



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**4th Session**

**2nd Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 24**

**Tuesday, June 5, 2007**

**Pages 1558 – 1637**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**

(Pangnirtung)

*Chair, Management and Services Board*

**Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

*Striking Committee*

**Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

*Striking Committee*

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**

(Nattilik)

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**

(South Baffin)

*Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Joe Allen Evyagotailak**

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole; Chair, Regular Members' Caucus*

**Hon. Ed. Picco**

(Iqaluit East)

*Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for Multiculturalism, Homelessness and Immigration*

**David Alagalak**

(Arviat)

**Peter Kattuk**

(Hudson Bay)

**Hon. David Simailak**

(Baker Lake)

*Minister of Finance; Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation*

**James Arreak**

(Uqqummiut)

*Deputy Speaker; Chair of the Committee of the Whole*

**Steve Mapsalak**

(Akulliq)

*Co-Chair, Full Caucus*

**Hon. Patterk Netser**

(Nanulik)

*Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board*

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

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

**James Arvaluk**

(Tununiq)

**Levi Barnabas**

(Quttiktuq)

*Chair, Full Caucus; Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Paul Okalik**

(Iqaluit West)

*Premier; Minister of Justice; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs*

**Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

*Striking Committee*

**Hon. Levinia Brown**

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services*

### *Officers*

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk  
Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant  
Kooyoo Nooshoota

Law Clerk  
Susan Cooper

Sergeant-at-Arms  
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production  
Innirvik Support Services

**Box 1200**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0**

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

**Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)**

## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1558
Speaker's Ruling .....	1558
Ministers' Statements .....	1559
Members' Statements .....	1564
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	1568
Oral Questions .....	1569
Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery .....	1590
Tabled Documents.....	1590
Notices of Motions .....	1592
Motions.....	1593
First Reading of Bills .....	1593
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	1594
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	1635
Orders of the Day .....	1636

**A.**

**Daily References**

Tuesday, June 5, 2007 ..... 1558

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

071 – 2(4): Language Legislation: Official Languages Act and Inuit Language Protection Act  
(Tapardjuk) ..... 1559

072 – 2(4): Videoconferencing Technology at the Nunavut Justice Centre (Okalik) ..... 1560

073 – 2(4): 2007 Public Service Commissioners' Conference in Iqaluit (Tapardjuk) ..... 1561

074 – 2(4): Health and Social Services Grants and Contributions Policy (Aglukkaq)..... 1561

075 – 2(4): Changes to Homeownership Eligibility and Access (Akesuk) ..... 1562

076 – 2(4): New Identity Screening Requirements (Simailak) ..... 1563

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

164 – 2(4): Recognition of Joanie Pudluq (Barnabas) ..... 1564

165 – 2(4): Jukepa Hainnu, Master of Education (Arreak) ..... 1564

166 – 2(4): Emergency Ambulance Services (Curley)..... 1565

167 – 2(4): Economic Development in the Kitikmeot (Peterson) ..... 1566

168 – 2(4): Visitation of Children in Care (Mapsalak) ..... 1568

169 – 2(4): Thank Grind and Brew Staff (Tootoo) ..... 1568

**D.**

**Oral Questions**

206 – 2(4): Audit of Motor Vehicles Office (Tootoo)..... 1569

207 – 2(4): Visitation of Children in Care (Mapsalak) ..... 1571

208 – 2(4): Training of Economic Development Officers (Peterson) .....	1573
209 – 2(4): RCMP Detachment in Kugluktuk (Evyagotailak) .....	1575
210 – 2(4): Commitments to Core Funding (Arreak).....	1577
211 – 2(4): Capital Budget for Nunavut Trade School (Alagalak) .....	1578
212 – 2(4): Chief Coroners Inquiry (Curley).....	1580
213 – 2(4): Photo Identifications (Kattuk) .....	1582
214 – 2(4): Status of Uranium Development in Nunavut (Barnabas) .....	1583
215 – 2(4): Government of Nunavut Involvement with IIBA (Arvaluk) .....	1585
216 – 2(4): Meet with Nunavut Employees Union Members (Tootoo) .....	1587

**E.**

**Tabling of Documents**

095 – 2(4): Nunavut Representative on Board of Directors and Payment Agents - Letter from the President and CEO of NorthwesTel [dup. tabling of 31 – 2(4)] (Arvaluk) .....	1590
096 – 2(4): Letter from Ikaluktutiak District Education Authority to Minister of Education re: Co- Principal Model – Kullik Ilihakvik, Cambridge Bay (Peterson).....	1591
097 – 2(4): Fire Marshall 2006 Annual Report (Brown).....	1591
098 – 2(4): Language Legislation Community Consultations Summaries (Tapardjuk).....	1591
099 – 2(4): Grants and Contributions Policy – Department of Health & Social Services (Aglukkaq) .....	1592
100 – 2(4): Workers’ Advisor Office Northwest Territories & Nunavut 2006 Annual Report (Netser) .....	1592
101 – 2(4): Workers’ Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories & Nunavut - 2007 Corporate Plan: transition in progress (Netser).....	1592
102 – 2(4): Photo of Grandson’s Kindergarten Graduation 2007 (Curley).....	1592

**F.**

## **Motions**

016 – 2(4): Extended Adjournment – Notice (Peterson)..... 1592

016 – 2(4): Extended Adjournment (Peterson)..... 1593

## **G.**

### **Bills**

Bill 06 – Official Languages Act – First Reading..... 1593

Bill 07 – Inuit Language Protection Act – First Reading..... 1594

Bill 12 – Emergency Measures Act – First Reading..... 1594

Bill 11 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008 –

    Consideration in Committee..... 1595

**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday, June 5, 2007**

**Members Present:**

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

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Members, Mr. Premier. Members and visitors, welcome.

Before we proceed with our Orders of the Day, I have a brief statement to make.

**Speaker's Ruling**

During yesterday's Oral Question Period, the Member for Rankin Inlet North asked the Minister of Health and Social Services a question regarding a death at the Rankin Inlet Health Centre.

(interpretation ends) The Minister of Health and Social Services declined to answer the question on the basis of Rule 23(g) (ii), which states:

“In debate a Member will be called to order by the Speaker if the Member:

(g) refers to any matter:

(ii) that is before any quasi-judicial , administrative or investigative body constituted by the Assembly or under the authority of an Act of the Assembly where any person may be prejudiced in such matter by the reference;”

I can advise members that the matter which gave rise to the question is currently being investigated by the Coroner pursuant to the *Coroners Act*. This would appear to be the basis upon which the minister refused to answer the question.

In relying upon Rule 23, it is important to remember that the purpose of the Rule is to ensure that parties who have matters before a judicial or quasi-judicial tribunal do not have their positions prejudiced by questions in this Assembly.

This does not mean that all questions will be out of order. For example, it may be quite acceptable to ask questions regarding processes and general time frames for matters to be dealt with.

It is quite another matter to ask questions which presuppose civil or criminal liability of a party. For example, a question which seeks confirmation that the investigation will result in a particular conclusion would clearly be prejudicial and out of order. Thank you.

(interpretation) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and Human Resources, Minister Tapardjuk.

### **Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

#### **Minister's Statement 071 – 2(4): Language Legislation: Official Languages Act and Inuit Language Protection Act**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to introduce today the revised Official Languages Bill and the new Inuit Language Protection Bill.

This is an historic moment for all Nunavummiut. The made-in-Nunavut language legislation will aim at achieving equality between our three official languages: the Inuktitut language, English, and French.

In our March sitting of the Legislative Assembly I tabled the proposed language bills for public consultations. The Language Legislation Steering Committee had five roundtables in the Kivalliq, North Baffin, Western Kitikmeot, Eastern Kitikmeot, and South Baffin regions, with participation from most Nunavut communities.

Feedback received at these consultations, including input provided by stakeholders, was helpful in making critical adjustments to the final bills that we hope will better reflect the linguistic needs of Nunavummiut.

Our goal with the legislation, Mr. Speaker, is to emphasize that Nunavut is a distinct jurisdiction within Canada where Inuit language is the first and preferred language of the majority of Nunavummiut, and recognizes the desire and the right of Inuit to the use of their language in full equality with the other official languages.

The Government of Nunavut also believes that it should set a strong example that organizations and other sectors can follow. Nevertheless, every organization in Nunavut, including businesses, Inuit and non-profit organizations, municipalities, and federal



institutions will be required to display their public signs and provide services to their customers in the Inuit language.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Language Legislation Steering Committee Members, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, and the Department of Justice in developing this unique legislation. Their work will continue by providing any necessary assistance or recommendations during the Legislative Assembly's review process.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to deliberating these two bills with the Members of this House during the legislative review process. Koana, Nakurmiik, Merci, Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 072 – 2(4): Videoconferencing Technology at the Nunavut Justice Centre**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Our geographic size and our need to communicate with the public make it especially important to find technological solutions for communication and information sharing.

With these goals in mind, the Departments of Justice, Community and Government Services, and Health and Social Services have partnered to implement videoconferencing technology at the Nunavut Justice Centre to create telecommunication links between the courthouse and all the Nunavut communities, as well as any community in North America.

The technology has already been successfully used for Nunavut Criminal Review Board hearings, consultations on *Maintenance Enforcement Orders Act*, and civil arbitration.

Video conferencing will be an excellent resource for witness testimony, at coroner's inquests, rental hearings, consultations, and hearings of quasi-judicial boards. In the future it will also be used for Nunavut-wide training for court staff, coroners, and Justices of the Peace.

The judges of the Nunavut Court of Justice issued practice directive confirming that, effective July 1, 2007, all out-of-court witnesses at preliminary hearings requiring court funded travel must appear before a videoconference, unless otherwise ordered by the court. The practice directive also encourages the use of videoconferencing for non-controversial witness testimony at trial.

The benefits of using this technology will be significant. Witnesses will no longer need to spend days travelling to and from communities for hearings. Corresponding costs savings will also be achieved. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Orders of the Day. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and Human Resources, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Minister's Statement 073 – 2(4): 2007 Public Service Commissioners' Conference in Iqaluit**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to delegates from across Canada that are here in Iqaluit from June 4 to 6 attending the 2007 Public Service Commissioners' Conference.

Mr. Speaker, the Public Service Commissioners' Conference is an annual gathering of senior officials who are responsible for the management and direction of the public service in each territory, province, and within the federal government.

This year the Government of Nunavut's Department of Human Resources is proud to be hosting the event for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, the Public Service Commissioners' Conference provides a forum for exchanging information, discussing emerging human resource issues, addressing specific challenges facing all jurisdictions sharing best practices, and initiating partnerships.

This year's conference agenda provides opportunity for Government of Nunavut to share its innovative human resources. Government of Nunavut is to share its innovative human resource initiatives related to *Pinasuaqtavut* and *Article 23* of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

I will be joining the conference delegates tonight for an evening that will showcase the Inuit culture, language, performing arts, traditions, and foods. It is my hope that the conference participants will leave Nunavut later this week having thoroughly enjoyed both the conference and northern hospitality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Minister's Statement 074 – 2(4): Health and Social Services Grants and Contributions Policy**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later today I will be tabling the Grants and Contribution Policy for the Department of Health and Social Services.

This new policy will provide the public with a straightforward and comprehensive summary of the grants and contributions funds available from the departments through the established program. This includes the eligibility requirements that are needed to access the funding from both territorial programs, as well as the federal programs delivered by the Department of Health and Social Services.

The total amount of grants and contribution funding available for the fiscal year 2006-07 is approximately \$17.5 million. A similar amount is proposed for the fiscal year 2007-08.

Mr. Speaker, we are working with Health Canada on ways to simplify the proposal process for accessing federally funded programs delivered by the department. This new policy supports a change of this kind.

We want to permit communities to submit proposals that cover multiple funding categories making the grants and contribution submissions and reporting process simpler for communities to meet.

Mr. Speaker, the new policy supports *Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit's* concept of *Pijitsirarniq*, *Angiqatigiitsiarniq*, *Piliriqatigiitiarniq*, and the *Pinasuaqtavut* goals of healthy communities, simplicity and unity, self-reliance, and continuous learning.

In order to ensure this policy is readily acceptable, it will be posted on the internet under the GN website. In addition, the department will ensure copies are made available to all communities and any interested members of the public.

As I said earlier, I am going to be tabling the copies for all Member of the House today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Akesuk.

#### **Minister's Statement 075 – 2(4): Changes to Homeownership Eligibility and Access**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the two exciting new enhancements that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is making to their Homeownership Program effective September 1, 2007.

