



**Nunavut Canada**

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**Wednesday, June 6, 2007**

**Pages 1638 – 1737**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**

(Pangnirtung)

*Chair, Management and Services Board*

**Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

*Striking Committee*

**Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

*Striking Committee*

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(Nattilik)

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**

(South Baffin)

*Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Joe Allen Evyagotailak**

(Kugluktuk)

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(Iqaluit East)

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

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(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)

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(Nanulik)

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**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

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

**James Arvaluk**

(Tununiq)

**Levi Barnabas**

(Quttiktuq)

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(Iqaluit West)

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

**Hunter Tootoo**

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*Striking Committee*

**Hon. Levinia Brown**

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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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)**

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Wednesday, June 6, 2007**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, 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. Evyagotailak to say the opening prayer. Mr. Evyagotailak.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Premier, Ministers, and Members of the Legislative Assembly. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 077 – 2(4): Contribution to the Rick Hansen Foundation**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago Rick Hansen's Man in Motion Tour inspired us all to see the world through his eyes. Today in celebration of the Tour's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I am pleased to celebrate with him a partnership which will see the Government of Nunavut contribute \$20,000 per year for the next five years to the Rick Hansen Foundation.

>>*Applause*

The funds will be made available through the Department of Health and Social Services. The contribution will address three priority areas:

- 1) Solutions that work;
- 2) Research innovation; and
- 3) Leadership

We will aim for more accessibility and inclusive communities, sustainable solutions and improvements in the health and quality of life of people with spinal cord injuries and mobility impairments. The foundation will ensure that this contribution will be applied in Nunavut for the people of Nunavut.

Our participation in this national initiative will result in access to a valuable knowledge base, other community and funding organizations, and leadership support for the Nunavut Disabilities Society.

I share Rick Hansen's dream of improving the quality of life of people with spinal cord injuries and we ask you to join us to celebrate this announcement at approximately 3 p.m. today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Ministers' Statements. Minister for Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

### **Minister's Statement 078 – 2(4): Disabilities Handbook**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to the Gallery.

Mr. Speaker, later on today I will be tabling 'Bringing Help: A Handbook for People with Disabilities in Nunavut.' The Government of Nunavut provides a wide range of services to people with disabilities, such as physiotherapy, residential care, counselling funding through income support, Housing Corporation programs, and group support systems, as well through the Non-Insured Health Benefits and Extended Health Care Benefits, just to list a few.

Mr. Speaker, there is a perception that there are few services for people with disability in Nunavut. The reality is that help is available from a number of sources, but there is not easy way to know all about them. As a result I personally led the effort to develop a handbook that would pull all this information together to one place.

'Bringing Help: A Handbook for People with Disability in Nunavut' collects in one place the information about services and funding programs available to Nunavummiut with *Timimmut Ajurutiliit*.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit in Nunavut are twice as likely as the average Canadian to have a disability. About 4,500 people in Nunavut have limits of their abilities to participate or to be active in daily life. It is not easy living with a disability, with financial and therapeutic services; however, people with disabilities will have fewer barriers to living life to their full potential. The 'Bringing Help Handbook' will help improve access to these services.

Building healthy communities is an important goal of the Government of Nunavut, helping Nunavummiut who are disabled to meet their full potential; their well-being in an important step towards achieving this goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

**Minister's Statement 079 – 2(4): Tribute to Joanasie Maniapik**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to pay tribute to Joanasie Maniapik who passed away on May 4, 2007. Joanasie was an active municipal politician in his home community of Pangnirtung and was well known throughout Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Joanasie served the people and community of Pangnirtung with diligence and commitment. From 1977 onward, he served five terms as a hamlet councillor, two terms as deputy mayor, and six terms as the mayor. In recent years, he continued to actively serve the community as the Chairman of Uqqurmiut Inuit Artists Association.

Mr. Speaker, Joanasie Maniapik was a community leader of great stature and was a role model to all of us. His passing is a loss to all of us, and those of us who knew him knew Joanasie are richer from his knowledge and experience.

On behalf of CGS and the Government of Nunavut, Mr. Speaker, I applaud the service of Joanasie Maniapik and also convey our sincerest condolences to his wife, Sarah, his family, and his community of Pangnirtung.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize you, as you were taught by the late Joanasie Maniapik, and your discussions with him with regard to social issues. I appreciate the fact that he was able to be your mentor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 080 – 2(4): First Time Homeowners Seminars**

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

I rise today to speak about the new initiative that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has just developed and initiated to educate potential homeowners in Nunavut about the benefits of homeownership.

The Housing Corporation sponsored the First Time Home Buyers Seminar in Iqaluit on April 17, 2007. This seminar was well attended and positively received by all participants. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's seminar provided step-by-step information to potential homeowners to assist them to purchase a home from the beginning to the closing.

Presenters for the three seminars included the Nunavut Housing Corporation, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Royal Bank, and the Imperial Bank of Commerce. The corporation also held seminars in Rankin Inlet on April 19, 2007, and in Cambridge Bay on April 23, 2007. These seminars were well attended by interested members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, based on the successes of these initial seminars, Nunavut Housing Corporation is considering delivering more of these seminars this fall in communities across Nunavut.

The corporation believes that providing information about an increased range of housing options supports the *Pinasuaqtavut* goals of healthy communities and self reliance for Nunavummiut, and that retention of GN employees could be improved by delivering more information about homeownership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Finance, and Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Simailak.

#### **Minister's Statement 081 – 2(4): Barriers to Business Initiative Results**

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to report on the Barriers to Business Initiative, which was launched in 2005 and supports our government's commitment to economic development, as outlined in *Pinasuaqtavut* and the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy.

Over the past two years my department; along with Finance, Justice, Community and Government Services, and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; have been working on a number of initiatives to remove impediments to business growth.

I am pleased to provide an update on the work completed to date: the revision to business development programs and contribution programs delivered by my department, establishment of the NNI Secretariat within ED&T, compilation of a comprehensive directory and listing of business programs and resources, introduction of an after care program for business requiring follow up services, streamlining and standardization of payment processing for vendors, including a mechanism for direct payment, and release of a request for proposals for the provision of banking services in communities.

Today I will be tabling the 'Seven Steps to Help You to Start Your Business' Guide. This guide will be instrumental in assisting new entrepreneurs navigate the business development process. Complementary to this document is the 'Doing Business with the Government of Nunavut' Guide produced by the Department of Community and Government Services, which my colleague will also be tabling.

The need to remote barriers will continue to be worked on by the government. One such initiative will be the development of a new mechanism for reviewing regulations, licensing, and permitting process that may impede business development on a case-by-case basis. This ongoing mechanism is important for continually monitoring the changing conditions in the business development environment.

I recognize that growth and diversification of the public sector is integral to the future of the Nunavut economy, and I am confident that these improvements will help to better support a healthy business environment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Tununig, Mr. Arvaluk.

