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**Monday, March 26, 2007**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Monday, March 26, 2007**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Joe Allen Evyagotailak, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Honourable Patterk Netser, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Peter Kilabuk)(interpretation): Thank you, Members. I will say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier, Ministers, and Members. Thank you for returning back to the session. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to raise a Point of Privilege today. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Can you give us a Rule in our Rulebook as to which one that you would like to raise your Point of Privilege on. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Rule applies under Point of Privilege, section 20. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Members. Ms. Aglukkaq, under the current Rules set out under 20(2), it is required that a notice of at least one hour be given before any notice of privileges are given. So under that rule, I cannot take Points of Privilege under the rules. Thank you.

(interpretation) Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. If there is none, Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 044 – 2(4): Minister Simailak Absent from the House**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you and good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to advise members that the Honourable David Simailak will be absent from the House today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Minister's Statement 045 – 2(4): FASD Research and Prevention Update**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to update the members of this House on what the Government of Nunavut has been doing with respect to preventing and educating people with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, or FASD.

Just before session began I had the privilege of attending a meeting of the Canada Northwest FASD Partnership. The partnership, FASD Research Network, takes a provincial/territorial approach to research and solutions. It is developing comprehensive and culturally appropriate programs for us to use for prevention, surveillance, and intervention.

The Department of Health and Social Services is now working on an FASD Strategy building on the work of the Research Network. We want to enhance the work already being done by government staff, non-governmental organizations, hamlets, and community volunteers to prevent FASD and support families.

This winter the department held two separate training events. One helped frontline workers recognize and respond effectively to mental and physical disorders. The second, held in partnership with *Pauktuutit*, focused on how to support women not to drink alcohol during their pregnancy, helping participants develop plans of their own in their own communities.

We launched the Nunavut FASD pin and certificate program where women that promise not to drink during pregnancy receive a pin and a certificate. The department has a poster contest with 13 images selected for a beautiful calendar for the year of 2007, copies of which I had the pleasure of tabling in the House.

I would note in closing that all this work would not be possible without the dedicated staff, like Winnie Banfield, our FASD Early Childhood Education Coordinator, as well as the frontline healthcare providers, Community Health Representatives, nurses, CPNP Workers, Addiction Counsellors, and concerned individuals. I would ask members to join me in thanking them for their good work on behalf of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Minister's Statement 046 – 2(4): Safe and Positive School Environments**



**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bullying is serious and has implications for building and maintaining positive school and community environments. During recent Council of Ministers of Education Canada meetings, the topic of bullying has been and continues to be discussed at great length. From the discussions I have participated in with my fellow ministers responsible for education across Canada, we have agreed to share information on bullying and school violence.

In Nunavut we have a number of initiatives in our schools to address bullying. We have schools engaged in restitution approaches to improve school environments and inter-personal relationships between students. Other schools are offering effective behaviour supports which shape school climate and provide additional supports to students, their families and to staff.

Our schools have student support teams which address the individual needs of students who are experiencing emotional or social difficulties. Our curriculum deals with understanding and developing healthy relationships, self-esteem, tolerance and understanding of each other regardless of gender, race, or ability.

Addressing bullying requires more than our schools; it requires our parents, our partners, and the community as a whole to work together to assist our youth to ensure a safe, caring learning environment.

Many of our district education authorities are addressing the issue of bullying with policy development for student codes of conduct. We have recently seen the Nunavut Teachers Association also address safe school environments by running a week long Make Learning Safe campaign.

Bullying is serious and will require all Nunavummiut to work together to ensure our communities promote a safe and positive environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

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

#### **Member's Statement 085 – 2(4): First Annual Dog Team Race**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very relaxed today.

Minister Tapardjuk rose, in this House, during the last session to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Association des Francophones de Nunavut. As part of the 25th anniversary program, the Association of Francophones is now partnering with Mayukalik Hunters and Trappers Organization of Kimmirut to launch the first annual dog team race called Defi Qimualaniq Quest.

This is a good example of Nunavummiut working together to share their culture, language, and traditions. This is a community event that I encourage people of Iqaluit and Kimmirut to actively support. It is an excellent initiative to promote dog sled traditions in the South Baffin region.

The dog team race is starting today from Iqaluit to Kimmirut. The grand finale is anticipated for April 1 when the participants make it back to the capital. Prizes will be awarded to the winners during the community feast that will be held in the Francophone centre in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, please join me in wishing a good race to all participants of Defi Qimualaniq and a happy 25th anniversary to the Francophone Association of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

#### **Member's Statement 086 – 2(4): Who is the Guardian of Our Marine Environment?**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a male, when you don't have a dog team, it's embarrassing.

I rise today on a concern I have in Arviat. My constituents have a concern about...The other day I tried to ask some questions in this House, Nunavummiut are worried about our marine environment as well as people of Sanikiluaq and I wanted to voice these concerns and ask questions.

I was not asking questions about harvesting. If it is a question, I feel there has to be an answer in this House. If something has to be done, I feel there should have to be answers to have something resolved, instead of giving it to somebody else to resolve. I know that this is a federal government issue, the marine environment, but I think we all harvest marine mammals and we still eat them.

Whenever you ask a question in this House, such things as passports, we are able to get responses because there are people that could answer our question. This is very good. When it is in regard to marine mammals, there is nobody here to answer the question.

I think this is a concern of ours because everybody is using our marine environment and there are contaminants that are being brought to our marine environment. I would like to encourage our government leader...

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak, your time is up.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

I would like to encourage the Government Leader and to support him in regard to the marine environment. I would also like the Government Leader to appoint a Marine Environment Minister so they could be able to work with the federal government. I feel it's very important that whenever we ask a question we would like a response, and we should be able to get responses in regard to the marine environment here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

**Member's Statement 087 – 2(4): Continued Representation of Kugaaruk Residents Despite the Report of EBC Being Rejected**

**Mr. Mapsalak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank my constituency in Kugaaruk. Mr. Speaker, some Members of the Legislative Assembly represent more than one community.

Last week, the Electoral Boundaries Commission report, which contained a number of recommendations, was rejected by this House. The motion that was put before us to reject the report was very difficult for me because I represent two communities from two different regions.

I could not reject the report because I feel a change is necessary. But I could not accept it, either. As a result, I chose not to vote on the motion.

As it is right now, I struggle to visit my other community on a regular basis because our travel budgets are very limited and because of our present airline routes. When I am invited to go to Kugaaruk for special functions, I cannot always attend even though I would like to. I am sure this situation is the same for my colleagues who also represent more than one community.

The Electoral Boundaries Commission consulted with the people of Kugaaruk and I would like to thank them for their input to the commission.

The residents of Kugaaruk recommended that they be paired up with Taloyoak in a single constituency because both communities are in the Kitikmeot region and they share travel and economic links.

Understandably, Nunavummiut want to be represented fairly and a lot of communities want their own Members of the Legislative Assembly but we all know this is not possible. I encourage the residents of Kugaaruk to continue to make further recommendations, especially to the next boundaries commission.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the people of Kugaaruk to know that despite the fact that the report was rejected, I will continue to do my best to represent them in this House and to address their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Member's Statement 088 – 2(4): Kugluktuk Long-Term Service Awards**

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate my constituents who received long-term service awards in January.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to be invited to the Nunavut Arctic College in Kugluktuk to present the long-term service awards to 14 Government of Nunavut employees.

I was also pleased to see the families who came to support the recipients. There were a lot of children present and these people are role models in our communities. They inspire kids to stay in school. They inspire youth to work hard and they teach people the values of continuous years of service to their community.

I would like to thank Human Resources in Cambridge Bay for organizing the ceremony and Nunavut Arctic College and Kitikmeot Foods for their sponsorship of the event.

Mr. Speaker, I would like congratulate:

Lori Rudyk  
Nicola Little  
Catherine Voisey,  
Mary Morgan,  
Robert Rollins,  
Corina Harvey,  
Catherine Kuneluk,  
Michael Webster, and  
Allen Niptanatiak  
for receiving five-Year Awards.

Mr. Speaker, I also presented 10-Year Awards to Wendy Hitkolok, and Gordon Hikomak. There was one 15-Year Award to Margo Nivingalok.

I would especially like to congratulate Annie Kamingoak for 20 years of service and Lucy Taipana for 25 years of service to the Government of Nunavut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating every person who received Government of Nunavut Long Term Service Awards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Members' Statements. My apologies. Member for Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove, Ms. Brown.

#### **Member's Statement 089 – 2(4): Dog Team Race**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the residents of Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove. We have to recognize them because they elected us.

There was a dog team race in the Keewatin to go down to Churchill, and in my constituency, David Uluyuk came in second place to arrive in Churchill and Harry Towtongie. I haven't quite heard exactly who was involved but I am very proud that Silu Uluyuk, that's the one I hear from because his parents are in Churchill.

A lot of us were fortunate enough to witness when they were still using dog teams or living in *Igloos*; it's part of the Inuit culture.

We will probably hear what will happen. We heard during the night around 12:30 David Uluyuk arrived in Churchill. I know it must be tiring and we hear different things. I'm so proud of them and that's why I got up to congratulate them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to welcome a young lady from my riding to our House. Her name is Shawna Angulalik, sitting right over here. Shawna graduated from high school in 2005. I think she was the only high school grad that year.

She accomplished this while she was raising a child and a family; she went on to work for the Kitikmeot Law Centre. She is now a court worker in my riding. She is in town this weekend for a court worker program. I would like to welcome her to the House again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my constituent that we represent, Nicole, who is here. Welcome, Sigma. She is the daughter of Ollie Ittinuar and Lizzie Ittinuar. If you remember Peter, her brother, was the first Member of Parliament for when we were still under the Northwest Territories, when he was elected for NDP.

Those are things we have to remember. I am very happy to say that Peter has worked a hard lot. I remember I grew up with him. Her parents are very prominent in the community and are aging. Thank you and welcome to the gallery.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't normally recognize anybody from our constituency. I am very happy to have someone from my riding. Most of us know this person who has worked at the Legislative Assembly, the first Member of the Legislative Assembly for Kugluktuk, the First Assembly's Executive Assistant Mrs. Doris Nancy Evaglok. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was sitting here, I recognized somebody that was coming in. I urge my colleagues to recognize one of my constituents, Anne Curley. I want her recognized in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

**Question 116 – 2(4): Mercury Build-up in the Food Chain**

**Mr. Barnabas:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. In the 1970s and 1980s, studies show that mercury levels in some northern populations were quite high. It is believed that while some mercury is in the environment naturally, a lot of it comes from industrial activity. It travels through the food chain with an accumulated impact on polar bears and humans at the top of the food chain.

Right now, in 2007, we are hearing a lot about greenhouse gases, and the effects on our climate and our wildlife. Can the Minister tell the House what kind of attention is currently being paid to environmental contaminants such as mercury and how it is building up in our Arctic food chain? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member raised a very good question, however, I haven't been briefed the contaminant levels in our polar bears and the food chain that we eat. I will have to take that question as notice. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. (interpretation ends) Your question has been taken as notice. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Question 117 – 2(4): Bullying in Schools**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education.

In his Ministerial Statement today he states some positive school items. I'd like to congratulate the minister for initiating work to address the bullying in the schools. It's a huge issue in my riding.

A few questions I have for the minister on this statement, you mention that they have schools engaged in restitution. My question for the minister: what schools are involved and how are they selected as restitution schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question. I know that he has raised the issue of bullying the schools in the House in the past and with me in several conversations.

Mr. Speaker, restitution is just one of the methods we've been using in our schools to try to deal with the issue of bullying. The others include the Effective Behaviour Support, as well as having school improvement plans and the student codes of conduct.

Specifically on the restitution approaches, different schools are given the opportunity to look at different ways of dealing with school bullying. I don't have the number of schools right now that are following specifically the restitution. I know that there are several schools involved but that's a choice that the school would make with the staff, with the principal, and in cooperation with the district education authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hear about bullying in the schools in Cambridge Bay. We all know who the bullies are. They get kicked out of school for a day or two and then they're back. I wonder if the minister can tell me, has any consideration been given to banning the bullies from schools and classrooms permanently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, some of the district education authorities have looked at student codes of conduct. In any case, in our schools, we have suspensions, and so on, that are in place. As per the regulations that are in place, they are under the direction of the district education authorities in the supervision of our schools.

The termination of students from the school is one of the last resorts that we want to use, however, if the student is creating a scene at the school, if there's violence involved, if it's affecting other students, then usually the suspension of the student is brought forward.

The number of days that the student that would be suspended, the length of time and duration of the suspension, as well as the logistics of the suspension would be under the direction of the district education authorities, the school, the principal, the staff, as well as the parents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, many of the children that are bullied suffer emotional difficulties in their current class year and in future years. It affects them long-term. I am wondering, can the minister tell me how the Department of Education helps those kids who are suffering from the emotional affects of constant bullying and beatings in schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have student support consultants. We actually have three in Nunavut that would help deal with some of the issues around habitual offenders, if we could say that, in the school system.

This is an issue that goes outside the school, as we said earlier. It has to be dealt with, with a partnership between the parents and the local district education authorities, as well as the school officials, and the student themselves.

One of the things we're looking at right now in the new *Education Act* is how do we deal with discipline in the schools, how do we deal with suspensions and how do we deal with some of the violence issues that we've seen in the media, and so on.

So we do have individual behaviour support, we do have the consultants and we do have school improvement plans in place. There are a lot of things happening. In some communities the problems is a little more serious than in other communities, and we're trying to address those when we receive information from schools that they need help, or from district education authorities, then we have professional consultants and staff within the department itself, to help facilitate that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I appreciate what the minister is saying. It doesn't just start at home; it doesn't start at school it probably starts at home and starts in the community.

You mentioned that it's going to require parents, our partners, and the communities as a whole to work together. I wonder if the minister can share some information with the House on how his department is going to involve the parents and communities, and the community as a whole working together to address the serious issue of bullying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for the record I just received information in regard to the member's earlier question on the schools that were involved in restitution; they include Cape Dorset, Nakasuk School, as well as the school in Igloolik.

What we've tried to do is put in place a cooperative framework in the community, and in the classroom, and in the schools. In that community cooperation network we're able to deal with some of the issues of violence. We seen, for example, as I said earlier, with the Nunavut Teacher's Association coming forward and bringing out a week-long

promotional campaign to talk about some of the issues of violence in our schools. It is not acceptable to have teachers being punched, have objects being thrown at our staff.

At the same time it is not acceptable to have students bullying other students and causing violence.

As I said earlier in my statement, this is not just an issue in Nunavut; we see it right across Canada. Indeed as I said, every national meeting that I've gone to with the Ministers of Education, it's been an issue and a topic raised. What we're trying to do, because our communities are a little but smaller, we're able to work in a cooperative fashion with the district education authorities, with the school support systems, with school community counsellors. As the member knows, we've actually hired additional school community counsellors in our last budget to address some of these issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 118 – 2(4): Federal Budget**

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

We heard about the federal budget and the President of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities has stated that the federal budget is not going to improve the lives of Nunavummiut and it's not going to help those that are trying to make a living.

(interpretation ends) I rose in the House last week to express my disappointment at the federal budget. In his statement the Minister of Finance basically agreed with me when he said, "We are not there yet, and that the Government of Nunavut needs to have more talks with Ottawa with respect to our unmet needs."

Can the Premier tell us today what his government's strategy will be to get Ottawa to recognize our needs? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you. We are continually working with the federal government because our needs are not going to be met right now. As a government, on our own, we cannot keep up with the needs, like for example, the capital needs. We will also lobby the federal government. Each minister will lobby the government.

There is a small increase although it's going to help us a bit more but we will not catch up to the needs that we have. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier because Nunavummiut are very interested in hearing that. As I stated earlier on, the presence of the Canadian Forces in the Arctic has been increasing but we have still not seen decisions regarding the permanent training facility and deep water port.

When was the last time that the Premier raised these questions and issues with Ottawa and what was the reply? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have let them know we are still waiting. I wrote a letter to the Minister of National Defence and I'm still waiting for the Minister of Defence to reply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. My second supplementary question is that the Minister of Finance indicated last week in the House that the increase in our Territorial Funding Formula for 2007-08 will be approximately \$37.6 million more than what he projected in his territorial budget earlier this month.

