonder if the rents can be reduced, especially for clerks, because you don't see too many managers' positions occupied by Inuit in the communities.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. We have looked at this where a family with many dependents can apply for the Rent to Own Assistance Program, even though the unit might be the same rental for the people who use the Rental Assistance Program.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to school staff and the nurses, especially in the decentralized communities, there is absolutely no staff housing available. There might be a few in some of the communities, but it's quite rare. Usually the staff cannot buy their own housing as some of them are employed on a term basis and usually what happens is that they are put together in one house.

During the Government of the Northwest Territories the nurses were given residences that were situated over the health centre. There is a shortage of staff housing for the teachers in the smaller communities.

My question is could you tell us what's happening on that issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We don't have our capital estimates but we're currently working on the housing issue, especially in the smaller communities. We're looking at staff housing for both the nurses and the teachers. I think there are three smaller communities that will get staff housing.

We will have to look into it further in the upcoming years and decide which of the communities will require staff housing for the nurses and for the teachers. We're going to be working on our capital estimates in the fall and we'll be looking at staff housing for some of the decentralized communities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that is the case, would that decrease the number of houses that are going into the communities that are getting staff housing? Would that decrease the number of public housing units that are going into the communities? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There won't be a decrease. We're going to be building 725 units and those are going to be for the public. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The small communities are non-decentralized, and we have a chronic shortage of warehouses, or storage space. We usually use sea cans to store whatever needs storage.

We're in exactly the same situation as Mr. Arvaluk was saying. We have a lot of sea cans that are available. I would like to ask the minister what the warehouse situation is in the smaller communities. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I would like to remind members that we are on Bill 1, *Operations and Maintenance Act, 2007-08*. (interpretation ends) We are under Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): I would then like to ask another question regarding the monies that are given to private homeowners.

Is it possible to order lumber or building supplies with the money that they get through the Material Assistance Program? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to see that the houses are completed properly. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is available to give assistance. We could look into the types of programs that are available. I don't have that information handy at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the information of private homeowners, how much money is available and what kinds of programs are there. Is it possible for the minister to send out that information to the local housing organizations so that the information is available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you. The local housing organizations have been given all the information and it is also available at the Cape Dorset Housing Corporation Office.

You can call them to find out what program you are eligible for and for how much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to direct a question to the minister regarding the opening comments that he made. As we are well aware the operations and maintenance have gone up quite significantly for this year. There is a \$3,633,000 increase from the main estimates of 2006-07.

That's due to the increase of fuel and increased power costs. There is \$1,260,000 that will also be an increase for power. Since it's quite expensive, is it going to increase the rental rates? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize again. In regard to the increased power and fuel costs we are going to be increasing the amount, but there will be no increase in the rental rates.

The government will be paying for the increases of the power and fuel. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, very much. So you will live longer because you are not going to be increasing the rental rates. Again, in the opening comments there is \$336,738 that will be for the staff housing increased costs for power and fuel.

Will that also increase the rental rates for the government employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For 2005, we are going to be using those but for the power and fuel costs the government is going to be bearing those increases, if these estimates should be approved. We are going to be using the 2005 rate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. But if there is going to be an increase on an annual basis, usually there is an increase in their compensation and benefits. If there is an annual increase in the power and fuel would that trigger an increase in the rental rates. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we are not going to be increasing the rates and we do not want to see an increase. We won't be looking at an increase in case there's a decrease in the fuel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, in your opening comments, you are going to be getting additional employees for three years while the Nunavut Housing Strategy is on. Where are those three positions going to be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. There will be two employees in Arviat and two here in Iqaluit. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister, and I would like to thank you also, Mr. Chairman.

There has to be an increase in the staff, but on another issue, we have different types of questions on different issues. Mr. Chairman, I would like to turn to something that is becoming quite old.

Sometimes I get phone calls about the Access and Housing Assistance Program. Those programs have been around for a long time, and there were some people who got Housing Assistance Program housing, and Access housing.

Usually they had no choice as to where they could build their house. Usually those types of houses were built on lots that weren't good. They're saying it would be a lot better if they could select their lots.

As we are hunters, we have hunting equipment for the winter, and there are also four-wheelers, boats, and snowmobiles, and usually our houses are surrounded by hunting equipment.

Is the Housing Corporation looking at setting aside some funds to be used to relocate their houses? Is it going to be possible to do that in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a plan in the hamlets where the houses are to be situated, and I know that houses are being built where ever there is a lot available.

We have to look at the costs as well where if you're located in a certain area, but we can look at the lots in the communities, where they are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Yes, I would like to thank Minister Akesuk and the President of the Housing Corporation. I will have further questions later on when we're discussing the Housing Corporation's budget page by page.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials to the House today. It's a fine Saturday afternoon to work; it's sunny outside.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question. There's a bullet on L-4 that mentions the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and Infrastructure Canada where the Housing Corporation receives funding.

I believe at least one of those programs is sun-setting over a certain period of time. In other words: money will be expiring. I wonder if the minister or his officials can update us on what activities they're engaged in to ensure that we continue to receive adequate

funding to deliver public and social housing in Nunavut after those programs sunset.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my official to answer the question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The two federal departments where we have received money in the past, Infrastructure Canada, it was a two-year agreement that they contributed \$20 million; the Government of Nunavut contributed \$20 million over a two-year period to deliver social housing. That agreement expires at the end of next week, which is March 31.

We are in the process right now of submitting our final claim to get the remaining of the \$200 million from Infrastructure Canada. And we've had ongoing quarterly meetings with Infrastructure Canada to renew that plan and see if we can get more money for social housing through that.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation they contribute to the tune of \$52 million a year to the corporation for maintenance and operations of public housing. Out of that we return essentially \$27 million for debt repayment because most of these public housing units are on a mortgage, or loan basis, with Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

On that Social Housing Agreement money is reducing as those mortgages mature. Part of our forced growth requirements every year as we come forward to the House includes the money that we need to make up for that difference.

In regard to that, the loss of money under the Social Housing Agreement, we are working very closely in particular with the other two territories in lobbying the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation and we lobby the federal government to return those monies back into Social Housing Programs in the north. That's particularly affecting the northern territories; the loss and reduction of that funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Scott. You mentioned that you're lobbying those officials. Who exactly are you lobbying? Are you lobbying the officials in the department? Are you lobbying the federal ministers for help? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I write letters to the minister, or I go down to meet with the federal minister. And also our staff usually meet with the federal housing minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. What kind of information do you provide the federal ministers with respect to making a case and arguing for supporting more funds for social and public housing in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been providing the federal ministers with a Ten-Year Housing Plan that we submitted a couple of years ago, along with the Housing Strategy that we have. So we've been lobbying to get more houses in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I read through that a few times. There was very compelling information and arguments in there. I know we need about close to 4,000 new houses in Nunavut; public and social houses. I don't think it would be good if we got them all at the same time but the fact of the matter is we do need them.

I have one family in Cambridge Bay where there are 15 people living in the house, and six of them are living in one bedroom, an entire family. So that's something that we have to work hard on.

Mr. Chairman, on page L-21 of the business plan under Public Housing, there's a reference to leased units and rent supplements. It's decreased by close to \$300,000 from last year's budget and it refers to 266 leased public housing units throughout the territory.

I wonder if the minister could tell me if he has a list by community and costs for those 266 leased public housing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I answer the last question, we're all ... the Nunavut Housing Strategy that we're working on, the draft one, we're going to make sure that it has more information about Nunavut to make sure that we did recognize the shortages that we have in our territory. So the next Nunavut Housing Strategy will improve and have better information to the federal government to lobby for more units in the future.

On the other question, we don't have that information offhand. We will be happy to give you some information on those units that you were asking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. The numbers we're seeing there is \$7 million to lease 266 public housing units throughout the territory. So that works out a ballpark figure of over \$20,000 per leased unit.

I know your figures given elsewhere; it costs \$20,000 per year to support one public house through our local housing organizations. I wonder Mr. Chairman, if the Housing Corporation is leasing 266 houses, do they also pay the operations and maintenance on those houses annually. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So then you expect to be paying \$40,000 a year for lease costs and operations and maintenance costs, I'm just ball parking to you, is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is in that instance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the answer. Under Administration and Maintenance, there's an increase of approximately \$6.5 million this year. Could the minister clarify why there's such a large increase in that item? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to get clarification if he's still on page L-21. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: That's correct, that's on L-21. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. It's for the local housing associations; that's why the expense is larger.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Under Taxes and Land Leases, I'm curious. How much per lease does the Housing Corporation pay for a typical house in a typical community in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) We don't have anything written as to how much we pay for taxes and land leases but I could provide the member with the information. We don't have that at the present time. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. It's something that's always intrigued me. When I was on the hamlet council many years ago in Cambridge Bay I got a list of all the houses in Cambridge Bay; public, social, and private houses.

It was interesting that the houses that belonged to the Nunavut Housing Corporation were paying \$250 a year for a land lease. A house such as mine for example, I would be paying \$600 a year. I couldn't quite understand why the Government of Nunavut Housing Corporation pays less for a land lease than a private citizen.