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

#### **Member's Statement 170 – 2(4): Congratulations to Pond Inlet Graduation Students**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): [Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to be invited to the grade 12 graduation ceremonies this coming Tuesday in my constituency. I will be attending to this ceremony gladly. There are 12 graduates completing their studies in our High School for the year 2007.

The graduates are; Joanne Akpaleapik, Foster Allen, Alexander Anaviapik, Daniel Inuarak, Carmen Kalluk, Jeffrey Killiktee, Todd Koonark, Nora Koonoo, Ena Mucktar, Samuel Nashook, Emily Peterloosie, Georgina Pewatoolook, and also Isidore Quasa.

(interpretation ends) I would like my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Pond Inlet graduating students. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

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

#### **Member's Statement 171 – 2(4): Harvesting Animals**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): [Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that we are sitting for the last day, therefore, I would like to express some of our Inuit beliefs in the House in respect to the animals we depend on.

Inuit harvesters sometimes have a tough time with our existing wildlife legislation; personally, I recall that Inuit are not to disrespect or fight over any animals especially since they were put on this Earth for our utilization and use.

I am aware of this issue; therefore I wanted to comment on the matter here in the House. Mr. Speaker, today we are apprised of individuals brought to court because of inadvertently breaching the wildlife rules or regulations and this seems to be becoming a commonplace matter. This was very uncommon even a few years ago.

Inuit hold certain beliefs with respect to animals and that you should not judge another harvester in regard to wildlife. You should not judge another person for their actions, but the courts breach this by publicizing these cases. The cases before the courts seem to focus on wildlife protection, not in protecting our people and their livelihood.

Mr. Speaker, this is not how we ought to treat our people, and Members repeatedly state their disagreement with cases before the courts that involve Inuit in wildlife cases. Inuit believe in conservation, in treating animals with the respect they deserve, Inuit utilize animals without wastage, Inuit are extremely proud when an animal has been harvested.

Inuit do not care about whether the animal is too small, too young or the like, since they value the catch more than the size or age of the animal.

In those cases where an Inuk has harvested their first animal, such as a polar bear sow with cubs, or a newly weaned bear, traditionally Inuit would be extremely proud of that first harvest, but these are also where Inuit break the wildlife regulations.

Inuit value their animals, no matter what species it is, as long as it is edible. Inuit in each community have different environs and ecosystems from other communities. This is why each community has their own favourite foods and eats different species depending on their availability. The different species in our regions and communities exist for our use.]

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

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): [Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, Inuit celebrate the harvesting of animals, whether they are large or small. As a matter of fact, animals exist for humans and for their proper use. Since this is the case, I believe that the wildlife regulators are too extreme in their judgement of Inuit whom they state are breaking wildlife legislation. This then causes undue hardship on these harvesters. I wanted to make this statement for that reason in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

#### **Member's Statement 172 – 2(4): Homeownership Programs**

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to welcome Mr. Hansen for coming up to Nunavut. Please remember that your appearance here in Nunavut means a lot to those people who depend on the technology that you use. In my own constituency,

they need help, and your presence makes a big difference up here. I appreciate you coming up here. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to state some issues and concerns with respect to homeownership programs in Nunavut. The program that the Nunavut Housing Corporation provides, including the Home Down Payment Assistance Program and Renovation Program, are way too generous. They are so generous that they are being taking advantage of by people who have no interest in residing and remaining long-term in Nunavut.

Once the Homeownership and Down Payment Assistance Programs are received, many of the people who have taken advantage of that have secured instant long-term leases with the local market and depart from Nunavut. Whereas, a long-term resident, who pay their taxes and works hard in Nunavut, cannot receive homeownership assistance, or home renovation assistance programs.

I submitted a note to my colleague, the Minister responsible for Housing Corporation, that once again, my constituents have received a usual letter for the last three years, "I'm sorry, your application has not been accepted. Please apply again next year." She may apply next year, but she is not hopeful that the tone of the letter will be any different.

So I'm asking the minister today to review and cut the loopholes that are in there and take the priority of the homeowners who have an interest in residing long-term in Nunavut, who pay their taxes, work hard, and will remain in Nunavut.

I think that's the least that we can ask from the minister to change the tone of the program. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. I guess when we get to Oral Questions those questions can be asked accordingly. (interpretation) Members' Statements. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

#### **Member's Statement 173 – 2(4): Tribute to Pauloosie Paniloo**

**Mr. Arreak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to pay a tribute to the late Pauloosie Paniloo.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pauloosie Paniloo, who recently passed away while on patrol duty on the land with the Canadian Rangers. Mr. Speaker, members will have known Pauloosie was a respected community leader, a former Member of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, and a skilled hunter.

Mr. Paniloo cared deeply for Nunavut and its people. He loved being on the land, be it summer or winter, to hunt and camp. Pauloosie was a Canadian Ranger for the past 28 years. He was also the first Ranger to die on patrol. Pauloosie was given a full military funeral service in Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I wish to thank Pauloosie Paniloo for all his services. He is sadly missed by his family, his fellow Rangers, and many other people he touched in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 174 – 2(4): Aboriginal Healing Foundation**

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, Members of the Assembly received a presentation from the foundation.

Mr. Speaker, many of our constituents are victims of residential schools. Indeed, some of the Members of this House are victims. These members know exactly what kind of abuse took place while at residential school.

Mr. Speaker, the healing process is a long one, however, if the process does not get started, then we will never heal. We see the affects of abuse through alcoholism, suicide, poverty, and violence. We need to help our people to get through what they went through. The Aboriginal Healing Foundation has started this process.

Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents were victims of Ed Horne. I am grateful to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation for the work that they are doing and would like to thank Mr. Richard Kistabish for his presentation in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Orders of the Day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Premier.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In March of this year, the Government of Nunavut and the Rick Hansen Foundation signed an agreement to improve the quality of life of Nunavummiut with disabilities with practical solutions, research, and leadership.

At that time, Rick Hansen and his staff were planning to visit Nunavut for the official signing of this agreement. He made it to the tarmac in Ottawa before their flight was cancelled due to a blizzard here in Iqaluit. Thankfully, Rick remained committed to visiting us here in Nunavut and was able to arrive today.

Please join me in welcoming Rick Hansen, Canada's Man in Motion, and his staff, Colin Ewart, and there are two other staff that are not here but I'll mention their names anyway; Erin MacMillan and Tawny Savage.

Welcome, very much. *Tunngasugitsi. Bienvenue. Merci, Monsieur President.*

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Welcome to the Gallery, Mr. Hansen.