Firstly, the corporation will not use the Northern Allowance, or similar allowances such as the Settlement Allowance or Isolation Post Allowance, provided by employers from assessable income under the Homeownership Program when determining eligibility.

This change will address the concerns of families who have pointed out that the current income limit effectively includes the majority of moderate dual income households from access to ownership programs, such as the Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program, the Nunavut Home Renovations Program, the Senior Citizens' Home Repairs Program, and the Emergency Repair Program, due to the inability to meet the income eligibility requirement.

Mr. Speaker, secondly, the Nunavut Housing Corporation includes the maximum amount available under the Nunavut Home Renovations Program from \$50,000, to \$65,000. The basic HRP remains at \$50,000. An additional \$15,000 will be provided to upgrade, or for renovations directly related to energy efficiency.

The purpose of the proposed change will be to demonstrate the Nunavut Housing Corporation's commitment to proactive energy efficiency measures and contribute to the cost efficiency of Nunavut homes, in line with *Pinasuaqtavut's* goal of self-reliance.

Mr. Speaker, the Housing Corporation will, in the near future, provide further details on these program changes on the Nunavut Housing Corporation website and related brochures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. If you would bring up a copy of your Minister's Statement, please. Thank you.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Simailak.

### **Minister's Statement 076 – 2(4): New Identity Screening Requirements**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to ensure that Nunavummiut are aware of new federal regulations regarding identification required for air travel outside of Nunavut.

As of June 18, 2007, all air travellers going outside of Nunavut who are 12 years of age and older will be required to have government issued photo identification. If the person travelling does not have photo identification, they may be asked to provide two pieces of government issued non-photo identification.

Mr. Speaker, these requirements have been introduced by the federal government to support enhanced security measures to protect air travellers and will be implemented by airline carriers.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation currently issues Nunavut I.D. cards to Nunavut residents through the Motor Vehicles Division or through the local municipal liaison officer in each community.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly recommend that all residents ensure each of their family members 12 years of age and older have valid photo I.D. in case they need to travel outside of Nunavut for medical or other reasons.

The Government of Nunavut will be issuing a press release today to ensure that the public is aware of the federal changes in identity requirements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. I would also like to make an apology. In the English, I stated jurical when I should have stated judicial. I apologize to the House.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

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

#### **Member's Statement 164 – 2(4): Recognition of Joanie Pudluq**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise today to recognize Joanie Pudluq, who has just completed the University of Ottawa as an Electronics Engineer.

He is the first Inuk who has completed his engineering. He started five years ago. I am extremely proud as he comes from one of the smallest communities of Nunavut. It shows that if you persevere you can complete anything and recognize your dreams.

I would also like to send my congratulations to the people of Resolute Bay to Lootie and Dora Pudluq, and to his brothers and sisters. I am extremely proud and I would like to congratulate Joanie Pudluq for completing and getting his degree. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I'm sure that the Members of the House do extend their congratulations. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

#### **Member's Statement 165 – 2(4): Jukeepa Hainnu, Master of Education**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to congratulate Jukeepa Hainnu from the community of Clyde River for successfully completing her Master's Program in Education. Mr. Speaker, Ms. Hainnu has been an educator at the Quluq School in Clyde River for some time. She is a dedicated and committed educator.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Hainnu took time off from her job and went to graduate school at the University of Prince Edward Island. She worked very hard and that work paid off. Ms. Hainnu graduated with her Master of Education Degree this spring.

I am sure that my colleagues will agree with me that individuals such as Ms. Hainnu are of great benefit to Nunavut. Not only are her skills and knowledge going to be applied towards educating our youth, but when one person accomplishes something this significant, it shows everyone else that it can be done, Mr. Speaker. Ms. Hainnu is not only an educator but she is a role model and an inspiration for others to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Hainnu on her success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. We extend our congratulations. We had gone to Prince Edward Island in January and we saw Ms. Hainnu and her family down there.

Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

#### **Member's Statement 166 – 2(4): Emergency Ambulance Services**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the emergency service providers in the communities. Emergency services and measures are provided by the hamlet counsel and it's up to the service providers to make sure that the emergency measures are provided at the community level.

As you know, if there is an ambulance required, or if there was an emergency, it's usually the ambulance drivers' who are called to bring their clients up to the nursing station. They also provide all types of services at the community level.

Mr. Speaker, Rankin Inlet, there were two incidents where there was a person suffering from a heart attack, and these two incidents didn't happen at the same time. The health worker was not pleased that the ambulance services were called. This individual cancelled the first ambulance from coming over, and this was an elder patient who had a son.

When the son found out that it was his mother, he called the ambulance services again to make sure that his mother was brought to the nursing station. And at the second incident, the elder again, called the ambulance services and it was extremely cold at that time. This individual was also suffering from a heart attack because he/she was 80 years old, and when the ambulance service...

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

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. When the ambulance went to the nursing station and when they were trying to put the patient in, the health worker was very angry and told them not to bring the patient in. After an hour, this woman had to be medevaced to Winnipeg. So when is it considered an emergency?

Mr. Speaker, the ambulance service workers are working on a volunteer basis and I would like to thank them because our essential services. Even though, they go through dangerous times in their line of duty, they do provide the service and they're very knowledgeable. I think they should be treated with respect as such. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

#### **Member's Statement 167 – 2(4): Economic Development in the Kitikmeot**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to give voice to concerns that I have with respect to challenges that are facing entrepreneurs in the Kitikmeot. Mr. Speaker, I have repeatedly raised these concerns in every form available to me, including this House, with respect to economic developments in my region.

There is no doubt in my mind that the people of the Kitikmeot are very motivated to contribute to this territory as a whole and build a better Nunavut for our children. I do not doubt the government's good intentions to assist communities with economic development.

But, Mr. Speaker, we've all heard the saying about the destination of roads that are paved only with good intentions. Mr. Speaker, there are exciting opportunities developing in the Kitikmeot; I've been talking about them and urging the government and Nunavummiut to prepare for those opportunities for at least a decade.

I've seen the government throw money at initiatives that are designed to assist Nunavummiut in their preparations. But, Mr. Speaker, an initiative that will work in the Eastern Arctic does not necessarily work in Cambridge Bay thousands of kilometers from the Capital.

Mr. Speaker, several years ago the First Assembly passed a legislation that empowered the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation to lend money via regional business development centres. This move was meant to make the application process easier for people who are trying to start business. It ignored the real situation in the Kitikmeot where there was not a functioning business development centre.

In March of this year I continued to question the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation on this important issue. I was pleased when he said that the Kitikmeot Business Development Centre was expected to open on April 1, 2007. This is an important piece of the economic development puzzle - but not the final piece.

Every year in this House, members approve funding to assist hamlets in hiring and training community economic development officers. People in these positions are essential to development in their communities. They are the one window. They are the starting point for people who want to start a new business or require assistance to continue operating.

When you talk about economic development, the community economic development officer provides essential services.

Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, it's not always easy for hamlets to hire and retain qualified people in these positions. It's a difficult job with long hours and, in decentralized communities, hamlets cannot compete with benefits offered by the Government of Nunavut.

I have often criticized the government for disguising deficit reduction by calling it community empowerment. I, and many of my colleagues, have called on the government to make sure that when they devolve responsibilities to hamlets, they include the resources necessary to fulfill those responsibilities. The staffing and training of community economic development officer positions in hamlet offices is one of those responsibilities with a questionable level of resources attached.

There is no doubt that the residents of Cambridge Bay will continue to work hard to take advantage of opportunities that are presented to them. I know that they will work twice as hard with half the resources that are available to other Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation questions on these important issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*



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

**Member's Statement 168 – 2(4): Visitation of Children in Care**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the parents that cannot see their children. There are a lot of those that are like that in Nunavut that are banned from seeing their children, whether the child has a mental illness, or whether they have other disabilities and they have to be in a home, they have to get assistance from the government.

I remember seeing two people that have had twins on November 27, 1987 in Calgary. Those children were put in a home and they have seen those children when they were born but after that, they were not allowed to see them. Today, that couple is very heartbroken because they cannot talk to and see the children as a couple.

During Question Period I will be asking the Minister responsible for Health as to why this is the way it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 169 – 2(4): Thank Grind and Brew Staff**

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to acknowledge and thank a good friend of mine, Mr. Brian Twerdin, who operates the Grind and Brew Coffee Shop here in town. I'd like to thank him and his staff, and all the fine patrons that were there today at lunchtime, including my colleague from Iqaluit East, Mr. Picco. I thank them for whenever I walk in there they always seem to be able to put a smile on my face. The ovation that I received there at lunchtime was greatly appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, at lunch today, not only was there a special meal as there is every day there, but there was also an opportunity for some live entertainment there as well today thanks to Minister Picco. The reviews were mixed on that, but I did get a request from a few of them that were leaving to ask Mr. Picco to share his entertainment with us all here in the House today. So I would like to extend that request on their behalf and to the very eloquent Mr. Picco. And again, I thank Brian and all the fine staff and patrons at Grind and Brew for putting a smile on my face today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. If there are none, we'll go to the Orders of the Day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Tapardjuk.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize and welcome Jose Kusugak, who has done a lot of work on languages, and also the Languages Commissioner, Johnny Kusugak, who has helped a lot with the language legislation. I would like to welcome them to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome to the House. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 206 – 2(4): Audit of Motor Vehicles Office

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation.

Earlier this year a report emerged that a recent audit of the Department of Motor Vehicles Office here in Iqaluit revealed the number of serious problems, including under-staffing, inadequate training, and violations of Nunavut's *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Can the minister update the House today as to what concrete action have been taken to address these disturbing audit findings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Operational problems were identified in the review for the 2006-07, and they're being addressed or have been addressed by the department. There has been reassignment of staff and preparation of a plan for increasing staff complement.

There's been immediate implementation of measures to secure the office and documents held there. A reviewer was contracted and returned to the Iqaluit office to address the immediate problems and recommends operational changes, and also our department has prepared and implementing an action plan in response to the review. That review was completed in a form of a letter to the department on January 18. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. In there are plans to increase the staff there, and I know that in the report, it indicated that they

concluded that the motor vehicles office here in Iqaluit was under-staffed and that the frontline employees did not receive adequate training.

In light of this, can the minister explain to the House exactly why the department's budget for the Motor Vehicles in 2007-08 has actually decreased from the previous year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Transportation, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We thought that the funding would be adequate but we didn't realize that there was going to be problems in our office.

So what we are going to do is request for more funding or request for more staff here in Iqaluit, and to hire another manager, or supervisor, or something. We will be requesting funding from the Financial Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that for the staff at the Motor Vehicles Office this comes as good news. I'm sure that the report did point out that that was not the fault of the staff that were there; it was the lack of the staff that was causing the problems.

Can the minister indicate what kind of a time frame we're looking at, at being able to put some extra bodies into that office to address those problems? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Transportation, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are going to resolve this as soon as possible. They're working on it right now and they're sort of in a rush to get more staffing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly hope that this minister didn't launch what seems to be a word, a phrase, that's feared across the public service is: a witch hunt against the employee who blew the whistle and made these audit findings public.

Will the minister commit today to tabling the audit report in this House and the department's action plan for addressing the issues raised? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Transportation, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we did a thorough review with the staff from Ottawa and we tried to resolve the problem as soon as possible. Some of the items that were not picked up were also resolved as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 207 – 2(4): Visitation of Children in Care**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under Item 3, during Members' Statements, I made a statement about my constituents not being able to see their children. How would the parents be able to get some assistance to see their children that are in a southern centre? What can you do if they cannot see their children; what other route can those people take?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Mapsalak, if you can state who the question is for. Thank you.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The individual person that the member has raised, we have been trying to find out who this person is. I have asked for the member to provide a name, the person is 23 years old. We don't know if the person is in our care or not without a name.

The person said in 1984, the individual was born but that's all we have for information to even determine whether this individual is in our care or not. But going through our records, there is no listing related to the individual family name of a person in care within the department.

So we don't know who this person is and whether it's someone in our care or not. It happened in 1984, 23 years ago, so those are the specifics of that particular concern that the member raises.

To respond to situations in our care, people that are in our care that require 24/7 residential treatment and care, outside of the territory or within the territory, for children, we provide two trips annually for the family, and for adults, we allow one trip for the family to go and see their family member in care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know about the incident. They have seen that child years ago. They haven't seen that child since he/she was born.