How will the government decide where to allocate these additional dollars, \$37.6 million? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not dealt with that. After this session is over, I know that the Cabinet will meet and I know each minister will want to get all the funding for their department. I also know we will have to discuss this further.

This is going to be very beneficial because our previous federal government had agreed to a 3.5 percent increase but this new government that has been elected, with the support of various parties, this budget is going to be more beneficial to us. We then will have to start planning how these additional dollars will be spent. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): The federal government's campaign platform promised to work with the provinces and territories to increase the number of, and expand the educational programs for doctors, nurses, and health professionals.

We have spoken a great deal in this House during our session about the need for more trained-in-Nunavut nurses and the need for federal support for more Akitsiraq-type programs. Has the Premier reminded the Prime Minister of this campaign commitment and if not, why not?

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the federal government's Health and Social Services Minister has been talking about this. This funding is going to be used for Akitsiraq-type programs for accounting training programs. I know that we still have a lot of work to do. We will want to see more Inuit working in the health services. Thank you.

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

### **Question 119 – 2(4): Medical Travel and Escort Policies being Fairly Implemented**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. I am trying to follow up on some questions that I was asking last week in regard to the medical travel and escort policy that the government has been questioned on lots and I know it has been a very controversial topic, and we've always been told that it has been applied fairly across the board.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is; in the document that was tabled last week and it has the breakdown by region of costs for medical travel, we have I believe it's like 42 percent of the total cost coming from the Kivalliq region, 35 coming from the Baffin, which is over double the population, and 21 percent coming from the Kitikmeot.

If she could indicate whether or not the disparity in those numbers have caused her or her officials any concern in whether or not the actual policy is being implemented fairly across the board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to those questions last week I also stated that the medical travel budget is one line item. It's not divided up by three regions, it's based on needs.

So if the person travels from Rankin Inlet, Baffin or what not, that funding comes out of one pot. So it's based on need. It's based on sick people; the number of people that need to be transported by medevac. So it's not divided equally by three regions but rather one pot of money, one line item in the main estimates, and all the travel is coming out of that pot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not saying that it's not based on need but if you just look at like I raised last week that there's over 100 more escorts sent out of the Kivalliq than there were actual patients. If you look at in the Baffin region, there were over 1,000 less escorts sent out than patients. And in the Kitikmeot, there were a little over 200 less escorts sent out than patients. There were 16 age categories.

Given those numbers and the information that the minister did provide to the standing committee, I guess she's saying that she has no concerns of whether or not that the policy is being implemented fairly based on those numbers. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you. The policy is implemented on the basis of the current patient needs. That's how the policy is implemented. It's not implemented on a budget line item. It's implemented on the conditions of every person and every individual's medical condition. So that's how it's applied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then I guess these numbers don't cause any concerns or haven't caused any concerns with the minister. When I look at it and I'm sure when anyone looks at it, when you see a number disparity like that, you're going to want to make sure that things are being done properly because that's what those numbers show that there seems to be a disparity in how it's being implemented.

Has the minister looked into that to see if in fact it has or not been implemented fairly compared to the disparity that the numbers show? Is she saying that this is being dealt with like that but the way those numbers come out like that, she's got no concerns about that, is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated many times in this House that we are concerned on the high volume of usage for medical travel in the north. We spend approximately \$40 million in transportation before we treat a sick person, whether that is a patient or the escort.

Yes, we are concerned about that and we are trying to deal with it within the government in trying to reduce those numbers by providing more services at the community level.

And, I think it's no secret to this House that it is a huge amount of money spent on transportation before we treat a sick person and it is a concern that we have heard from members, as well as ones that we've dealt with in the House.

And the numbers here and the way the policy right now is implemented, again, is based on the person's medical condition, and each case is different and every patient needs are different, so based on that, the policy is applied.

Overall, are we concerned the high volume of money spent on transportation, absolutely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in the numbers of patients and escorts, the patients we don't have control over; escorts we do have some control over.

Where it says here, and I asked last week to the minister, in what kinds of situations would they send multiple escorts out. She indicated if an individual was down for a long period of time and there was a need for the first person to come back and then switch with someone else. That's totally understandable.

Can she indicate if she's aware of it, and if she's not, could she look into any situations where multiple escorts were sent out, particularly at the same time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can look into that. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 120 – 2(4): FASD Issue**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health on her Minister's Statement on the FASD research and prevention update.

Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of kids in schools who are struggling, we have jails full of inmates who have had difficulties in their lives and there are many people walking the streets. Nobody's saying that it is related to FASD, but we expect that it is.

My question for the minister: how serious is the FASD issue in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the numbers, that's part of why we are partners in the FASD Group. We are looking at partnering with jurisdictions and jointly researching the number of people that may be impacted with FASD in each of our jurisdictions.

At this point in time we don't have an exact number but it does exist in our territories and the same with other jurisdictions as well. The research network that we are involved in is looking at collaborative ways of the best ways to treat individuals with the disorder in our society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. The minister mentioned that there's a workshop or a training event that helps frontline workers recognize and respond effectively to mental and physical disorders. It doesn't specifically say FASD.

My question for the minister: the frontline workers, are they health professionals? And if so, are they diagnosing babies early on when they have FASD? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The work that we're involved in is to address the member's question: how we can better diagnose individuals that have FASD or the disorder in our communities. And, by working with organizations that have studied this disorder in Canada, as well as international, we're looking at ways of utilizing that in our communities.

We're also looking at ways of focusing in the whole area of prevention around the disorder in our communities. There has been some work done to try and do some diagnoses early on at the community level.

So we are working on those tools to better diagnose individuals with the disorder early on in order to come up with ways of developing support systems, or whatnot, with each of the individuals that may have the disorder. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her answer. I asked the former Minister of Health two or three years ago if there are any diagnostic tools being

developed to help medical professionals diagnose babies early on who may suffer from FASD.

The minister just mentioned that they are still working on diagnostic tools. Can the minister tell the House when the diagnostic tools will be available for medical professionals at the community levels to diagnose babies with FASD? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you. I missed the last part of the question. To speak to that a bit, we are trying to develop the tools in the early diagnosis of children in our communities. The other piece is that we also have to be able to work together with other departments and agencies to develop programs to better understand the disorder, not just from the actual baby born with the disorder but rather the support systems for the parents. At the same time the school system in teaching the individuals with that disorder.

We are working on developing the tools in partnership with the seven provinces that are involved in the partnership. The information coming out of that research has been very useful to us in that we will be able to adopt those ways of diagnosis.

At the same time, we do not have the capacities in our jurisdiction to do the kind of detailed research this network has been able to do.

Once we have more of that information, I would be glad to share, with the member and the House, what is being produced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. If we don't diagnose babies early on with FASD, we are probably condemning them to a lifetime of hardship and disability. As I mentioned earlier, struggles with school, jail, walking the streets, they can't hold a job. It is not fair. Even before they are 10 minutes old they are going to be struggling.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell me what the social and financial impacts of FASD are long term for Nunavut if the FASD prevention or the programs do not succeed in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. FASD, the disorder is a totally preventable illness. We are looking at ways of trying to prevent the disorder in our



communities through public awareness, through public health, and through initiatives with the communities.

In jurisdictions where the programs and services are available, it costs a child \$1 million annually to treat a person with the disorder. That is based on estimates we have received from other jurisdictions but not particularly for here at this point in time. The cost could go up to \$1 million. Again, that would also depend on the severity of the disorder that individual has. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 121 – 2(4): Renewal of Driver’s License**

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question regarding a driver’s license. I’m not sure which minister is going to answer. I have some constituents that have applied for renewal but one has been waiting for three months and the other one has been waiting for eight months. They are employees and they have to have driver’s licenses.

My question to the minister is: what is the reason for taking so long to renew their license? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don’t know the status of this matter but I will look into it and make sure it is resolved because that’s way too long, in my opinion. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 122 – 2(4): Passport Issue**

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

(interpretation ends) I was asking questions on passports and the minister promised that we would have an answer to our questions on passports. My question is when will he know? When will we know about the passport issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister responsible for Multiculturalism, Homelessness, and Immigration, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would hope to be in the position over the next 48 hours to make that announcement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister let the members know if all the people of Nunavut will be given a passport photograph? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once the announcement is made it will encompass all of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my constituency of the High Arctic there have been a lot of people that are waiting for their passports and they have paid a lot of money for them. The process is very slow so one of my constituents had to pay out some money for that. How much will the passport cost for the photographs and the others. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The cost of a standard passport, and again this is a federal responsibility; I believe is \$80 per person per passport. At the same time there are other costs associated with getting a passport. One of those costs is the photo. That's what we've been talking about here in the House, and that was the commitment that we've made as a government, to try to help facilitate Nunavummiut being able to get a passport photo. There will be a cost associated with the photo.

Right now, depending where you get that picture taken, in the south or in the north, it can range from \$20 and \$60. I would suggest that the cost for the photo on the commitment that we've made as a government would fall within that range. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 123 – 2(4): Avian Cholera**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Environment.

Can the minister give us some information about the duck migration? We have not heard this summer how those ducks are in that place that we were concerned about.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Last year in August 2006 there were approximately 3,400 ducks that died around the Coral Harbour area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year, the year before, and the year before that, I'm not quite sure exactly...I asked about this summer, just last summer of how many died. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) This was in August 2006. There were approximately 3,400 ducks that died of the avian cholera. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The sickness that the bird has, and they have a name for it, is that any danger to the public if they caught it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The sickness to the ducks near Coral Harbour is not dangerous to the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, even though it isn't dangerous to the public, somewhere around the 1930s there was some disease that was known to people but there are a lot of us that are not full-blooded Inuit and they were dangerous to those people at the time.

I think there are a lot of questions whereby: has there been a study done of whether they're absolutely no danger to the public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Avian cholera, they say is not dangerous to the public at all, and there's also the avian influenza that is a sickness for geese and snow geese. Apparently people can catch that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 124 – 2(4): Summer Student Employment Equity Program**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question isn't for the Minister responsible for Multiculturalism or Immigration. It's for the Minister responsible for Human Resources.

One of the best programs that this government runs is the Summer Student Equity Program. Last year, the minister informed the House that 207 students from across Nunavut gained valuable work experience through the program. I'm just wondering if the minister could tell us today if any of the students who took part in that program were disabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year the summer students that were employed with the Nunavut Government, we had one disabled individual that worked in one of the government departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know in a number of Canadian jurisdictions disabled persons receive some form of priority hiring consideration in recognition of the barriers they already face in gaining access into the workplace.

Can the minister tell us if he has given any consideration to allocating some places in our Summer Student Program for disabled students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time we have nothing for the summer students with disabilities because the *Human Rights Act* already protects them. Also when they are in school and when they take a summer break they are quite capable of doing the work that they have to do in the government departments. They are able to do the job they're assigned to do and they have protection under the *Human Rights Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that small businesses often find it challenging just to survive here in Nunavut, as it is, but it's even more challenging if they are to hire a disabled person because of the extra costs that could potentially be involved there.

Would the minister commit to working with his Cabinet colleagues to try and look at developing some type of a program, perhaps a wage subsidy program, for businesses that would encourage the private sector to hire disabled students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister for Human Resources, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Human Resources does not have resources to give some assistance for disabled people who would like to work in the private sector. The Economic Development and Transportation Minister could probably provide you with a better answer. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will write a letter to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and copy the Premier, as well as the Government Leader.

Can the minister indicate what initiatives his department is working on to improve access to the workforce within the civil service for disabled Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government does not look at the disability of the individual, but rather they look at the ability of the individual under the *Human Rights Act*. If we follow the *Human Rights Act*, and our duty to accommodate, and we were to hire a disabled individual, as a government, we would look at assistance for that individual.

If that individual is working for the government and has gained another disability while working, we would have to look for something to support that individual. If we feel that individual cannot perform their duties, then as a government we would look for a job that's suitable for that disabled person while working for the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

**Question 125 – 2(4): Funding for Elders and Youth Facilities**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Mr. Tapardjuk. In the smaller communities that I represent, they can't gain employment because there is no place for them to work. They have to try to raise some funds to open an elders' centre or youth centre in the communities.

Would there be any money, from his funding, available for the elder and youth centres? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We can provide some funding from our capital funding but there is no new money at the present time for elders' and youth facilities in the communities. There is \$200,000 that we can give out from the old funding. For new funding, we will have to look for it elsewhere.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two things the hamlet can request funding from. Can the minister work with Community and Government Services because they should be able to get some funding from new money. Can the minister work with Community and Government Services to find some funding to build a youth and elders' facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can work with the department. The funding that is from the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is there for swimming pools. If we try to provide the funding, they would have to get a very shallow swimming pool but they can ask for funding from Community and Government Services.

The recreation directors in Nunavut and in Canada are currently soliciting the federal government for recreation facilities and I have mentioned this to my colleague ministers. If we were able to obtain such, then we would have to get \$18 billion in Canada. We will work with the federal government until we can come up with that money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would they use the same criteria for the smaller communities I represent? What would happen in that case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under our capital, when we are asking for funding, it doesn't specify. Over a year ago, we didn't even expend all the funding that was available up to March 31.

If there is money left over, like last year, whether it is in September or October, we will let the public know that we still have some funding available.

If they were to provide their own money or other third party funding, then we find that it's easier to provide funding for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the GNWT days we were able to use portable swimming pools, whether they were in garages, or in the summertime when they were able to park the vehicles outside, as long as there was an adequate change room or a washroom. Has this been considered for those smaller communities to use a building like that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we get an application, then we certainly can consider it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 126 – 2(4): Cost Savings Using Spiral Light Bulbs**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This time my question is for the Minister responsible for Energy.

Last week, the minister did a Minister's Statement regarding a plan to ban incandescent light bulbs and use the spiral light bulbs throughout the territory. It said that the move to spiral light bulbs makes sense, and not only is our money saved, it's fewer greenhouse gases that are produced. Does the minister have any idea of how much money will be saved as a result of that legislation and the switchover to spiral bulbs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do know when we look at the amount of bulbs that we're talking about being replaced over that period of time, and when we would actually implement the legislation there would be over 1,300 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. The amount of savings, of course, would be dependent on the uptake of the number of bulbs that would be used in the housing units, and of course, the amount of energy that people would use. So that figure will vary.

Right now, we know, given ten cents per kilowatt-hour, the amount of savings from using a general, standard spiral bulb through the 12-month period is between \$30 and \$80 by itself. Our kilowatt per hour costs are three times that, so we would estimate each bulb would save us approximately \$100 at least on an annual basis. If you multiply that by the number of light bulbs in a given house, then the savings would be tremendous. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess given that, if there was a reduction of draw on electricity throughout the territory as a result of this legislation coming into place and spiral bulbs going in that there would be a corresponding reduction in cost to the Power Corporation for the production of power as well. Would one be correct in ascertaining that? I'm just wondering if the minister could respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would anticipate a less draw on electricity, and then the cost per consumer would, of course, go down because we wouldn't have to purchase the same amount of fuel as we do today to provide electricity.

So those costs would be across the board in communities. How much they would be and when they would take place again would depend on what the uptake of the bulbs would be. Specifically, there would be cost savings, not only for the consumer, but for the Power Corporation.

How that would reflect in the actual pricing of electricity, we will have to see how that works itself out through the system. However, we do know that the Utility Rates Review Council will have an opportunity to look at that because the Utility Rates Review Council sets and regulates the rate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister was correct in stating the Utility Rates Review Council sets the rates but they only look at what the minister gives them as far as applications go.



He indicated there would be a significant savings to the Power Corporation for the production of electricity and power. Would he commit that an increase ... and I noticed that is one thing that he did not say in his Minister's Statement that the cost savings would not equate to lower electricity costs.

I would like to ask him if he would commit that if there are, as a result of legislation, lower costs for the production of power that those costs are passed on and rates would be lowered to recognize that as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Energy, Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Tootoo has touched on two or three different areas. When you have an opportunity in the House, we are supposed to keep our answers concise and short and try not to get into a debate on issues.

So I am going to try very quickly. The Utility Rates Review Council does set the rates based on what the cash requirement of the corporation is to try to generate a profit. Again, the member and other members have said we shouldn't be putting money into the corporation. That is number one.