I have some residents in Cambridge Bay who are paying \$800 or \$900 annually for a land lease. Why is there a disparity? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you. I will get Mr. Scott to answer this.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main reason for that probably is because a lot of these public housing units are on old land leases, some of them are on commissioner's land, some of them are on sketches as opposed to surveyed lots.

Some of the older leases, the annual rental rates are anywhere from \$100 to \$250. Some of the newer ones, the Hamlets set the rates for the annual lease rates so they could be anywhere from \$500 to \$800 a month. I think they also add a surcharge if you are the mayor of the municipality as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would explain why one of my non-political neighbours was paying \$800 per year. So it's basically because they are one of my supporters?

I understand when we dug into it a little bit that the land leases come up for renewal every five years and the hamlet or land officers are supposed to send a registered letter to the leaseholder to inform them that the lease is coming up due for renewal. If they miss that date then they keep paying the same rate for another five years.

So, to me it's not right that some people in the community had to pay more than a large leaseholder like the Government of Nunavut.

Minister, in late fall of last year, I was in Cambridge Bay where the local housing association established a policy where they could; four strikes and you're out if people complained in letters that you are a bootlegger or a drug dealer. That was kind of curious. It seemed like you didn't have to be convicted, you just had to have people write a letter to tell the local housing organization that you were a bootlegger or a drug dealer and they could evict you.

Did your department review that case at all or get involved at all, or give advice? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The local housing organizations are responsible for that and they dealt with it. But we gave them some advice on this issue, to be very careful on this issue because this request was not coming from our department; it was coming from the local housing organization at the local level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am over on page L-23 of the business plan now, under staff housing. I wonder if the minister could give me an update on how the implementation of the Government of Nunavut's Staff Housing Policy is working. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time we are now reviewing the policy. Last year that was implemented, so we are now reviewing and we are now starting to complete the review process. We have to work closely with the Department of Human Resources of the Government of Nunavut.

So once we get the results we will make a report on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Mr. Minister, I have constituents in Cambridge Bay who have approached me, and some of them have indicated that they are planning to leave the Government of Nunavut because they can't afford the housing; it keeps going up and up.

I was wondering if you have officials collecting information, like exit interviews so that you can assess the impact at the community level that the increased rents are having on your employees of the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, the progress of the staff that our officials were asking questions to the Department of Human Resources, and we're now working on that.

And we do exit interviews with employees and we are now working on those interviews. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I would like to ask the minister, have you considered putting a freeze on that policy until you analyze the results of your meetings with staff and other departments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think once the exit interviews are done by department, and we have information, I think that I can forward something to the Cabinet on how we could deal with this.

I think that is something that we can consider, but then again, myself as Minister for Nunavut Housing Corporation, I can't answer whether we're going to be freezing that or not. Then again, we'll work very closely with other departments on how the exit surveys are doing and what information they're giving us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I look forward to receiving information on your work in that area.

There is a paragraph describing staff housing that mentions that over 90 percent of staff housing stock is in the form of leased units. I wonder, Mr. Chairman, the government is increasing the annual rents on those units and many of them are quite old.

I wonder if the minister could indicate whether the landlords, and/or Government of Nunavut will be making corresponding repairs and upgrades to the houses to. If you're going to jack up the rent, give people good quality housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. As a government, when we lease the units, we receive correspondence on which units require renovations and we need to follow the policy because we wouldn't want to have our staff under safety and health issues.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Many years ago a Government of Nunavut employee told me that the government was only interested in the bottom line and that they don't care whether the leased units are good quality or if they're upgraded.

I wonder if the minister could refute that and tell me today that they'll ensure that the landlords are upgrading their houses to make sure that they're safe and clean. Replace carpets, linoleum, and replace the furnace as the case may need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do that. Like I said, our priority is to make sure that our staff are in healthy apartments or houses that they're renting.

We want to work very closely with the landlords to make sure that proper maintenance is done in each apartment or house that we're leasing for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that commitment. Leases for staff housing and renting is on the same page. It says that 85 percent of the line business portfolio provides about 1,100 rental units. I wonder if the minister could table a list, by community, of the 1,100 rental units in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I get that information tabled today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think all my staff is working today at the office. It's Saturday. We'll try our very best, but I don't think we'll do it today. However, we'll do our very best to table it as soon as possible; not today though. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly hope that we can get that information today. At the bottom of the page there is a priority for 2006-07 that referred to a Lease Hold Attrition Plan being prepared and is in the process of being implemented.

That's for the communities of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay. Could the minister clarify what the Lease Hold Attrition Plan is and how they are implementing it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Scott to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Lease Holding Implementation Attrition Plan is still in draft, but what it does is look at the rates of the renewing leases as they come up for renewal or dropping leases if it appears they are not needed within the portfolio.

Over the next five to ten years of the life of the Staff Housing Policy, in it they also look at the long-term leases, the ones that extend past 2010 and how we will deal with those leases since we will have to continue to provide some staff housing after 2010, particularly in Iqaluit and the emerging market communities.

The overall plan is not complete at this point. It's more of a work in progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Scott for that information. I look forward to an update on that Lease Hold Attrition Plan. In the same bullet there, it says there are RFPs issued for additional supply and results are being incorporated into the plan.

Mr. Scott and the minister will recall last summer they issued a RFP for additional housing in Cambridge Bay. I think they had one proponent, there was some concern in Cambridge Bay that the RFP came out in summer, with people out camping, fishing, and other things, and it's quite busy during the summer.

If the minister is aware, in Cambridge Bay we have a dire need for housing for doctors and nurses; it has come up in the House a few times in this sitting. I wonder if the minister or Mr. Scott can update me on whether they plan to put out another RFP and what their plans are to provide staff housing to the Department of Health to accommodate their need to hire doctors and nurses for the new health facility in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are still negotiating with KC just for the three units that we were talking about. We are open for anybody who wishes to come up with an RFP to our department from that area as we'll need staff housing units in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I think I still have ten minutes, although I don't want to use my ten minutes. I had asked the questions quite a few times yesterday and I'm sure they can respond to that question now, although I asked the question to the same minister. Human Resources, the House Leader, and the Premier couldn't respond to my questions. Perhaps we can discuss that, although I don't want to start using my ten minutes. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I'll add 20 seconds. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): If I remember the questions correctly, I'll try and respond to his questions.

In regard to the units, which employees are eligible for staff housing; I think that was the question. The department that provides the employment opportunity they ask whether their position requires a staff housing unit or not.

So if I understood your question correctly, that's how it is. The successful applicants who are hired with the position that don't require staff housing, they make the staff housing available if the employee is eligible. We provide staff housing if there was one available to the employees.

So if I understood your question correctly, and if my response does not respond to your question, you can rephrase it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley, before he starts using his ten minutes, we'll take a 20-minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 15:03 and resumed at 15:28*

Chairman (interpretation): We will now start. We're on (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation. Department Summary. L-4. 2007-08 Main Estimates. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): We were trying to get information as to which positions are supplied with staff housing, how they determine which positions, and I'm sure I'll be able to get that response later. My question is; it was in my opening comments in regard to the Nunavut Housing Needs Strategy. They're working on it and when can we expect to see that once it's completed? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. There is a working group on the Housing Strategy representing from the government, which positions are supplied with housing and in the following session, I will be able to table the Housing Needs Strategy. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I believe we did reference it in our opening statement about the strategy.

My additional question to that is: does that include that strategy or housing needs, do they include also government housing needs as well? Or is it just public housing needs? Thank you.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're talking about two strategies here, two studies.

One is the Housing Needs Study. The focus of that study would be on the need for public housing units in the territory. The Nunavut Housing Strategy looks at the total housing

situation in Nunavut, and will look at long-term strategies to address those. We will certainly be working on that this year. We expect that we will be able to at least have the Nunavut Housing Strategy for the fall session in November.

A full blown housing needs study survey could take quite a bit longer than that to do, to compile, and to report on. These things sometimes takes up to a year to do so it may be a little longer on the needs study. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Yes, I appreciate that. I think that'll be quite an important document to see in the fall.

I have a further question with respect to the operation and maintenance of public housing. Throughout a number of many years you probably have a pretty good record of exactly the total operation and maintenance requirements of public housing.

During the last two years you have now been given additional, total responsibility, I think, for the maintenance of government staff housing. Do you have an idea in terms of percentage of decimal, 98,754, are used towards the two; public housing and staff housing.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) We are currently working on this and once those houses are completed and the construction of staff housing as to how much more funding we will need. We have an idea but because the operations and maintenance fluctuates. Maybe in the coming years we'll have a better idea of how that funding will be spent so that we can operate and maintain the units in Nunavut.

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

Mr. Curley: Obviously you acquired quite a lot of units. You probably have an idea now how many government staff units are you currently maintaining right now, totally in Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The government staff housing we have 1,150 units that we are maintaining at this time. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. When the government decided the Housing Corporation will now be responsible for the maintenance of these units, how was that actually transmitted

to you? Did it contain some operation and maintenance money, or did they just say maintain them from your current allocation that was originally allocated for public housing? How does that actually work?