(interpretation) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize, on behalf of Tagak and myself, our constituent, Jose Kusugak. I think everybody in Nunavut and Canada knows Mr. Kusugak. I knew his parents and I went to school with Jose Kusugak himself, along with his relatives. I would like to recognize him in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although these individuals aren't in the House, or in the Gallery, they are very close to the Gallery. I'd like to give a special recognition to our interpreters from the Kitikmeot: James Panioyak, Gwen Angulalik, and Attima Hadlari. As everyone knows, they travel quite extensively with the MLAs; they're part of the Kitikmeot team.

Mr. Speaker, they provide a valued contribution in keeping the Kitikmeot informed about proceedings in the House, and the decisions that we make that affect them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson, Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit East, Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a great pleasure to introduce to the Gallery, some constituents of mine and I'd like to begin by introducing Mr. Craig

Dunphy to the Gallery. Craig is helping out with Mr. Hansen's tour, helping facilitate the tour. Along with Craig, are Mr. Sam Tilley and, I believe, his mom, Joy Tilley, is in the Gallery.

So I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce those people to the Gallery. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. (interpretation ends) Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 217 – 2(4): Nunavut Housing Corporation Programs for Homeowners**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in my Member's Statement on Monday, I raised concerns facing homeowners in the smaller communities. I was pleased to hear that Minister's Statement of yesterday, which amounts some welcome improvements to their corporation's program.

One of the Housing Corporation programs is the Home Renovation Program. This program provides forgivable loans up to a maximum of \$50,000 to cover the costs of materials and labour.

Can the minister indicate to me how the corporation is prioritizing the applications that it receives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) [The Housing Corporation applies their policies to determine what and how much renovation is needed in each application, which varies considerably from case to case.

The application forms that are submitted by applicants list a whole series of questions, and are used to determine the priority of each individual application. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

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



**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): [Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague, Mr. Curley, stated the truth that some people who have applied for some funding do not receive assistance for years until their homes have suffered deteriorated extensively.]

(interpretation ends) The Home Renovation Program provides forgivable loans to a maximum of \$50,000. In some cases, a homeowner may not need the full amount for his or her project, but would like to be able to apply again to the program in future years for another project.

Can the minister confirm whether or not the homeowner can apply to the program more than once until they used up the full amount that is available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As our program is in big demand in the territory, we respect each and every one of the applicants that are applying for funds that we have from our small pot. We try and make sure that we respect others that haven't received any, again, if they have to make more improvement onto a unit that we're renovating for home improvement.

So we try and do that and if it's urgent enough, we would consider that as an urgent matter. So everybody could apply again to ask for more money to improve their homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister knows, there is a shortage of public housing across Nunavut. In some cases, homeowners have adult children who cannot move out of their parents' home because there is nowhere for them to move to. The parents would like to be able to renovate their homes so that the family has enough bedrooms for all its members.

Can the minister indicate to me whether the Housing Corporation programs can support these types of projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): [Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We try to give out the funding to people most in need, especially those with a lot of family members, so they can add more bedrooms. Those are the kinds of things that we look at in the applications for funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on my knowledge of actual cases, this applies only to the social housing units under the local housing authorities. [They, however, do not represent or assist homeowners, so homeowners have to resolve their own matters on their own.]

How does the Housing Corporation keep track of overcrowding in homeowners' units? I really do not grasp the answer provided, however, I would like to ask this related question.

(interpretation ends) The amounts available under the Home Renovation Program are the same across Nunavut. In some communities in the High Arctic, everything is more expensive. Can the minister tell me if and when the corporation will review the amounts available under the program for the residents of most isolated and expensive communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) [We will examine how the costs of renovation differ in the communities. We will look at the costs of doing the same work in different communities.]

We have to carefully review these costs; although we have an overall mandate, we have limited funding available Nunavut-wide and we need to know how these costs fluctuate in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

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

#### **Question 218 – 2(4): Tuberculosis in Nunavut**

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

Mr. Speaker, in recent news stories both in the north and in the south are showing that tuberculosis is still a major health threat in Canada. Many Nunavummiut have lost family and friends to this disease. Some do die from it and others went to the south to be treated and just never came back. The threat of tuberculosis is a very real concern to northerners.

My question to the minister: can the minister provide an update on the rates of tuberculosis in Nunavut and what policies are currently in place to monitor the disease? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Tuberculosis Program was established in 2000 to address the issues around TB in Nunavut.

Currently, we provide an extra consultation on every case that has been diagnosed in the north since 2004 to ensure that we follow up on every person that may have been exposed to TB. In 2000, in Nunavut, we had 48 cases of tuberculosis reported. Since then it has fluctuated, but as of January 2007 we have nine active cases. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Recent news reports indicated that an individual in Yellowknife was diagnosed with an infectious case of tuberculosis. The public health officials are now following up on that in their territory.

Many people from the Kitikmeot travel to Yellowknife for business, holiday, or just to visit relatives. In fact, I will be travelling there this weekend myself, and so I may be exposed to people there.

My question for the minister; for the peace and mind of the general public, many from the Kitikmeot: can the minister clarify what is being done to test to Nunavummiut who may have been exposed to tuberculosis while in Yellowknife recently? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Mr. Speaker, that's quite broad and now there are a lot of people that go through Yellowknife. I, myself, will be travelling through Yellowknife on Friday.

If there are individuals that have been exposed to tuberculosis in Yellowknife, then we would make sure that there is assistance in place to make sure that they are assessed in their community, or in Yellowknife, or the people who maybe have been around them as well.

In terms of trying to address those individuals that may have been impacted, I would have to get a bit more detail on who those individuals and who that person is who had TB for us to follow up.

As it is right now, we try and promote prevention around TB and to recognize the symptoms of TB through public health. At the same time, we've been trying to deal with the whole issue on overcrowding in our homes in Nunavut. That's part of the whole problem.

So if the member can provide me with more specifics on the individual that may have had the TB, then we can make sure that there's a follow up in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I didn't say anyone had tuberculosis. I read the news report that in the NWT Chief Medical Officer Dr. Andre Corriveau indicated that he confirmed two additional cases of TB-positive people that have arisen since the testing began. He revealed that residents in 23 NWT communities may have been in contact with TB in the individual tests as well. I know for a fact that people from the Kitikmeot travel there all the time for medical, health, business or personal reasons as I mentioned.

So I'm just wondering how, for Nunavut, the chief medical officer could test those people, just to follow up on the minister's comments.

My question for the minister: can minister clarify for the House what procedures her department has to address the situation where individuals in our communities are exposed to potentially highly contagious infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The chief medical officers are involved in cases where we have outbreaks of TB and trying to deal with and contain that type of illness in the north.

Part of the work that we're engaged in is often in the area of prevention and recognizing TB, where individuals in the past may have had TB and to monitor those cases. In situations where there may be new cases, the chief medical officers will be involved in trying to contain the spread of tuberculosis.

The numbers have been decreasing over the years, but we have continued to try and put in programs where we deal with more adequate screening of TB in our schools, in our homes, and in our communities, through public health and through the CHRs in our communities. 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.