Number two, if the Power Corporation is using less electricity, which means less fuel having to be purchased, it would mean, for example in this case, if the fuel subsidy rider which we had to put in place because of the extra costs involved, would not be in place. The actual kilowatt per hour may not go up or down but the Fuel Stabilization Rider would be considerably less and that means there would be an impact on your electricity bill, meaning you would be paying less on electricity. Not necessarily from the lower rates. So the member is correct when he makes that assumption.

What we are talking about is an exemption for all lights and incandescent bulbs. For example, we want to make sure that Nunavummiut know that bulbs used on the outside in their water tanks and so on, will continue to be able to be used. We are not trying to ban those. We are not trying to ban light bulbs inside fridges and stoves and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 127 – 2(4): Update on Counselling Services**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. Last week I gave a statement when I spoke about a very important workshop that will be delivered in the community of Cambridge Bay.

The workshop focuses on high risk behaviour and dealing with the aftermath of some of those behaviours like violence and death.

Cambridge Bay suffered a devastating loss of life in early January that we are still recovering from. My question for the minister: can the minister update this House on what initiatives are underway to provide counselling services in communities that have suffered losses due to suicide or violent death? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the case of that incident, to respond to the incident, a team of staff traveled from various areas to provide support to the community. We worked in close partnership, as well, with the community wellness centre to respond to that, as well as other agencies.

In communities where there are incidents that are serious in that way, a team travels to the community to provide assistance. At the same time, assistance is provided to not only the victims and families but also to the current personnel that is in the community to provide services in that area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Indeed, the Department of Health and Social Services played an important role in the aftermath of that devastating loss. My question for the minister is: can the minister clarify for the House what role her department plays? She mentions the team reacted; can the minister clarify if the team exists and what policy they operate under? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In every community we have mental health workers and social workers that provide counselling, as well as the services in the health centres and so on. When I say a team, internally there is a team at that.

At the same time when we are dealing with crisis we do what we can to provide assistance in other communities that may require assistance. We transport staff from other various communities to assist with that when there are crises in whatever community.

So not only within internally, there's a crisis intervention group that deals with that. At the same time we partner with agencies at the community level, whether it is the hamlet, or the RCMP, or the Justice Committee, or whatever services are available through the wellness group in each of those communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. The minister mentioned partnerships. I mentioned in my statement the other day that there's a group that the wellness centre brought in to put on some workshops for the community.

My question for the minister: would the minister commit to considering the establishment of ongoing delivery contracts with organization such as the Recovery Foundation, or the Centre for Suicide Prevention to deliver workshops and counselling services when communities suffer the sudden loss of a resident? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into that. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I want all the members to know that Question Period is now over. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Ms. Aglukkaq. (interpretation ends) Sorry, Mr. Curley, I will ask Ms. Aglukkaq to speak first and I will recognize you after. Ms. Aglukkaq.

### **Point of Privilege**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to raise a Point of Privilege under section 19 of our Rules. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Can you please, for the record, tell us what that is under our Rules? Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The rule, a member may always raise a question of privilege in the Assembly immediately after the words are uttered or in the event occurs that gives rise to a question. That's a rule under where we can, section 19 and there's a whole section if you want me to read that. But, it allows an opportunity for us to raise a Point of Privilege, and then speak to it. Then you decide whether it's within that rule or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ms. Aglukkaq, I am fully aware of the rules that you referred to and please proceed with your Point of Privilege.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize, I thought you had asked me to clarify which section of that 19 that you wanted me to raise, and I apologize for that.

My Point of Privilege today is that my reputation was damaged by the statement made by the Member from Iqaluit Centre.

**A Member:** Point of Order.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Members, I remind you that I still have not forwarded, brought my ruling to the House on this matter and therefore, I will not allow any debate on the Point of Privilege, but I will be forwarding my ruling at a later time. Mr. Curley.

### Point of Order

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Point of Privilege that I would like to raise has to do with the fact that I as a member here, need to hear from, when a question is raised that Nunavummiut and I be informed of the facts of the government's, or agency's role in determining how the rates were established.

I believe the minister was incorrect by stating that only QEC had the right to benefit from URRC ruling. Could you at least remind him that there are other agencies that can make presentations to the URRC instead of QEC? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the Point of Order, do you wish to respond, Mr. Picco?

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the member for raising a Point of Order. I believe, and the *Hansard* will back me up tomorrow when we review the blues, I suggested that the URRC is the regulatory body that helps set the prices for the electrical company, known as the Qulliq Power Corporation. Other outside agencies do not set the rates. It is the URRC helps set the rate in Nunavut, after making an application. Then it goes to Cabinet to either agree with the recommendations made by the URRC, or reject them or not apply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Aglukkaq.

### Point of Order

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to raise a Point of Order. Before I even had a chance to speak to my Point of Privilege, I don't believe you've heard me to even draw your conclusion that it relates to the ruling that you're still dealing with.

How do you know what my Point of Privilege is when you have not heard me speak to the Point of Privilege I am raising in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Members, I will remind you that in applying the Rules of the House I will apply it after the words and directions given under the Rules. Therefore, when any member refers to a matter where a Rule is pending I cannot allow any debate or any reference to any comments relating to that ruling. So therefore, I have to Rule that Out of Order. Again, I remind all members that same Rule will be applied consistently.

Thank you. We will proceed to agenda Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. (interpretation) Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Tapardjuk.

### **Item 13: Tabled Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 060 – 2(4): Staff Housing – Correction to a Statement on March 23, 2007 to Committee of the Whole**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document that I sent to Peter Kilabuk, the Speaker, and I sent a copy to all Members of the Legislative Assembly in regard to March 23, during Oral Question period to the Department of Human Resources I had made a response mistakenly. This is to correct my response and table it in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Please provide that document to the table officers. Thank you. I want all the members to know that our pages are quite busy. Let's go back to the Orders of the Day. Item 13. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Ms. Aglukkaq.

#### **Tabled Document 061 – 2(4): Electoral Boundaries Commission Letter from KIA**

#### **Tabled Document 062 – 2(4): Electoral Boudnaries Commission Report – News Report on Nunavut Boundaries Report Draws Mixed Reviews – CBC Report**

#### **Tabled Document 063 – 2(4): Electoral Boundaries Commission Report – CBC News: “Four New Ridings Needed: Nunavut Commission” November 6/06**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter dated October 11, 2006 going to the President of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association from the Mayor of Gjoa Haven in regard to the Electoral Boundaries Commission.

I would also add to that an article dated November 10, CBC News headline is, ‘Nunavut Boundaries Report Draws Mixed Reviews,’ where there are interviews of members.

I would also like to table a report dated November 6, on Monday, where they speak to the process of how the boundaries commission would be handled in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Please bring the documents forward. Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Tabled Document 064 – 2(4): Cancelling Flight Information Centre in Yellowknife – Letter from NavCanada**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter I received from John Crichton, President and CEO of NavCanada, dated March 13, 2007. The letter is in response to the letter I wrote to NavCanada about the closure of the Yellowknife Weather Station and moving the services to North Bay, Ontario. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Please bring the document forward. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Curley.

**Tabled Document 065 – 2(4): Voice of Parents in Nunavut Education – Presentation by Kiggaqtuijingit Ilinniaqtulirijikkut Nunavumi/Coalition of Nunavut's DEAs to Education Act Steering Committee**

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter from Jeeteeta Merkosak, Chair of the Coalition of Nunavut DEAs, along with the document titled, 'The Voice of Parents in Nunavut Education,' that were compiled, I believe, November 2006. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Can we have that document brought forward, please? (interpretation) Thank you. Item 13. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. MLA for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Tabled Document 066 – 2(4): Northern Residents Tax Deduction Letter from Dennis Bevington**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter that I received from the Member of Parliament for the Northwest Territories, Dennis Bevington outlining his push to get the federal government to do something and that something is missing in the budget address and that's the increased northern residents' tax deduction. I would like to table that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Please bring the document up. Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

**Tabled Document 067 – 2(4): Electoral Boundaries Commission Report – Letter of Support for Recommendations from Hamlet of Taloyoak**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to table a letter I received from the Mayor of Taloyoak and I would like to draw the members' attention to it here where it says, "the recommendations will be made clear in the Legislative Assembly as well as it should be made clear to all Members of the Legislative Assembly that tampering with democracy has its price and we remind those that vote contrary to that democracy that there will be territorial elections next year." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation ends) Can we have the document brought forward, please? (interpretation) Item 13. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) If there are no more. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

### **Item 16: Motions**

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to move the following motions. Amendments to Rules 39 and 18 of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly.

WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges has reviewed certain provisions of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly;

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Item 16. Motions. Minister Picco.

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

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

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

AND FURTHER, that at anytime prior to May 29, 2007, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and members of the Legislative Assembly, that the Public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it had been duly adjourned to that time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move the following motion in regard to rules 97 and 101 of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly.

WHEREAS the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures, and Privileges has reviewed certain provisions of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly;

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

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

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 1, 2, 3, and 9 with Mr. Arreak in the Chair. According to the authority provided to me by Motion 4 – 2(4), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.



Members will break for 30 minutes before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:20 and Committee resumed at 15:56*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Arreak)(interpretation): We can resume our meeting. (interpretation ends) 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 complete our review of the main estimates for Community and Government Services, followed by the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Are we in agreement we return to the main estimates of Community and Government Services?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Madame Minister, do you have officials you would like to go up to the witness table with? Ms. Brown.

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

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would escort the witnesses, please.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, minister, please introduce your witnesses. Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Pam Hine, the Deputy Minister, and on my left is Mike Rafter, Director of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Welcome, Ms. Hine and Mr. Rafter. (interpretation ends) We were on page J-11 of the main estimates. Community and

Government Services. We will return to page J-11. Any further questions or comments on this page? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and her officials back to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Chairman, I think everyone is aware of the concerns that members had, not only here but in the media, and all over the territory as well.

I am just wondering if, given the concerns we raised the day we deferred your department, is any other information you would like to provide to the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have further information for the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would she be so kind as to share it with us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly can and will. The information I have for the committee is we have a negotiating mandate and direction approved by the Financial Management Board. The first 10 years annual base lease rent will be \$729,520. The second 10 years annual base lease will be \$779,260. The lease of term is 20 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it looks like we are looking at another 20 year lease on top of the 20 we already had on this particular property, which I think over the last 20 years we have paid \$24 million or more for it based on the government's contracting of \$1.2 million lease cost to it.

I would assume it is an annual cost that you were referring to, the \$700,000, if I could get a confirmation of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member is correct. It is annual based. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is, as the minister indicates, the base amount. I know she indicated they are still negotiating some of the other things. Can she indicate a list of other things that are under negotiations? I'm not looking for numbers or anything like that because I realize it is in negotiation. What types of categories and things? Can she provide us with that information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy minister will respond to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member asked a good question. What we are negotiating is called additional rent. It is over and above the base rent the minister had previously stated. The additional rent would be the tenant's share of the operations and maintenance of the building. That is what we are still in negotiations with the landlord over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Hine. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know my colleague, Mr. Peterson, brought it up and the Chair of Government Operations and Accountability. The issue of these long-term leases was brought forward to us and raised by the Auditor General on a number of occasions.

So when you look at tying us up for another 20 years with this lease, were there other options that were looked at rather than entering into a long-term lease? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will direct my Deputy Minister to answer that, too. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the direction from Financial Management Board that we received was to negotiate the different options that are available. We did look at a number of options; there were options for a five-year lease, a ten-year lease, and a 20-year lease.

As required by the Government of Nunavut Leasing Policy, a cost-benefit analysis was completed by the Department of Finance and it was found that this lease, the 20-year

lease was the best option for the value for money. And that was based on the fact that we would gain ownership of the building at the end of the 20-year lease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this issue predates the witnesses at the table and the minister. It's one of those things that we inherited from the past but I know a few years ago, as my colleague pointed out, that questions were raised around this particular lease because it was simply the highest lease that the government had on an annual basis based on its own report, and that they were going to look at different options.

Was there an expression of interest or a request for proposals to look at whether or not anyone else could provide a suitable office space? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Community and Government Services determined after assessment, analysis of cost estimations, final cost assessments, and Government of Nunavut funding capabilities that it was more appropriate in this particular instance to pursue a proposal that included a suitable building that was already in existence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it depends on who's determining it's appropriate.

But I guess given that this option that was brought forward and approved by Financial Management Board; is this the best deal that we could get through the negotiations; I don't know if the minister or her officials can answer that right now; is it a good deal for us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy minister will answer that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said before, under the requirements of the Government of Nunavut Leasing Policy, we were to provide all options that were available and the associated information to the Department of Finance, who completed the cost benefit analysis. Based on the information that was brought forward, they determined that this was the best deal that was presented. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I just wonder how you can determine if you got the best deal if you never really went to anyone to find out if you could get a better deal, instead of just sole-source negotiating with someone instead of going out to a public tender, or look for an expression of interest, or proposals from other proponents that may be interested and looking at that type of opportunity. I don't know if I could get a response to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, my deputy minister will respond to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I believe the Minister has already answered the question. Community and Government Services did complete their own assessment. Their assessment included the needs of the current departments located in Cambridge Bay. The actual space that is available in Cambridge Bay, it was determined that we still have sufficient space within our offices in Cambridge Bay for another 15 to 30 employees to be able to deal with any future growth.

There wasn't sufficient need in the community for an additional office building that would be large enough to house or accommodate over a 100 employees which is currently housed in the office building and based on the financial capacity of the Government of Nunavut that the renewing of the lease with this proponent was the best option at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is funny that if you don't go out and find out what the market will bear, basically what they establish is a monopoly. You know this government, part of its mandate is to help develop the economy and to help it grow. The economy can only grow and do well and prosper in a competitive open market area.

I am just wondering; if you don't even bother to try and find out what else is out there, how can you determine that is the best deal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it was stated that this happened before our time and we can commit that all future leases will go to Request for Proposal. We have that booklet that was initiated a couple of years ago about the leasing in

Nunavut for Government of Nunavut buildings, the leases that we have and we took that recommendation from your committee and we had tabled it already.

From there we can certainly incorporate that in place as we go along, with the leases that are coming up in five years. Give that limit and see what we can do from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seem to recall a couple of years ago or so when we were talking about this and I must say I'm a little bit cautious about saying anything about it. The last time I talked about it someone tried to file a conflict of interest complaint against me.

But that is not going to stop me from doing my job. I think we were told at the time that process would be looked at in this particular lease because of the size of the lease over that time. You know going out for an Expression of Interest or Proposals going out. Why when I am pretty sure that's what happened a couple of years ago; why didn't that happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Community and Government Services did a review of the cost of construction assessment in the order of \$18 million for a new building. Mr. Chairman, I would like Deputy Minister Pam Hine to add to that please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister said there has been...we looked at options and looked at the construction of a new building and the availability of the existing lease that is currently in the community and also what the needs were of Government of Nunavut departments for space allocation. We found that this decision was the best that we had given the current circumstances and the financial situation of the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know two years ago when we were talking about this I believe there was pretty much only one individual, the poor guy that had to try and put all this stuff together and deal with it. One of the concerns that I raised at the time there was, "Do you feel that there are adequate resources dedicated to that to make sure that that gets done?" One person at the time can only do so much.

If you look at the contracting and leasing report that's tabled there the volumes and volumes of leases that must have to be looked at and the amount of work involved in

doing each one of them. Are they doing anything to try and beef up that area within your department so that it gets the attention that it deserves? I would say that in looking at it if there is one person doing this there is a lot of undue stress and work on a single person to be able to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, the deputy minister will respond to that.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hine

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, the member has raised a very good point. The property management or property division under Community and Government Services has gone under a number of changes over the last few years. And staffing continues to be a challenge for the department.

Back in 2002, the department centralized community leases from the regions into the headquarters so that we could have consistent administration of our leases. In 2004, there was the merger between Community Government and Transportation and Public Works and Services. Also at that time some of the staff housing, which was under Public Works, went over to the Housing Corporation. So we have been in a bit of an evolution. We are trying to build up staff.