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

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Staff Housing Program was transferred back to the Housing Corporation, I think it was about four years ago, there was a budget transfer done at the time.

The Staff Housing Program is roughly a \$34 million expenditure included in with our grants and contributions of \$98,000. That compares with approximately \$86 million for the Public Housing Program, keeping in mind that we also do receive additional funding from Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation for public housing operations and maintenance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So when it was transferred it did contain initially all the maintenance funding. Is that the ongoing contribution towards these, or is it a one time grant, or a one time transfer from overall government expenditures? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will receive that funding in order to maintain the units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there any new money that is needed for government staff housing ... would that be competing from the public housing allocation currently? For instance, out of \$98 million of Government of Nunavut contribution? Because I am not sure that government staff housing would be built with the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporations contributions which you have in your information item, I think out of \$63 million.

So would that be extra money allocated specifically to build staff housing from the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Scott to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we build and add new staff housing into our portfolio, obviously we get the capital dollars through the capital planning process and as part of that process, over and above that process is the operations and maintenance requirements which becomes a forced growth item that we would have put in for through the main estimate exercise here.

It's the same with new leasehold leases for staff housing that is put forward. If it's before the main estimates approval, we put it through to get approval on it and a supplemental appropriation to pay for the leases and our costs, our operating costs as well and then that is built into our base on the next main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister in his opening remarks quoted a figure of \$1,425,000 and I believe in increased power costs and as well as the \$1,260,000 for fuel. That's just a reflection of this one-time; I suppose increases, fuel and electricity. Is that for one fiscal year increases in excess of I believe close to \$3 million already. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These two amounts were the amount of \$2.6 million goes to our base amount. Unless there is a new increase again in the future, or even a decrease. Hopefully we'll see a decrease for a change in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess there are real serious costs that we see annually. But can we get some indication from the minister or the president exactly how much of these figures, both the power bill and fuel costs that would be recovered from the tenants?

Is there a ratio that you apply towards the rent or what not? Thank you...

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) The money that we receive from the rent, we don't put it against those. So there's no increase from that.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I believe that all the tenants, with the exception of the elders, pay a portion of the electricity cost. So my question was, really: is any part of that at all of that extra energy cost allocated by way of any rental increase, or anything, or it's paid for 100 percent by the Housing Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you. Yes, we pay for the increase of the electricity bill. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. That's good for now. The other question is; the tenants do pay for some energy costs; I believe the fuel is probably covered 100 percent by the Housing Association. But what about electricity; what percentage of the electrical bill is passed on to the tenant? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is six cents per kilowatt hour that is charged to the tenant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: That's probably a small percentage of the total bill, and is that right across Nunavut, or does it differ from region to region or community? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's right across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: That's good information to have, thank you, because we thought the homeowners were paying a lot. Now we know a bit about what amount is passed on to the tenant.

I want to ask the minister about the elders' program, housing program, benefit program for maintenance or what not, as well as the opting out of the homeownership for elders. Could the minister explain exactly how the process works because an elder is not able to afford to live in a house? How does that actually work; what must be done for the house to be turned over legally and just to turn the title over to the Housing Corporation, and as well as what condition should the elder be in, in order to qualify for Housing Corporation to take over the unit? Thank you.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we're calling the seniors and disabled options program is a series of steps of counselling the elder or the disabled homeowner and to assist them in transitioning from homeownership, having their own home, back into public housing.

First of all, through discussions with the elder, the disabled individual, the elder must be able to demonstrate that they are in either financial or physical distress that they cannot possibly afford to be a homeowner, or they physically cannot possibly look after the home. And then we will counsel them and walk them through a series of steps where they have different options and must make certain decisions as they go along.

The first option that they can entertain is signing the house over to a relative; son or daughter, somebody in the family that's capable of looking after the unit. The elder then has the choice of either remaining with that family living in the house, or they can be put on top of the waiting list for public housing.

If there is nobody that is in the immediate family or that the elder or disabled homeowner feels comfortable with turning the house over, he has the option of selling the unit if there is a private market in the community, by selling it. Then he can then be placed on the top of the waiting list if he sells the home. The other option is that the corporation can look at buying the house from the elder if we need the unit, say for staff housing, in that community.

The third option available if the first two do not work, or the elder decides that he doesn't want to turn it over, or he doesn't want to sell the house, or can't sell the house, then he can turn it over to the corporation and then we will turn it into a public housing unit and look after the repairs and maintenance.

The elder can then decide if he wants to stay in that house, while we look after it, or he can be put on the top of the waiting list for a more appropriate house for him. So, it's a series and progression of counselling that is done with the homeowner, so that they can decide the option for their future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. So, the first two that I see; to try and transfer the title over to relatives and so on, the family that the elder is comfortable with, and that would mean transferring the legal title as well.

The liabilities and any obligations that the homeowner still has would be honoured by the new owner. Is that the way it would work? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. That would be the case.

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

Mr. Curley: If the relatives are not all that keen on taking over the liabilities or obligations that are still within that mortgage, if any, or with the Housing Corporation, then the second option would be to look for a market as you indicated, providing, I suppose that they have established a market value for that unit, and still the owner would still have that option, if so, then that would be publicized.

Is that sort of what I... try and sell to the local market through means of advertising through the local market? Is that how it works? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that would happen.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. So, assuming then that there would be an agreed upon price of that unit to try and see if there is a market, or a buyer within that community.

So having failed to find a buyer in that community, considering with the amount of properties and the amount of value of the house, would then the last option be that the housing corporation would buy that unit from that individual. Is that the way I understand it?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we would do is they would return it to us, if we needed it for staff housing, or if a person, an elder, or disabled person wants to live in it, we would be the ones maintaining the unit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: But if the senior was quite an adaptive business sort of individual, I bet you he would not just want to give it over to the housing corporation for free. Why should the elder give it to you for free, if there was eventually a buyer that could have sold it but couldn't in view of the many number of factors.

Why is the Housing Corporation not prepared to consider paying a portion of the total price of that house? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Mr. Scott to respond to the question.

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

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would look at the third option of turning the house over to the housing corporation in particular if the second option wasn't available.

If there was no market in the community, for example, then the only other option is to turn it over to the housing corporation. And the way that we look at it, is that once we convert it to a public housing unit, then the elder, or disabled homeowner can remain in that house, and it's going to cost the corporation up to \$20,000 a year to maintain and pay for the utilities and operate that home for the length of time that elder or disabled individual remains an occupant of that house.

In a sense, it's sort of like a reverse mortgage where from the day we take it over, we're returning \$20,000 a year of the equity that the elder had built in the house until the elder no longer lives in the house. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Hopefully the counsellor would actually ensure that the potential person living in that unit fully understands the economic value of that unit. The third option may sound good; you're relieved of all your stress of maintaining responsibility for your mortgage as well as your insurance as well as all your other costs, but in the end, you don't really have a property that has significant value.

What I'm trying to get at is that you make sure that person fully understands because having that asset as a value is really quite important not only to the individual, but to his status with the local banks as well as the others.

So I hope you will communicate what the consequences would be if that were to happen; that he would lose all his asset value if he were to give it back to you, but that he would be relieved from any pressure, the way I understand it.

(interpretation) Would you commit to doing that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we'll do that. Like we said; we'll have a series of counselling with the person who is doing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like ask the minister a question on page L-22 of the business plan, under the priorities for 2008; the Housing Trust Delivery Strategy.

I recall reading in the strategy that there is an initiative to establish Community Development Corporations. I wonder if the minister can expand on that initiative and clarify how they will be set up and how they will be financed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: I'll get Mr. Scott to respond to that.

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

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have suggested as one of the last resort options if the community doesn't have a construction base, there are no construction companies in the community; that one of the options is to establish a Community Development Corporation similar to what now exists in several communities; Chesterfield Inlet, Arctic Bay, Gjoa Haven, comes to mind.

Other than that, that was our total involvement in recommendation to that. After that, it is up to the communities to decide how they want to go about that, working with their Community Economic Development Officer at the hamlet and whatnot.

Developing a business plan for the Development Corporation; that's not something that we would be involved in. It's more the role of the CEDO in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Nunavut has many construction companies and they spend a lot of money getting established: they apply for loans from the bank, and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and have many years of experience behind them, plus experienced staff behind them as well.

I am wondering if the minister could comment on if he is concerned that there'll be any impact on the Nunavut businesses, by the establishment of Community Development Corporations, by the hamlets right across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. In regard to the development corporations we have written a letter telling them that they have the right of first refusal. It would be a benefit to both the government and the development corporations. We'd like to make sure that they are a stabilized company. They are already in the community and we would utilize them during the construction season.

We visited the majority of the communities to find out what resources are available to make sure that we have the companies to build those houses. Thank you.

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

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

Could the minister give us an indication of where all the Community Development Corporations are being established? If he has a list that he could table in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're only aware of three development corporations. Maybe there's more but we only have three that are listed with us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

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

If a business doesn't exist in a community, and they establish a community development corporation, can a contractor from another community joint venture with the community development corporation to build all the houses in that community? How would that arrangement work? Is it possible? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. That is possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page L-23 of the business plan the Housing Corporation is indicating that one of its priorities for 2007 is to tender proposals to conduct a Housing Needs Study in 2007, which will provide a clear picture of the actual needs. Earlier the minister mentioned the Ten-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan.