Mr. Speaker, when I was digging into this issue, I noted that in February 2006, the Northwest Territories undertook a review to strengthen tuberculosis management control

in the Northwest Territories. There is a report and this report brought forward 26 recommendations dealing with many aspects from education to treatment of tuberculosis.

My question for the minister: can the minister update this House on whether similar reviews have taken place in Nunavut? And if not, does she have any plans to do so in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. In fact that report on that review is due October 2007, at which time I will table that report to the Members in this House.

We have a person on stream who has reviewed what we have in terms of programs and what services we have in a community, and he will be reporting his findings to this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 219 – 2(4): Status of Fuel Stabilization Rider and Energy Prices**

**Mr. Curley:** My question is for the Minister of Energy. Nunavummiut homeowners are still worried about the fact that energy prices may continue to go up. They wonder how they are going to pay for it. I know that the minister is not worried about paying the energy costs for the Government of Nunavut.

On March 2 of this year, the Qulliq Energy Corporation filed an application to decrease the current Fuel Stabilization Rider from 7.87 cents per kilowatt hour, to 6.65 cents. This new rate would cover from April 1, 2007, to October 31, 2007. The most recent Annual Report of the Utility Rates Review Council indicated that the council and I quote: "... expect to submit a report and Fuel Stabilization Rider on or before May 30, 2007."

What has the URRC recommended and when will a decision be made? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. The application had gone to the URRC and the matter of the FSR, the Fuel Stabilization Rider, that is on our current bills.

The member remembers it was 6.65 cents a kilowatt hour beginning on April 1, 2007 and ending on October 31, 2007. The report has been received by my office. The next step is to take the report and bring it to Cabinet, review it, and then make a submission back to the URRC.

We can either accept the report or reject the report, or receive officially the report. So our hands are quite tied in what we do with the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's not at all true that the minister's hands are tied.

The guidelines are quite clear: either he accepts the recommendation to reduce, which the Nunavummiut want, from the figure that I quoted, or if he rejects it, that means he would like Nunavummiut to pay for continuing higher Fuel Stabilization Rider.

My supplementary question is this; QEC's application on March 2 states, and I quote, "...QEC has recently been advised that GN would like to move toward to a true cost," that means the minister, "... which will likely result in greater rates of fuel prices across Nunavut but would prefer to wait until the next supply season. True cost fuel would likely occur as a part of the 2007 re-supply, and will therefore not impact fuel costs as of April 1, 2007."

Can the minister explain to the House what impact a move toward true costs approach would have on Nunavutmiut consumers and homeowners? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, just to clarify some of the statements made by the member, the Fuel Stabilization Rider, as most of the public knows by now and we've gone through these several times, it's not something new, is a mechanism to bring the fuel fund to plus or minus \$1 million, and it's only used to offset the extra costs that the corporation has when we purchase fuel each year.

The true cost of fuel; what does that mean; the member talked about the true cost of fuel. The true costs of fuel means what the price is being paid for fuel, which will vary ship by ship and community by community, and it incorporates the purchase, the transportation, and the processing costs of buying fuel. It doesn't include the capital costs, or GN costs, or support services to pay the additional legitimate costs for the costs of fuel. PPD currently quantifies these costs with its own prices in the setting process.

Will the costs increase or decrease? Mr. Speaker, I can't tell the future; we haven't even begun the major round of purchasing for fuel for the upcoming season. What we can say is that we noticed that the price of fuel continues to go up on the world market. The Government of Nunavut has viewed that and we're moving toward having a hedging policy, or a hedging strategy, so that we could actually purchase fuel at a lower price, and that way we pass those savings onto consumers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The next question; I trust that the minister has a number of energy experts at his disposal. Can he advise the House what projections he has received with respect to the price of oil and how this will impact consumers, particularly the homeowners of Nunavut, down the road? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I thought it was your first supplementary question; it was your second. Sorry. Minister of Energy, Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** I think, Mr. Speaker, that it's quite shocking when we look at the numbers, and I just want to quote. I like the direction that the member is going on this.

Every time the cost of fuel goes up one cent on the world market, that cost for electricity to Nunavummiut equates to \$400,000. So that one cent on the world market on the cost of fuel means that in Nunavut to generate our electricity, that one cent cost costs us \$400,000.

So that's something that the experts, that Mr. Curley referred to, are looking at. That's why we've looked at bringing in the hedging policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I thought this was my second supplementary.

The 2007-08 corporate business plan for QEC, which the minister tabled last week, indicates that it is expected to, and I quote, "... pay a dividend to the GN of one percent of the 2006-07 operating budget." How much will this amount to and how will the government use the money? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't table any document last week in the House referring to that, to the best of my memory.

What I can say is the government, the Cabinet, has directed the Power Corporation that at the end of the day when there is a dividend to be paid, that we pay that into a trust fund. That would be the mechanism that we would use.

Right now, Mr. Speaker, as the members know, I believe we had a net profit in the last fiscal year ending March 31. I think it was \$1.2 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 220 – 2(4): Police Detachment Emergency Calls**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): [Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Justice.

In March, we were invited to the police detachment to review the answering system to ensure that we understood its operations as the emergency after hours calling centre. They notified us that the mayors became mollified after they had a chance to review this system at the police station here during their conference. This review has not led to any improvements, and my concerns have not been resolved to my satisfaction. I would like to ask another question pertaining to the system.

Recently, we had an emergency in our community where a citizen made a phone call regarding a man with a firearm to the police; it was an urgent matter because it was an emergency. Immediately after I was apprised of the call to the RCMP, I drove my vehicle to the person's house to await the RCMP, so that I could assist them when they went to the unit in question. It took 20 minutes during this emergency, although our community is quite small, with a population under 1,000. When it takes this amount of time to respond to an emergency, this is not serving our citizens in our communities in Nunavut.

Therefore, my question to the Minister of Justice is: will this telephone system for emergency calls be reviewed in the immediate future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): [Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to find out more about this case based on the member's recollection, whether or not just a call was made, or did the member just drive to the complainant's house or what?

In any event, I would like to review this case prior to working on a correction in the system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): [Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I purposefully am not thanking the Premier as he did not answer my question.

This matter is already historical, in the past; therefore I do not think it is necessary for the Premier to review the matter, just so long as we can ensure that this does not reoccur in the future. I would like the emergency callout system fixed, since it could result in a tragedy, and as we are aware, the caller has to make long distance calls to the emergency callout centre here and then the centre relays the message to the community police detachment.

This situation is not acceptable to our citizens and I look forward to improvements in this system. Are you conducting a review of this system and will we receive an update when the system is fixed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. We have to observe the Rules of the House and I thank the member for the reply. Minister of Justice, Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul** (interpretation): [Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not a unique situation in Nunavut, as all our communities are tied into the system. This system operates smoothly sometimes and other times, there are issues requiring resolution.