I didn't know that they were given two trips a year, and apparently that child is in university now. The parents could not go see that child. What is the reason for not letting the parents go see their child? I wonder what the reasoning is when the parent cannot go see their child. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister for Health and Social Services, I will allow the minister to respond if she wants to.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very difficult to answer a question when we don't know the name of this child, or this adult.

We don't know if the person was given up for adoption. But as far as I know, in terms of our records, we have no records of a person under the parent's name in care. So if a person is in university, you know more than I do. I don't know who that person is.

So we've asked for information from the family, as well as the member, the name of the child, or this adult, to follow up. But as far as we know, we have no one from the community of Kugaaruk in care in Calgary.

And so, (interpretation) I can't answer your question (interpretation ends) when I don't have that information. So I can't respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister and her officials can assist to try and get that information if I give the minister the names and where she was born. Can the minister assist me if I provide that information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A name would be very helpful to follow up. If you can provide the name, we will do our research internally, again, to try and find out who this individual is and where that person is for the family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for providing the answer.

The couple has gone through a very difficult time. As soon as the minister gets the information, will she be able to provide some information to that family? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Yes, I can do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 208 – 2(4): Training of Economic Development Officers**

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

In my Member's Statement I talked about some of the economic development issues in the Kitikmeot, and one of them is the staffing of community economic development officers.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell me how the department assist hamlets in recruiting, train, and retaining community economic development officers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If a community asks for assistance, my office or our regional offices can assist them, and we provide \$190,000 to the communities to get an economic development officer.

The staff in our regional offices can provide that information and they do provide that information. If possible, maybe twice a year, our staff visits the communities, especially during annual general meetings.

We also provide \$100,000 for those communities for assistance - the Municipal Training Organizations - so they can train more officers through Arctic College. We also provide \$50,000 annually so that the regional economic development officers can have more training and workshops. We also provide the Economic Development Officers' Association \$100,000 in regard to their responsibilities. 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 information. I am sure the hamlets will find it valuable when they read the *Hansard*.

The Hamlet of Cambridge Bay has held at least four competitions to staff the community economic development officer position that is currently vacant. Offers currently are outstanding on the latest competition.

Can the minister tell me what options are available to entrepreneurs and the business people in Cambridge Bay who require assistance from the economic development officer when a position is vacant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When there is no economic development officer in a community, then our regional staff can provide assistance if they are asked by that community, or if they can call to our headquarters office, then we can ask our regional staff to visit the communities. Any community can request such things. 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 information.

Mr. Speaker, earlier the minister mentioned that there was \$190,000 available to hamlets. I am sure that the minister is aware that the entire \$190,000 isn't available to hire community economic development officers. More likely there is \$90,000 of that money that is available to staff that position.

I recall several years ago under the Government of Northwest Territories, when they did the Community Empowerment Initiative, they were paying economic development officers in the community \$125,000 to \$140,000 for the salary and benefits. Under Community Empowerment, the hamlets are expected to do the same with \$85,000 to \$90,000.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell me how his department works with hamlets to assist and retain staff when the Government of Nunavut is in direct competition with the hamlets for qualified personnel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The \$90,000 was quoted to us, and we were told that it was not enough by a member, just like the member is stating.

This was to be the salary for the economic development officer, and we added more to the Community Initiatives Program. So we were able to provide \$190,000, and it is up to the community to determine how much they will use towards the salaries of their economic development officers.

These have been given to the communities, and all that information has been provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. I'm sure the minister would agree with me that the hamlets would like to have a salary level of, say, \$100,000, and \$30,000 for benefits, so they can hire economic development officers, and then have an additional \$190,000 for community projects, which I believe this \$190,000 is supposed to include.

With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if the minister will commit to reviewing the funding levels for community economic development officers. Will he commit to reviewing them again? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is up to the community as to how they want to utilize that \$190,000, and it is up to the community as to how much they want to pay for their economic development officer.

In our department, we have some funds available outside that program if they want to be assisted. The communities are aware of how much they can get because we get requests, and the communities can ask our offices, and our regional offices. So we would be able to provide them with that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 209 – 2(4): RCMP Detachment in Kugluktuk**

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice.



Mr. Speaker, as we speak, construction is finally taking place on the addition to the RCMP Detachment in Kugluktuk. This is long overdue and we are very pleased about this addition.

However, I have received some concerns about this facility. I have been informed that this facility will not have a ramp for disabled people, which I understand is necessary for the building to be up to code.

I recognize that the minister does not direct the RCMP. However, would he be willing to have the Department of Justice raise this issue with the RCMP while the construction is still under process? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will be speaking with them about this.

(interpretation ends) I am actually meeting with the Commanding Officer for V Division tonight. So I will raise this issue with our commanding officer and make sure that this matter is addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier. Mr. Speaker, I recently made a Member's Statement about a young woman who will be working at the RCMP this summer.

In the current RCMP Detachment there is only one washroom. I understand that when the court party goes to Kugluktuk they often hold meetings at the RCMP Detachment. The lack of adequate space makes it difficult to accommodate both women and men.

I understand that the minister cannot tell the RCMP how to maintain its own facilities, but could he convey those concerns to the RCMP's leadership so that they provide adequate resources to the community's detachment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister of Justice, Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will convey that concern to the RCMP at the meeting tonight. Yes, I will raise that concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister, again.

The minister recently tabled a report on policing services in Nunavut. In general, is the department satisfied with the current conditions of the RCMP Detachment in Nunavut's 25 communities? And, how does it work with the RCMP to identify needed improvements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister of Justice, Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I know that it's a daily challenge because the capital for RCMP is done by the federal government. We can do work with them on daily affairs but it's very difficult to try and push the federal branch, in terms of capital, here in Nunavut.

There's some progress: the member mentions there's actually work being done in Kugluktuk. So that's an improvement. It has taken a long time. I appreciate the member for supporting us in trying to get work done in Kugluktuk but I'm sure there will be ongoing work throughout Nunavut on other offices. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 210 – 2(4): Commitments to Core Funding**

**Mr. Arreak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

On March 15, 2007, the Minister of Health and Social Services stated that pilot projects to establish a funding framework for Ilisaqsivik Society in Clyde River and the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre were being initiated.

Can the minister provide an update on the status of these pilot projects that she committed to in March? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The pilot projects ... I spoke to a bit about that in the Minister's Statement I made earlier today in that we're trying to develop the framework.

From what I understand, the Health and Social Services office in the Baffin have met with the Ilisaqsivik group as well as the group in Cambridge Bay to start the framework on the discussions. At the same time senior officials have met with the federal government on trying to streamline some of that process.

So the discussions are ongoing in trying to develop a framework where the whole application process for federal funding is made easier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. We will be expecting that.

The Ilisaqsivik Society received a letter from the minister but it has been two months since we've heard anything. What she had said earlier, what will be the following and what are they going to be doing for the next step? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of the discussions that we're having with the society as well as the Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre involves also discussions with the federal government.

How long will it take will depend on how successful we are with the federal government in our negotiations of simplifying the process that they have put upon us in administering their Vote 4 funding as I outlined in my Minister's Statement earlier today.

The challenges that we have is to work to that. And I hope that within the fiscal year we'll be able to streamline and make it easier for groups like the Ilisaqsivik Society to access federal funding, as well as for Cambridge Bay.

But as far as I know the discussions are ongoing and it involves really three levels of government, in the instance of Cambridge Bay and a society in Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 211 – 2(4): Capital Budget for Nunavut Trade School**

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as the minister knows, I recently wrote to him on behalf of the Standing Committee on Health and Education to ask for some clarification on the capital budget for the Nunavut Trades School.

Last fall the Legislative Assembly was asked to approve over \$5 million for the trades school project for 2007-08. However, on April 26, less than a month into the new fiscal

year, we were advised that over \$4 million of those funds were being transferred to a project.

As I have not received a reply to my letter, I would like to take this opportunity to ask the Minister of Education to clarify why his department has moved almost 80 percent of this year's capital funding for the trades school project to other projects. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just before lunch, after we had our caucus meeting, I was actually signing off the letter for the member.

The reason for the transfer of the funds, and we had an opportunity earlier this week to debate the capital budgets and the supplementary amounts and the carryovers, which included the Nunavut Arctic College amounts, was based on some of the delays that we found in Rankin Inlet with the trades school.

Some of those were some of the issues with the original building that we had planned to renovate and upgrade for the trades school. We weren't able to access that building; there were some concerns with its location and so on. We had to have discussions with the hamlet to pick different site - a lot. Once that site was secured and the meetings were held, there was a delay in the expenditure based on the fiscal time frame, April 1, the new fiscal year, and that's why the slippage in the funds.

However, Mr. Speaker, the good news is that the project will be on time. The information that the member has requested and there are several pieces of information in the members' letter on behalf or for the standing committee, have been answered in that letter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there'll be more questions towards that, but (interpretation ends) the minister's letter was advising me of the transfer of funds all indicate that there will be no impact on scope of completion schedule for the trades school this fiscal year and that the funds will be replaced in the next fiscal year.

Can the minister clarify for this House why his department required \$5,500,000 for this project for this fiscal year, if the transfer \$4,350,000 of those funds will be no impact on what was to be accomplished this fiscal year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I just explained what had occurred in the fall because of some of the delays with the project. When it became known that the initial progress of negotiating with the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet to acquire a suitable site, because the building that they were going to use as the trades facility was not appropriate; we were able to do that, and that caused a delay.

On April 26 I actually went to the FMB and had the opportunity to use the FMB to be able to assure the financial resources to be used to address the funding shortfall for any project cited, as the member has mentioned, would be replaced and replenished through the regular FMB submission process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister provide an update on the current status and timeline for the completion for the Nunavut Trades School Project because there's a lot of money; millions of dollars being taken away from that project, and there are a lot of questions of how and when this project can proceed and be completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a design and a project brief phase, as the members know, it takes considerable time. The design phase of the project, of course, was delayed because the building that we're going to use had issues with sewage, which I believe was sewage lagoon close by the site. A better site was recommended by the hamlet. So those were some of the delays.

However, we still look at the construction in earnest in this upcoming season for 2008, with the completion for 2009. Site work will go on in 2007.

However, maybe to make matters a bit more clear, I have a copy of the letter to the member right on my desk right now and I could table matter at Tabling of Documents, so the member would have it immediately, and all members would have an opportunity to see a copy of that letter, if the member would concur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 212 – 2(4): Chief Coroners Inquiry**

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice. The *Coroner's Act* is very clear when there is a requirement, or the need for any type of inquiry. There was more than one provision that the minister, the chief coroner, and the coroners have provided to the Act.

It was not clear yesterday when the Minister of Health replied to me and not responding to my question. Under what provision of the *Coroner's Act* this so-called judicial inquiry, or some sort, is going on.

So I'd like to ask the minister, but before I do so, the first provision of the Act, "When any death occurs the duty to notify." I'm not sure whether that is still going on in the case of Rankin Inlet.

But there is also another provision that says section 21 of the *Coroner's Act* allows any coroner to request an inquest. That's his authority. Section 23 allows the coroner, when he decides that inquest is not necessary, a next of kin may request an inquiry. So that's another provision. Another provision is also section 24, which states that the chief coroner or the minister could request a judge to hold an inquiry into any accidents.

With respect to Rankin Inlet, under what section is the inquiry being conducted so that it will be clear and fair for those that are affected? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, there is an investigation taking place for this incident, the unfortunate death in Rankin Inlet.

I cannot disclose or comment on what may be taking place, other than to say that the investigation is ongoing and may take a little bit of time to be completed. So it would be difficult for me to comment on this specific case. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you. I understand Mr. Speaker. I am only asking, under what provision, if any, the investigation is going on, or the inquiry is being carried out. Section 8 appears to be the preliminary requirement in a death in Nunavut that the report be completed and provided to the judicial bodies. So, yesterday, I was under the impression that there was an actual inquest going on.

So if the minister could perhaps clarify exactly under what provision the current investigation or inquest is being carried out; we're not sure. The Minister of Health seemed to indicate to the House yesterday that something is going on.

It is not fair if something is going on when we don't know what is going on. So will the minister clearly state exactly what is going on? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I know that there is an investigation taking place at this time, so I cannot disclose what that investigation will find at this time.

I will wait for the findings of the investigation and I guess the coroner's office will make a decision at that point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 213 – 2(4): Photo Identifications**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

He said earlier that as of June 18, people who are 12 years of age and older travelling outside of Nunavut by air will be required to give government-issued photo identification, and that this requirement has been introduced by the federal government.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation currently issues Nunavut I.D. cards to Nunavut residents through the Motor Vehicles Division or through local municipal liaison officers in each community.