I wonder if the minister could clarify what the difference would be between the Housing Needs Study in 2007 and the Ten Year Inuit Housing Strategy, which was completed and tabled approximately two years ago. Do you need some additional information that will help in Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. We want to make sure that we have clear numbers and make it a lot more accurate, as we're going pretty fast; like the consensus is that we're going ten percent. That's pretty fast. We have to make sure that we have the accurate numbers so that we make sure that we send the right message to the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister indicate does he have an estimated cost to complete the housing needs study in 2007? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe \$500,000 to \$750,000 to do the study. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. Can the minister or Mr. Scott expand a little bit on exactly how the Housing Corporation is going to undertake the housing needs study and who's going to be consulted and involved across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The majority of the work, on the ground anyway, that would be done during a full blown needs study would be handled at the community level at the local housing organization, whether it's an association or the hamlet. It would involve, in each community, hiring additional staff over and above the current contingents to do a door-to-door survey and to ensure that every household in every community is surveyed as part of it.

One of the concerns, I guess, over the data provided through the aboriginal housing survey that we have been using and the Canada Census is that it's not 100 percent. Every household is not contacted and it's not 100 percent reporting. We want to make sure that we know the condition of every house, and the number of people in every house, and the number of bedrooms in every house.

Not just on the public housing, but the staff housing, private home ownership and non-government staff housing. There is a lot of work that also has to be done up front in developing the survey and hiring a coordinator to be able to coordinate it. And at the end of the survey there is a lot of work involved in doing data entry and analyzing the data that is received and collected at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Scott for that answer. It certainly seems like an imposing project for 2007, I hope that it gathers the information required to make a sound compelling argument again in Ottawa.

It seems like we have to do that on a constant annual basis. I don't understand why some of the Members of Parliament and other officials in Ottawa just don't come up here and take a tour around Nunavut, see some of the housing, some of the 30 year and 40 year old housing and some of the overcrowding.

I don't see why you have to spend \$750,000 on a study when you can get some of the Members of Parliament to use their 65 free flights a year to just make a couple trips to Nunavut. I'm not just talking about coming to Iqaluit; go to some of the smaller communities across Nunavut.

Perhaps the Premier should write a letter to the Prime Minister and invite some of them up here when they are on summer break. It would certainly help our argument.

Another priority for 2007-08 is the Housing Corporation set out to work with local housing organizations to prepare credible waiting lists of un-housed people. When I see the word credible, it suggests to me that the waiting lists at the Housing Corporation that the local housing organizations are working with have some issues with them. I am wondering if the minister could expand on why they had to prepare credible waiting lists. What's wrong with the waiting lists that they already have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure those waiting list numbers will be credible because we were given some money to build more houses because they recognize that it was needed because the families are growing in the communities, and they don't always keep putting their names on the waiting list, even if they need a house.

We have to make sure that the waiting list numbers are accurate and up to date, because in Nunavut, the families are growing in number more so than the rest of Canada. I think it's very important that the federal housing department recognizes that there is a need up here because there is not enough housing up here in Nunavut communities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I know people in my riding that after two or three years on a waiting list who have stopped applying.

I've heard of other people who have been on waiting lists for ten years. They keep applying. I compliment them for their patience and their persistence, but when you're on a list for three to ten years, it is certainly depressing. It would be to me anyway.

I think this probably would be good information to you help you lobby in Ottawa. Again, maybe when those MPs can take some time of this summer and come up, maybe they can talk to some of the people. You can give them the waiting list and they can talk to some of those people and see what it is like to be on a waiting list that long for a house for your family; you don't have to live in one bedroom in a three-bedroom house with your wife and four children. That is something that they should witness first hand by talking to people.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to get back onto staff housing, in the business plan on page L-23.

Earlier I mentioned whether the minister was contemplating freezing the policy while they analyze and review the hardships that it has imposed on many of our Government of Nunavut employees across Nunavut.

I talked about repairs and maintenance to the facilities and increases to the rent. But one thing that I've thought about over the last several months, when the Government of Nunavut, through the Housing Corporation, increases the rent or charges rent to those houses there are obviously revenues.

When the revenues come in where do those revenues go? Why don't they go back into the Housing Corporation? Looking at the main estimates and the business plan, we can't see where the revenues come in and what they're used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the first one about the MPs, I've written letters to them to invite them to talk about the housing situation in our territory and hopefully we'll meet with them in the fall depending on the election I guess.

Also, on the money that goes to the government, it goes to the general revenue that we collect from staff housing units. Thank you.

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

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

I certainly hope that some of the Members of Parliament do accept the invitation to come up here this year. Could the minister clarify for me, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is a Crown Agency, why would the revenues go the Government of Nunavut, into the Consolidated Revenue Fund and not directly back to the Nunavut Housing Corporation where they could maybe use the revenues to fix houses and maybe build other houses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's just for clarity, too, for the members. It's not just the rental revenues; it's also the surcharge for fuel, and in some cases, electricity and furniture. Anything that's deducted from the employee as part of paying for the rent surcharges, all of that goes into general revenue.

What we're showing in our main estimates is our requirement to run the expenditures side: pay the leases, pay our staff housing agents, and pay the utilities involved in staff housing. The revenue side of staff housing will be part of the Department of Finance's main estimates.

Why it's done that way is probably because it's always been done that way. It's from whenever I can recollect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's an interesting answer because I know Mr. Scott has been around a long time in Nunavut.

I was looking at the Qulliq Energy Corporation Annual Report for March 31, 2006. They have a statement of income. It's a five-year summary, you know, revenues, expenses, losses, and other sorts of things, and they have a net income at the bottom. The Qulliq Energy Corporation is a crown agency.

I'm wondering why the Housing Corporation hasn't taken that step and gone in that direction, just separate totally from the Government of Nunavut and have your own independent accounting division, all the revenues come in and all the expenses go out; instead of collecting revenues, and then it goes to the general revenues, the consolidated revenue fund and then the government accounts has to separate all that and then Housing has to come back and ask us for annual funding.

I wonder if something like that makes sense for you. Is it something that your crown agency should be exploring? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've been continually discussing this issue with the Department of Finance on how we can deal with this issue in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate if he had discussions with his colleagues at the Cabinet level with respect to proceeding in this direction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We've never discussed this with the Financial Management Board, but our officials, if they were to table clear information, then we can start the discussion with the Financial Management Board. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Perhaps, for clarity purposes, the minister could clarify the last answer - if they were to table information, then they could proceed in that direction.

I didn't understand what he was referring to, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Just to clarify, if there was a document that clearly stated, or if we were to come up with an options paper, then I would be able to give it to the Financial Management Board. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question. It's evident that the local housing organizations are running by themselves and they are the association and they are their own entity. They have to do the maintenance of the units but it's very difficult to translate that to Inuktitut...the maintenance of the units because the tenants, I believe have to be informed how they should be maintaining their units because there are a lot of units that require renovations because there is a lot of damage done to the houses by the tenants.

I was wondering if Nunavut Housing Corporation with the assistance of the local housing organizations if you can come up with a program to inform the tenants to make sure that we reduce the damage done by the tenants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The local housing organizations, we do want to work closely with them to improve the maintenance work done on the units. This is a very important in order to provide adequate housing to the public.

We do want to work closely with the local housing organizations to make sure we improve this and I know that the local housing organizations are working to the best of their ability to manage their housing units. So we will want to work carefully on this for the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is valid enough to say that they need help. This government has to establish some sort of a prevention program to the buildings. Knowing that in a lot of the communities in Nunavut, I think the occupants of the houses are not careful enough to keep these houses in a good maintenance condition.

Knowing that, there have been a lot of complaints from the individuals in the community who are being put into ... cornered or something like that for a very small item that they have accidentally ... causing maintenance people to come over to fix. There is a big thing going on and except for those people who are abusively breaking up odds and ends in the housing units.

I would direct a few questions to the minister, is there any prevention program on using too much energy, too much maintenance? Any kind of program that you have, you are planning, or proposing to housing associations in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we all know the local housing organizations or associations have their tenant relations officer that are working for the public units and I think it's important that we work very closely with the local organization to make sure that we have proper maintenance programs.

Again, it is important that for this year, for the next three or four years of building these 725 units would prevent to have more vandalism or less vandalism in the units and have more maintainers that will make sure that the units are properly working for our people that are living in the units.

So, again, we are doing our very best to make sure we have good communications with the local organizations so that we could prevent these kind of incidents or kinds of vandalism that are happening in our units that we are leasing to tenants, renting to the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alagalak.

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

The local housing organizations, I believe, require assistance, even though they have a housing association board of directors. But they select people from the waiting list to get into the units. I believe that the local housing organization have authority to hire and to establish subcommittees outside of the local housing organization board to do preventative work, and also to make sure that they don't use too much fuel.

I know that it's evident that sometimes some units have their lights on all night long and their windows are open all night long in the middle of winter and it becomes very expensive to operate a unit. If there was preventative work done on a program it would be less expensive. I believe that this is an urgent case.