When it is operating smoothly, there are hardly any complaints about the system. We will continue to monitor this situation; however, it would be very expensive if we were to reinstall direct connections to the communities, and based on our current financial situation, impossible.

We have tried to ensure that all of the operators answering the after hours emergency callout system are bilingual, and especially that they can speak Inuktitut. We would like this to operate as smoothly as possible, and whenever a problem surfaces, we would like to be apprised of the problem so that we can deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

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

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

Although you alluded to bilingual operators, as my colleague Mr. Arvaluk previously posed a question in respect to the system and how they have resolved the emergency procedures with the community health centres and emergency situations.

Whenever an emergency situation arises in the community, the call goes directly to the nurse on call. Although the same situation occurs with an emergency in the community where the police officers are sitting at home, they are not apprised of the situation until the call has been made to the emergency callout system and the call is forwarded to the office on call.

Can the minister look into that emergency system in use with the health centres whereby the call is redirected to the person on call? The people would be very appreciative of this change if it were to be changed to this type of redirecting calls to a person on call.

The position of the government is that they are looking into the matter, and the systemic response is that they are looking into it. Are you planning on making corrections to the system, rather than just looking into it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): [Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The police headquarters are well aware of this concern as I continually relay the concerns of the members, especially on an annual basis.

At this present time, I am not aware of the exact changes to the system required to meet the concerns, as there seems to be no further need to make changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): [Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We keep offering up solutions to the problem and he should be keeping notes as to our suggestions in regard to this callout system. The department ought to know what our suggestions are.

I would like to raise another matter related to the RCMP that is a cause for concern. In our community, we have two police officers. I would like to ask the minister whether there are any polices in place in regard to the placement of new officers in communities, and if so, that the RCMP not send two completely new members at the same time to the community.

In that case, with an entirely new staff in a community, they may not know the correct places to attend to emergency calls, especially in smaller communities and this is not acceptable. I think we need to fix it so that the longest tenured policeman in that community could train the newest member. That is why I would like to ask whether or not there are actual policies in respect to replacements of officers in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on my experience, we are encouraging the RCMP quite strongly to hire more Inuit officers and we are looking into an initiative whereby the RCMP would work with community constables. This will help to alleviate some of the concerns in the communities.

The RCMP officers would then not necessarily be Inuit, but with the assistance of the community, they would be able to deal with the matter. This is currently under review and we are looking at implementing this initiative shortly in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Premier. (interpretation) Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

#### **Question 221 – 2(4): Polar Bear Quotas**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Environment.

During one of our prior sessions, I posed the question regarding polar bear population studies and of the fact that the polar bears are increasing in our area. This is true

especially for the Foxe Basin management area, and this population is harvested by quite a number of communities.

I would like to pose a question to the minister: when is the department conducting its population study in the Foxe Basin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are going to begin this summer, in 2007 to count the population of polar bears in Foxe Basin. This study will start this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are many communities that hunt in that certain area; Foxe Basin. Can the minister provide a timeline of the study if he is aware of the length of the study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The population studies, especially for polar bears is quite complex. As I stated earlier, this study will commence in the summer.

In the next year, they will be putting radio collars on some of the polar bears they capture. After this collaring of a number of bears, we will continue the research for another two years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

This study is long overdue and anticipated keenly by the communities who harvest the bears, and especially by my home community of Repulse Bay. We are experiencing more invasions of polar bears into our community every year, and it is becoming a common practice to have one or more defence kills in and around the community.

We anticipate more defence kills since the population is growing. In regard to the two year study that you alluded to, when it is completed, will the minister be looking at redoing the MOU for this Foxe Basin polar bear population? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister responsible for Environment, Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said earlier, after the radio collars have been put on the bears, they monitor the animals to see where the range of the bear is, whether or not the population is increasing.

If the study shows that the population is increasing, then we would look at updating the number of tags available for this population, as long as our department feels there are no conservation concerns for the polar bear population in that area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 222 – 2(4): KBDC Spending Practices**

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

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear a statement when he was talking about getting rid of barriers for business. Mr. Speaker, as you know, as the minister is aware, over the last few sittings I have been him some questions in relation to the operations of the KBDC in Rankin Inlet. Since then, Mr. Speaker, I have done some research.

Mr. Speaker, from 2002-06, based on documents received through access to information requests, they lent out \$109,000 in loans. In that same time period, they spent \$190,000 in legal fees. The salaries alone for one year are more than what they've given out in four years in loans.

My question to the minister: is he aware of the spending habits or operation practices and does he have any concerns with the operations of KBDC in Rankin Inlet, based on that information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): [Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're not responsible for the operations of the KBDC in the Keewatin region. We allocate funding annually to them. The only requirement is that they submit an annual report on their expenditures and a copy of their audited financial statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that you don't operate them; the government doesn't operate them but they do provide funding to them.

If this government is serious at looking at using our scarce resources wisely, I wonder if this is a wise use of our resources. We've given them, in the last four years, since 2002, \$1.2 million and they've given out \$110,000.

The minister indicated that they do provide financial statements and information to them, which during our last sitting indicated that they were not in good standing and they didn't have that information.

Has the minister received that information? Have they gone through it and have they analyzed it to see if they have any concerns over the spending practices at KBDC? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, officials are currently reviewing their expenditures for the previous fiscal year from the Economic Development Department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's about time that a serious look is taken there. I guess I'd like to ask the minister if he's aware that for every \$10 that they receive in operating costs that they lend out a dollar in loans, and for every dollar that they lend out, they spend two dollars on legal fees. Is the minister aware of that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If my colleagues' allegations are correct, I'll find that out today. My officials from Economic Development are now reviewing their financial statements and I have not heard from the officials yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said this, through this research, is very disturbing information coming to light. I'm sure that the minister would commit to taking a thorough in depth look into the operations of this organization to ensure that we are spending our money wisely and not just giving it to someone for salaries and legal fees for a lawyer.

It's supposed to be there to develop business in the region, not to take people to court and have a nice pay cheque. Will the minister commit to doing that and report back to the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the KBDC in the Keewatin region operates independently, and they have their own board.

However, we're now reviewing the expenditures for the past fiscal year and we allocate funding for their operations annually. So everything is now under review by our officials in the Department of Economic Development.

Once that is complete, we'll make a decision as to what the next steps are, if any action is required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. I'm sorry; there are a lot of members with two names. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Question 223 –2 (4): Arena Construction Project in Pond Inlet**

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

About a fortnight ago, we had discussions about this matter and the minister stated that they would be partially completing the arena and the complex this summer. The cost of those two will be \$2.9 million. My question to the minister is; during the meetings with the hamlet and the Department of Community and Government Services, they stated that it would cost \$8.4 million to construct the complex.

I would like to ask the minister if this allocated funding was insufficient, and will this interfere with the construction of the building this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can only report to you on the figures in front of me.