June 18 is only next week, so for those that want to get a license for their vehicles, they have to wait six months. Are they able to make the same photos that we have as Members of the Legislative Assembly? Do they provide the same in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they can now make the photos in the communities and the identification can be made in the municipality offices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am now confused because it takes a long time to get a driver's license in our community, and here, when we request identification cards, we have to send them out.

When did the communities receive the equipment to make identification cards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the communities that I know of, they have equipment to make I.D. cards. If there was no equipment in Sanikiluaq, I will look into it and let the member know. We will look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has to be done on an urgent case because Sanikiluaq has to travel outside of Nunavut to get to another community in Nunavut.

We have no other way of travelling into Nunavut communities except to travel outside of Nunavut first to get to the communities.

As the minister stated, he would look into this as an urgent case. If Sanikiluaq doesn't have all the equipment, could this be resolved on an urgent case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought all the communities had their I.D. equipment either in municipal or hamlet offices, or in the Motor Vehicles offices in the larger centres.

I already thought that they would have that equipment in the communities. I will look into this after the session has been adjourned on where Sanikiluaq is and we will do this on an urgent basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

#### **Question 214 – 2(4): Status of Uranium Development in Nunavut**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the minister tabled a uranium development document. It has been almost 20 years since we discussed this uranium development in Nunavut. What is the status of it to date for Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have been dealing with uranium for over 20 years now, and we call it *Nungusittuq* in the Keewatin region.

They discovered uranium mining in Saskatchewan and they take care of the habitat. There's a good economic development opportunity in that area, but I believe that it would be the same case in Nunavut if we happen to start uranium mining.

I believe it would be beneficial for Nunavummiut but the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* has been settled and we now have our Nunavut government. With this, I could say that if we are going to take care of our land, if we are going to take care of the wildlife, and if this is going to be very good economic development for Nunavut, then we would like to see it in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last several years we have not heard much about uranium exploration for mining in Nunavut. There has been so much talk about diamonds, base materials, and gold. Mr. Speaker, why is there a sudden interest in uranium? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past, one pound of uranium would cost \$7, but it is well over \$100 per pound now. So the price has increased quite a bit for uranium.

Uranium mining is a very good economic opportunity for the mines, so that's why the mining companies are looking for uranium. There are over 30 nuclear reactors in the upcoming 15 years, especially down in the States.

Today there are 435 nuclear reactors in the world used for energy and nuclear energy, using uranium, is cleaner than fossil fuels. We expect within 15 years that there will be more demand for uranium in the world. For that reason, there is higher interest in mining uranium. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Planning Commission is going to be meeting in Baker Lake this week. Will they be discussing the recommendations in the Keewatin region for land use planning? Also, the principles that the minister tabled; will they be used for all of Nunavut, or just the Keewatin region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will follow the document that I tabled yesterday on uranium. The discussion will be beneficial for all of Nunavut, not just for the Keewatin region.

They are now looking for uranium in the Kitikmeot and near Arctic Bay. There are other areas that have not been explored yet around Baker Lake within the last few years, but they expect to find more uranium around the Kitikmeot area and near Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that uranium is much different than other minerals. Is the mining of uranium regulated differently than other minerals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is responsible for protecting the health and safety of people and of the environment, and regulates uranium mining and all uses of nuclear materials.

This commission licenses all uranium projects in Canada, including uranium mining, milling, transportation, processing, usage, export, and disposal.

(interpretation) Also, we use that foundation to protect the land and Nunavummiut. If they're not going to be protecting the people on the land, then we will not be in support of uranium mining. We have seen in Saskatchewan that they are protecting their land and habitat. If this goes ahead in Nunavut, if we protect our wildlife, our land, and Nunavummiut, then we will strive to protect all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 215 – 2(4): Government of Nunavut Involvement with IIBA**

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

He knows in Pond Inlet that Baffinland is now planning the mining in Mary River, but we all know that the Nunavut Government is not too involved in the Inuit Impact Benefits Agreement, or IIBA.

We know that the Nunavut Government has signed the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* and they have the responsibility to protect it. The Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement; are they involved with the development with IIBA, or not?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister responsible for Transportation, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have been informed and updated as to what has been happening with the mining exploration or any exploration, and we've been informed of whether or not the mining companies are working with the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can he tell me if the Nunavut Government agrees with the agreement, or if they consent to the agreement? If they agree with the IIBA, then you will sign the document only when you're happy with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to his question, the mining companies and regional Inuit associations agree along with Baffinland. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association signed the IIBAs and now they're negotiating on that. We were not involved with the negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that the Qikiqtani Inuit Association are currently negotiating the Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement and the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation is really owned by the association. Qikiqtaaluk Corporation has a one-year contract with Baffinland. Baffinland is currently thinking about working with the Qitikmeot Inuit Association.

At the current time, the Pond Inlet residents don't have a representative who would work for the benefit of the people of Pond Inlet. For Example, QIA is currently using Qikiqtaaluk Corporation to do work for them but there is no representative for Pond Inlet, Hall Beach, or the other companies. With the Land Claims Signatories, when is the Nunavut Government going to start getting involved with the IIBA negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that the hamlets have the responsibility and the ability to have meetings with the mining company, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and the other entities.

The Pond Inlet residents are fully involved through the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and they are owners of Qikiqtaaluk Corporation. With those avenues, the people of Pond Inlet can be fully involved if they should wish to do so. I'm sure that the communities in each of the regions can participate because they have the voice through their organizations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that it's all set up like that but the actual implementation is not being used. Can the minister tell me if he could look into the process and see if it is actually put into practice during those negotiations? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the mining companies and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association; it's all outlined in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. They have to follow through with it and if they're not following through with the agreement, then it's up to the people of Pond Inlet to notify them and to make sure that they're following through with the process.

I am sure that there's going to be ongoing negotiations with services and potential contracts in the future. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 216 – 2(4): Meet with Nunavut Employees Union Members**

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Finance and it's in relation to Tabled Document 86 – 2(4). To clarify for my colleague from Iqaluit West that it's a petition, not the letter that I'm asking the minister about.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's in regard to that Tabled Document; it's very clear that the majority of the affected employees of the Department of Health and Social Services felt strongly enough that they were told one thing and we were told something else here in the House, to put their names on a petition stating that. It seems really clear that there seems to be some kind of miscommunication somewhere in the process.

My question to the minister is: would he commit to meeting with these individuals and listening to their concerns, explaining to them and clarifying any miscommunications that may have happened, and apologize to them for any concerns that they have as a result of that miscommunication? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you. At that time when we made that announcement, we initiated that because the departments wanted to do so. The department was the one that gave us that direction to see if we could move those staff to another department.

I could talk to the deputy minister to see if there is a need to have a meeting with the affected staff. I could direct my deputy to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would think that the minister wouldn't have to check with his deputy minister to find out if there's a need due to the simple fact that the majority of those individuals, who signed a petition, raising their concerns would be evidence enough that there was some miscommunication out there.

Now, these individuals are under the Minister of Finance's responsibility. Would he commit to meeting with them, listening to their concerns, clarifying for them, and apologizing for any miscommunication that resulted in any confusion that they may have? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We made sure that the proper information was given, but I could make sure that we have an informative meeting. If we were at fault, then we will do something to correct the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given this government's continued message to its employees that it values them, again, I ask the minister if he would commit to meeting with these individuals and conveying to them the facts of what happened, and listening to their concerns so that he hears first hand himself what they've been told, and not second or third hand; make sure that they feel that they've been listened to and just to help put this to rest, I don't think this kind of miscommunication is healthy for anybody.

But I think it would go a long ways to those individuals, if the minister would take the time to sit down and meet with them and listen to what they have to say, and sort it out personally. Would the minister commit to doing that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would definitely like to welcome the affected employees to the department, as I'm sure it's going to be a great benefit, not just to the Nunavut Government but also to the people of Nunavut as a whole.

I'm sure that they will enjoy their work when they start working with other finance people and just focus on one duty, and so on. So I give them full support and I welcome them. So I will direct my deputy to have a meeting with the staff and I will get feedback from my deputy after the conclusion of that meeting with the staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think when I asked last week on how or who informed these individuals, the minister indicated that it was the two deputies from the department. So I don't know if that's where the miscommunication came from or not.

Also, I think that will show the sincerity of this government towards the value of its employees. I'm not questioning the move, or the benefits, or the negative impact that may have. That's the government's prerogative to do that.

But it's quite obvious that there was miscommunication somewhere along the long. As the minister indicated last week the deputies were involved. So, again, I ask the minister: will he, not his deputy, commit to meeting with those individuals and discussing their concerns with them and conveying, and make sure that everybody is getting the same message?

I'm sure that that will go a long ways in making them feel comfortable with this transition. So will the minister personally commit to doing that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, I would like to welcome the staff, myself personally, when they're going to be moving to the Department of Finance. It's going to be a benefit to the people of Nunavut and I'm very pleased with that decision.

If there was a miscommunication of that first meeting, I will look to see what the problem is and I will direct my deputy to do so. If there is a need for me to have a meeting with the staff, then I would do so.

I will look into the issue, but I would like to reiterate that I do welcome those employees to our department. If there is any, then I am willing to have a meeting with the staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Question Period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The member would like to return to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Tapardjuk.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize some individuals in the Gallery.

From the Francophone Association, who has made huge contributions, I would like to recognize and welcome Dominique Beauchesne.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. 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. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

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

**Tabled Document 095 – 2(4): Nunavut Representative on Board of Directors and Payment Agents - Letter from the President and CEO of NorthwesTel [dup. tabling of 31 – 2(4)]**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today the official response to my letter of earlier this year to NorthwesTel.

I am pleased that NorthwesTel has responded positively to my efforts to achieve the reinstatement of payment agent services in Pond Inlet and for the appointment of a Nunavut resident to the company's board of directors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Please bring the documents to the Clerk's table.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Tabled Document 096 – 2(4): Letter from Ikaluktutiak District Education Authority to Minister of Education re: Co-Principal Model – Kullik Ilihakvik, Cambridge Bay**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a letter from the Cambridge Bay District Education Authority, dated May 11, 2007, addressed to the Minister of Education concerning the Co-principal Model - Kullik Ilihakvik Elementary School in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. (interpretation ends) Can we have the documents brought forth to the table, please.

(interpretation) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

**Tabled Document 097 – 2(4): Fire Marshall 2006 Annual Report**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to table a document from the Chief Fire Marshall's Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Can you bring the document to the table officers. Thank you.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Tabled Document 098 – 2(4): Language Legislation Community Consultations Summaries**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the summaries of the Language Legislation Community Consultations Committee. They conducted extensive consultations with Inuit about their views on the legislative process that began in 2000 to date.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the communities and organizations and individuals that came forward to express their concerns over the two language bills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. (interpretation ends) May I have the document brought forward to the table, please.

(interpretation) Thank you. Tabled Documents. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Tabled Document 099 – 2(4): Grants and Contributions Policy – Department of Health & Social Services**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the Grants and Contributions Policy for the department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Can you bring the documents up to the table officers.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Environment, Minister Netser.

**Tabled Document 100 – 2(4): Workers' Advisor Office Northwest Territories & Nunavut 2006 Annual Report**

**Tabled Document 101 – 2(4): Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories & Nunavut - 2007 Corporate Plan: transition in progress**

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following documents: Workers Advisor 2006 Annual Report and the Workers' Compensation Corporate Plan for 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Rankin North, Mr. Curley.

**Tabled Document 102 – 2(4): Photo of Grandson's Kindergarten Graduation 2007**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [I would like to table today a very important event in Rankin Inlet regarding the recent graduation of the kindergarten class. Our beloved grandson, Ray Anguti Natsiq, who was one of them, graduated with the same aspirations as you and he also gave his regards.] He will be going to grade one next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Peterson.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions**

**Motion 016 – 2(4): Extended Adjournment – Notice**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, June 7, 2007, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, October 23, 2007.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I ask that my motion be dealt with today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. (interpretation) Item 16. Motions. I'm sorry, my apologies, I went ahead of myself. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Peterson.

### **Item 16: Motions**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Peterson, go ahead.

### **Motion 016 – 2(4): Extended Adjournment**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting here in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until October 23, 2007.

AND FURTHER, that at any time prior to October, 23, 2007, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and the 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 if it had been duly adjourned to that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) Item 16. Motions. (interpretation) Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

### **Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 06 – Official Languages Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Member for Baker Lake, that Bill 6, *Official Languages Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 6 has had its first reading.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Tapardjuk.