I was wondering if you can look into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes. Minister Picco has stated too that we'd like to see the ban of incandescent light bulbs. So we're working towards that. And also the Energy Secretariat, which I believe is under the Premier's portfolio. We continually work with them about the efficient use of energy. We want to build units, or construct units to that are fuel efficient units.

During our meeting in Ottawa we were recognized for the fact that we work very hard to make sure that we don't overuse our energy and use cost effective, energy efficient things. Although I know there is still room for improvement in the future and we will continue to work towards that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I go on with my question I just want to say hi to a friend of mine that's watching right now; Marilyn. I say hi to her.

I just want to follow-up on Mr. Peterson's questions. He tweaked my interest, and something that I never realized, that has to deal with the revenues from staff housing.

I went into the Summary of Revenues in the main estimates and there is a little over \$15 million in the budget of rental recovery from staff housing. I would assume that is the income that the government makes from rent from their units.

Is the Housing Corporation the only Crown Agency, or corporation that doesn't have control over the revenue side of their program? I'll just start off with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not aware of how all the departments operate, but I don't think that Economic Development and Transportation retains the revenues from licenses and the same with Environment when selling a fishing and hunting license.

I think that all of that goes into general revenues. But, as far as other crowns and agencies, I know that the Qulliq Energy Corporation collects their own revenues from their staff housing, and they certainly keep the revenues from the sale of their electricity and whatnot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we've heard from a lot members here, and I've been hearing it ever since we first started in 1999 that there never seems to be enough money for houses.

We've heard all kinds of concerns raised over the conditions of public housing units and the condition of staff housing units, and it's always that we don't have enough money to address all those issues.

If the idea of Housing Corporation retaining all the revenues from staff housing would that help alleviate some of the problems? Would that give you able to give you a little more flexibility to deal with some of those issues say like a lack of staff housing, or maintaining the units that are, sometimes because of a lack of funding, aren't able to be maintained as often as possible? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Mr. Scott to respond to that.

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

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What it would allow the corporation to do I guess is to manage the entire program, the expenditure and the revenue side of it which I guess makes sense.

It would also allow additional flexibility to be able to work within the funding that is provided to pay for staff housing, to actually manage the program possibly more efficiently. Those are the general discussions that we've been having with the Department of Finance on this particular item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, you have been having those discussions with the Department of Finance. The minister mentioned earlier the idea of an options paper looking at that.

I'm just wondering if the minister would commit to, if this spring is possible, or the fall, looking at as soon as possible coming forward with an options paper on that, to the standing committee, the members, or Cabinet colleagues to have a look at to see if that is something that would give the housing corporation the ability to enhance the delivery of its programs and services throughout the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, it's something that we're working closely on with the Department of Finance. Myself, as the minister of the corporation can't commit whether it would be doable in May or in the fall, but we're doing our very best to come up with ideas of how we could proceed with this.

I think that we would really have to work closely with the Department of Finance to come up with an options paper. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then if minister could commit, once they've come up with one, if they're working on it, or commit to actually come up with one, once the different options of it all have been weighed with the Department of Finance and that, would he be willing to share that with all the members? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you. If directed by my colleagues from Cabinet or the Financial Management Board, I would be happy to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that your Cabinet colleagues of this very open, transparent, and accountable government would be more than happy to give you the okay to share that with us and I look very much forward to that when the time comes. So I encourage the minister to pass on those comments from *Hansard* to his Cabinet colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, my Cabinet colleagues, my Financial Management Board colleagues, have done their very best to make sure that we're working closely to make sure we let Nunavut know what we're trying to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) We're on L-4. (interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation. Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Yes, I have a few more points here that I wanted to cover. One has to do with what I had indicated in my opening comments as the Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee.

The 2005-06 annual report has not been tabled as yet as required by the law. Can the minister indicate to this committee exactly when you expect to table the annual report of 2005-06? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're trying for the May/June session, so we're trying to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Yes, hopefully we'll see that annual report. Also, what I alluded to in the opening comments was the impact of the Staff Housing Policy and the rental increases that, I believe, have occurred twice now since the Housing Corporation took over the government staff housing.

We actually hear in some communities and see the negative impact where many of the workers are now transferring back to and applying for public housing because they see that, as alluded to by some of my colleagues here on this side, that many people cannot afford it. Do you share that impact that's happening in the communities? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Mr. Scott to respond.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two points, I guess. Number one is that the Rental Assistance Program is in place and is there to ensure that the staff housing rents are affordable for our government employees using the staff housing.

What the Rental Assistance Program does is if your income is below \$90,000 then it will reduce your base staff housing rent to 20 percent of your income, which is more than affordable because the national standard is 30 percent for affordable housing.

That's the intent of that program: to ensure that the increase in the rental rates in staff housing does not put hardship on any of our tenants.

If the members are interested, then we do have information and statistics on the rental increases over the last two years, and the total amount of increase by community, average increase in the community.

For example, in Pond Inlet over the last two years of increases, the rent has gone up an average of \$205 over the two year period. We can provide that kind of information; I'm not sure what the average is but it varies anywhere between \$131 to \$300 a month over a two-year period.

Yes, the rents have increased but the position is that it hasn't increased to the point where it is putting a lot of our tenants into hardship. If it does put them into hardship, we have the rental assistance program that should kick in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That information is quite important and I appreciate your response. The second part of my question is; we see the pressure developing with the public housing in some communities as a result of this and I don't know what can be done about it. But one thing that we look to is...currently, do you have any surplus housing now as a result of the increased prices or are you still short of staff housing in most regions and some communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government staff housing in Nunavut, we still have a shortage, but as Mr. Arvaluk said earlier some units are empty due to the positions that are not filled. Only if all the positions were filled would we be short of staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there any surplus housing in some communities? We know there are vacancies within government. For example, there

are over 300 vacancies; in Rankin Inlet close to 80 but they are not all funded. Are there some units that are not occupied? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Scott to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are vacant staff housing units in the regional centres, the three centres and in most of the larger decentralized communities. There are also more vacant jobs than there are vacant housing units in all of those communities. For example, in Rankin Inlet, this is information that we received a few days ago, there are 22 vacant units with 22 active competitions that come with housing that are out for advertisement right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that answer. My next question is: do we also provide housing to those who qualify; government housing for Cabinet Ministers? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To Mr. Scott.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We prefer reputable tenants in our houses so we don't provide them to cabinet ministers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because the information that we get is that the Housing Corporation is now responsible for all government housing staff. Do the Cabinet Ministers who do qualify, are they responsible for their own housing, do they get any subsidies for rent or housing as part of the package, any idea since that question would have been referred to the Housing Minister anyway, so I'm asking that question. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not our responsibility to respond to ministerial benefits. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs would be the one who

would handle those kinds of questions as we are the ones that handle government employees. We're not government employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: You can also volunteer to release any information that you may have. Thank you.

>>*Laughter*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you. I'll leave it to the Minister for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. We're on page L-4. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Department Summary.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Yes, it is department summary.

>>*Laughter*

Chairman: Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$98,754,000. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are you agreed Nunavut Housing Corporation is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Scott. Minister, do you have any closing comments? Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the members for raising some very important issues to us, and I would like to thank Mr. Scott for appearing with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Just to remind you, we all agreed to meet until 6:00. We will be here until 6:00 if there is no motion before that.

(interpretation ends) I would now like to ask Minister Okalik of the Department of Justice to make his opening remarks. Minister Okalik.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present to the Committee of the Whole the proposed Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Department of Justice for fiscal 2007-08.

The Department of Justice has been allocated a total operating budget of \$50,072,000, which represents an increase of \$704,000 or just over a one percent increase over last year's budget.

The increase will provide the department with funds to hire five Akitsiraq Law School graduates into lawyer positions to provide greater support to the department and legal aid services.

An additional \$54,000 has been reallocated to Justice from the Department of Community and Government Services, to run the recycling program for government offices in Iqaluit. Staff and residents of our *Isumassungittukkuvik* collect recycling from the various offices and workplaces weekly.

I thank you for your strong support of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, especially during the fall Session. The Department of Justice is developing a framework for the implementation of this legislation that will help to combat family abuse of all kinds.

Since November, Justice has led consultations held with other Government of Nunavut departments, non-governmental organizations, community groups, and the RCMP to collaborate on the implementation of the law.

We have also been working on the development of a training manual. This manual will reflect the unique needs of our communities in Nunavut. We hope to have the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* come into force in December 2007, but this will require some additional resources.

We will have a proposal for funding for this important initiative ready for your consideration as a Supplementary Bill during the spring session.

In November 2005, a three year collective agreement for the RCMP was negotiated at the national level. I expect that, in addition to an increase of \$381,000 required for this year, the Department of Justice may need to request an increase to the RCMP contract within the 2007-08 fiscal year so that these additional costs will not cause any reduction in services.

The department continues to strive to have the delivery of all of its programs and services be guided by Inuit societal values. In order to accomplish this, we have put considerable focus on having services delivered by Inuit. I am happy to report that over the past year

the department has been able to increase Inuit employment to 47 percent, somewhat higher than the goal we had set for this fiscal year.