Currently we have approximately one and a half full time equivalents; one and a half staff that have been assigned to leases. It isn't sufficient at this point and we are reviewing that. We also encourage the staff to take courses in leasing. I am not sure if it's any reassurance for the members but in my background I am a certified property manager, and a certified leasing officer, so I will also provide some dedicated time towards this file. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hine. We are on page J-11. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It really falls into the mandate question of the CGS. CGS is probably one of the biggest departments that have to deal with real estate issues, and real estate properties; including leases and negotiating.

Why would you choose to believe that the sole sourced existing contractors is the best route to go without checking to see whether or not there exists a market in this place. I had believed that we were truly on the path to a competitive real estate market concept in Nunavut. I have heard many times that aside from Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay, we're at that threshold.

Where that market did exist to go through, to go towards the private enterprise for the facilities, and so on, that communities well versed into the 3P concept and tremendously strong supporter of this 3P concept.

I don't think the community failed in that regard, whatsoever. I now believe the government, CGS failed completely. I don't see any expertise whatsoever in terms of financing deals, as well as assessing real estate needs, market evaluations, and so on.

I would like to ask the minister, having gone this far, that you will table this construction assessment. I think it would be shameful if we didn't see a copy of that, otherwise we will not be able to assess whether you are really qualified or not because private financing is certainly not impossible; it's at the doorstep of any businessman who have a proven record to build.

And I think you truly did not represent Nunavummiut all that well by going on a sole sourced route in spite of the fact it's an attractive way of being offered such a route; any company would like to be accorded by any government for sole sourced negotiated contracts. But let me tell you, it violates all the principles of free enterprise, it violates your contracting regulations, and I believe the Auditor General will be very much interested in looking over this deal to see whether or not you're getting the best value for the money that the public of Nunavut are being asked to carry for the next 20 years for a facility that is not worth that much.

So having said that, I would like to ask the minister: will you abide by the contracting regulations, unless there was a provision to enter into a negotiated contract? I believe all the leases that the government has had an option to renew for a certain period, if not, you are obligated to put forth a notice to the public that the competitive process will be used.

I don't believe that you have done justice, minister, by going sole sourced before finding out, I can hear you, you say that this was the best value for the money that we don't have but all the practices of any way of finding out whether the best value was achieved are normally not done by sole sourced approach.

The Auditor General will tell you that you must go through a competitive process in order to find out and compare whether you're getting the best value for the money over the 20-year period for any projects.

So will the minister tell me why they chose to honour one provision in the contracting regulations and ignore the competitive process available, and it's available to you. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This issue about the EDC leasing, it goes back to September 2005. We've been working on it back and forth, and we had the direction from the FMB to approve that; the approval came from FMB.



I would like to say that all options were looked at in that community and to find the magnitude of that building was hard at the time because there's over 100 employees in that building, and five departments, I believe, are in there.

We have to make sure they are all accommodated. And I will, as the member asked, ensure contracting procedures are followed in the future. Yes, I will do that. I would be willing to table the Cost Benefits Analysis when they are available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that since you alluded to the construction assessment which was the basis for deciding whether or not sole source proceeded, it's probably already available and I would appreciate the minister's answer that you will table that report.

The other thing that I would also like to say, not only the general contracting procedures, in my view were not honoured by going through this route. Also, what was violated also is the fundamental *Article 24* of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. *Article 24* provision states very clearly that the government will make every effort to allow Inuit to take part in a competitive process and I believe any Inuit company who sees this agreement can actually go through a legal route now.

So you may not, it may be advisable to not sign that deal until you have stated that you are going to put out a notice that you say that you are going on the negotiated route. In the last year before the NWT was divided, the policy was accepted by the public works government at that time in NWT that even with the sole source route, if they prefer to go through that the government had a policy they accepted would say they would put out a notice that they have a Letter of Intent to enter into negotiated contract with the company and they gave out a two-week notice. Why did you fail to notify Inuit competitive publicly that you are going through a negotiated contract route on this lease? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Rafter will take that question please. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It may be beneficial, in fact, to review the leasing of real property policy and incorporate some of the member's concerns, and update the policy itself. It has been some five years since the policy was actually written and drafted and typically this government reviews and updates its policies at minimum every five years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the sincerity of the minister and deputy minister; they're trying to work the best deal for Nunavummiut. But when I was involved in the drafting of *Article 24* and the subsequent policy documents that both governments had, because I was advised that it gives a fair basis for them to play ball with you guys, in this case, no, there was nothing and that violates all the provisions. It is really quite amazing that our own government would do that.

I have a motion that I would like to introduce regarding this process and I wonder, if it's appropriate, I would like to circulate it before I move it so that the members could have it. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I will give you a few minutes to look at the motion.

**Committee Motion 002 – 2(4): Recommendation to Modify Government of Nunavut's Leasing Policy**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Now, that you've seen the motion. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommend that the Government of Nunavut more fully comply with the spirit of *Article 24* of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement by enhancing the transparency of its leasing practices through an amendment to the Government of Nunavut's Leasing of Real Property Policy to explicitly require that prior to enter into or renewing commercial leases, a public tender or a request for proposals takes place in all circumstances. (interpretation) Is that adequate?

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. The motion is in order. Before we proceed with debate on the motion I have a few comments to make as to procedures.

Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first. The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply, which closes the debate. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think most of the speakers, on the issue of leasing, fully represent their constituents, not only that but the requirements of the government to comply and comply with the contracting regulations.

But we have a modern-day treaty, I believe, with the *Article 24*, which really quite enhances the traditional contracting regulations and financial management instruments in negotiating any contract or leases.

So what I'm trying to say is that we have come to this point where we are in a bind because the government says there is no competitive companies, in particular communities, for this type of thing.

I think if we were all vigilant, I believe that real estate property people, they would have known a year ahead that this lease is about to expire now. There's no option to renew, so let's put it out to public tender but someone failed to really knock on the door and say caution.

So in order to prevent that, the motion is clearly; again, I think it provides a notice to the government that it is not acceptable for the minister or the Cabinet to proceed with negotiated contracts without considering all the other options.

I believe that if we're going to have a strong free enterprise spirit in communities, and the relationship to develop further with the government, we must allow the free enterprise, the real estate companies to compete; at least provide an offer. In the end, you may buy the old, used facilities but give them a chance. That's what the transparency requirement of the motion is stating.

I would like all the members, including the Cabinet Ministers to vote in favour of this motion and we are asking for a recorded vote on this. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. I have no more names. Ok. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date we have done our utmost to fulfill our obligations from the Land Claim Agreement. Unfortunately at the time leasing was not covered in the Land Claim Agreement under *Article 24* and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated has not approached us to cover leases. We cover contracts and we do an annual review of the policy to make sure that these are put into consideration with the annual review process so we'll be abstaining because we have to look at this carefully.

But at some time I undertook along with my Cabinet colleagues this morning to do an extensive review of all the leases; the long-term leases that are going to expire in five years, that there would be no discretion but it would go to an expression of interest process before the termination of any lease.

So that is what I undertook to do and that is what we'll do so that we provide for a competitive process and we agree with that. So we will adjust our policies accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. To the motion. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague Mr. Curley for putting this motion before us today. It is very important in my mind that we do have a Leasing of Real Property Policy that is unassailable and can comply with all that we stand for here in the House. That we get good deals for our limited resources and that the process is

transparent. That we have accountability throughout the process at all stages of what's outlined within the policy. That it is equitable to all business, organizations wherever they are in the Nunavut, any community across our great territory.

I don't think that the government should expect that the MLAs are going to simply rubberstamp anything that comes before us just because they've got themselves backed into a corner. Government is elected to govern. They have to look at all the options. They know funds are limited. We didn't give them a credit card to simply go out and sign long-term expensive leases that are going to commit us to much more than the cost of a new building. We have to get bang, big bangs for our bucks nowadays.

We also have to take into considerations that many of the buildings that are involved are old wherever they are in Nunavut, they are old. We have a responsibility to our Government of Nunavut employees to provide them with modern facilities. We all heard of the sick building syndrome that affects employees across the world. We have to provide our employees with buildings that are modern, that are conducive to a positive working environment. The buildings may be good now but if you add another 20 or 30 years onto most of those buildings, as the case may be, you know we are going to be incurring more money at that time to either upgrade the building, or buy the building, or construct a building.

I want to ensure that we are in fact, as the minister said, getting a good deal on leases whether they are being negotiated or being reviewed and for that reason I'll be supporting this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to actually thank my colleague for bringing forward this motion and the comments that have been made including those made by the Premier in committing to following through to what they said they were going to be doing already anyway on these leases, especially this particular one.

I believe that that commitment was made a few years ago and then forgotten about. So if we can get it in there that they all have to go through that process I think that it's better for everybody: a lot more openness, accountability and transparency within the government. And the view from the outside, too, that the private sector will feel that they will have an opportunity to express some interest, if they so choose to do so.

When you have cases like this where you just sole-source negotiate with someone such that no one else even gets a sniff of that. I don't know how much that building cost in 1986 to build but my guess is that it probably cost \$3 million or \$4 million, and if you look at the leases it's going to be between \$40 and \$50 million that has been paid for by the end of the 40 years; a pretty darn good return on an investment, if you asked me.

I think that's one of the concerns that the Auditor General raised. Is that the best use of our resources? I don't think so. I think that's why going to a more open and transparent

process that we will be able to, beyond a reasonable doubt, tell the Auditor General and the public out there that, “Yep. Look that was the best deal that we could get, and here is all the information.”

That question is there. Is it? Or isn't it? We don't know, because no one else had the opportunity to submit a proposal or anything on it. Is it a better deal than what we had? I'd say anything would have been a better deal than what we had on it. But is it the best deal? We don't know because it never went out there for public input. I think that's important with our limited resources that we're not tying them up in long term leases when in fact we may not have to. This could be a way of ensuring; if that decision is made, that we know 100 percent for sure that it's the best deal that we could come up with. But without that process going in there, putting it out there, we're just guessing.

For that reason I'll be supporting this motion and I would encourage everybody to support it, instead of just abstaining. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the mover of this motion because I believe that according to my understanding that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* we all know each other and we never hide anything from each other, especially when you go out hunting. Amongst Inuit men that you do not hide any information; you disclose all the information to everyone. If there are animals on that side we have to inform everyone.

So that's our traditional way of doing things, *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, which our Nunavut Government has been stating that they would like to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and respect it. For that reason I am in support of this because it's not going to hurt anyone out there and it's not going to make anyone miss out on anything. So we would like to provide spaces for our employees. If we did things properly there is going to be no fighting, or no concern.

When we do things behind people's backs, the public is not happy about that. So therefore, I'm going to be in support of the motion.

Years back prior to the Nunavut Government being created, the federal government used to make their decisions without any consultations or input of the Inuit. For example, the dog slaughter days. So it really had made Inuit suffer. So now, Inuit are taking part in these works and they're taking part in the decision-making, so it hurts us less.

So therefore, for all those reasons, I would like to be in support of this motion because the public has the right to know what is happening with us. When you don't know anything about something and when you finally find out, it hurts many people in Nunavut.

I'm sure there have been concerns for a long time when the government starts working on leases and I'm sure the public out there would like to take part in the request for proposals. Even though we might use the same facility, let's put it out in the open. If it's the best way and if it's cost-effective, then I will be agreeing to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. I have no more names on my list. I wish to inform the committee I have no more on my list. Does the mover have a last reply? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank all the members who made their comments to the motion. Just to point out further, I am sorry to move this motion but I had no choice.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the reason I wanted to speak and make a comment is that I know for a fact during the early 19th century we were naive in dealing with commercial trade, particularly Inuit, but not today. We're not naive that *Article 24* does not include leasing. It includes all contracts, including service contracts. It does not specify what kind of contracts; it tells us all contracts. We'll leave that definition to the courts.

In the end, I would like to thank all of you; certainly, I hope that the government will use this mechanism, this notice to improve its communication requirements because if the exercise were to be taken by a proponent that may have not been given a chance, it could become a lot more costly if we're not careful.

So I would like to thank all the members who are supporting it and (interpretation) I will conclude with that for now. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. That closes the debate on this motion. A recorded vote has been requested.

All those in favour, please stand, and once I have called your name sit down. Mr. Curley. Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Mapsalak. Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Peterson. Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Evyagotailak. Mr. Barnabas.

All those opposed, please stand, and sit down when I call your name. There being none.

All those abstaining, please stand and then sit down when I have called your name. Mr. Akesuk. Ms. Aglukkaq. Mr. Picco. Mr. Okalik. Ms. Brown. Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Netser.

Thank you. Okay. For the motion: nine. Against: zero. Those abstaining are seven. The motion is carried.

>> *Applause*

Thank you. Ms. Brown, you may go back to the witness table and carry on with the debate on main estimates. We are still on Page J-11. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Government Services. I agree with you; it's government services. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and officials for returning today. I wonder if I could follow up the line of questions from my colleague just to clarify some information.

The minister mentioned how much it would cost to build a new building to get an assessment. Could you clarify that number again that you mentioned earlier? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will turn that to Mr. Rafter to answer, please? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The number provided by the departmental officials for constructing a facility of similar size and use with improvement, tenant set-up was in the order of \$18 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Rafter for that answer. The minister mentioned earlier that there was a 20-year lease, 10 years, and 10 years. Why did you not go for a five-year lease or a 10-year lease? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have the deputy minister to answer that please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As mentioned earlier the proposals went forward to the Department of Finance for cost benefit analysis and based on the information it was determined that the 20 year lease was the best value for money and in addition, as mentioned, over the 20 years we actually own the building at the end and that was also taken into consideration in the cost benefit analysis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Hine for that answer. Can the minister tell us, did you approach the landlord to ask if they would be interested in a five-year lease? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Ms. Hine to continue with that answer please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we did talk to the landlord and they were not willing to provide a five-year option. It was based on the fact that there were large amounts of improvements that had to be done on the building, \$2.2 million, and they felt that the amortization of the repairs over a five year amortization period or lease period would make it too costly for the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Ms. Hine for that answer. Could the minister or Ms. Hine tell us what would happen in the event the government chose not to renew the lease on the landlord's terms? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we should choose that, or if we get a direction to go the other way, I think there would be legalities involved because there's a letter of intent already in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the answer. Could you clarify what you mean by that there could be legalities involved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask Ms. Hine to answer that, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister said, there's a letter of intent that has been offered to the landlord. Should we now stop negotiation, there could be a legal



ramification should it be shown that the letter of intent is a binding contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Ms. Hine for that clarification. Can the minister clarify; have you sought legal opinion on whether that letter of intent is binding on the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we haven't yet. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Could the minister clarify: have both parties signed the letter of intent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last question I think I made a mistake. I think what I will do now is I will ask Ms. Hine to answer that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the letter of intent has been signed by both parties, therefore making it a binding contract. So we would have to take a look at further legal implications should we now back out of negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Ms. Hine for the answer. Earlier the minister mentioned that a lease/buy analysis had been completed. I would like to ask the minister if she could provide the Members on this side of the House with a copy of that lease/buy analysis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Hine will respond to that question, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The lease/buy analysis or the cost benefit analysis was completed by the Department of Finance. We can certainly talk to the Department of Finance regarding the member's request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Ms. Hine for that answer. Could I get a bit of a firmer commitment from the minister? I know talking to the Department of Finance is one thing but can we get some kind of commitment that we will receive that document and hopefully we receive it today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Hine will answer that, please.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, I'm sure we can talk to the Department of Finance on that and see what we can provide to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be plural. Not to the member but to the members. We would all like to see that.