In regard to the question of insufficient funding for this project, I will not answer that today. In Pond Inlet, in respect to the arena and the complex project, I can only deal with the information provided to me. (interpretation ends) Phase two; arena drawings and specifications are at the 65 percent review stage.

The first one: community hall construction is quickly progressing, the steel structure is complete, and the building is almost enclosed. The consultant is currently on site performing structural and architectural inspections, and the project is proceeding on schedule. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The community is extremely gratified in respect to our long overdue community hall complex being under construction, and I was told last night that the building will be completed in time for the Christmas celebrations. Perhaps I can tell the minister since she stated that this project is on schedule.] (interpretation ends) It is ahead of schedule. That is very good news.

(interpretation) [I would like to pose this additional question, when the project is complete, the people of Pond Inlet will extend their welcome with open arms. I will be meeting with the hamlet council as to the best date for the opening of the new building and when the officials would be invited to the community if the minister can make it to the celebrations.

We would need to correspond with the minister as to her availability, and when she arrives and meets with the hamlet, could she provide a full report on the community hall project and what the status of the planned arena is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, upon identification of the dates for your local celebrations, I will try and come to the community because I had promised to go to Pond Inlet for this celebration.

Now, that we will be working on the second phase, and on the completion of capital plans pertaining to this addition, I am looking forward to visiting Pond Inlet. My officials will provide all of the reports and the information needed by the hamlet council at that time and I would like to work with both the hamlet council and the member for the community, and its mayor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 224 – 2(4): International Polar Year**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): [Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since it is going to be an International Polar Year, or IPY as the acronym is known by, there will be a lot of research undertaken both in Nunavut, especially in the High Arctic region.

I would like to ask Minister Picco: has your department conducted any studies into how all of the planned International Polar Year research may impact our people or the communities in the High Arctic region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.]

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. This is an International Polar Year.

There are approximately 44 IPY projects sponsored by the Government of Canada in Nunavut and there will be just as many from other institutions and countries around the world.

This year, it is important to point out that there has been some work done. Nunavut hosted an IPY Consultation Conference in March with over 50 registered participants. An idea that was to do a familiarization and Nunavutization of what would occur with these research projects in Nunavut to involve communities and individuals.

A considerable amount of money will be spent. From the last numbers I saw, I met with the Chair for IPY Canada twice, Mr. David Hick. I think there is over \$150 million that has been budgeted by the federal government for IPY this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Nunavut, there are quite a few research institutes, including one in Resolute Bay. There is also a research institute in Igloolik.

Will they be utilizing these research institutes for the IPY projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. The Nunavut Research Institute has been acting as the IPY node for Nunavut to help facilitate and coordinate the type of work that would be going on and actually has started in many instances.

Part of that work through the Nunavut Research Institute is to facilitate the programs and scientists that are coming here, but also to involve the communities and schools. There are quite a few projects going on.

The member is correct. One of his constituency communities of Resolute Bay, I believe, there has been some good work with the school there in involving the students in IPY activities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for explaining this succinctly and to my satisfaction.



I would like to pose this question: will Nunavummiut have an opportunity to voice their concerns in regard to research, or will they have an opportunity to make suggestions as to what the research priorities should be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There several projects, like I said there are 44 that are Canadian-based from Canadian Universities and researchers. Over 40 more projects are from outside of Canada and the United States, indeed across the world. This is the first IPY, or International Polar Year, to focus on human development and human activity within the Circumpolar Arctic.

So I would suggest to the member that that is what is occurring and it will give an opportunity to Nunavummiut to be involved, like what we have seen in the school in Resolute Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Has the ministers' department received any funding to provide Nunavummiut with funding should they apply? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we haven't received any direct funding from the Government of Nunavut to deliver the project because it's research-based. We also haven't received any direct funding to the Nunavut Research Institute for helping coordinate.

However, there are opportunities at times where the Nunavut Research Institute is able to leverage funds to help facilitate some of the logistics in the administrative work that goes on behind this type of work, so hopefully that helps answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 225 – 2(4): Review of the Staff Housing Policy**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the GN Staff Housing Policy was implemented in January 2006. To date MLAs are hearing anecdotal evidence that the policy is hurting recruitment and retention of Government of Nunavut employees.

Rents are increasing to \$2,000 a month or more for two and three-bedroom houses. Mr. Speaker, financial experts across Canada recommend that families should not spend more than 30 percent of disposable monthly income on shelter.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister is: would the minister inform the House when the Nunavut Housing Corporation will conduct or complete a review of the impact that this policy has had on the Government of Nunavut tenants, particular those with lower incomes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Akasuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are finalizing the report and reviewing the recommendations, but they have to go to the review committee prior to its approval in regard to Nunavut Government housing rental units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. I hope the minister, when he receives a report that he provides it to the MLAs to review before the next session.

Mr. Speaker, in emerging markets, such as Cambridge Bay, or Rankin Inlet, or Iqaluit, the housing rental market is very tight. In fact, if housing is available it is used for sale at extremely high prices. Buying is not an option for many people.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister: can the minister tell the House what initiatives the Nunavut Housing Corporation has completed to assist Government of Nunavut employees to overcome the barriers to renting expensive Government of Nunavut or private sector housing in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Akasuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, we did a round of consultation meetings in regard to first time homeowners, and how we could provide further assistance as a department. These meetings have assisted many people interested in being first time homeowners in the communities.

We also wish to provide an opportunity to our Nunavut Government employees if they wish to receive assistance, especially if we can help to alleviate the duties required to buy a house for our government employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. Mr. Speaker, I attended the Nunavut Housing Corporation public meeting in Cambridge Bay and listened to all the information.

As I mentioned in my last question, buying is not an option for many people. You have to come up with equity; you can get \$30,000 or \$50,000 from the Nunavut Housing Corporation but through a convoluted process that might not be enough to buy a \$300,000 house.

Over the weekend I heard about a single mother of three whose Government of Nunavut rent is close to \$2,000 a month. She is very concerned that she will soon not be able to provide for her family. In fact it appears that the Government of Nunavut is forcing her into poverty because she is unable to save and could barely make ends meet for her family.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House what counselling assistance is available from the Department of Housing Corporation to assist Government of Nunavut tenants' budget their finances so they can continue to pay the increase in rents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is dependent upon their income levels, since we use a rental scale between 22 up to 30 percent of their income for accommodations.

The employees who are currently experiencing hardship can request assistance from our government and they can fill out a form for our homeownership grants, and they can list their dependents and income levels.

We have tried to deal with this matter in the most effective manner; however, we also know that we may require further improvements in our future so that we support our employees to make sure that they are happy with their environment. Thank you.

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

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

It's no secret that the cost of living in Nunavut is quite high compared to most Canadians. It's two to three times the cost of living in southern cities, such as Edmonton or Winnipeg. Food up here is expensive, clothing is expensive, and fuel is expensive. We have all these huge expenses and monthly bills that tenants and other Nunavummiut have to pay.