We will continue efforts to recruit and retain more Inuit by customizing our hiring practices, providing opportunities for personal development, and fostering workplaces that are attractive to Inuit. I hope to be able to report to you next year that the majority of our employees are Inuit, as you will see in our business plan that we have plans to obtain 51 percent Inuit employment by March 2008.

I would be pleased to answer questions from committee members. I am sure you have a lot of questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Would you like to have your officials to go up with you at the witness table?

Hon. Paul Okalik: Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree that the officials go up to the witness table. Sergeant-at-Arms if you would escort the officials, please.

Welcome Mr. Minister. For the record, please introduce your staff.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure you all know my Deputy Markus Weber, and on my left is our Comptroller Ted Dingle.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to have the minister make an appearance in the Committee of the Whole and I am sure that there will be a lot of questions.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased to deliver the committee's opening remarks as we begin consideration of the 2007-08 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Justice. Later on, members will have an opportunity to make comments and ask questions regarding these estimates.

The Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* has had the opportunity to meet with the minister and his officials. The minister was able to provide an update on his department's proposed expenditures for the coming fiscal year.

Members noted that the department has hired five of the graduates from the Akitsiraq Law School program into positions in the department. It is exciting to see these students put into practice the efforts of their hard work, and we wish them all the best.

The standing committee worked well with the minister in ensuring that the new *Family Abuse Intervention Act* was passed during the last session. Members were concerned however, that Justice of the Peace Officers will need to be adequately trained in order to carry out their important responsibilities under the Act.

Members were pleased to note that the department plans to provide such training as part of its overall implementation plan for the Act. The committee looks forward to being updated on progress in implementing the Act.

The committee has noted that the department has recently undertaken public consultations on the effectiveness of Nunavut's *Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act*, and looks forward to possible improvements to the legislation.

The department's business plan indicates that it continues to work on establishing a stand-alone probation service for Nunavut. This has been a concern for some time now, especially in communities where probation services are provided by the social workers, who are often already overburdened. There are still 16 communities where the social workers provide this service. While recognizing that resources are limited, the committee encourages the Departments of Justice and Health and Social Services to work together in addressing this issue.

Members were pleased to learn that the department is making efforts to increase Inuit employment within its department. During the minister's appearance, the committee was informed that of the approximately 66 positions at the Baffin Correctional Centre, a relatively small number of the positions are held by Inuit. This must improve.

The committee noted the minister's commitment to achieve a 51 percent Inuit employment target in the near future.

The committee would support efforts on the part of the department to work with such organizations as Nunavut Arctic College to provide pre-employment training programs for the residents of the Kivalliq in anticipation of the opening of the new regional correctional facility. The committee also supports the development of culturally-relevant rehabilitation programs that will help to address the high rate at which our offenders re-offend.

Members recognize and appreciate the important work performed by Community Justice Committees. The committee notes that the department's business plan indicates both Kimmirut and Clyde River are currently without active Community Justice Committees. Members encourage efforts on the part of the department to ensure that all communities have active justice committees.

Mr. Chairman, members were pleased that the minister recently tabled in the House the Policing in the Territories Report and the Policing in Nunavut Report.

Members continue to be concerned with the after-hours automated telephone services in the communities. As the Policing in Nunavut Report states on this issue, "There is a significant level of frustration in the communities with the central dispatch system based in Iqaluit. Residents find the process too time-consuming and impersonal." Auxiliaries were suggested by community members as an alternative for handling after-hours calls in the detachments.

The standing committee and other members recently took the opportunity to visit the Iqaluit RCMP detachment. Although, there was no actual demonstration of the call system, members were pleased to raise issues and to ask questions to the RCMP.

Members are pleased to see initiatives such as spousal abuse prevention programs continue to be offered in more communities. Members continue to support efforts on the part of the department to develop programs that will help resolve family disputes in a culturally sensitive way. Members urge the minister to continue to seek additional funding for these programs.

Members were pleased to see the first annual report of Nunavut's Human Rights Tribunal tabled in the House during the last session. Members look forward to seeing the second annual report tabled in the House later this year.

The minister indicated in November of 2005 a three year policing service agreement for the RCMP was negotiated at the national level. In addition to an increase of \$381,000 required in the current year, the department may need to request an increase to the RCMP contract within the 2007-08 fiscal year.

Members expect to be kept fully informed on this issue. Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will raise their own comments and concerns on the department's 2007-08 main estimates and business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. 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 whenever possible, ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have general comments? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome you Mr. Minister and your officials. When I was visiting the communities in my riding and when I had meetings with the hamlet councils, some of the issues that were brought up to me included these.

In regard to the appointments of the committees, the hamlets, when there is an appointment required, the hamlet councils would like to be notified first-hand before any appointments are made. When an appointment is made without notifying the hamlet council it creates friction between the appointee and the hamlet council and it is not right not to inform the hamlet councils first of all before making an appointment. And as our Chairman stated, and we do know that the RCMP need to take a break now and then, but we do have frustrations with the central system, or the central dispatch system being based in Iqaluit.

I know that the RCMP members do have their phone with them when they are on call, but when there is no Inuktitut speaking member, it's not right, I would prefer to suggest that, why as we are Canadians and the RCMP are under the federal system, especially in the smaller non-decentralized communities, why is it that there are no Inuktitut speaking individuals answering the phone?

We would think that there would be an Inuktitut speaking person answering the phones, and I'll be asking more questions later.

The elders get very discouraged, and they get scared when there is no answer and they have no place to go and or nowhere to turn to. I even got phone calls several times at my home to make a telephone call to the RCMP.

So, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we should not be asked to do those duties. I wanted to voice my concerns to the Department of Justice about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I have no more names on my list for general comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to talk about this too, but my colleague already voiced my concerns, but I'll talk about something else.

On the third page of the minister's opening remarks, I would like to say something. (interpretation ends) "The department continues to strive to have the delivery of all of its programs and service be guided by Inuit societal values."

This is a very good statement. I hope it's not just mouthpiece information. Because we know in our own community that outpost camp programs for young offenders is very, very helpful for both the young people and adults.

They are able to get together without any hindrance or interference from the rest of society. That has to be very helpful. Another comment; I would like to congratulate the minister. In this middle of this paragraph here is say that: "...we will continue efforts to recruit and retain more Inuit by customizing our hiring practices." I've got to clap on that one.

>> *Applause*

I was asking social service staff during her presentation that isn't there any way you can find a way to customize the social service workers so that Inuit who are unilingual, who know Inuit societal values, etcetera, etcetera, can be hired and be useful for the community.

I think this is a very good step for the *Inulirijiit*, whether it's in justice, social services, or correctional services, any kind of *Inulirijiit* can benefit from customizing hiring practices.

I think this is the key that should be adopted by the Department of Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. General Comments. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Welcome Minister. What we're about to say is not just for your department but for the government as a whole.

I feel that the government could do a little bit better. I would also like to thank the Minister and the Deputy Minister for coming to my community to talk about the facility that is going to be opened. (interpretation ends)

That's a good sign. That is a good way to introduce the government minister as well as his team into the community consultation process. That was very much appreciated.

My opening statements will share similar points that were raised by the Member for High Arctic. I have now concluded in my life that there are regular hours for enforcing law enforcement in communities. It generally is eight to five.

That really is very much of a concern to many of our constituencies and I have said to the Superintendent of the "G" Division that I think those people that are interested in smuggling alcohol and drugs know exactly when to do business with that trade - after hours.

They have figured out the trade routes of drug smuggling and everything else and there is really no strategy in my mind. I will be asking the minister again because I believe the strategy should be an overall government strategy for dealing with substance abuse, as well as the drug trade, illicit drug and alcohol trade, and as well as in finding ways for the community to be involved.

It's not just the law enforcement completely per se. I think the RCMP; the law enforcement officials are doing really quite a good job at apprehending some of those that are more ... individuals that are causing trouble in communities.

I think we need a much broader strategy so that it's not just in the hands of the RCMP, that the officials as well in the Justice Department establish programs and whatnot so that

communities, in particular our elders as well, can learn from the street because many of our elderly people are not aware of exactly what impact the use of drugs cause with our young people.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I wanted to say that the RCMP station is closed at night and we see a lot of criminal activity in the middle of the night, especially. Last week there was an elder who went to get his son, and I realized what a hardship he went through because he phoned the RCMP and he was trying to phone the RCMP at five in the morning. So he went over to get his son himself.

There was a lot of blood in this shed that he went to and somehow he happened to get into a shack or a storage place and happened to find his son full of blood. The hospital was closed, so he took him home but almost didn't want to take him home.

Those kinds of concerns are very serious. I could say I think we could improve those services. If it can't be the responsibility of the RCMP, I think there should be a person in the community that's answering those telephones.

(interpretation ends) It's not just a technical thing anymore. We need to do more than just complying with the technical job interpretation requirements. Sure, these are complex issues but are they impossible to improve?

Some individuals in the government will take it personal - this is not a personal issue. These are actually the kinds of things that are happening, and they have no venue to express their feelings. So I saw the victim that was brutally beaten. You wouldn't recognize the individual if you were to see him but he recovered since then. That's one example I'm using.