Earlier you mentioned the needs assessment and you completed that, the cost estimate for a new building. I believe that was done by Community and Government Services. Can we receive that document? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for that answer. By yes, will you provide us today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As soon as possible and as soon it is made available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can always take a break while the officials get that document. She said as soon as it is made available. I take that you are sending a

message through this broadcast to your officials that they will provide it to us today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Yes, I'd like to make that available as soon as I can and the staff are working on it right now. 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 tell how long she requires her staff to make that document available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The staff are in research right now for that answer and it will be made available to you as soon as we have it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I hate to keep harping on it but one thing that I have learned after three years here is you can't take those statements at face value: as soon as they are available. I am trying to pin it down. I'd like to have it today, in fact by six o'clock or earlier. I am wondering if the Minister can make that commitment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we'll try and have that by six o'clock. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Perhaps the minister could clarify how large a document it is that she has to photocopy. Is it two inches thick or is it a couple of pages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know how many pages it is but it is about an inch. So copying will take a while. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Last week, when the minister was here, Mr. Rafter mentioned that the lease cost was at 20 percent below the Government of Nunavut average lease cost. I asked what that figure was and Mr. Rafter wouldn't provide it. Can he provide that today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Rafter to respond to that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On average, the average lease cost the Government of Nunavut leases is \$22. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rafter. Can the minister clarify for us or tell us what type of software you use to project the lease versus buy analysis? What kind of assumptions do you put into that software program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Typically, and I didn't prepare this lease/buy assessment, I am saying typically. When I do prepare these lease/buy assessments, it is done in an excel spreadsheet. You consider the present value of the annuity stream for the period in question and you just count that back to today's dollars, and that's compared to the actual purchase price of the facility and it is the basis for the lease buy analysis or in some cases it is done on a leased to construct comparison. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Mr. Rafter for that answer. I had the time over last week to prepare my own Excel spreadsheet. I made some assumptions and used a risk premium, and interest rate of six percent, and that's the other variable; I expect that I am not privy to that information you folks have, but when I crunched the numbers, the number my spreadsheet came back with was less than \$12 million.

You told us earlier that it would cost the government \$18 million to build a new building and then I think the total of all these lease payments over 20 years would be close to \$15

million. Your spreadsheet shows that you would be \$3 million over and my spreadsheet shows that you would be \$3 million under, so there's a pretty wide discrepancy.

I'm not an expert on this kind of stuff but I do have a basic understanding of that. I wonder if you or Ms. Hine could take us through that. What kind of analysis, like step-by-step, how do you crunch those numbers to get to reach \$18 million, which resulted in you making that decision to lease it so you're going to save yourselves \$3 million over 20 years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Rafter to respond to that so he could give us that clarification. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just opening up the leasing policy in terms of the guidelines but the value in terms of the cost of construction is provided by the technical experts within the Department of Community and Government Services. The lease/buy assessment is, or at least the construct assessment is then completed.

The various factors in terms of risks and interest rates, a proxy is used, that's a 10-year bond proxy from the federal government, the Government of Canada, which is the basis of the interest rate. There is a small premium, I believe, of 1.6 percent is added into the total, and the calculations flow from that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rafter for that answer. Can Mr. Rafter clarify for us again, I don't have the lease activities report but I think several hundred millions of dollars are lease commitments in that report. It's important that we have officials working in your department and also software that can sharpen the pencils a little bit.

Do you have people and software and enough resources in your department or in that division that can stay on top of all the leases that we have signed, and that are coming up for renewal, and future leases that will be negotiated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Rafter to respond to that, please? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The financial tools to perform the assessments are relatively straightforward. I don't think there's a requirement within government to find an application to perform these given the nature of the lease/buy assessments. On the other hand the government does constantly face challenges in recruiting and retaining people from time to time, and this is one of those areas within the department that has had some difficulty, and staffing up has had some challenges. At one point six months ago, or a year ago, the department in this particular area was fully staffed. It is not at this time.

I am not sure if that fully responds to the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I mentioned in my comments during the debate on the motion that we had to be concerned about our Government of Nunavut employees. I don't know how many people in this room have been to that building but there is quite a serious issue related to overcrowding, there's not a proper flow, walls are being built that separate windows, you don't have the airflow in the building, it's about 20 years old, so the original interior design is out of date.

So I'm wondering if the minister can tell me if there are plans, if the government renews their lease, if there are plans to upgrade the interior of that office building so that the employees have a more modern and welcoming office environment to go to work to everyday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In one of the member's questions, I think there was going to be \$2.2 million for the renovation of the member's concerns. I know that they tried to do some renovations on it and after the agreement has been signed they will do renovations for the whole building, and they will have to use \$2.2 million. EDC will have to spend \$2.2 million for the renovations of the whole building.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Perhaps the minister can clarify the \$2.2 million. It is my understanding that is going to replace windows, doors, and other things of that nature and also the exterior of the building. I am more interested at this point about tenant improvements, and improvements inside the building, in the office environment for the staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister said part of the negotiation is for the landlord to complete \$2.2 million on the building. Most of that will be code deficiencies and building upgrades. There will be some tenant improvements inside as well. We're in that part of the negotiations to finalize the list that will be covered by the \$2.2 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hine. Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Page J-11. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of questions on there. I believe it was said earlier that there was a five-year option looked at but it would have been too costly for the GN if improvements were factored into it.

If I had rented someone a house, I would have to pay for the upkeep of that house out of the money that I made over the term of the lease. It sounds like, okay, we'll do these \$2.2 million worth of repairs to the building but you've got to finance it.' Why would we be financing those improvements if it belongs to the landlord, if he'd neglected it for this long to let it get to that point?

Why should we have to ... I'm not a property expert or anything like that but I wouldn't expect a tenant if I was renting someone a house to have to finance any repairs, if neglected, to look after that over a period of time. So why would that even play a factor into the cost of the lease to us for their own neglect? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Ms. Hine to respond to that, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was a very good question. It's known practice in landlord or in real estate law for the landlord look at recouping their costs. So in this situation where they're doing major improvements to the building, it would capitalize those improvements over the life of the lease, and that is normal practice under real estate law, and basically, all landlords would look at recouping their costs over the lease term. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just doing the math, though, I think I said earlier, and someone else mentioned earlier, probably in 1986 it was a \$3 million or \$4

million building. Over the 20-year lease that we inherited, if it was \$1.2 million a year that was in the first contract report, they have more than recouped their costs on that.

It's at least a \$15 million profit on that, which is a very good return on investment. So if they made \$15 million on it and they've neglected it, why should we be financing \$2.2 million for them to recoup costs over an asset that, if it was looked after properly over time, wouldn't require that work that's being done on there. It's normal upkeep.

So I mean again, I really question the logic of that. I mean those costs have been paid for ten times over already over the last 20 years. I have a hard time understanding why the heck we should have to finance those repairs over something that they've neglected to look after for the last 20 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the department does appreciate the comments and the statements that were just made.

One of the issues is that the department is negotiating a proactive maintenance program into the time of the lease. Over the course of the proposed term of this lease arrangement, there would be a proactive maintenance and a draft schedule for a typical sort of building of this type and nature, which includes daily, weekly hours, monthly hours, quarterly, semi-annual, and additional maintenance.

In addition to that, the \$2.2 million worth of improvements, that is the estimate in terms of the deficiencies, if you want, or the improvements that are required right now will become an asset of the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to call it an asset; more a liability in my mind. One of the things that were mentioned earlier was that I don't know whether it was called an analysis, or evaluation, or technical report, or whatever that you were looking at seeing at getting a copy. That was as you indicated that was done by the Department.

Was that the last one that has been done or has there been any other technical evaluations done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I please ask Ms. Hine to respond to that, please? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Brown. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was a third-party independent technical evaluation that was completed on that property and it was completed in 2006. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we are getting the one that you mentioned about, that your department did, would it be possible to get a copy of the third party evaluation as well? I don't need it today but I would be very interested in going through both of them and see if they pretty much said the same thing.

So from that point, I'd like to at least get a commitment that it would be provided to Members at some point in the near future as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I can agree to that member for that request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Brown. We are on page Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Government Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$58,026,000. Does the Committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Agreed. Now, we will go to page J-12. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Protection Services. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask the minister; first of all, I want to thank first of all the Fire Protection Services because I know they do hard work. They do that preparing and during emergencies.

In regard to the fire prevention I hear that they are meeting in Rankin Inlet right now to do emergency preparedness and emergency services during aircraft emergencies. I just want to just find out from the minister who they are. Are they are all from every community in Nunavut or just from the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is very important ... fire prevention and there is a lot more training going on. All the communities in Keewatin are represented in that emergency preparedness workshop or

course. Yes, I agree with my colleague that it is very interesting to see such gatherings like that so that can be prepared if there was an emergency. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't hear properly. Are they representing all the communities?

And in regard to the aircraft are they using not just liquid/dry chemicals like on the land because it gets confusing. If there was an airplane crash, can you state if they have dry chemical fire extinguishers? Thank you.

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

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

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

**Mr. Rafter**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not quite fully understand the member's question but airports have a number of emergency response vehicles for extinguishing fires at the airports. Some of that would include a spray foam-type chemical. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley**: I know that has been an ongoing issue for many years for the fire prevention team members in each community that they would like to have more capability to use a spray foam-type of equipment, but whether or not they are sufficient is the question.

Could the minister give us the details of exactly which communities have that capability other than the water hose kind of fire equipment? And if not, do you have a strategy of when you would be able to implement the first class type of spray capability to extinguish fires with respect to the airlines? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member has been posing some very good, interesting questions and I would like to offer that we can obtain a detailed written response, if that's acceptable to the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Madame Minister. Welcome, Mr. Simailak.

>>Applause

Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. Yes, I appreciate it very much. I think it is not only myself but most of these communities would certainly like to see that information. I'm not fully sure of whether or not that is covered by the Fire Marshal's Report or not but I know that the communities are really looking forward to see improvements with the fire prevention equipment and so on.

I would appreciate it if you could table that detailed report to us so that we can at least communicate that as well to our communities. (interpretation) That's all I have for now. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Madame Minister, I didn't hear a question but if you wish to respond.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the training from the Fire Marshal's Office is ongoing through Municipal Training Organization and they're very positive. The training is happening on an annual basis on the different level of regions and sometimes it's altogether; it's all three regions. So it's very positive, and for sure, I will table what's requested. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. (interpretation) We're on (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Protection Services. J-12 and J-13. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page J-18 of the business plan there are references to the Emergency Management Organization and Emergency Measures. The preparedness plan provides assistance to Nunavut communities creating their own plans. I'm wondering if the minister could tell us: do all hamlets and the City of Iqaluit have emergency measures plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask Ms. Hine, if she could answer that, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer is yes. All communities including Iqaluit would have their emergency management plans however a lot of those communities or a lot of those plans are outdated. They've have been prepared a number of years ago and it is one of the priorities of this department is to work with the communities to ensure that plans are up to date and to meet I guess today's emergencies that we are now faced with and would not have been faced with five or 10 years ago. So we are working with the communities to prepare those plans and we are making our staff available for those communities to move forward with those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Ms. Hine for that answer. In every community there is probably one person or one organization that's at the top if there is an emergency that initiates the process and knows the command centre. Can the minister tell me, in a typical hamlet in Nunavut, what organization or individual in the community would be at the command centre, the person that is directing everybody else? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that would depend on each community. Each community is set up differently but every community should have a response team. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for that answer. Can the Minister clarify, each community should have one, but would that be likely the hamlet and if so would the person that called the shots be the mayor? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In communities it is usually the Hamlets and the Senior Administrative Officer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for that answer. Can the Minister tell me what type of training is provided to these individuals whether it is the mayor or the Senior Administrative Officer? Is there a certain time of year that you bring them all to a training centre in Nunavut or do you send them at alternate times of year down to, I think there is a place in Ontario, Arnprior, Ontario where they train people for emergency preparedness. Can you clarify that for me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Years ago I think the member and I remember the times when the mayors and the Senior Administrative Officers used to have to go away to training for emergency preparedness and that was through Colorado. And now they have headquarters here to assist them and it is usually here in Iqaluit and the bigger centres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I guess I missed out on a trip to Colorado ... before my time.

But I never took any training in emergency preparedness. And that was the odd thing, I was mayor for four years and I was never offered any training. But we had emergencies. So you just had to rely on your common sense and you develop your own chain of command. I think the mayors, councils and senior administrative officers should have training. There is always a chance of an emergency; you just don't know when it is going to happen.

I want to ask about the search and rescue organization. Can the minister tell us how many search and rescue organizations exist in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have the statistics available but we can get that but I would say that most communities would have search and rescue and Community and Government Services usually provides them with funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I think a couple of years ago we had the same question. At that time there were only 20 search and rescue organizations. So that meant that there were a few communities without search and rescue organizations. In my opinion, I think search and rescue organizations should be formalized and fall under the jurisdiction of the hamlets, similar to the fire departments that receive that support from the hamlet.

Many search and rescue organizations are set up as non-profit societies, which require a board of directors and a lot of paperwork for them, and they have to do fundraising and other things.

I am wondering if the minister or her officials could comment whether there are any initiatives underway to consider bringing search and rescue organizations as an essential service to the community, bring them more under the jurisdiction of the hamlet councils similar to the way the fire department operates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Hine will take that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good suggestion from the member. I can say that the department, over the last couple of months, have actually held three regional meetings on search and rescue: three workshops. We held one in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit. What we wanted to do is bring in all the stakeholders that are involved with search and rescue so that we can make sure that we have the best system in place.

Just to give you an idea of some of the stakeholders that we did have sitting around the table included Environment Canada, the RCMP, the Joint Task Force North, which is the military, we had the rangers, we had the Joint Rescue Coordination Centres, both air and marine, which is the federal, we had obviously officials from our department, Community and Government Services. We also had hamlet officials, and community elders also participated.

We're hoping that from these meetings, and these ongoing discussions, that we can improve the search and rescue committees, the structures, where they report to, and to get the feedback from all stakeholders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Ms. Hine for that answer. It certainly sounds like there is some positive work in that area. I look forward to receiving an update.

On the same page, page J-18 there is another reference for fire equipment for the Fire Marshall's Office, Fire Protection Strategy. I wanted to ask the minister a question about firefighters. Most firefighters in Nunavut are volunteers and they provide a very valuable and essential service to the community, protecting their residents, houses, and buildings. Most times when you are responding to a fire you're placing your life in danger.

Can the minister explain to me what types of insurance coverage are available to firefighters when they're responding to fires, or participating in training, from the time they leave their house to the fire department, or the fire, and then they return home? What kind of insurances are in place that is available to them so that should they be injured, or should they die, that they, and/or their families will be taken care of? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the detailed information that the member is asking for. I believe it's a policy, which is an opt-in policy, where it's up to

the volunteer firefighter, whether they participate or not but we can certainly provide that information for the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Ms. Hine for that answer. I would like to ask the minister if, in her opinion, does she believe that the firefighters should be covered with life insurance, workers compensation, all available insurances and coverage from the time they leave their house and report to the fire hall and then they go to the site of the emergency until they get back, should they receive coverage? And in the event that they're injured or perhaps even die that they are covered and that their families are looked after should something unfortunate happen to them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good point the member is raising and I totally agree with him. They are a very valuable contribution to our society and we value the volunteers and very, very much appreciate them, and recognize them. We don't live like 50 years ago, igloos never burnt down then, the snow doesn't burn.

Nowadays I believe they should be covered and the families should be looked after and I agree with the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for agreeing with that comment. Can the minister provide me with a commitment that she will table some information, or provide the members with information on the insurance coverages that are available for every hamlet in Nunavut to the volunteer firefighters? What coverage are they entitled to or should be entitled to under Workers' Compensation Board and any other program so that when they do respond or they are trying to decide whether to volunteer or they do volunteer and then they participate in training and responding to emergencies that they can respond, participate knowing fully that if anything happens to them they are going to be taken care of and their families will be taken care of, that they are not going to be left wanting.

They are volunteers, they are undertaking a dangerous assignment when they become volunteer firefighters, not like volunteers for minor hockey that might get a little puffed out trying to keep up with little kids, but when you respond to a fire anything can happen, and we have heard of many of our volunteer firefighters over the years across Canada who have died.

I wonder if the minister could undertake to provide that information and investigate, and ensure that all the coverages or insurance are available to them and if necessary make resources available to them to buy life insurance as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are very valuable comments that member made. Yes, we will review the matter and review all aspects of what was brought up here today by the member and once we have that review done we would like to return back to the committee here and to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that commitment. On Page J-19 of the Business Plan, there was a priority from 2006-07 where it says "Develop a policy regarding inspections including fire prevention for mines and isolated entities." The status was discussions have begun with some of the mining sector and that you're going to meet with the Department of Economic Development to discuss next steps to ensure that there is no more red tape then necessary in effectively implementing the program and for the policy to be in place by fiscal year end.