### **Bill 07 – Inuit Language Protection Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 7, *Inuit Language Protection Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 7 has had its first reading.

Item 17. (interpretation ends) First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Minister Brown.

### **Bill 12 – Emergency Measures Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by Honorable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 12, *Emergency Measures Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 12 has had its first reading.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 11 and Tabled Document 49 – 2 (4) with Mr. Arreak in the Chair.

Before we proceed to Committee of the Whole we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 15:28 and Committee resumed at 15:55

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Arreak): Thank you. Welcome back. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008*, and Tabled Document 49 – 2(4): An Energy Strategy for Nunavut. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 11 and supporting documents, followed by the review of the Tabled Document 49 – 2(4). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Are we in agreement to proceed with Bill 11?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 11 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1,  
2007-2008 – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** Thank you, Committee. Minister Simailak, do have you witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please assist the minister and his officials.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) On my left is Peter Ma, and Mr. Green is on my right.

I am happy to have people from the Kivalliq region in the Gallery: David Uluyuk and Wilf Wilkinson, who are here to attend the proceedings. We are happy to receive them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the Assembly.

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

We were on page 8. Bill 11, Supplementary Operations and Maintenance Bill. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wondered that the minister mentioned that they had been tracking, not only as he had indicated yesterday, that \$8 million increase over seven years, but also an increase in the number of people that are on Income Support Program.

I am just wondering if the minister has the numbers for the last three years and if they have any projections of what they're expecting over the next few years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Education, please. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At any given time, we have about 48.3 percent of all Nunavummiut, that's all residents of Nunavut, who are eligible for income support, who are on income support at some time during the year.

We expect to have for this year upcoming to have over 316 additional applicants or income support clients and the program expenditures are estimated to be around \$29 million.

So when we look at it since 1999, which is a good example, in 1999 the total budget for income support was \$21 million. For 2007-08 we anticipate it will be \$29.6 million; an increase of \$8.6 million. But we have to include in that the 15 percent increase that we have put into the Income Support Program of the previous two budgets of ten percent and five percent respectively. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for giving us that information that he gave us yesterday. I was wondering if he has the information of the total number of people that are participants in the program. Is that something that they track as well?

If he doesn't have that information with him, would he commit to providing that to the Members of this House: by the year, how many total numbers of participants were involved in the program, and also, what their projections are, if they have the number of participants - not dollars on budgeted amounts, or percentages - but actual number of participants in the program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Education, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Minister of Education, Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have some of the numbers that the member has requested; I should be able to give those here in numbers.

The average monthly income support caseload or household numbers on income support; would the member like them broken down by a three-year rolling amount, or would he just want them for the projection for 2007-08, or would he actually like the actuals.

As an example, I can say that the number of individual caseloads on income support in 2005-05 was 13,830. In 2005-06, which was the latest numbers that we have, was 12,392. So that was a decrease.

The total social assistance payments, or income support payments for 2004-05 were \$23.9 million, for 2006-07, it was a little over \$28 million, and as we talked about earlier, which we're projecting to be about \$30 million for 2007-08.

The number of individuals receiving different types of programs, I can also provide that, and I can also give the number of families. So there are quite a few different categories under the Income Support Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess for the two numbers he gave for the 2004-05 of 13,830 the total number of participants and for 2005-06 it was 12,392 participants. I assume that's the total number of participants in the program.

What I would like to see is the total number of participants that they're having for the 2006-07 year and what their projections are past that as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Education, please. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to bring some clarity, again, under the Income Support Program, as the member knows, we have a range of programs, which include, when we say, caseloads. So as an example, one of the Income Support Programs that we have is the Daycare User Subsidy Program, which is under the Income Support Program.

So maybe if I went through some of them and gave you the numbers, and then the member can come back and tell me if all the information that he has received is the correct information. If not, then I would be able to give some more information and maybe that would be the fastest way of doing it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those two numbers that the minister gave me as to the total number of participants in the program, that's what I am looking for: in 2003-04 year and the 2006-07 year, and what your projections are for years past that. That's what I am looking for.

Hopefully, that clarifies it to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Education, please. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So for the sake of information, I will average out the number. The number of individuals and that is individuals included the total number of caseload, meaning the total of Income Support Program, for 2005-06 is 12,300. Again, that's an approximate. The number of individuals included in the caseload in 2004-05 it was 13,800.

The total of social assistance payments, we have already given. The number of children in families receiving the Nunavut Child Benefit, which I think is a key number because of the income amounts allowed in 2006-07 is 6,036. That's the number of children in families receiving the Nunavut Child Benefit and that means their income had to have been below that threshold where they wouldn't have been clawed back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the minister have the total numbers that he gave, like the 13,800, the 12,300; does he have that number for the 2006-07 year as well? Also, if he has the number that they're projecting, is that same number to be in the 2007-08 year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Education, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** Thank you, Minister. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For 2006-07 I do not have it, Mr. Chairman, because the cut off, as all members know, is April 1, six weeks ago. I don't have that number and I don't have the projected number for 2007-08 with me.

We would assume that it would be around the 13,000 range, where it has been over the last couple years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister commit to providing that information, when he gets it, to the members? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Page 8 of Bill 11. Education. Operations and Maintenance. Career and Early Childhood Services. Not previously authorized. \$3,438,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that there is no request for additional funding for career and childhood services other than income support that is not previously authorized, and yet from Pond Inlet alone, we have been notified that there may be some staff shortage with the present funding system.

Will all the support for additional teacher requirements be included in the total appropriation for \$41.5 million? Are they projecting that, or will they be requesting additional appropriation that is not previously authorized for the schools? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Education, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Simailak. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just very quickly on the clarification. The \$41,535,000 that's there; that includes the total appropriation that already been appropriated through the usual budgeting process. The additional \$3.4 million that has been asked for here, the member is correct, that's directly for income support programs.

We haven't asked for any other monies for our daycare programs, for example, subsidies and so on, at this time because we didn't have any allowance on our forced growth



initiatives. That's something that we'll be looking at in September and October when we do the new enrolments. So the door hasn't been closed on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the schools open in August, sometime in the middle or late August, and there might not be any money to hire; they already identified additional teacher requirements.

Are there provisions somewhere that they can go ahead with these things before the additional funding is approved in October like the minister says? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Just to remind members that we're on page 8 of Bill 11. Career and Early Childhood Services only. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Education, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a different area and this page deals strictly with income support programs, early learning and childcare, and so on, and not the School Funding Formula for schools.

Just very quickly, on the answer to the member's question, we do the school enrolments on the fall, we look at the head counts of the schools, and then the budgets are budgeted accordingly.

However, at this time the member is correct. We are usually able to anticipate the number of new enrolments in the fall because we know how many kids are coming into the school.

So very few communities have 100 new kids coming in when we know what their ages are when we look at Kindergarten, for example. Based on those numbers we're able to make the adjustments in the fall. We've actually made the adjustments a little closer up in the fall to take care of that, but that's a separate cross category. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is pretty much related to all the other future amounts of increases, which was approved yesterday, over \$80 million of the carryover projects. The case can probably be made for a little more understanding: capital projects that were not done last summer are carried over to this summer, and so on.

We just approved two months ago, or three months ago, \$41,535,000 for income support. How can he actually justify this increase in the amount of \$3,438,00 is actually needed? We haven't even completed three months of the new fiscal year and now you're asking for almost \$3.5 million. I would like to hear the minister justify his case. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister of Education, please. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question. Mr. Chairman, as the member knows and as all the members know, the business planning cycle begins in September and October. The initial estimates given for each department is formulated by the end of November. They have them printed and brought forward to the standing committees and formulated in January, based on the best estimates that the department has.

When you're running a \$200 million department, or a billion dollar government budget, then you're going to have some slippage, and you're going to have to re-adjust your numbers and so on.

When the budget comes forward to the members, like any other jurisdiction, two months ago, that's probably about four months old when you based you're business plans, and everything. Now, we're into June and those business plans from January are now six months old. So you always have to have adjustments based on new numbers coming in, rolling in averages, and so on. Those are called forced growth amounts and are nothing new.

So I'm glad the member raises it because it gives a good opportunity to explain how that business planning cycle is multi-faceted, and multi-month. It is not something that happens yesterday, and then you come forward for money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I think that if you look at the total estimates required for the O&M increases, it's, again, going to be pretty staggering - \$45 million is what the total is of what we're asking for.

I'm not 100 percent sure that most of these extra spending or funds that are requested are really totally justified. We don't actually have the back-up Member for Iqaluit Centre actually asking for some studies, some facts, and some justification that are needed. And yet, right now, we've got these huge amounts.

When the business plans are presented in January, we normally are given pretty good, I think, responses by the staff of the department, all the departments, which they normally project and indicate to us that there may be some requirements or adjustments. But that is normally not the highlighted argument.

So I think the minister should actually present to us a more detailed substance to this case. Member for Tununiq already requested some of the early childhood training provisions' needs.

Will the minister at least commit to ensuring that these estimates are accurate and concrete and not just out of the air that he picks up so that we can be fully accountable to the public because many of the groups out there are actually having a difficult time getting any funding, including contractors who wish to do business with the government to do projects and so on.

So I'm asking the minister: will he undertake to provide a clearer case when he presents something and actually back up his request with some reports and some studies? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Education, please. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you. I like what the member is saying. When you look at the main estimates, as an example, the amounts approved for the Department of Education was \$188 million. We've come forward and we've said we need an extra \$3 million, that's less than one percent. So when you look at less than one percent increase, the member is correct, that's the staff, and I thank him for complimenting the staff for their good work that they've done in the forecasting of it and so on.

So I can commit to the member to ensure that that logistic, as well as administrative and financial continue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Page 8. Education. Operations and Maintenance. Career and Early Childhood Services. Not previously authorized. \$3,438,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Career and Early Childhood Services. Not previously authorized. \$3,438,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Department. Not previously authorized. \$3,438,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 9. Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Healthy Children, Families and Communities. Not previously authorized. \$1,479,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure whether I should direct my question to the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Health but they can choose who I should be asking.

I'm just concerned, from the financial stand point, that the total O&M for the government is under a billion dollars. I know that's not enough to satisfy our objectives for Nunavummiut but it still takes away a lot of capital money when you have an extremely high O&M, especially in the Department of Health.

There have been exorbitant amounts of health travels, and there are some other travels, too, under Education that are quite high. That should be looked at: how is the best way, a better means, of reducing the O&M costs?

For example, a few years ago, this kid travelled from Kitikmeot to Repulse Bay on to Iqaluit, but that was discontinued due to lack of customers. Yet we know that there are a lot of people from Kitikmeot that travel to Iqaluit but they choose to go through Yellowknife. These are paid for by the government, directly or indirectly. I think the government should have better control in deciding how their money should be spent and not to individual Nunavummiut.

I think the airlines would be quite happy to provide that service if there could be customers found travelling from Kitikmeot, or us travelling to Kitikmeot from the east and from Kivalliq, to make that connection.

So I would like to ask the minister: is there some kind of review being done to try to find a way to reduce the O&M costs by exploring the other means of travel other than the present set up? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we're on Healthy Children, Families and Communities right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Yes, we are. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps you can guide me as to where I could ask my questions in respect to health travel because we are under the Health and Social Services'

O&M, and I understand that the Residential Care Program to support necessary additional service to new clients requiring residential care is under review.

But perhaps I will wait until we go to total O&M authorization that has not been previously authorized when we conclude all the other O&M page-by-page. It's up to you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** I believe he can ask that in the last paragraph under Treatment Programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Yes, Mr. Minister. We are on the top of the page, Healthy Children, Families and Communities. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps after we finish that particular line, then when we go to the second paragraph and I'll ask that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Here it says there's \$1.4 million to Residential Care Program to support necessary additional service to new clients requiring residential care.

I'm just wondering how many new clients that we need to provide care for, that require this \$1.4 million worth of funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you. To the Minister of Health, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you. The residential care funding increase requested by the department deals with two things: increase in client care, as well as the increase in costs with providing residential care.

Presently, we have about 200 people in and outside of Nunavut in residential care, that's 24/7. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just based on what the minister has told us, it's for increased services and additional costs with existing services; is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** To the Minister of Health, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just question why in the bill here it says, 'to assist the new clients requiring residential care.' She just indicated that it's for enhanced services and the additional costs for existing ones. Why, in here, does it say that it's for new clients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, to the Minister of Health and Social Services, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Mr. Chairman, it is a combination of both new clients and the costs of new clients' increase in volumes of resident people in residential care. At the same time, that results in increasing costs of the contracts with new clients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for clarifying that. Then they should be able to tell us how many new clients they have that they require this additional funding for.