So I would like to see some community initiative. I know that the superintendent said he has a group of priorities that are passed down to him from the government but I also believe that the Justice Department has certain roles to establish programs and education.

The other area that I am really quite concerned with, many of our community constituents are complaining about the lack of relationship with the community based lawyers or the legal services board appointed lawyers.

Really, there is no pre-consultation. In many places, smaller communities, the lawyers come in at the same time the court party is happening, even in places like Rankin where there is supposedly a lawyer based in the community. One person went in for his case, and he said when he walked inside, his case was already dealt with. What happened? He lost his property, he lost his house.

I really truly believe that Legal Services Board should be instructed that they not allow those kinds of things, because who foots the bill on those things? Who pays for that service? I think Nunavummiut pay for that service and it's not acceptable. I believe the Minister of Justice is fully able to write a friendly letter to the Legal Services Board to

make sure there is a client and professional relationship properly established for all cases. If the relationship is not established, they do not proceed with the court case because a judge probably normally assumes that all the work required has been done.

I am just raising these two main points because I think we need to get the mentality that there is an only eight to five kind of an office for the RCMP in the communities and we need to tighten up in the communities. When the incidents happen, our people should have an opportunity to call a number, which in spite of what has been promised by the RCMP that there is a triggering mechanism for the local telephone to proceed, it doesn't always work. Even in a place like Rankin, that happened about three weeks ago.

I just wanted to raise these two areas and I am sure the minister will find a way to correct those kinds of things that are not working as they should. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. I have no more names on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to page-by-page review of the main estimates starting on page E-5, 2007-08 Main Estimates. Justice. Branch Summary. Directorate. This page also includes Page E-6. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if I can ask the minister, I know it's going to be in the enforcement, but under the policy of the Department of Justice, if they can have another long term strategy. The Territorial Policing Agreement is the priority. I just want to find out how they deal with people who deal drugs? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with the RCMP and we also want to encourage more Inuit to take police training. I know that the RCMP work very well here in the north because a lot of the good work does not get heard, only the bad news gets heard in the communities when it's regarding the RCMP.

They try to tell you about more bad news but there is some good work that goes along with it too, and we would like to be able to protect the communities from criminal activities and for them to report to us, to work with the government, and the RCMP.

We were told that there should be something forthcoming.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I agree with the minister but we only have ten minutes to ask questions.

There are a lot of things that could be done better in your department. If it's not running properly, you have to be able to fix it because Nunavut people pay taxes too. I think the services to the communities should be improved, especially for the elders.

If I can talk about the drug trade because I read an article in the newspaper that said in Quebec alone last year, I think it was about \$20 million worth of activity in drug trade, because the drug traders are making a huge amount of money. There should be more done about it because some elders, such as our parents and our elders do not understand the impact of drugs to children in the communities. I think you should have more help.

If it's just the responsibility of the RCMP, we only feel criminal activity should be reported to the RCMP, but this is not the case. There should be more information. Even though the public has knowledge about people doing criminal activity, they don't seem to report anybody.

I would like to urge the minister to try to stop the drug trade in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we deal with this issue on a daily basis, and sometimes we don't see the investigations being done.

But sometimes they need assistance in order to work on this properly and that the community residents inform the RCMP officers as to what is happening in the community level and what kinds of activities are occurring in the community.

But, this year, we will be working very closely with the RCMP with regards to the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, so if we focus on one issue to eradicate it, that's the only way, as I have been working with the government for quite some time.

If you have a good objective, you can reduce the amount of assaults. I know that if we change our focus, we're not going to reach our goal right away, so for that reason, for this upcoming fiscal year, we want to focus mainly on the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, these are all very important issues. For example, according to my understanding, I believe that they need to understand this more, and the RCMP officers should work closely with the public out there and to work closely with the people and have a good relationship with them.

Mr. Arvaluk stated that if we start using Inuit societal values there will be less violence in the communities. Since we have that Act that prevails and these are corrective measures and they have to go through the courts.

I believe that the drug trade is one of our priorities. I don't know what level of the priority it is. If it's not the first priority but because it deters the youths and also it increases the violent activities.

Bootlegging of liquor, is that part of the Premier's priorities? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Members of the Legislature we passed legislation to eradicate family abuse. This year we will be implementing the *Family Abuse Prevention Act*. That's our priority because it's shameful that we have the highest rates of assaults. That's why we worked hard this year. We will continually work with the criminal activities to make sure that they're caught. But using Inuit societal values to try and eradicate the criminal activities but if we change our focus we're not going to move as fast. So we will work harder this year to focus on that.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I don't believe it's going to change the work of the department because it's not changing the communities' enforcement of justice. So we need to stop the drug trade because it is the leading factor of young people's suicide.

If it's not the minister's priority where is it in his priorities?

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He asked us to identify our priority; our priority is to eradicate family violence.

The RCMP officers are not going to stop working against the drug trade because we, at the Legislative Assembly, agreed to work and focus on family abuse intervention with the assistance of all the departments, and by working with all the departments such as Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, and the Department of Health and Social Services.

We'll work closely with the departments and the officials to implement the Act, and to make sure that the implementation of the Act is fulfilled so we can eradicate it by focusing on it diligently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): My next question is in regard to the Legal Services Board. I am sure that we'll be able to see their annual report or if they can table their annual report. I believe that they spend large sums of money: the Legal Services Board almost \$5 million. How can the Board give advice because the legal counsel is provided through this line item to the communities?

Can the minister update us, prior to the court party coming into your community if someone had called the Legal Services Board to make sure that they are well prepared ahead of time before the court party arrives to the communities? Could that be done?

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. The way it is set up now, prior to the individual's court date, perhaps about two days prior to the court date before the court circuit travels, the legal counsels travel to the communities first and meet with the clients. So that's how the system is set. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): If the system is working, or if that's being used now, there was an individual who had never even seen a lawyer or counsel and he went to the courthouse and the judge had already decided. So I was wondering why this individual ... maybe this was an isolated incident and I'm sure we'll look into that.

In regard to the Human Rights Tribunal, one of the issues that I mentioned, we felt that there was a human rights issue. I was wondering how the minister can respond to the individuals who had made a complaint. Where should they be making their human rights complaints, or who should they be writing their letters to? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, they have an office in Coral Harbour and they have a 1-800 number. We don't have that toll-free number right now but I will table that toll-free number to the members and to the public out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I have no more names on my list for general questions. (interpretation ends) We're on page E-5. Justice. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$8,652,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) E-7. Justice. Branch Summary. Law Enforcement. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are people who call us because they confused about making a phone call in regard to the dog that was introduced to Nunavut to help with the illicit selling and bootlegging.

As I watched the dog in the airport in Rankin Inlet when he was at work, this dog had caught many people and there were lots of people happy to see that occurring. We hear that we need more police dogs

So how can the Premier provide us support because we need additional police dogs, whether the police dog gets offspring or not. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the RCMP are working, or making a proposal to the federal government and they are now working towards that because this police dog has been very beneficial because they train the dogs and the trainers are trained both at the same time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us ... I think it was two years ago that we posed questions to the fact that it's very expensive to have a dog and I think it costs about \$15,000. Due to the lack of resources, we were unable to get a second dog.

With it being so expensive, if they cannot afford to purchase a dog, could the Government of Nunavut help them? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, the RCMP has been requesting additional support from the federal government and we are in support of their request. I know that they will have to work on this issue in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you Mr. Premier.

I know that they're working very hard to get an additional dog. Have you found out when we can expect receive an additional dog. Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time we don't know when it will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): We're on E-7. (interpretation ends) Law Enforcement. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$21,287,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page E-8. Justice Branch. Lawyer Support Services. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you. I have another question under this with regard to lawyers.

Those students that were in Akitsiraq Law School, you mentioned in your opening remarks that you will employ Akitsiraq Law School graduates. Under the main estimates, where will they be stationed? Where will their office be Mr. Chairman?

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They will be in Iqaluit. Two of them will be working for the Legal Services Board, and three of them will be in my office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very nice to hear, even though I didn't hear where those two will be. The lawyers for court circuits: will they be part of that team? Will they be lawyers for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, two of them will be at the Legal Services Board to assist people, and they will be lawyers, one for family matters, and one for criminal matters, and they will also travel to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear properly, but you said three of them will be in your office, but the other two; they will have offices here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, they will have an office here, but if they're going to defend people who have to appear in court, they will be travelling to the communities, and I was just told that three will be in prosecution.

So they may have to work against each other, even though they are Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you Premier. I can already see how that will be, but I wonder if they will be able to travel to the communities way ahead of the court time.

Today those people that will be in prosecution, even if they get stuck, it won't matter. In some communities the court date is set and those people who have to appear in court, will they have more communication that if they request a lawyer ahead of when the court is scheduled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we use now is they go to the community one or two days ahead of the scheduled court date. They do go to the communities to talk with clients for those clients who have to appear before the court, and for witnesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) We are still on Page E-8. (interpretation) I went back. (interpretation ends) Justice. Branch Summary. Lawyer Support Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials to the Committee of the Whole. On Page E-17 of the business plan, under priorities for 2007, there is a bullet there 'to expand the division's capacity to respond to complex and costly litigation against the government'.