My question for the minister: can he inform the House what options are available to Government of Nunavut employees who cannot continue to pay their increasing rent because they have these other expenses to make, such as food and clothing for their families? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I apologize. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Akasuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the cost of living, I doubt if there would be a decrease in the cost of living, and we will review this matter with the cost of living going up in Nunavut.

In regard to mortgages and borrowing money for home ownership, it is obvious that once that report is done, we can review the report and its recommendations, especially for those people who cannot afford the monthly costs of owning a home.

I think this applies to all Nunavummiut and not only to the Nunavut Government employees. We will see how we can provide more assistance for our employees in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 226 – 2(4): Photo Identification Card**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister who was responsible for the requirement to have photo I.D.s to travel nationally. I believe that it is addressed to the Minister of Transportation.

The minister stated that all Nunavummiut will now be required to have photo I.D. to travel outside of Nunavut if they are older than 12 years. We have also heard that the photographing equipment is now available in the communities, but apparently we have nobody to operate the equipment.

The nurses and CHR have a number of concerns about this requirement in my riding, since they have to send out patients. This is in regard to the operation of the photo I.D. equipment and whether there will be training in the communities or will there be a roving photographer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new equipment that we mentioned here in the House is not going to be used for the photo I.D. pictures. Rather, we will be using the equipment currently in the communities for taking photographs for I.D. purposes, and also for the Motor Vehicles licences.

Currently, we already have employees already trained in the use of these cameras and they use this equipment for taking photos for drivers' licences or general identification I.D. cards. The older camera equipment will be used for this purpose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. The people of Clyde River are unaware of this matter and they think that the new equipment has to be used for this, and we were informed that this would become effective on June 18, 2007, which is less than a week away.

For those individuals who are trying to get drivers' licences or for general identification purposes, we have to wait quite a number of weeks in order to get those documentation to the communities, especially if you are not going to travel to Iqaluit. With the date less than a week away, what other support can you provide to the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each of the municipalities or the hamlet councils were going to be informed by our department on what they should do in order to provide those photo I.D.s, including the most efficient manner and these are people who already provided these services.

We have talked to all the hamlet councils. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Question Period is now over. Going back to the Orders of the Day. 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.

Members, looking at the clock we'll take a brief break for 30 minutes, and we will resume the Orders of the Day after the break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:03 and resumed at 15:46*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Members, for returning. Item 13. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents.

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

#### **Tabled Document 103 – 2(4): Auditor General’s Report on Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students Program – Department of Education (2007)**

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Members. (interpretation ends) I wish to table today the 2007 Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students Program. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) Item 13. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Tabled Document 104 – 2(4): KBDC Loan - Report of Trustee on Bankrupt’s Application for Discharge (Subsection 170(1) of the Act)**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a page out of a copy out of a document that has been recently been filed in relation to a bankruptcy matter before the courts.

The document indicates that KBDC opposes the application for discharge that has been made by an Iqaluit resident and I wish to draw the members’ attention to a section that is utterly outrageous.

This section clearly indicates the KBDC is opposing the individual’s application because of legitimate questions that have been asked in this House about how KBDC uses the public money it receives.

It is outrageous that KBDC is using its discomfort with my questions as a weapon in its dispute with a resident of Nunavut. The message should worry every single Member of this House and every member of the public. If you ask questions about this organization, you or those you represent will suffer.

Mr. Speaker, this issue is far from over and I will be sending correspondence to the minister on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Item 13. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Minister for Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Tabled Document 105 – 2(4): Tapiriiliutivaa Bringing Help: A Handbook for People with Disabilities in Nunavut**

**Tabled Document 106 – 2(4): General Practice of Physicians in Nunavut (web page <http://nunavut-physicians>)**

**Tabled Document 107 – 2(4): Inuit Wellness Programs in Nunavut 2005-2006**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the booklet, 'Bringing Help: A Handbook for People with Disabilities in Nunavut' as per my Minister's Statement.

As well, I would like to table the General Practice of Physicians in Nunavut document.

At the same time I would also like to table a report titled, 'Inuit Wellness Programs in Nunavut for 2005-06.' Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Would you bring those documents up, please.

Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and Finance, Minister Simailak.

**Tabled Document 108 – 2(4): Seven Steps to Help You Start Your Business: a Popular Guide to Starting a Business in Nunavut**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following document: Seven Steps to Help Start Your Business: A Popular Guide to Starting a Business in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. (interpretation ends) Can we have that document brought forward, please.

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

**Tabled Document 109 – 2(4): How to Guide: Doing Business with the Government of Nunavut: Reference Guide Volume 1**

**Tabled Document 110 – 2(4): Nunavut Search and Rescue Society – Minister's Statement**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the following document: How-to-Guide: Doing Business with the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I have another document to table. I would like to table the following document: Ministerial Statement on the Nunavut Search and Rescue Society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Can we have those documents brought forward to the table, please.

(interpretation) Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of CLEY, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Tabled Document 111 – 2(4): Delivery of Services to the Public in Nunavut’s Languages Annual Report 2005/06 (CD format)**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the 2005-06 Report of the Inuit Language Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Can we have those documents brought forward to the table, please.

(interpretation) Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Environment, Mr. Netser.

**Tabled Document 112 – 2(4): Nunavut Climate Change Workshop December 6-8, 2006: Adaptation Action in Arctic Communities: Final Report**

**Tabled Document 113 – 2(4): Statutory Report on Wildlife to the Nunavut Legislative Assembly - Section 176 of the Wildlife Act - May 2007**

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following documents: Climate Change Adaptation Workshop Report; and the Statutory Report on Wildlife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. (interpretation) Item 15. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Item 16. (interpretation ends) Motions. (interpretation) Item 17. First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Minister for Cultural Language Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**



**Bill 06 – Official Languages Act – Second Reading**

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill repeals and replaces the *Official Languages Act*, RF NWT 1988 C 0-1.

This bill establishes official languages requirements for territorial institutions, including the Legislative Assembly, the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Court of Justice, and other judicial bodies, quasi-judicial bodies and public agencies in Nunavut.

If there is a significant demand for communication and services in an official language, a municipality will also have official language requirements. The Inuit language, English, and French, will have official language status in Nunavut.

This bill designates the Minister of Languages the duty to promote the official languages in full recognition and exercise of official language rights, as well as the responsibility to oversee the official languages' activities and compliance of government institutions.

This bill updates the appointment process for the Language Commissioner, the Language Commissioner's enforcement role and duties, the matter in which applications may be received by the Languages Commissioner, and the investigation process, acting and special Languages Commissioners are authorized.

The minister and the Languages Commissioner each provide an annual report to the Legislative Assembly. In addition, this bill and its implementation will be subject to comprehensive review by the Legislative Assembly every five years.