We're at the end of the fiscal year; can the minister tell me if that policy is in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. That policy is not in place yet but it is still being worked on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister tell when she thinks they'll have the policy in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Summer is more favourable and more promising. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to seeing a copy of that policy when it is place. I have an interest in mining and red tape. Same page. J-19. There is a reference to an enhanced territorial emergency operation centre. Could the minister tell us what that Territorial Emergency Operation Centre does and where they are located and who the members are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Ms. Hine to answer. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Territorial Emergency Operation Centre would be located here in our Headquarters with our Director of Protection Services and the Fire Marshall's Office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hine. We are on page Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Protection Services. J-12 and J-13. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page J-13. Community Search and Rescue Organization Program \$500,000. The search and rescue organizations are very capable when they start working together but RCMP is usually the leader of the organization.

I have a friend who is in search and rescue. My friend said he did not listen to the RCMP recommendation that the RCMP said they are going to stop search and rescue for the body. I am not going to mention the individual's name but the search and rescue Inuit team did not give up looking for the body but the RCMP told them that after certain many days of searching they had to stop looking for the body. So they stopped all the supplies for the search and rescue team. Is that a policy?

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's true what my colleague said that the RCMP is responsible for this line item and RCMP have their own policies and regulations. And our department has a separate policy. We really want to have a close working relationship with the RCMP in all the communities because we want to say that the search and rescue organizations will search for people in bad weather.

I know that the communities know their community more so than the rest of us. We want to work with the Canadian Environment department, the RCMP, the Canadian Rangers, the Hamlet Council offices and the municipal councils and elders.

So we utilize all of these. We will provide the training aspect of this and if they need equipment, we do provide assistance for the equipment. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. ... *no interpretation* ... I believe that the municipalities should have the responsibility because they can communicate with the family members and the RCMP cannot communicate with the family members. So it would be better to have the municipality or the hamlet council to operate this community

search and rescue. They would have the final decision rather than the RCMP. So that's my request if you can consider that. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the member. We held a training program this winter in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit, with the individuals from municipalities in December. We are still planning for future training needs.

So we're focusing more on the needs of Nunavummiut and I expect to see a mandate to include the communities, especially the elected officials in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure what it's called in Inuktitut but in English it's a protocol. Who will be the leaders who will have the last say and so on? Are you taking about that, and if you are, when can we see something? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Ms. Hine**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was a good question from the member. We are trying to work on the protocol, and that was, I guess, the reason we were holding these regional workshops; it was to get everybody at the table so we could actually talk about what the protocol is, whose mandate fits in where, and so we don't have any gaps. We try to eliminate any overlaps that we have.

We will continue to work to come up with the protocol that the member has asked for. I'm not sure exactly the timeframe, we hope to have something finalized this year. We certainly will continue to do everything we can within our own protection services and emergency management to deal with any issues regarding search and rescue to the best of our ability. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would you also consider a similar insurance policy for approved search and rescue members like my colleague Mr. Peterson was talking about for firefighters? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course we can. We want to make sure that we deal with it and we will include search and rescue organizations. We can work further on it and see what we can put into the works. We'll make sure that we start working on it as soon as possible and I personally believe that there should be insurance provided for those organizations and we'll also work closely with the communities while this is getting prepared.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. We are on Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Protection Services. J-12 and J-13. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are the same concerns that I had but we would like to work together, I would like to focus on, I didn't write the page down but it's in the business plans and it's in regard to the SAR Protective Services, it just says (interpretation ends) enhance capabilities based on (interpretation) services to enhance community based Search and Rescue capability and preparedness across Nunavut.

These monies have been very well used and we moved that \$500,000 to this line. I would like to tell the minister that we do appreciate the fact that the search and rescue organizations were able to get together in the regions so that they could be provided SAR training.

Are we going to see some more training programs? I can see here that there are certain SAR recruitment as well as communications systems, but I think the minister might be ready to give us an update on this line where these training programs are. Did the organizations benefit from these training programs? Some of the people who are involved in these search and rescues have been volunteering very long and I think that they should be awarded for their contributions.

Could you include that in the programs under this line? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is very interesting to see since training has been provided to the search and rescue organizations that have long been committed now to what they are doing. Some of these organizations through their efforts and commitment have been able to find more of the people who are lost out there.

We would like to provide more training and for the search and rescue organizations to become more self-sufficient. For the long-term volunteers, they work extremely hard and are fully committed. They go out there into the land in blizzards and bad weather.

In regard to the search and rescue organizations and awarding long time organizations, I will make sure that my staff are listening and getting something going. And even recognition awards are appreciated and I would like to see more of these awards going to the volunteers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the minister. I am sure that you can design what program is going to be set up. This would be something aside from the Commissioner's Awards because they are on-the-land programs. When we are talking about protection services we are talking about fire prevention, fire equipment and search and rescue organizations.

Very few of the communities, like Rankin Inlet, when we get a local fire marshal, usually the person who is appointed is a non-beneficiary. What kind of qualifications or education is required to be appointed to be a fire marshal? Some of these individuals have been working with the fire department for a long time and I am sure that they have witnesses.

Could the minister give us a briefing on what kind of qualifications they need to become a fire marshal? There was one individual who was only 24 years old and I am sure he or she is very capable but I think we have to provide more training for Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Mr. Rafter**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the past couple of years the department has been providing more and more training. It continues to be an area of focus for the department. In 2005, we provided nine training opportunities in the area of fire prevention. As well, in 2006 it increased to 29. So it is a real focus for the department.

Participation in the program across the territory has gone up substantially over the past couple of years by some 150 over a span of one year, in 2005 and approximately 200 in 2006. We have provided training opportunities for approximately 345 participants. Training has been offered in the area of fire fighter training at the general level as well as a level 1 and a level 2. There has been fire inspection training and fire inspector training as well as a fire extinguisher use and recharging the fire extinguishers.

I think that the Municipal Training Organization sets the annual program in terms of setting the business plans each year. They'll certainly take this into consideration and continue to make this an effort for the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. Very useful information. I'd like to ask the minister whether or not there are any other certification requirements like for instance is there an academic standard somewhere or is there particular basic skills needed in that or do we have all the capabilities now for training within Nunavut or do they have to spend some time down south. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct in his statement that it would require some additional training in the south over time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These courses that can be taken only down south, can they eventually be developed through Arctic College or something to that effect? If possible, how should we go about that? Thank you.

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

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

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question that the member asks. As you can tell from the statistics that we provided earlier, on the increased number of training opportunities that we are offering here in the territory, we are trying to take every opportunity that we can to deliver training here in Nunavut for as many participants as we can.

Some of the things that we do is one we use the Municipal Training Organization, which is already established. They help to provide some of the training courses for us. In times where we need somebody with the proper certification we actually bring the trainers here to Nunavut so that we can train more people.

We are trying to take all that steps that we can because we are showing success. If you attend one of these banquets at the end, that the minister and I have had the opportunity to do recently, and you see the level 2 instructors with their uniforms on, it brings pride to

you, as if I was their own mother, I think. To see how proud these individuals are that they do wear the uniform.

As with everything else, if we had additional money and resources we could then be developing more and more courses here. I think it is something that we should be striving for is to offer these courses in Nunavut, whether it's through Arctic College, or again through other partnerships with southern institutes. I think it is something that we should be striving for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. A very, very informative statement from the minister and her deputy. I certainly would like to compliment all of you with 345 people taking advantage of additional training really means a lot to the communities. I share your pride with the fire prevention workers.

I've seen some of the young guys in Rankin Inlet wearing the uniform and you cannot help but being proud of them. I say that because recently one of the mothers of the particular son died recently and she was always very proud of her son doing the volunteer work.

So I compliment all of you for that and look forward to continuing discussions on that so that we do have a very strong volunteer force with respect to fire prevention and fire workers in Nunavut. (interpretation) I'll leave it at that, as that was more of a comment than a question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. J-12. Protection Services. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask a question on J-13. Search and Rescue Organization Program. We were able to put some funding into that last year, although it's not much.

Is this funding for operations and maintenance? The search and rescue have to get new equipment because everything costs a lot today. Is there any way that they can try to receive some funding from other sources, such as grants or contributions, or something. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the question of the member, the communities receive funding in a small amount but for the smaller equipment, it's received by search and rescue, such as GPS, personal locator beacons, HF radios, some Kenwood radios, as well as personal heater systems. And on top of that, they also get ongoing training and they appreciate that very much.

That way, all the communities, when they get together to take training, it's very beneficial for search and rescue. I talked about the equipment and there's not that much funding to purchase equipment for search and rescue. So those are the types of things that we get for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I know even if you have those types of equipment and if you don't have any equipment to go on the land, then it's very hard for them to go and do their search and rescues.

I know that in my community they hold bingos to try to get some funding to get the land equipment and so on. Even though they're in a good position once they get their equipment but nowadays, there aren't enough bingos to raise funds for search and rescue. They also try to get funding from the hamlet to buy larger equipment.

I think it should be a priority of the department to try to make sure that search and rescue receive boats, snowmobiles, and other stuff. I wonder where that equipment will be coming in from and what does the minister think about that equipment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Madame Minister, I think that if you think it's a hypothetical question, then it's up to you to respond to the question. Minister Brown.

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

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

**Ms. Hine**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I will start off first again thanking the regular members for their contribution to putting this money in our budget; it was before my time. I know how important it is for our community search and rescue organizations. So again, it's money that's being well spent.

As you can tell it's not a large amount of money. We are trying to utilize it the best we can by providing training and the small equipment. I think it would be hard to argue about the possibility or how much better it would be if our Search and Rescue Committees were also getting funding for capital items such as snowmobiles and boats except at this point it would be, again, the priority of how do we find the money within the budget and where does it come from.

As I mentioned earlier, we are trying to work with other organizations that also have mandates regarding search and rescue. It's not just to come out with a policy or a protocol but it's how to come out with sharing in some of the costs that are associated with search and rescue.

We hope that in this year we will be able to come forward with a little bit more information on, not only as I said the protocol, but also how we can maybe find additional money for search and rescue from all the stakeholders, including the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know about some of the communities but in my community, they're getting to be a very important part of our community. They don't have any land or water equipment to do their search and rescue, even though they're trying their very best to keep up.

I wonder if the minister can talk with the Canadian Coast Guard or other organizations such as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to see whether search and rescue can get other equipment besides the ones that they have, such as maybe *Qamutiik*, or outboard motors, or other equipment. Would that be possible for the minister to do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are very good comments and for us to talk with Canadian Coast Guard or Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. We can talk with them and try to find out from them what kinds of assistance they can provide us for search and rescue.

At this time I'm not really sure how to go about it because we're talking about capital dollar such as boats and outboard motors and I know that some communities have none. I'm not exactly sure how I can go about it at this time because those are capital dollars that we are talking about. I don't know where we would be receiving some extra funding for capital money because the federal government does not provide us with those types of funding.

I appreciate the comments made by the member and I think we could talk with Canadian Coast Guard and other organizations to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We're on J-12. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if you continue on search and rescue, first of all, I would like to thank the people that rescued me when I got stuck out on the sea ice. There were people that rescued me and they had a 30 horsepower outboard motor and it took a long time for them to rescue me at that time.

When we reached shore, I realized that search and rescue is beginning to get a little bit bigger but I also have a concern just like Mr. Alagalak because they don't have enough of those capital assets such as boats and outboard motors.



The Inuit are always in a hurry to try and help out their fellow Inuit because today everything costs a lot of money and search and rescue doesn't have all those land and sea equipment.

I just want the department to be aware that some funding should be available for capital equipment because Inuit like to find people that are lost. I know that the RCMP are provided with snowmobiles and other equipment but it has to be so many hours before they can go and search for an individual.

Although the family is in dire straits then they have to follow the rules and go look for people only at a certain time. Have you had any talks with the RCMP regarding their search and rescue equipment because I know in Sanikiluaq they have two snowmobiles that could be used by search and rescue. Do you have, as a department, access to those or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to our guidelines we use the guidelines of the government. We would like to work with the RCMP but they have their own equipment. Because of all the policies in place we don't have access to those. I think the RCMP have to wait at least 24 hours before they start searching for people lost out on the land.

I am not sure what their policy is right now but the equipment used to be available for the public, or the search and rescue to use. I'm not sure if that's the case right now but we have to get closer with the RCMP and with the Rangers to help the search and rescue. There is also the Canadian Coast Guard that we work with because they have aircraft. They sometimes have to use their aircraft to do Search and Rescue.

I am not really sure how to answer you right now in regard to the RCMP equipment and how much equipment that they have for search and rescue purposes but we can talk to them because we have to use every available help in order to search for people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister. It gets harder and harder to conduct a search because we don't have the adequate equipment, but if this can be worked on it would be good for the future.

In regard to fire prevention I know that the hamlets work closely with this department but there are instances where they don't work closely together. In regard to the units, they have fire extinguishers in the homes. I think they have to be serviced every six months or so but they only service them or inspect them after so many years.

This has to be worked on by the firefighters in the community. Maybe they are not provided enough funding to do that. It's probably because they don't have the adequate funding that they don't service or inspect the fire extinguishers in the houses. That \$34,000 is way too small and maybe in the future it can be increased because the buildings have to have fire extinguishers and sometimes they freeze if they're not inspected or maintained.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. I am pretty sure that you got that page. J-12 and J-13. Community and Government Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,386,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Page J-14, J-15, J6, J-17 are. I am sorry J-14. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$21,934,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think you can't see me on your left side there. I have a question on the page J-20 of the Business Plan. Reference to Capital Program. Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee.

We discussed that a little bit the last time the minister was here. I've since had some emails from people who are at the community level who are concerned about the way that committee operates. They don't have a problem with the committee itself, they say it works fine.

The committee prioritizes all the hamlet projects and they go back to the department. For one reason or another many of the projects aren't priorities anymore because something else becomes a priority in the department. Mainly it centres around infrastructure that is subject to regulatory or environmental inspection by the federal government; the federal government comes along and says fix up that sewage lagoon or fix up that that water line or garbage dump so that the hamlets whose projects were prioritized, their projects become like second level.

Then the government directs the funds to the priority projects where they happen to be in Nunavut.

I wonder, minister, how you hope to address the concerns from some of the mayors in Nunavut that the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee is not actually working the way everybody hoped and expected it would be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As everyone knows that the priority capitals, when they are being dealt with we did consultation visits to each community. Sometimes I went along; most of the time I went along.

At the time we saw their lists and their top priorities and when they were finalized the communities were quite happy because there was a direct involvement with the new Advisory Committee. To answer the member's question, we are doing second phase pretty soon now to visit the communities to see what might need modification and what might need changes.

However, I would like to say that the issue of balancing needs and funding is very difficult with the resources and the funding that we have. It was one of the most difficult areas because not everybody was happy and we kind of knew that there were going to be some communities that were going to be upset because of the process.

The new process it will continue to improve over time. It was the first time that we were exercising that process and when something new is introduced you have to find out the pros and cons and sometimes it doesn't always work and sometimes we have to make difficult decisions and that's where we're at.

In November 2006 the capital was put before the standing committee. I believe one member didn't see that, that's my colleague from Rankin Inlet, because he was not here; he was off on medical. We try our best to accommodate everybody but with the huge needs of Nunavummiut for capital, we couldn't accommodate all those capital projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that explanation. Can the minister tell us if ... you did your community consultations and you met with all the hamlets, all the councils ... afterwards, did you sit down as a department to add up the total cost by hamlet and territory-wide, identified what the municipal infrastructure price tag is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is true that the needs of municipalities across this territory outweigh the existing resources that the territory has to be able to dedicate on just the basic areas like ensuring that there's clean water in a community, and ensuring that the environment is clean. They outweigh the existing resources by millions and millions of dollars.

I'm not sure if that fully responds to the member's question but I think it was part of the point that he was getting at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Rafter. It does in part. I know people like numbers. Do you have a total number for the entire territory of what the municipal infrastructure costs are ... the deficit? I know Canada-wide it's a \$7 billion municipal infrastructure deficit but what is it in Nunavut alone? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I would like Mr. Rafter to respond to that, please. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have the specific figure available with us right now in terms of what the results of the infrastructure deficit is across the territory. One of the more recent numbers that I had seen was on the order of some \$40 million, I believe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Rafter for that answer. When I was the President of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities we did a quick tally one day for a number we used in Ottawa. When we met with federal ministers in 2002, I believe, it was \$270 million. That was the infrastructure deficit.