I wonder if the minister could expand a little bit on that on that. What does the statement mean? What kinds of lawsuits are you receiving? Are they from government employees or from companies? Who would be suing the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Traditionally we have only had about one or two counsels dedicated for this position, but with case loads we are trying to increase our capacity. A lot of times we end up contracting out some defence so we are trying to build up some capacity with the Akitsiraq Law Students. We want to increase the capacity of that so we could respond to it internally with our own employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I wonder if the minister could give us an idea of how many lawsuits the Government of Nunavut is currently dealing with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In various ways, I think it is close to 15 but I can stand to be corrected. I could provide more details later, but it comes and goes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I wonder if the minister could give us an idea, the type of lawsuits that come from employees or are they external to the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Usually it is a mix of both. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson. E-8. Justice. Branch Summary. Lawyer Support Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,658,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. E-9. Justice. Branch Summary. Registration and Court Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$7,072,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Don't wait until the last second. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A quick question in the description there; the enforcement of court orders for financial support to spouses and/or children; can the minister give us an idea of how many of those types of orders are going on in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I can't provide numbers but it's a combination of child support orders, spousal support orders, and so those, like anything, vary on any given day, so I can't provide an exact number at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Oh, sorry. For example, since February 2000, since we opened, there have been 260 files related to these matters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Page E-9. Justice Branch. Registries and Court Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$7,072,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page E-10. Justice Branch. Corrections. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this area probably considers dangerous offenders. Do you have a system in place to track dangerous offenders when they're released back into Nunavut or into the various communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Yes, it's a difficult area for us because usually dangerous offenders are federal inmates, so we're often placed in the middle, which is not enviable for us. Sometimes, like in one case we weren't notified until a week before, so it was a struggle.

So it's usually the RCMP that can issue warnings to the communities and they've been doing a very good job in that, but in some cases it's a matter of also going to court and applying for an order for recognizance.

So it's a mixed area that we do hope can be improved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I believe in Cambridge Bay there are probably as many as ten dangerous offenders that we know of, and they have to be supervised by the corrections officers when they come back to town. And they're quite dangerous when they're violent.

The corrections officers are in the building where I am located. On occasion, probably four or five times, I've heard this, there are these fellows who have to come in to meet with their probation officer, and there's a lot of yelling that occurs, not the corrections officer; it's usually the dangerous offender who's doing the yelling. And then you can hear them running up and down the hall slamming doors and threatening the corrections officer.

So that confirms myself, I've gone out and checked on the corrections officers, they're not frightened but it's a stressful situation for them. Anything in those meetings could go wrong.

I'm wondering if the minister could provide me with some information on how his department supports the Community Corrections Officers to ensure their safety when they're in meetings with dangerous offenders. Or, if they have to go to their places of residence to meet them, how do they ensure their safety and protection? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they're dangerous offenders, they are permanently held in jail. So, we may want to reclassify what we're talking about. They're probably released inmates that have done time.

In those instances, we always have two probation workers meeting with the person that has been convicted of a violence offence and been released. So, that's standard practice for the protection of the workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

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

I'm not 100 percent of the exact classifications of these individuals, but they certainly are violent men, and they can explode at any time. So it is a concern to me because I've seen it firsthand and heard it firsthand because my office is pretty close to your officer's office. I hope that their safety is protected.

The other day, Mr. Chairman, when we were reviewing the Department of Health and Social Services, there was a statement in the Health Department's business plan that the transfer of the community corrections service was deferred. We know that social workers are doing some of the correction services in some of the communities, and that was deferred.

I'm wondering if the minister could clarify: what is the relationship these days between the community corrections officers and the social workers in terms of the social workers providing community corrections officers' duties in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do have an ongoing relationship with Social Services where the numbers don't warrant probation workers in some communities and that was dealt with by way of memorandum of understanding and that is ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

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

Does the minister see some year, in the foreseeable future when social workers will not have to do double-duty as community corrections officer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: It is difficult for me at this time with caseloads and the resources that we do have at the government to decide what will happen in the future but for instance,

there has been increasing caseloads in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik, so we'll be putting probation workers there.

The caseload dictates the resources that will be required. In some communities, there's not a lot of caseload and it would be difficult to justify a probation worker at this time with the resources that we do have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Page E-10. Justice. Branch Summary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Business Plan, E-31, under the Corrections, "Corrections administers programs that include adults and young offenders' institutions, including on the land camp operations, open custody homes." And also, "... to administer on the land camp operators in open custody."

Those things happen because we lack recreational facilities, like arenas, in this case.

(interpretation) In regard to the on the land program the camp operators are usually contracted by the government and their per diems and pays are identified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I apologize. I didn't understand your question. Could you rephrase it please?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk, if you would rephrase your question, please?

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier we need recreational facilities, like arenas for example.

In regard to the on the land camp operations and open custody homes there's one such thing in Pond Inlet. Either they're young offenders, or minor offenders. Do you outline how much they're going to be making?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they're going to be included in the on the land they're paid on a per diem basis. That is set up by the Justice Department. We appreciate them helping us, especially with the youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Is there a standard contract that is being signed by both the government and the service provider? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy respond to that question.

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

Mr. Weber: Thank you. Yes, we do. We issue these contracts and sign these contracts with the camp operators based on a request for proposals that we do on a regular basis when we need additional camps. They are standard contracts for all of the operators.

The terms of the contracts are fairly detailed but the large numbers you'd be interested in are that there is a \$6,000 capital amount in the first year and then \$3,000 the following two years of a three year contract. That's for them to purchase ski-doods, upgrade ski-doods, buy qamutiks, all the things that they need to get to and from camp and upgrade them to a level that we need for corrections.

Then they get daily rates for the inmates that are staying with them. Those vary depending on the number of inmates. It starts at \$145 per day for the first inmate and then it goes down slightly for two, three, or four inmates, if there are more staying with them.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The harder it gets the less money they get paid. Just kidding.

Are they given, for example, \$145 a day per person, are they given an advance to start the camp program? For example, half of the contract value? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, but as Mr. Weber said, they're given \$6,000 for capital at the commencement of the contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of these, for example, who are operating for 30 days, for example, I don't think they are qualified to get \$6,000 upgrade of their equipment.

However, they still need upgrade money for supplies, gas etcetera. They are not given like when they sign a contract don't they get a portion of their contract paid in advance and the rest when they complete the service? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We stated they get \$6,000 when they initially start and thereafter \$3,000 every subsequent year. So there is advance money and after that, depending on the level of funding they get paid for having the inmates in their custody. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Page E-10. Justice. Branch Summary. Corrections. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$15,460,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page E-11 which goes into Page E-12. Justice. Branch Summary. Community Justice. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister about the last sentence there. The division also supports the development of victims' services at a community level. Can the minister expand on this statement? What exactly does the department do to help the victims at the community level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So far we have made contributions on an application basis so we have a fund that was established specifically for this and I don't know all the details as to how much we have given out this year but in some years there is a lot more proposals and some not as much so it depends. It's proposal driven so that's what we use it for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Everyone knows, in Nunavut we have a very high crime rate and for every crime there is a victim or victims. I wonder if the minister and his department have given any consideration to setting up organizations in each community that would specifically serve victims of violent crime or any other types of crime against themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I appreciate the question from my colleague. That is what we are studying with the legislation that we passed in the fall, so we are trying to study the best way of implementing it. That will be one of the considerations that we will have to look at seriously. So my officials are working with other departments to see what will be the best way of implementing the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that comment. I'm happy to hear that because it just seems to me and probably to a lot of us in Nunavut that there is more help for the offenders than there are for victims and I think we have to support and help both sides.

I think we have to put more resources into helping victims. As we heard the other day there are only four crisis shelters in Nunavut and there are a lot of ladies and children in Nunavut who are suffering seriously at the hands of a lot of violent men. So I do think we should weigh as a government and the minister's department should take a lead role in establishing something at the community level where the victims can receive counselling and they can walk into an office and be treated in confidence and be heard.

Just like someone to go into the legal aid office here. That's more of a comment, but I certainly support the minister's efforts taken in getting something done at the community level to help the victims of crime. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: It was a comment, so I agree with the member. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I knew it was a comment.

>>*Laughter*

Is that it? Page E-11. Justice. Branch Summary. Community Justice. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,953,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page E-4. E-4. Justice. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$57,072,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Department of Justice is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you, Minister and your officials. Last words? Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman, and also my colleagues. Thank you very much for your suggestions and the comments that were made around the table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time I would like to make a motion to adjourn. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Thank you. Opposed. Only two.

>>*Laughter*

I will now rise to report progress. I'm sorry. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Orders of the Day. Item 21. I'm sorry. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Arreak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of two meetings for Monday morning; first one at nine o'clock in the morning of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability, and at ten o'clock a special meeting of the regular caucus in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 26:

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
 - Motion 5 – 2(4)
 - Motion 6 – 2(4)
 - Motion 7 – 2(4)
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 (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The House stands adjourned until March 26 on Monday at 1.30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:05*