She had mentioned the number of 200 earlier. If that was the number that they had initially based their projections on, how many is it now, or if the old number wasn't 200, what was the old number? I would like to see how many additional new clients that they need this funding for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Health, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, it is a combination of both resulting from volumes of people in care, at the same time, the increased costs in the services provided by the people that provide 24/7 care.

If the member is seeking the numbers from the last fiscal year to this fiscal year in terms of increases in numbers, I can provide that to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just interested in the increase in volume. They surely should know what it is if they can attach a number to it. They have to figure out what it is based on something.

So I'm just curious to know: what is that increase in volume? It shouldn't be that hard. They should have that number to be able to determine what they need for funding, I would hope. If they don't, where did that number come from?

As my colleague said earlier, some justification as to exactly why that funding is needed, to assure us that those numbers aren't just plucked out of the air. Let's say we could have 60 more people that require residential care than what we have initially planned for, so that's where this number comes from. We do not know.

What are those numbers and the increased volume over what they have projected? That's all I am looking for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Health, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mentioned before that I will provide the numbers, but the other increase that we are dealing with in this figure is also the increases that we had to pay with the service providers. They have increased the cost of providing the out-of-territory services as well.

So it is the combination of, again, increased contract costs associated with the residential care and increase in the number of people who require 24/7 care. So there's a combination of both and I will provide that information to the member in terms of the breakdown. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the minister have the breakdown of the \$1.4 million in those categories as far as amounts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Health, please. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the minister commit to providing that information?

If anyone is coming here and other ministers as well asking for money, they should have the justification and the breakdown as to where it's going. I think it's only fair that the Members of the House should be given that information and not just give us a total number with a whole bunch of stuff that it's going to go to without knowing where it is going.

Can the minister provide that information as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Health, please. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** I have no problems with that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know that number. If there's \$1.4 million here and they say it's for a combination of different things, I would ask questions.

If that was broken down, then we don't know because that information is not here and when there is maybe two more people that we budget for, but which would take \$400,000, and the contracts have gone up to \$1 million, I would ask questions about that.

Since that information is there, I guess we cannot ask questions on that. I have assumed that the ministers would have the justification with them. How much is our contract now? If it is going up \$1 million, does the minister have any idea how much the contract services have increased? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Health, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Minister of Health, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My staff are listening. I will ask them to provide that information here.

I would rather not guess what and how that is broken down. The information is there. I just don't have it in front of me, nor do I have the substantiation sheet that went before the committee.

So if my staff are listening, I would ask them to bring it down and then I will share it in the House today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. We are on a line item. However, I cannot put it to order because we do not have a quorum. I will ring the bells.

**Chairman:** Welcome back members. To remind you that ten members sitting in their chairs is a quorum. Nine is not. Page 9. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to maybe request that once that information is on its way down, as the minister indicated that we leave that section and go onto the next section until we get that other information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to that?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 9. Page 11. I'm sorry, Page 10. Mr. Arvaluk, we will go back to Page 9 after this information has been brought down.

Page 10. Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. Community Support. Not previously authorized. \$1,584,000. Does the committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Community Support. Not previously authorized. \$1,584,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to ask that before we went to the total. However, if there is an agreement with the Iqaluit Water and Sewer Subsidy Program, doesn't it include the total amount required; isn't that part of the agreement?

Why do we need additional funding not previously authorized when there is an agreement with Iqaluit? Can you explain that to me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Community and Government Services, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the water and sewage funding pressures there is a lack of basic municipal infrastructure, which has a direct negative impact on the health of a community as water and sanitation services impact on public health.

The department faces ongoing pressure from municipalities for increases to the Water and Sewer Subsidy Program. The increasing number of clients, many of them private and commercial owners, has increased O&M costs for this primary municipal service program.

Over time, the water and sewage subsidy must be increased. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand and I appreciate that. I'm not saying that it shouldn't be funded. What I'm saying is that if the agreement was made with Iqaluit for the Water and Sewer Subsidy Program, doesn't that include the amount that would be provided, I read, by both parties? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The agreement with the City of Iqaluit is for just the first second grant in lieu of taxes, that's for a total of \$420,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So it doesn't actually specify what it would be for. For example, in lieu of taxes, it will provide you with the Water and Sewer Subsidy Program. So this is simply a grant in lieu of taxes; is that correct? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. CGS provides a grant to the City of Iqaluit on an annual basis in lieu of paying Property Taxes on Government of Nunavut owned infrastructure within the city. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Page 10. Total. Community Support. Not previously authorized. \$1,584,000. Do you agree? Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very brief question in regard to this \$2,911,000. I just want get clarification. It says sealift; Kugaaruk. What are you paying for sealift to Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Community and Government Services, please. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the sealift in Kugaaruk, this is unique. Kugaaruk is unique when it comes to sealift. Kugaaruk, although it's in the Kitikmeot and the ships go over to that community, they have to use ships that go through Nanisivik because the ice does not go away early enough; they have to use ships that go through Nanisivik. Community and Government Services have to pay for the Canadian Coast Guard. That's what we use.

As I stated before that from Nanisivik they go to Kugaaruk. That's the route that they take. We're not provided funding; this is not a funded one. Although, we were given \$450,000 in 2005-06, it went up to \$670,000. Next year, I believe that the price is going to go up because of the increase in the cost of living. Kugaaruk is expecting material for the construction of units. We believe in the 2007-08 fiscal year they will require \$750,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So then do I understand that the federal government's Coast Guard, no matter where they are, we have to pay for them?

Is this money that we have to pay for just for sealift in Kugaaruk? The reason I'm asking this question is because I thought that this was the responsibility of the federal government because the Coast Guard has to provide services to other ships that travel up to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of CGS, please. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. CGS pays for the Canadian Coast Guard for dry good resupply from Nanisivik to Kugaaruk. As I stated earlier, they have never received funding for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were two members that were complaining when they were giving this to FMB. I think they were identified as a capital carryover and that there were no substantiation sheets.

I believe that O&M needs substantiation sheets, but when we start talking about this within our constituencies, when we get home, we have to look at the *Hansard* as our substantiation sheet when we get home.

For example, whether Telehealth is under CGS, and the middle school expansion in Iqaluit, isn't that a capital item? Can I get those two clarified, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you. To the Minister of CGS, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the question on Telehealth and resources for Telehealth, this also alleviated the cost for health and there is a contact for that in the amount \$1,676,000; that's what the contract amount was, but the budget line item this year is \$1,276,000.

He asked whether this was a capital item but O&M were used for the middle school because they were overexpended due to forced growth by \$153,000 back in September 2006. It was expanded by 1,100 square feet, and also the funding that was used was increased by \$150,000. The funding was insufficient and they never increased the O&M for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked why Telehealth is under CGS when it should be in the Department of Health and Social Services. And secondly,

why is the middle school expansion in O&M and not in capital? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To Mr. Ma, please. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Ma:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll attempt to answer the member's questions or clarify the answer from the Minister of Community and Government Services.

With respect to the middle school expansion; in September last year of 2006, there was an expansion or addition made to the Aqsarniit Middle School. Because of that, we need now to give to CGS the incremental cost of operating and maintenance cost for that particular school and that expansion. So it's not capital, it's the O&M costs associated with the capital expansion. I hope that explains that part of it.

The second part of the member's question relates to Telehealth. My memory may be wrong but I believe the Telehealth contract is actually administered by CGS on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services.

Because of that, the increase in the contract costs of Telehealth goes through CGS and that's why it's in front of members here today for the supplementary bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that answers the member's question.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, a couple of my colleagues suggested that some kind of explanation or substantiation sheet should be issued for O&M so that we can review it more clearly like the carryover capitals.

How do you have a contract with Telehealth companies? You must have a contract signed sometime this fiscal year. And then, all of a sudden they null the contract and tell us, 'Give us more money for Telehealth services'? How does that justify it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Community and Government Services, please. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. CGS is responsible for Telehealth and it's used by various departments such as the Department of Education and the Department of Health.

Ever since Telehealth started, CGS has been operating Telehealth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. It's up to you whether or not you want to go down to the witness table with your officials, Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to go down to the witness table with my officials. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Simailak, Mr. Green, and Mr. Ma come down to the witness table afterwards. The members agree.

Do you agree to invite Minister of Community and Government Services and her officials?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort them?

(interpretation ends) Welcome, Minister Brown. For the record, please introduce your witness.

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

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Welcome to the witness Ms. Hine and Mr. Rafter. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome Ms. Hine and Mr. Rafter.

I asked the minister and she answered that CGS has a contract with Telehealth. Did you have a contract with the provision to allow Telehealth request for money and increase their revenue above and beyond your signed contract with them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I should rephrase that, and I will speak in English.

The Telehealth Program offers videoconferencing in all the Nunavut communities. This program was designed to reduce the cost of travel for doctors and patients, and allow people to stay in their communities and receive medical advice.

The contract cost is \$1,676,000. Now, the budget is sitting at \$1,676,000 and it's user-based. That's where it's based at CGS. As the use goes up, the cost goes up, just like a telephone bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that there's really no contract except the agreement to provide services at whatever the cost they will charge. Is there any way, in order to control your finances, to actually sign an agreement with Telehealth because we learn our lessons from these I.T. technical programs for our computers that have skyrocketed beyond control?

Is there a possibility with that happening with Telehealth? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, there's less travel and it saves money for the departments. But I would like ask Ms. Hines to add further to this comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister has stated, there is a contract in place with Telehealth. The contract value was \$1.6 million and the only budget line that we had because we were in a no forced growth environment was at \$1.2 million almost \$1.3 million.

What we're asking for now with the additional money is to recognize the true cost of meeting our requirement under the contract. So there is a contract in place, it's just that we didn't have sufficient money in our budget and we're asking for the additional.

As the minister stated, it does cut down on other costs for Health and Social Services but it does cut down on the travel cost of doctors and nurses. There is an increase in Telehealth but it does reduce the cost of travel costs for doctors and other professionals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps in the CGS report on Telehealth they will be able to tell us and ask the Department of Health to provide some kind of information on how much travel cost is being saved for that first year or second year. By

identifying, how many people have used Telehealth technology to determine what's wrong with them?

I really appreciate and I supported the Telehealth Program, but I would not want to start right away with the funding requirements, too. That is extremely important that the contract is... when you find out actual costs annually, then it will be advisable to actually sign a contract with Telehealth for that cost, that way we can be able to control the rising cost of the service. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, those are very good remarks. I would ask the member that perhaps he could ask the Minister of Health for those cost lines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I missed part of the question. I don't know what the question was but I'm assuming that it relates to the services that are provided under the Telehealth system in our communities.

There has been some cost avoidance with the establishment of the Telehealth systems in our health centres, particularly around travelling when it comes to training and development of our staff. They are able to take distance learning, as an example, at the community level through the Telehealth system.

At the same time, the Telehealth system has been used to communicate with family members who are living in residential care, in and outside of the territory. Visitations with the doctors that are providing services in out-of-territory to the families, as well in cases where it is quite serious, that's the means that is being used with Telehealth. At the same time, it is being used for some diagnosis.

So there is some cost avoidance for travel but it doesn't necessarily mean that there is less medical travel. In fact, we have seen an increase in medical travel in the last three years, consistent with an increase in cases. At the same time, increase in medical travel has been of a direct result of fuel price increases of aviation fuel in the north.

So that's some background to what and how we use Telehealth in the health centres around medical travel but it doesn't necessarily mean that we are not going to have medical travel.

It's a method used for a number of things and in one area it's also used for a means for a diagnostic tool, as an example, for providing better patient care services to people in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. (interpretation) Are you done, Mr. Arvaluk? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a simple question. Could the minister provide a detailed breakdown of this \$1,584,000 to these program areas, including Telehealth, and Iqaluit?

I'm not sure I'm on the right page. Oh, yeah, I'm on the right page but my question is the wrong one. I had that one for the other side.

With respect with this grant to the community support, is that over and above the current agreement we had with the long-term agreement, if it still exists, that the Municipality of Iqaluit and CGS contribution agreement that was agreed upon about four years ago? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. We're on page 10. Community and Government Services. Minister Brown.

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

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

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the contract the member is actually talking about with the City of Iqaluit that has been around for about four years is actually an agreement that we have with them for capital projects.