I believe it's probably higher now because we've only been putting \$17 million to \$18 million into the municipal infrastructure every year since 2002 and our demands are increasing as every year goes by. I urge you to check that number because \$40 million is not the number that's going to make anybody in Ottawa sit up and take notice.

I know you don't have it here with you but there's a lobbying document that your department prepared, I think it was back in 2003. It talked about the Nunavut infrastructure deficit. I know that's part of what you do in your department is develop lobbying documents similar to what the Nunavut Housing Corporation does, and then you lobby extensively in Ottawa for financial assistance.

Under the description at the top here, under the Capital Planning Technical Services, there is a reference to the New Deal for Cities and Communities and Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program. Those are federal programs that provide infrastructure funding

for provinces and territories. I believe that one program is five years and one is two, or possibly three years long.

I am wondering if the minister could clarify and explain if she is aware of any other programs in Ottawa that are being developed and negotiated with the provinces and territories that are used to provide more infrastructure funding to our territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Needs for capital projects across Nunavut was not \$40 million, it was a mistake in the numbers. We apologize for that. The needs for the Nunavut capital projects are in the neighbourhood of \$400 million to approximately \$600 million.

As we heard today from the Premier it's going to take some time to do some catch-up because the needs out there are a lot and the money is never enough. As for the federal programs, or the money that the member speaks about, the federal budget was just revealed not too long ago. Additional investment for infrastructure in Nunavut is being worked out and we won't know for a little while yet, but as soon as we find out I'd like to share that information with all the members in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

The federal budget last week; I read through a summary that I received from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, which is a national organization that represents all the municipalities in Canada. They weren't overly pleased with that budget in a number of areas.

One of the things that I noted in their summary when it came to programs for the north, the federal government seemed to falling back to the per capita formula, which is based on population. That was one of the things that really hurt us for years and years before 2002 because of our small population base of 30,000. When you have a \$ 2 billion program you only will probably get \$2 million.

I know we were successful in 2002 to get that base allocation formula included. A federal program where it didn't matter if you had 30,000 people, or ten million you'd be guaranteed to get \$20 million if you use a percent, say one percent and then it'll be per capita after that.

I am wondering if the minister could comment whether she is concerned that the government in Ottawa is starting to go back to the per capita allocation formula that didn't really help us much at all in the first five to six years that we were a territory.

I am wondering if she could comment on whether they're making a strong case or argument in Ottawa that we do need that one percent base allocation out of any federal program related to infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, member, for the comments and the question.

We do meet with the federal government minister and they're, along with the other ministers from the provinces, there are 13 ministers from across the nation and the ministers of local government will continue to lobby for long-term funding for infrastructure.

We certainly will continue to stress funding based on actual needs, and not on per capita funding, as it is important for Nunavut. Per capita funding didn't work in the past and my colleagues and other ministers from the provinces realize that and I think other ministers when they go meet with their partners or with their colleagues in their FPTs, they do the same, they lobby the ministers as well. That's when we do real lobbying because we want to be heard and we want to be the same as any other jurisdiction in Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Page J-14. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask a question on the communities' capital requirements and I am sure your department assists and makes decision on capital requirements.

Although you may have alluded to some of it, especially on how there is infrastructure funding to be allocated. Do you make the decision, or do you meet with NAM and the staff group, Capital Planning and Technical Services, do they meet with NAM and other people? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Ms. Hine respond to that question. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good comment from the member and I guess it was based on that idea of how do we actually take into consideration the people's, communities' considerations that we came up with the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee.

That concept, which has representation from NAM, community government, and GN Finance where we actually went and visited each community, looked for their needs, had a committee go through those needs. The assessments of needs were based on the funding programs available. We have a couple of new federal government funding programs so we had to make sure the projects fit the eligibility criteria.

That's what came in; their input came into the formulation of our capital plan, which was brought forward to this House for approval in November. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fully understand the gap between the department and the communities and all the number of groups that are divvying for a piece of the action. One of the things that I want to say is that, is the government or the minister satisfied with the level of agreement with the processes that have been, or the criteria that has been set out, that the deputy minister did outline. The projects that the two parties, who are served, including NAM, do you guys have a relatively good margin of differences as to which of the communities' priorities should be accepted or funded?

The reason I say that is because the NAM members, even in my community, they never seem to be satisfied, maybe much like us here as well. How close normally is the difference as far as the disagreements and cooperation are concerned? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to stress that we feel we have made a lot of improvements and there is a lot of improvement to make and there have been some concerns raised publicly to myself and especially in Rankin.

However, I felt that they had ample, sufficient capital projects that they got and I felt they should be pleased with that but they wanted more. I think they were looking for more or less to get Hamlet buildings and Hamlet owned buildings such as a Hamlet office.

But with Gas Tax you can't get any buildings with that it goes more towards environment, water reservoir or lagoons or sewage plants. Stuff like that. The GN list, on the other hand, it can provide some buildings. For example, Resolute Bay they got, I think it was a community hall or arena. They got an arena because they didn't have one. So we looked at the needs of the communities with that advisory committee and in Whale Cove they didn't have a community hall so they are getting one.

And, the MRIF funding is not Government of Nunavut dollars. So there is never enough funding. We have come along ways with the Gas Tax money and MRIF money. It's more than half of what we got. Before, we got half of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you and I'd like to thank the Minister. I know it is really quite difficult when you have hundreds of projects and so on. But what I am trying to get at is eventually the differences will get narrower and narrower every year because some communities get so frustrated. We get involved sometimes when there is lobbying needed and so on. So I can appreciate the complexity of that.

The reason I am saying that is even though it was not in my community, I was just recently told that with the federal support of either the infrastructure or gas tax fund, one community received something that they didn't even ask for and that was heavy equipment. And there is a private sector as well in the community and they are not short of that particular equipment. And what they had asked for within their capital planning was a sewage truck. They didn't get it but though they are going to get another equipment this summer, which they didn't ask for, and it's sort of inappropriate but they don't ask too many questions about it.

So why would a situation like this happen particularly when there is a back up in the event if you are short because there is a private sector community with ample equipment of the similar ones that they brought in. How would a something like this crack through Capital Planning and Technical Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would be very pleased to get more information about that; which community is that. I do understand that these mistakes do happen but not to expensive equipment. However we will commit to looking into that and get back to you on why that happened. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. The reason why I am raising that is because the private sector is really quite successful and when something like this happens it causes them to worry whether or not your level of services will be reduced or not. So I was given a phone call. So, I will share that privately with you at your convenience. (interpretation) I will conclude with that Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Page J-14. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Total Operations and Maintenance \$21,934,000. (interpretation) Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** J-15. Petroleum Products Revolving Fund, information item. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Mr. Chairman, we did raise a point in my presentation to the Chairman of the infrastructure committee that there's a significant deficit recorded here in the amount



of \$14,071,000. We are asking the minister how this is going to be addressed, as we did not see on J-6, I believe, that there was no allowance to cover this particular deficit.

We sort of have an idea how it's likely to be recovered but I would like the minister to report to this committee exactly how and why there is such a huge deficit of \$14 million? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Rafter will take that question. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The actual product cost is set by the rack rate and the transportation rate as well as a number of other factors that go into it during the course of the year, during a six to eight-week period when we are buying petroleum products.

This past year, once it became fully known in terms of the overall cost, the department made arrangements to adjust the overall petroleum costs for government and the communities. Once that process had been gone through, it became evident that there would still be a shortfall overall for government.

This was addressed through a supplementary appropriation late in the fiscal year, in about the third quarter. An additional appropriation will be required for the stabilization fund in the amount of \$2.9 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. During 2005-06, there was an allowance within the petroleum products stabilization fund in the amount of \$15 million. Last year, 2006-07, the allocation was set at \$5 million. I am wondering why the minister did not feel she should put in an allocation to cover a portion of that, or in full, to the petroleum products stabilization fund? Could the minister explain as to why she did not include that in there? Thank you.

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

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

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From the prior fiscal year, approximately \$15 million was needed as a contribution to maintain the revolving fund for petroleum

products within its legislative limits. At the time when the main estimate documents were produced in the current year, it was determined that there would be approximately a \$14 million deficit.

To maintain within that deficit, \$5 million, at that time, was forecast to be needed. In addition to that, \$2.9 million is required to maintain it within the stabilization fund. So the revised estimates for the department, at the end of the year, will reflect \$7.9 million this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. Minister, will you be tabling a supplementary estimate later? Will we expect that in the spring or fall session? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member is correct that we will be tabling it this session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Page J-15. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is your cost for community fuel contracts identified here? Is it identified here or is it somewhere else? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

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

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

**Mr. Rafter:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The overall cost of distribution contracts, I believe is what the member was discussing, the distribution contracts are covered off within the other O&M of the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund under service contracts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that other O&M, \$15,782,000? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the committee if we could have our other staff member here at the witness table, Susan Makpah. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Does the committee agree to have Ms. Makpah go up to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would escort the individual, please. For the record, Madame Minister, I would like you to introduce your official.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Her name is Susan Makpah; I had said Mackay by accident. I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Welcome, Ms. Makpah. Did you want Ms. Makpah to respond to that question?

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Yes, I agree with my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why are the salaries at \$3,070,000? How many PYs are we talking about when we have \$3,070,000 under salaries and why do you need that many PYs? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): We have approximately 30 employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to know why you need 30 employees under the Petroleum Products Division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Ms. Makpah:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The headquarters is in Rankin Inlet. I have about 16 staff there right now. I also have staff in the three regional centres. In Pond Inlet I have four staff; I have three staff in Cambridge Bay; and three in Rankin Inlet. And

furthermore, the PPD reorganization that was approved in August, we identified four new positions; now the total staff for PPD is at 30.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Makpah. J-15. Information item. J-16, also an information item. J-17, also an information item. So go back to J-4. Community and Government Services. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): In regard to the petroleum products revolving fund we didn't agree to that item. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I just told you that was an information item and if we go back to J-4 you will agree to it.

Community and Government Services. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$146,241,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Are you agreed that the Department of Community and Government Services is concluded.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister, Ms. Makpah, Ms. Hine, and Mr. Rafter. Do you have any closing comments, Ms. Brown?

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank all the members for reviewing our department. Thank you, very much, and I would also like to thank my employees, especially Pam Hine, my deputy, and Mike Rafter. I didn't introduce the one that was sitting in the Gallery. His name is Chris, and also Susan Makpah for making an appearance. Have a good evening and thank you very much to the ministers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Before we move to the Department of Education, we'll take a ten-minute break.

*>>Committee recessed at 19:03 and resumed at 19:18*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask Minister Picco of the Department of Education to make his opening remarks. Mr. Picco.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to see you here this evening.

I am very pleased to be here with the Committee of the Whole to talk about the 2007-08 Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Department of Education.

I appreciate the support we have received from the Committee over the years and I look forward to responding to the Committees questions about our plans for fiscal year 2007-08.

We are continuing our work to improve and enhance all of the programs and services we deliver, which includes the curriculum and resources available in our schools, providing support resources to our daycares, information, programs and support for our income support clients, financial and information support for our adult learners, and essential support for the homeless.

The 2007-08 business plan looks to build on the great steps we have taken in the past three years while appreciating that there is much more to be done. We will continue our emphasis on implementing an education program that reflects Nunavut's values.

Before moving to the 2007-08 Main Estimates and discussions, I would like to be able to reflect on several items that have occurred since we last met on the 2006-07 business plan. While much has happened since last year, I do note the following:

Over the past year, we have had an opportunity to meet with the Chairpersons of all Nunavut District of Education Authorities and, on two occasions, with the newly formed DEA Coalition. I am pleased to see that the coalition has become more focused on its intentions, especially since we suggested the creation of this group during the DEA Chair meeting last spring. It is my hope that the DEA Coalition will continue its work over the next months and years as we move ahead with a new *Education Act* and its regulations.

The Nunavut Project, which was the report by Justice Thomas Berger, released in March of this year, spoke to many issues concerning Nunavut's education system and its future development. While the report might be viewed as damning to our education system, to those within the system it gives us further impetus and support for what we are working on. Long range directions such as those involved in the Bilingual Education Strategy, which we introduced in 2004, and Qalattuq, the 10-Year Educator Strategy, tabled during the Legislative session in November, present articulated and detailed recommendations and plans along several fronts to address the concerns found in Justice Berger's report.

We have been engaged, as have other parties, in discussions with the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, on finding ways to respond to Justice Berger's recommendations on our education system. We will continue to engage Minister Prentice to ensure that the needs of Nunavummiut are addressed. Further, at the national level, my fellow Ministers of Education and I, as part of the Council of Ministers of

Education for Canada are seeking, along with our First Ministers, to ask the federal government to restore and invest funding for post-secondary education and skills training.

Our Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy was tabled in November 2006. Since its release, we have heard from colleagues and interested parties from across Canada in support of the strategy and the work that went into the recommendations. We will be developing a full-fledged budget to support the implementation of the strategy in the coming months.

This is not to say that we remain unmoving in our direction because of the need for more resources. We are using monies we do have as well as leveraging funds from other sources, such as through post-secondary infrastructure supports, to fully implement our Nunavut Community Skills Inventory System. We are also looking at means to extend the capacities for on-line application systems that are user friendly while ensuring financial accountabilities. I am also pleased to advise that we are expanding our partnerships with organizations like the MTO, Kakivak, and Kivalliq Partners to deliver training by pooling our limited resources.

One area that we have been especially pleased with has been the Heavy Equipment Operator Program, which we have sponsored through the federal labour market monies as well as through income support monies. Since this initiative began last year, over 60 Nunavummiut, many who were and are receiving income support, will have taken the program offered through the Operating Engineers Training Institute of Ontario in Morrisburg. Of those that have attended and completed, all have been offered employment. We are also seeing interest in the trades grow in our schools as over 800 students have participated in events sponsored through our Skills Canada Nunavut Program.

On the matter of income support, I am pleased to advise significant progress on the development and implementation of an electronic system that will ensure accountability and consistency of delivery across the territory. We expect to go live in several communities starting in the late spring of this year.

For our day cares, we have provided additional information to help those that wish to start up a day care or home care facility with that information. We have also passed on resources made available through the Early Learning Trust Fund from the Government of Canada to help with infrastructure and resource concerns for our care facility needs. We hope to see more progress with our federal, provincial, and territorial partners in the coming months in this area.

You may also note that we have not spoken much about our schools, whether it is where the development of the new *Education Act* is or on new initiatives. I will be pleased to provide an update to you on the *Education Act*, if you wish. We will also conclude by talking about the major increase in the Mains since last year.

In keeping with our desire to strengthen the school system, \$2.9 million was added as supplementary funding for 2006-07 and will continue for 2007-08. The funds cover

salaries and benefits for nine new positions, O&M, plus contract services budget to ensure that the evaluations and assessments of school programs, staff, and students are completed and monitored to ensure the increased success of our students and strategies which are being put in place by the government.

With these additional resources we will also continue the development of the K-12 resources in Inuktitut, our trades program implementation and in-service support to all Nunavut schools. The nine positions will be located in: Pangnirtung; Kugluktuk; Kivalliq; Qikiqtani; Arviat; and the Commission Scolaire Francophone du Nunavut.

The purpose is to provide supports to schools and District Education Authorities in the assessment of schools, school programs and student success as well as the completion of relevant curriculum and resources for our schools. We have provided \$10,000 to each District Education Authority to help them hold public consultations on the Language of Instruction model each community wishes to use over in their schools as well as monies for the newly formed District Education Authority Coalition to help them with ongoing start-up costs.

I will be pleased to respond to questions from the Committee at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, can you assist the officials to the witness table.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, Minister, please introduce your witnesses. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the table the Deputy Minister of the Department of Education, Kathy Okpik, on my immediate left, and on my immediate right, Mr. Jeff Chown, Director for Financial Services.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Welcome. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Health and Education have opening comments? Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): I will be doing my opening comments. (interpretation ends) As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Health and Education I am pleased to

make some opening remarks as we begin deliberation on the budget of the Department of Education.