That is not what this is. We're talking O&M on this and not capital. So it's not the agreement on the capital project which has been around for four years. Just to make sure, for clarification, I would just ask if that's what the member was asking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hine. That budget line was agreed to. We're on the second budget line. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. Thank you for your reminder, but we have not agreed to the total, I don't believe yet.

But having said that, I appreciate your response. When a grant or an additional contribution is made, I'm sure there are lists of contributions that are agreed to, or in the contribution for grant support. Is this a contribution or a grant program? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the forced growth, it was requested that CGS provide a grant to the City of Iqaluit on an annual basis in lieu of

paying property taxes on Government of Nunavut owned infrastructure within the City. The grant is based upon the City's established mil rate and they assessed value of the property.

The 2006 property assessment for Government of Nunavut facilities is \$13 million. The assessment leaves CGS with a shortfall of \$1.1 million for its grant to the City and the remainder of the shortfall will be funded internally. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. That helps a bit. Thank you. I have another question with the next set of projects: Government Services in the amount of \$2,900,000; that's almost \$3 million.

Does the minister have a breakdown of each division, like Telehealth, an actual amount, including sealift, property management, Qikiqtani General Hospital, Nunavut Arctic College, and the middle school expansion because this is a huge amount - \$3 million - for additional resources. I bet you that probably means PYs and what not.

I would like to see a breakdown of this request to the Assembly. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to the member.

Under this there are no PYs. For Qikiqtani General Hospital utilities, \$1.8 million; Nunavut Arctic College utilities, \$565,000; sealift for Kugaaruk that includes containerization and dispute resolution, \$272,000; middle school expansion, \$153,000; property management leases, \$340,000; Informatics and Telehealth, \$400,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. For the Nunavut Arctic College allocation, does that refer to headquarters, or throughout Nunavut? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's correct. It's throughout Nunavut for Nunavut Arctic College. The GN has it in 22 Nunavut communities that are used by Nunavut Arctic College to run their programs.

CGS required an increase in the 2007-08 budget to enable the department to continue providing the services mandated by the FMB, when they transferred the responsibilities for building maintenance and utilities of the Nunavut Arctic College facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley. Thank you. Page 10 of Bill 11. Government Services. Not previously authorized. \$2,911,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Government Services. \$2,911,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Not previously authorized. \$1,900,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Capital Planning and Technical Services. \$1,900,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total Department. Not previously authorized. \$6,395,000. Does the committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Thank you Minister Brown, Ms. Hine, Mr. Rafter.

We will go on with a different department. I will ask Mr. Simailak to return to the witness table.

Thank you, Minister. For the record, Minister Simailak, please introduce your witnesses again.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Peter Ma and to my right Roy Green. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Welcome back.

Page 11 of Bill 11. Economic Development and Transportation. Operations and Maintenance. Transportation. Not previously authorized. \$1,950,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Transportation. \$1,950,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Department. Not previously authorized. \$1,950,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Page 4 of Bill 11. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Not previously authorized. \$8,959,000. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I would like to ask the minister; recently, there was a local housing association gathering in Rankin Inlet to consider the new rental rate structure for the Nunavut Housing Association.

I wonder if the minister is prepared to indicate whether or not there is now a new rental scale. And if not, when is it coming into effect? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) We have not brought any rental scales at this time. They have to be referred to the Cabinet first, so I'm not really sure whether or not there's going to be a rental increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. When does the minister expect that the report will be provided and when will it be implemented because they were talking about rental scale in Rankin Inlet.

Can the minister provide us with a timeline on the rental scale and when he expects to have that ready? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To Minister Akesuk, please.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said that the report will probably be ready this fall after the Cabinet has looked at it, so we're not really sure exactly whether the rental scales will go up, or if some of them will go down.

So before the report is out, I'm not exactly sure when that report will be provided. We will be looking at the report in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. The local housing associations have forced growth when they're making a profit. I wonder why the local housing authorities don't... like there is an amount of \$9 million that is requested.

After the rental scale workshop or meeting in Rankin Inlet; is there going to be, in the report, will there be a report on whether there is going to be an increase on the rental scale? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To Minister Akesuk, please. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to find out what is in the report and we just don't want to leave the recommendations, we'd like to follow up on the recommendations. The meeting went successfully and the report was produced. After the Cabinet has a chance to look at it, we will find out what is expected of us.

I just don't want to shelf it, but we will have to follow the recommendations of that meeting in Rankin Inlet. I just want to assure the member that we will not just leave it. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Page 12 of Bill 11. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask the Minister of Finance that instead of forced growth provision to...

I see the same thing on page 10, community support for other communities except Iqaluit for increased housing units that will force the hamlets to increase its expenses for servicing these. Is there a provision somewhere, or is it already in the old O&M with the expectation that there will be \$200 million more housing that will be provided to the communities? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are still working on that exact issue with CGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the units will be completed by this summer or early fall. Is he planning to present some kind of additional requirements for supplementary appropriation-type this fall for the hamlets? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't know that right now because the increased housing units that will be built are over a three-year period. So it's not all happening in one summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Page 12 of Bill 11. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Not previously authorized. \$8,959,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this forced growth in housing needs, is there any way that you are including in there a need for additional storage space required for some items that you cannot leave outside? There are a whole lot of new products now that you cannot simply leave outside. Is there a provision in there from housing that addresses that? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, this request is for O&M. The member's request is regarding a capital item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Is that it? (interpretation ends) Okay. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Not previously authorized. \$8,959,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. Not previously authorized. \$8,959,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. Not previously authorized. \$8,959,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** We still have Page 9 to deal with. I'll ask the minister if she is ready. Minister of Health and Social Services, she's ready to give out the information that was requested. Minister of Health and Social Services. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm still waiting for the breakdown for that, so for the interest of time and keeping processes rolling, I don't have problems going into the section under the treatment programs of those items, if there are any questions from members on those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the treatment program, the second item has an indication that there is a newly developed Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy. If the minister has not already tabled that, will she table that request right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Health, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had hoped to table this report during this sitting. It's not quite completed yet as I mentioned earlier last week. I hope to release that information to all members once it's finalized and approved by Cabinet in final form. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. My apologies for calling you Ms. Brown. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I think it's important to understand exactly what we're buying here because \$1.5 million is something that many of the groups or whatnot; we cannot afford to just be giving it out without reason.

The strategy apparently is supposed to cover this, but why should we give the minister \$1 million extra, at least \$542,000 in new spending requirements, if she's not prepared to give us the case for it? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** To the Minister of Health, please. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Twofold; we're looking at finalizing the Nursing and Recruitment Strategy as an area of need that we need to develop for the

north. There have been many questions and issues around trying to fill the nursing positions in the north to deal with the ever increasing cost of agency nurses and so on.

That report is based on a number of recommendations from the House, like Arvaluk. We looked at a number of areas. It is not quite finalized in its final form and I hope to table that. It will be used as a strategy in recruiting nurses in and outside the north, not just at the tail end of filling a job but at the earlier piece of recruiting students to go into nursing programs and so on. That's one reason why we should approve it.

The second area is that we do have vacancies. We have to fill them to provide essential services at the community level. We're still dealing with having to hire agency nurses to fill those essential positions. Without this funding, we'll have a very difficult time providing services at the community level, when there is a need to treat a sick person at the community level.

So in a nutshell, those are the two reasons why we're recommending you to support this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. The case that the minister outlined is weak. We don't get \$1.5 million for something that is not complete. You just don't get it anywhere in the world in the private sector. Normally, do you get extra money from something that is not complete? It's just like asking for blank cheques and we'll just promise you that we'll have that strategy when it's ready.

The minister can wait until the fall to have the extra funding. She already has at least \$106 million in treatment programs which she can re-profile and delay some projects, and what not. She is not short of money, actually.

What she's short of is developing a strategy, which is normally the case for any public government, or any group that is making a request to the public, whether it is contributions, or any other funding. You have to have your stuff ready. You can't say, 'I'll promise to you later that I'll get the strategy; I'll get the report done.' You don't do that. For any other grant and contribution that doesn't happen. Only with the Assembly does the minister say, 'I'll promise you that this is going to be good. It'll work.'

The agency nurses are not something that Nunavummiut are happy about. I have letters and indicators that they're not happy with it. I'm afraid to table them. I'm afraid to table them because in a place like Rankin Inlet, not only are we're having people from overseas coming in, it's not only affecting the nursing industry, it's affecting all the other private sector groups, even public sector jobs.

Everyone else is ignoring the local housing needs and therefore something is starting to move. So as a result of that, I believe the minister I think... we do understand that she's trying to develop a case but we don't see any tenders, we don't see any registered



companies, whether they actually are a lobbying agency, we don't know who their representatives of the nursing agencies in Nunavut are; they seem to be phantom individuals.

I would love to see a nursing agency representative come here and actually appear before the House and hear from the members. So for that reason, Mr. Chairman, I believe this allocation is not ready. The minister would be better to get her job done that she needs to do, get the strategy complete, table it, and then request extra funding if required. I'm not convinced you need it now because you only had three months, at least, before the new fiscal spending was given to you.

So I'm asking the minister just to agree to defer this project until next fall or next year. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Health, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't agree with the member at all.

In terms of moving forward on a number of areas, whenever we do our business planning case, we put forward new initiatives, new programs, and so on, and those matters are debated in the House as presented by the Minister of Finance.

No new initiatives generally start unless there is funding approved for those projects to move forward. And members will recall when the Minister of Finance did his budget; it was a status quo budget because we were waiting for the federal government to come forward with some of the TFF changes, which is why we're dealing with supplementary bills at this point in time.

What we have put forward from the Department of Health is issues that we're dealing with internally, where we're dealing with the pressures of forced growth in the organization, the pressures of trying to reduce our costs around agency nurses, and the pressures of shipping out people to be treated because of our high shortage of nurses or doctors.

The categories in this document talk to, one example, the recruitment and retention of our doctors. With 1.9 items, in that document, under treatment programs, is an enhancement to our doctor's compensation, and so on, so that we're a bit more competitive across Canada to recruit our doctors, as an example.

The same goes for our nursing. Members in this House have asked me to go forward to put a Nursing Recruitment Strategy in place and that's near completion. I have to go

forward again to Cabinet to get the final process approved for that, and that will look at some of the recommendations coming from this House.

If you want to delay that one more year, then that's your prerogative but I don't think that's the right direction we want to go in, in supporting our nurses in Nunavut. We have four or five graduating this Friday. And, if we're looking at recruitment strategies and so on, how do we support them? I think we've come forward for some ideas around that and we will be finalizing the strategy in a short time.

The other area is: how do we fill the jobs that are vacant? By not approving some funding, we'll be short in filling those jobs through agency nurses. There is more of this associated with not filling those jobs, than filling them. We're putting people's lives at risk to delay this item for another year, as an example.

We have to hire agency nurses until we are able to meet some of the vacancies we have in the north. It's a tough decision. Yes, we've spent a lot of money in treatment, but what are the alternatives? I'm open to some suggestions around that. What we've put forward; I think is reasonable to address the direction that I've received from this House to come up with a Nursing Recruitment Strategy, at the same time, to fill essential services at the community level.

So I don't agree with the member, and for the record, that's why don't we put this forward until April 1, or March because we had a zero-based budget presented by the Finance Minister.

So I think we need to rethink suggestion by the member, and I would strongly suggest that we approve this to support the development of our nurses in the north. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Yes, minister; I fully understand completely what you want: you want us to approve this item without any case, without any strategies, without any backup, just approve it. I'm a little surprised that the minister would indicate that the item like this had been approved. I just want to remind you that it has not been approved by this Assembly, and that's where the call is.

In this Assembly matter, it raises a concern to Nunavummiut; it raises concern to the communities. The minister has not developed percentages with the strategy. She has not said exactly where these nurses are going to be located.

The minister would be better I think to just agree to disagree with me that she should develop a case and say exactly how many number of nurses will be hired in Kivalliq, Kitikmeot, and Baffin, that they're sending down into the communities. That's a strategy to me.

A word of honour can work just as good as a working strategy if it's credible. I don't disagree with anyone who runs in the word of honour. It could work. But to say, 'Just approve it,' because this, again, we heard from one official the other day, 'It's a good project.' But we need a backup; we need that strategy.

So having that approved, how many nurses, in short, will she put in for Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Health, please.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Simailak. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Overall, for the department, we have 915 positions and 66 percent of those positions throughout the department are filled on a given day.

How it will be broken down by nursing positions; the last few years we've gone from 40 percent of the positions being vacant to approximately 50 to 60 percent of the nursing positions being vacant and we've been working towards that. Many of those positions have been filled through a number of leads.

So in terms of exact numbers for Rankin Inlet, a breakdown by that, I can give the numbers to the individual. But what this funding is saying is that whenever there is a vacancy in a community the agency nurses will fill that until such time we are able to find permanent or casual nurses.

And one example, we have four or five graduates coming up Friday. To work in the health centres, they need to be oriented into working in health centres for an additional eight months. The bachelor program is completed but we still need to train them to work in the health centres. Until such time, they can only work in a hospital setting. And these types of programs would support initiatives like that in the long-term.

I think it's clear that the strategy is going forward in being developed at the same time while we have no positions filled. Plan B is to fill those positions where we can find agency nurses or casuals to fill them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to thank Minister Aglukkaq for indicating that she's trying to fill these vacant positions. That's one strategy, but I don't recall that as ongoing maintenance. I'm not 100 percent sure what percentage of it is a strategy.

Strategy is something that idly enhances what's going on, or it's a new strategy to put in more active recruitments that could fill it. It's very unclear. I know that this government is quite used to just grabbing something without anything, without any backup, but in the public sector, that's not allowed. The Auditor General certainly would not be happy about approving such huge amounts without any backup, promise only, 'We will get the strategy done.' So who knows, the strategy may change given the fact that they already have their approval amounts needed.

So having said that, Mr. Chairman, I'm not 100 percent sure that we are being asked to approve something that we have not seen. So I think the minister needs to speed up her strategy and address each of the health centres throughout Nunavut, instead of just expecting that she can get a blank cheque. It perhaps delays her strategy. I'm not sure.

So it's very confusing. The minister needs to make a clarification with her statements because, after all, we are not just speaking to each of us here. We are speaking to the Nunavut community, to each and everyone that have a public health centre.

Will the minister at least assure me that time frame she needs to get the Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy complete? We can't go on and on with promises only. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Health, please. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would gladly distribute that information to the members.

I believe, internally, we are looking at the end of July as a target date to have it all finalized and approved by Cabinet this summer. That's the time we are working on to try and finalize the recruitment strategy because the recruitment strategy will also involve the three new students in the fall.

So we are trying to tie some of that stuff into that, but I would be glad to share with the members. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I am speaking as a Member of the House, so I would appreciate if the minister could rephrase her commitment that she tabled the report that she promised to get to me. I think it is important that whatever the minister agrees to table also goes to the other Members of the House and to the members of this committee.

So having said that, I certainly am not against any recruitment strategies or anything, but I think it's important to understand what the time frames are. We understand that the case is developed as soon as possible because we are giving an amount in good faith, and there were so many examples that the government and the ministers have requested something without having their strategic plans really in place when they should be.

The priority is to get them done before asking for dollars. So if I can get that assurance I'll refrain from obstructing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Minister of Health, please. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we have changed the rules to do some backdoor tabling as well, so I would rather do that and provide it to all the members, not only to all the members but to our potential nursing staff. I believe this is excellent news for people in the nursing profession in the north.

I believe it is excellent news for people who want to enroll in nursing programs in the north, and I look forward to sharing this strategy with my employees and nurses in Nunavut, at the same time, the potential staff and students in this program.

So I think it is excellent news for Nunavut. It's long overdue I think, and I would gladly table and distribute it as soon as it is completed to the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. We're on page 9 of Bill 11. Health and Social Services. Treatment Programs. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It says in the first one: \$1.9 million; recruitment and retaining of physicians on a long-term basis.

So I'm just wondering if the minister could give a little bit more detailed information to us as to exactly how that funding is going to be used to recruit and retain physicians on a long-term basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you. To the Minister of Health, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Could the member clarify; is he asking a question related to the \$1.9 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is what I said. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you. To the Minister of Health, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have that strategy in place that I will table in the House to the member on the recruitment of physicians in Nunavut. One of the areas that we're dealing with in that is some shortfall in some positions in Nunavut.

At the same time, the area I covered earlier was related to trying to be more competitive with other jurisdictions in recruiting physicians in Canada. There is a shortage of physicians in Canada. At the same time, we also discovered that physicians in Nunavut were the lowest paid in Canada.

So some of those incentives are there and I'll be glad to table that in the House to the members tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I can ask why the minister has not tabled this already, if they have it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Because we've had other areas that we're trying to translate for tabling tomorrow, the People with Disabilities Handbook, and so on. I can table that information in English only. If there is urgency to it, it's just a matter of items on the workload. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We look forward to getting that tabled.

Maybe before I move onto my next question, when was that strategy approved and how long has it been approved for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we had our Financial Management Board meeting approving in the supplementary bills. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** That's really nice, but when? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That FMB meeting was on May 25. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I guess someone knows when they had that meeting.

My next question is dealing with the next line on there and that's dealing with the Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy. I know that the minister indicated that that's pretty much done but just not in its final format already. I am just wondering if she could give us an indication as to some of the major components in that strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you. To the Minister of Health, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Different areas that we're looking at are funding to do recruitment across Canada and within Canada. Another area is in the compensation provided to students that are in school for nursing programs. Thirdly, an area where they need additional training at the end of their training in bachelor's program and what orientation they need for additional training to work in the various health centres.

Another area is to assist in the professional development of our nurses at the community level. Members will recall that there has been a nurse practitioner legislation that has been passed. How do we then train our nurses to be nurse practitioners as part of the retention piece?

Other areas are to look at some of the challenges that nurses deal with at the community level and the various incentives to keep our nurses. And, some of those have yet to be ironed out and approved at the Cabinet and FMB levels.

The deadline for that is, again, end of July or early August to finalize all of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to read something that was in the department's 2001-02 business plan in dealing with the Nursing Recruitment and Retention Initiatives.

It says; "... this is ongoing with the number of specific projects to be implemented. One was: Hiring a recruitment and retention specialist; the development of materials for recruitment packages, publications and a website use, invest in courses and conferences to maintain health professional skills and effectiveness, training/orientation program to prepare nurses for a community health role in Nunavut, and continuation of the NADE Team."

Just about everything she said in this new strategy was in that old one. What happened with the old one? What's different; it seems like it's the exact same thing. Maybe if the minister can give us an indication of why we are spending \$1.5 million on something that's already been done six years ago. It's the same thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding that we've put forward in the House is to approve for various initiatives with recruitment. We can have a strategy in place but if there is no funding to support it, it won't go very far.

The other area is the last year... I mean, in six years, Nunavut has gone through a lot of changes. We've had the serious challenge of keeping nurses, at the same time filling jobs. This line item deals with a recruitment strategy, at the same time dealing with agency nurses.

The recruitment strategy that we're proposing is broader in the context of we're trying to tap into students at the very beginning of getting into the field of nursing. Summer employment, as an example, guaranteeing our nurses and our graduates full-time jobs upon completion, developing an orientation for them to work in health centres and not just hospitals, and then developing them to be nurse practitioners and so on.

So I believe this strategy is broader than what the member is talking about. I haven't seen the one that he's talked about. What we're putting forward will also support the development of our nurses at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is broader. The only difference is, in this one, the focus is on the students, and I think that's good, but I'm surprised that the minister says she hasn't seen this one.

This was approved in the 2001-02 business plan of her department. Since then, they haven't had any recruitment and retention strategies? This has been a crisis almost from day one.

So is she saying that until we approve this one that they don't have one anymore? What happened to the one that was there before if she hasn't seen it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I haven't seen the one that he is referring to. I'm not saying that there haven't been initiatives in the past. Major initiatives in the past are related to Trillium; international recruitment of international nurses, for example, dealing with agency nurses and so on.

At the same time the Nursing Program was developed in Nunavut around the same time. So there have been a number of initiatives. We have a division within the Department of Health that's trying to deal with developing recruitment strategies, not just for nurses but also for physicians and mental health workers and so on.

Yesterday, I mentioned in the House that we're looking at the development of other training programs in Nunavut for health care professionals in Nunavut for continuing care workers, service program, mental health, nurses and so on.

So there are a number of training programs the department has undertaken in partnership with Nunavut Arctic College outside of the Nursing Recruitment Strategy. Mind you Nursing Recruitment Strategy is a major challenge for us because there is an international and national shortage of nurses.

The Nurses' Association can speak to that and have tabled reports in this House and in the NWT. Some of the work that we're designing is based on work and studies that they have done, as well, to indicate as to where we can put our efforts.

But a Nursing Recruitment Strategy cannot be designed just trying to fill a job. It has to be much broader than that if we're going to get a handle on or deal with the national shortage in Canada. We have to tap into our grade 12s right now and provide incentives for them to stay in school to finish their programs and so on.

The way it is done right now in terms of just advertising jobs is not working. And the other pieces that our nurses have said, they want to continue developing that are on stream. So how do we support that?

So the initiative, in my view, is much broader, and we're trying to deal with that from the broader context of promoting programs, or these types of programs in the north. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Everything that the minister is saying is in the existing strategy that the department has had for a number of years, and the only difference in this area, and I'm not arguing that point I think it's a good idea, is focusing on the younger people and get them involved into the Nursing Program. But is that costing us \$1.5 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I get into that, someone asked earlier, how many vacant nursing positions do we have in the north, to date? We have 54 vacant nurses in the north. So those positions are currently filled with agency nurses and the funding before you will be also to support the filling of those vacant positions as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. She can answer my question after she answers Mr. Curley's. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I didn't hear a question. Next, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister indicated before she got to my question, she was going to respond to one that she didn't answer earlier, so I'm still waiting for the response to mine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** I'm sorry, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe my response answered his question. Part of it is to fill those 54 vacant positions with agency nurses and casuals, as well as trying to recruit in the long-term.

The subject line in the document refers to those three. So, yes, it is going to cost us that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That wasn't my question. Maybe if I may make it a little more clear to the minister.

She talked about and explained this newly developed Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy. The only thing that really sounds different from the existing strategy that has been in place for a number of years, and as I said I agree with it wholeheartedly, is trying to bring younger people and get them into the Nursing Program, and prepare them so we can have our own home-grown nurses. I think that's a great idea.

My question was: is that part of it going to cost us \$1.5 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding for \$1.5 million is going to cover the development of the Nursing Strategy and the initiatives in that. Secondly, it's going to fill the vacancies that we have. It's a combination of both.

While we are recruiting, we have to fill the vacancies of 54 positions, and so on, on any given day to agency nurses and casuals. That's what that line item is for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'll skip the first part because I am not getting the answer for it and I'll be able to do my own math after.

It says, 'For strategy and additional funding for casual and agency nurses.' How much of that \$1,742,000 is going for staffing for casual and agency nurses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The strategy will outline initiatives that we will be working towards in terms of how we fill positions. The majority of this funding will be to fill the vacancies while we are developing and implementing the strategy.

I spoke earlier today in the fact, funding as an example, the money we are contributing towards that. The other area I spoke into was to develop further nurse practitioner programs and so on.

So those are different initiatives undertaken, but this strategy is broad in that it focuses on students from grade 12 and so on. Once it's done, I will be able to speak what is approved in the document per se.

The strategy will be to always fill the vacancies that we have through whatever means we have, and that the pieces of those strategies will be different, whether it would be talking to students in the classroom, whether it's recruiting and hiring and making indeterminate

offers to our nursing graduates this Friday as an example, giving them orientation programs so that they can work in the health centres.

Those are a number of strategies that we have within the department. I had spoken to some of that earlier today and I responded to some of the members' concerns around the wait time strategy that we received from the federal government and so on.

The majority of this funding will be spent in filling vacancies while we are recruiting for nurses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know, out of the \$1,542,000, how of it that in dollar amounts is going to casual and agency nurses. It's very simple. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** The majority of the amount of \$1.5 million will be to fill the positions that are vacant. Once we have our strategy in place, the strategy will focus on other means in filling those positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I recognize the clock, maybe the minister will have some time to figure out exactly how much, or majority of it, or whatever. I don't know if she just doesn't want to say that all of it is going there or not.

But I would like to recognize the clock and move to report in progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour, please raise your hands. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Thank you, Minister Simailak, Mr. Green, and Mr. Ma. We'll see you again some time.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Arreak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 11 and would like to report progress, and Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. There is a motion on the floor. Who is the seconder? Thank you, Mr. Netser. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of a meeting of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development tomorrow at half past ten tomorrow morning at the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for June 6:

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. Notice of Motions
15. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 6
  - Bill 7
  - Bill 12
19. Consideration for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 11
  - Tabled Document 49 – 2(4)
20. Report to Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
- Bill 10
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow, June 6, at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:09*