The Department of Education proposed Operations and Maintenance budget for 2007-08 of \$188,954,000 is very close to the department's revised O&M budget for 2006-07. In light of ongoing forced growth pressures, and increasing demands on some support systems, the committee would appreciate hearing from the minister what assurances he can provide that his department will be able to remain within the budget during the upcoming year.

The standing committee was pleased to review the 2007-08 Programs and Services plans for Nunavut Arctic College, which was received for the first time by the Legislative Assembly. This document, along with the departments recently tabled Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy and the 10-Year Educators Training Strategy, details a number of initiatives to add as Nunavut's need for educational opportunities for adults.

The committee was also pleased to note Nunavut Arctic College management's response to the report on our review of the Arctic College. Committee members had also expected a response from the government, especially on four of our recommendations, which directly relate to the responsibilities of the Department of Education.

Members have noted the ongoing progress towards the establishment of the Nunavut Trades School with programs to be delivered out of Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay. Members look forward to the start of these programs. In the meantime, the committee has noted the department's current efforts, in cooperation with Nunavut Arctic College and the Nunavut Housing Corporation, to provide trades training as a component of the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy, which will be used in building new homes in communities across Nunavut.

Members will be closely monitoring this initiative, as concerns have been raised regarding the number of on-the-job training positions that will be available to community residents, the availability of instructors in the communities and the timely completion of the housing units.

The committee has noted that the department's Inuit Employment Plan projects an increase in the number of beneficiaries employed in professional positions. Members encourage the minister in his efforts to revitalize the Nunavut Teacher Education Program and support all efforts to increase the number of Inuit teaching in Nunavut's schools.

The standing committee further believes that in order to promote and support the development of Nunavut-trained professionals such as teachers and nurses, greater efforts must be made to ensure that financial concerns are not a barrier to success. The standing committee recommends that the minister work with his officials and representatives of Nunavut Arctic College to bring forward a proposal to provide additional financial



support for students in degree-granting programs such as the Nunavut Teacher Education Program and the Nunavut Nursing Program.

The committee recognizes that the department has a number of ongoing initiatives aimed at increasing the number of high school graduates, including the Multiple Options Strategy and the Young Parents Stay Learning program. While members support the goal of increasing the number of students who graduate across Nunavut, it is important that these graduates have attained the appropriate skills and knowledge that will enable them to access further opportunities such as post-secondary education or trades training. The committee urges the department to closely monitor the ongoing educational achievements of its grade 12 graduates and will be requesting regular updates on this issue.

The committee is aware that the department is in the process of developing and implementing evaluation and assessment tools for math, reading and writing in grades three, six and seven. Committee members and Nunavut parents look forward to hearing the results of these assessments and how they compare to national standards across Canada.

The role of District Education Authorities has been a point of discussion on many occasions over the past few years. In recent years, DEAs have asked for support with cultural programming, staff hiring policies and discipline issues. DEA members have also been involved in discussions regarding the development of community Bilingual Education Strategies, the new *Education Act* and other ongoing initiatives. While the standing committee is aware that the department has facilitated the creation of a DEA Steering Committee, it is also aware that a Coalition of Nunavut DEAs has been established. It is not clear how the Coalition works with the Steering Committee and the department to address the many issues facing our schools across Nunavut.

The standing committee anticipates the introduction of the department's new *Education Act* in the near future. Members are aware that the development of this new legislation has involved extensive consultation and revision. The *Education Act* introduced in the First Assembly did not pass and a number of outstanding issues continue to raise concerns. Members urge the minister to ensure that major issues have been resolved before introducing this legislation. The department's business plan indicates that regulations, policies and procedures for the new *Education Act* are currently being developed and the committee will expect to receive these items for review as soon as the proposed legislation is introduced.

The committee is pleased to note that the department has introduced a Nunavut-wide electronic case management system for the administration of Income Support across the territory. Members are confident that once this system is phased in, it will help to ease the workload of case-workers in addition to providing a better system for managing and monitoring the overall costs of this program.

Committee members have noted recent changes to the eligibility criteria for the Seniors Fuel Subsidy Program, which is administered through Income Support. The committee

encourages the department to make every effort to make information about this program publicly available.

Members have made recommendations that the department conduct a review of the Social Assistance regulations with a view to better supporting individuals, such as hunters or outfitters, who only have seasonal opportunities to earn income. Members look forward to the results of such a review.

On a final note, Mr. Chairman, the issue of literacy is one that concerns the standing committee. The federal government's recent cuts to literacy funding across Canada have had serious impacts on program delivery here in Nunavut. The Nunavut Literacy Council has had to lay off employees, reduce programming and meet demands with fewer resources.

The committee applauds the fund-raising efforts of organizations such as First Air, which recently donated a significant amount of money to the Literacy Council. The committee is also aware that the federal Department of Human Resources and Social Development has recently approved transitional funding so that the Literacy Council can continue its work for another year. Members urge the minister to lobby the federal government to reinstate funding, especially in the areas of family literacy and community-based literacy. Members further encourage the Minister to carefully consider options to fill in the gaps left by the federal cuts.

That concludes my opening remarks. Individual members may also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Before we proceed I 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 until 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 governmental estimates. Do members have general comments? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and chairman for their opening comments and welcome the minister and his officials to this Committee of the Whole. A few things ... the minister in his opening comments he talked about the Berger Report and how it reflects on education. I think the fact that finally the department seems to be a little bit more proactive in that area of looking at evaluating the system itself with the criterion testing that they are developing. I think that's the step in the right direction.

Another thing that they've done, it was attempted a number of years ago with the coalition of the district educational authorities ... and the district educational authorities felt with the divisional board gone, when we dissolved those, that they had no way of working with each other to help each other out. And it is nice to see after the second attempt of trying to get that done the department eventually came around to graciously giving consent for them to do that.

I think he talked about the fact that there's not a whole lot of talk in his opening comments about the *Education Act*. As the chairman pointed out, and I concur with him, that some of the outstanding concerns that were raised in the last Assembly with the *Education Act* aren't addressed. We don't want to be dealing with the same thing again.

There has been, you could almost say over-extensive consultations where the first time around the government said that they ... volumes of consultations on it and the standing committee did consultations on it, and now the government done consultations on it again. I really hope that in the go-around this time that they take a good look at the concerns raised by the standing committee last time to try to try alleviate some of those problems that were identified at that point in time so that they won't resurface again. As our chairman pointed out, we will be watching for those.

So I really hope that that happens. I can suggest to the minister that the one thing that failed to happen the last time with the development of the *Elections Act*, you know you have a coalition for district educational authorities now. Once they've developed draft legislation, to sit down with the coalition and explain to them these are the things that are changing, these are why they're changing. And granted, no one is always going to agree with changes but at least they have the ability to know what they are and why they were made.

That was something that the department failed to do the last time around and you had a big piece of legislation sent out to all the district educational authorities saying you got two weeks to let us know what you think about it. It was a difficult task to go through legislation on its own, never mind volunteer boards trying to do it in a couple of weeks.

I would urge the minister to go through that process quite deeply with the coalition, and that will alleviate a lot of problems that could arise if that doesn't happen. I would think that if they're comfortable, whether they agree or not, with everything that's in there at least they know what's been changed, and the rationale behind why.

It would probably give them and the members of the committee and the Members of the House a little more comfort on moving forward on that.

He had indicated that he'd give us an update on it. I'd like to hear what types of areas that the department is having differences of opinions with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on the *Education Act*. And see if there is something there that they're going to be able to overcome, or is it just going to go down too, "That is what you think. We respect that but this is what we think." Agree to disagree and move forward rather than stalling the process.

I would like to hear from the minister what types of things they are at loggerheads on and which things can be overcome and which things can't. What types of progress does he expect to make on that? That's it for my general comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I have no more names on my list for general comments. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley (interpretation):** Thank you. (interpretation) I would just like to welcome the minister and his officials, first of all. Thank you for appearing before us and the main estimates are very useful. There's about \$200 million.

First of all, I would like to state that, as the minister knows, the future of our children in the schools, we have to concentrate on it. I know in some areas there are constant challenges that we see that are new, especially when we see young adults, when they're in school we see great challenges they have to go through because they are influenced, whereas maybe more would stay in school but there are so many challenges now.

I just wanted to state that. As the minister knows, our teachers work really hard and sometimes when our children are going through difficult times they help out the parents, especially the elders, who have children who would be in high school, a lot of times they just end up babysitting.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to raise some fundamental challenges I believe that we're facing today because we are living in the geography of where there are much less choices for economic opportunities for our children, for the future of our young people. And yet we must find a way to make them succeed, even with the limited opportunities in Nunavut.

So I think having said that, the minister is faced with tremendous challenges. We're going through a number of exercises in Nunavut where we're trying to establish a Nunavut-made legislation for a new *Education Act*.

Again, I think a number of people that participated in that process have very conflicted kind of proposals, ideologies, ideas. And yes, I will have specific questions later on but how do you reconcile some of these broad, diverse ideas. Let's say that even before the language legislation is established in Nunavut by legislation; how do you reconcile that the best use of Inuktitut or English language teaching is best? So where does the minister stand with that?

I know that you are developing the Language Arts Program and it's one of the priorities but I would like to ask the minister later on, exactly where does his leadership stand with respect to presentation or the best use of language instruction? Which one is he going to promote or is he going to let the local groups stand instead of clearly making a clearly defined language of instruction in our schools because we still have to play a role with the global challenges.

So I really believe that you have tremendous challenges. Like some of the areas that we have to look at and give serious consideration to give teachers and schools better protection. We are now faced with situations and challenges where the teachers are faced

with very difficult students sometimes. They require security and everything else, therefore some call that bullying and everything, and security for teachers and so on.

So I think these security needs of schools really have to be fundamentally established. They shouldn't be an option; they should be either in the regulations to that affect or something.

So I would like to see the minister clearly define what we need by providing security for the teachers as well as the measures to control bullying for the younger students that normally have disadvantages and so on.

Finally, I think the one area that I would like to point out is I really truly believe that we are not doing enough for special needs students. I think we are doing ... we have bits and pieces ... pots of programs here and there but they are really not comprehensive.

However, many of the students with special needs may be young people, students that have either some disability with mental as well as a physical. We really should have the best in Nunavut. We may not be able to have a comparable program with southern students that are have special needs programs.

But, we do need some in Nunavut and we will be asking the minister how exactly he is going to address that and I think it should be closer to local schools and so on instead of being one available at that particular location here and there.

We have a very unique situation in Nunavut. I encourage the minister to not be shy about how he is developing and improving all the challenges that we have and I fully support that because this department is really one of the most important and I think the social agency and department should also bring hope to our children as well as the fact that we have a challenge with our teachers.

I certainly hope that the teachers are fairly represented with their housing needs as well as the other benefits. If we don't have that we will continue to have a weak system in Nunavut. (interpretation) That is all I have for now, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. I don't mind if you conclude with that. General comments? Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This morning, since we started earlier than eight o'clock this morning I would like to acknowledge the clock and report progress.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Did you move a motion? Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Yes, I move the motion.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. Motion is not debatable. All those in favour, raise your hand please. Opposed? Only one. Motion is carried. Thank you, Mr. Minister, Mr. Chown, Ms. Okpik. Thank you. I will now report progress to the Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you members for coming back. Orders of the Day. 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 would like to report progress and that one motion was adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Thank you. Mr. Curley. Mr. Curley seconds the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Thank you. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 if that's okay with the members.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. There is a request to get unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? No nay. Please proceed, Mr. Premier.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our Sergeant-at-Arms' wife Hannah Kilabuk is here and it's the very first time that I have ever seen her in the gallery and she is from my constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### **Speakers' Ruling**

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Welcome to the Gallery. Before we move on to Orders of the Day, (interpretation ends) I will now provide my ruling on the Point of Privilege raised by the Honourable Member for Nattilik on March 20, 2007.

In raising her Point of Privilege the member referred to the translation of proceedings in the Legislative Assembly. The word translation is normally used to refer to words in written form, while the word interpretation is normally used to refer to the oral word.

This distinction is important, as translation services in the form of the Hansard are provided by an outside agency while interpretation services and, yes, some translation services are provided in the House.

In reviewing the members Point of Privilege, it is clear that she is concerned with the television broadcast of all proceedings and accordingly the interpretation of our proceedings. Members of our assembly speak various dialects of Inuktitut, as well as Inuinnaqtut and English.

If a member speaks English, their comments are simultaneously interpreted into Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. If a member speaks Inuktitut, their comments are simultaneously interpreted into English, but the English is subsequently interpreted into Inuinnaqtun. If a member speaks Inuinnaqtun, their comments are simultaneously interpreted into English, and the English is subsequently interpreted into Inuktitut.

Members of the House and visitors in the Gallery have four audio channels with which they can listen to the proceedings. Those channels are Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtut, English, and the Floor.

Some, but not all of the sittings of the Assembly are also broadcast on television. The proceedings are broadcast in only one language, rotating between English, Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, and the language spoken on the floor.

In raising her Point of Privilege, the member advised that in her constituency there are two distinctive dialects, those being Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut. She further advised that her Nattilingmiut dialect is a dialect of Inuktitut.

The Member is concerned because when she spoke in her Nattilingmiut dialect it was interpreted into English and the English then interpreted into the Baffin dialect of Inuktitut. The Baffin dialect interpretation was the language that was broadcast on television. As a result, her constituents did not hear her speak in her dialect.

Members of the Assembly have a number of rights and immunities, referred to as "privileges." These rights and immunities are narrowly construed and are only those that are absolutely necessary for a member to discharge his or her duties. They include such things as the right to be free from intimidation or obstruction in carrying out their legislative duties and the right to freedom of speech in the House. It does not provide members with the right to have their comments in the House distributed to the public at large.

What the member has complained of relates to the operational practices of the Assembly in the interpretation and broadcast of its proceedings.

Complaints about the procedures and practices of the House are by their very nature matters of order, not privilege. Accordingly, the member has no point of privilege.

Having said that, I do wish to advise the member that I have followed up on her concern. The established practice for the interpretation of the member's comments when speaking in her Nattilingmiut dialect is for the comments to be interpreted into English by the Inuinnaqtun interpreters. The Inuktitut interpreters do not provide any interpretation. In this way, people in the House can hear the comments as spoken by the member, or in English. In the event the proceedings are being broadcast, the comments will be heard either as spoken by the member or in English, depending upon the language in which the proceedings are being broadcast.

On the occasion which is the subject of the complaint, this established procedure was not followed. It was an isolated instance of human error and, in my view, no more follow-up is required.

### **Speaker's Ruling**

Again, members, I will now rule on the Point of Privilege raised by the Member for Iqaluit Centre on March 23, 2007.

The member's concern relates to the disclosure of proceedings in Full Caucus. The member alleges that prior to him having given notice in the Legislative Assembly of a motion to reject the recommendations of the Electoral Boundaries Commission; his intention to do so was disclosed to the public. He alleges that such information could only have come from a Full Caucus meeting

The Member for Iqaluit Centre submits that this is a breach of Full Caucus confidentiality and accordingly, a breach of parliamentary privilege. He specifically alleges that his right as a member to freedom of speech has been violated.

In proceeding, I keep in mind that there might well be a reasonable explanation for the alleged discrepancy.

A member's right to freedom of speech is narrowly construed. It provides a Member with protection from civil or criminal liability for things said in the House.

The protection does not extend beyond the Chamber. Nor does it prevent other Members or private citizens from criticizing or responding to what has been said.

The House of Commons has dealt with similar concerns in relation to budget secrecy. There is a longstanding tradition of keeping the contents of the budget secret until presented in the House. In addition to showing respect for Parliament, this tradition also has the very practical effect of maintaining the integrity of financial markets.

However, the fact that something is a longstanding tradition does not make it a matter of privilege. Speakers of the House of Commons have consistently ruled that a breach of budget secrecy is not a matter of privilege.



Accordingly, I rule that, even if the allegations made by the Member for Iqaluit Centre were found to be true, and I make no finding in that regard, there is no point of privilege.

Thank you. We will proceed to agenda Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder tomorrow morning a meeting of Government Operations and Accountability Standing Committee at nine o'clock in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 27:

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

- Bill 9

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. (interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 27 at ten in the morning.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 20:08*