This bill includes consequential amendments to the *Education Act*, *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, *Nunavut Elections Act*, *Public Service Act*, and *Statutes Revisions Act*.

This bill comes into force on proclamation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The motion is in order. (interpretation ends) To the principle of the bill. (interpretation) Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 6 has had its second reading and is referred to standing committee.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Bill 07 – Inuit Language Protection Act – Second Reading**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 7, the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill supports the protection, use, and promotion of the Inuit language. New Inuit language rights and duties are established concerning the use of the Inuit language by public bodies, municipal corporations, and private sector bodies.

This bill also establishes three new areas of government response in support of the Inuit language. First, the Inuit *Uqausinginnit Taiguusiliuqtiit*, will expand the knowledge and expertise available in respect to the Inuit language and make decisions and recommendations about Inuit language use, development, and standardization.

The Minister of Languages will lead the establishment and maintenance of policies and programs to promote the Inuit language and will coordinate and report about the implementation of the bill.

Lastly, this bill provides the Languages Commissioner with new collaborative and investigative tools for securing the compliance of public and private sector organizations that have not had Inuit language duties in the past.

An enforcement application in the Nunavut Court of Justice is also available.

This bill, together with the *Official Languages Act*, will be subject to a comprehensive review by the Legislative Assembly every five years. This bill includes consequential amendments to the *Financial Administration Act*, *Inter-Jurisdictional Support Orders Act*, *Mental Health Act*, and the *Wildlife Act*.

Sections 1, 2, and 14, and parts 2, 3, and 5 of this bill come into force on assent, except where the commencement provisions provide a specific date, the remaining provisions of the bill come into force on proclamation by Parliament. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the matters stated by the minister, and especially the last section of the proposed bill that he alluded to, I am fully supportive of the proposition.

With respect to the people who worked with the minister and his department, they were extremely pleased to be informed of this initiative by the department and I wish to state to the minister, in the House, about the feelings expressed by those who were involved.

There were some people who regretted that they were unable to attend to the meetings, during the consultation hearings in Rankin Inlet. There were other factors that led to this matter, mainly other events such as spring games and the fact that this was a holiday.

Apparently, only three people attended the consultation meeting for the Language Bill, however, if the department provided more time for notices of consultation meetings, such as a two week prior notice of an upcoming meeting, more people could plan to attend to the meetings.

The Inuit language has survived to this day and age, Mr. Speaker, but only because Inuit have strong ties to their language and have kept it in use. Although, Inuktitut is not really in use as an official language, or taught in our schools, the fact that we will be looking at protecting our language means that we would be able to bring it back into use, such as at the House, or in our homes.

We would be able to state, "We have to preserve and maintain our Inuit language because of its protection in our legislation." I am strongly in support of this motion, and I wanted to make this statement at this time, so our electorate can hear it.

For this reason, it made no sense to protect Inuktitut since it was in use partly in our school system; however, if I was applying for a job, it was not a requirement for that position. Although some of us are greatly learned in Inuktitut, I have never seen a case whereby a greatly respected Inuktitut unilingual person is hired solely for their ability to use Inuktitut. We have hardly seen this situation, albeit we know that perhaps three or four "advisors" have been hired for their linguistic skills.

In the cases, where a person is to become an official, I know that some employees will be in a hard position and that Inuit people will start applying for more jobs when Inuktitut becomes a requisite skill and I fully support that.

However, Mr. Speaker, I wish to state that quite a number of our public service staff are non-Inuit, nor do they speak Inuktitut. They are apprehensive of this initiative due to their inability to speak or write in Inuktitut. An employee was expressing their concerns to me just a short while ago, stating that "I could never learn Inuktitut in one or two years, so I will have to start looking for a new position if it becomes a prerequisite."

As soon as I heard about this concern, I informed the person that they should not be apprehensive about this initiative, and the perhaps the Premier can change the requirement, by including a grandfather clause for existing senior officials who cannot speak Inuktitut, by offering Inuktitut classes or the like.

I do not want to see a situation whereby Nunavut loses the majority of its senior managers because some of our current deputy ministers and other senior officials are extremely capable. If we attempt to cut it off too early with our prerequisite of employees needing Inuktitut, we may lose a lot of experience in some departments.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be careful in our review of the implementation for that reason. Those who will be teaching Inuit in their communities will allow more Inuit to offer their knowledge and skills. I am very pleased to support this bill for these and other reasons, for an *Inuktitut Language Protection Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) To the principle of the bill. (interpretation) A question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 7 has had its second reading and will be referred to standing committee.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

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

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Our mics were switched temporarily, so if you can just proceed, Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill sets out the framework for preventing and preparing for and responding to emergencies in Nunavut.

It requires the preparation of emergency management programs for government institutions, municipal councils, and any enterprise set out in the regulations. The bill authorizes the minister to declare a state of emergency and conform work hours to ensure that persons and property are protected.

The bill gives similar authority to municipal councils for their powers are more restricted. Other provisions in the bill deal with compensations for losses caused by emergencies, providing protection from legal liabilities to persons involved in responding to emergencies, and the offence of failing to comply with the Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 12 has had its second reading and will be referred to Standing Committee.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. 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.

With the power vested in me by Motion 4 – 2(4), the Committee of the Whole will be in session until it reports itself out.

I would ask the members to remain in their seats so we can conclude the committee's proceedings.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Arreak)(interpretation): We'll proceed. (interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In the Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 11 and Tabled Document 49 – 2(4). 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 the supporting documents, followed by Tabled Document 49 – 2 (4). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

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

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

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

(interpretation ends) For the record, minister, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Simailak.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. We are on page 9 of Bill 11. Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Healthy Children, Families and Communities. Not previously authorized. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were on the treatment program yesterday when we were awaiting information on what the minister committed to providing to us. I am just wondering if she has that information under the Healthy Children, Families and Communities. 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 and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Healthy Children, Families and Communities, the breakdown of the average contract has increased by region. Baffin, approximately \$800,000; Kivalliq, \$428,000; Kitikmeot, \$250,000. That's related to the contracts.

In terms of out of territorial end basis, that occupancy of a number of people fluctuates. I can say in the Nunavut Territory there are approximately 125 to 130 beds that we occupy on an annual basis.

The rest of the individuals out-of-territory are short-term or long-term, for instance, we will send someone to the south for two, three, four, or five months. So those numbers will vary from day to day.

I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Page 9 of Bill 11. Health and Social Services. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister with respect to the agency nurses and so on.

I would like to ask the minister exactly how many contracts there are for each nursing agency; the agencies that actually do the hiring for the government. Are there more than one and which regions are impacted? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, we are working on developing an RFP to have a contract with an agency; one person. We do not have contracts per se with a number of agencies or companies out there. What we do is a contract with an agency nurse for when vacancies arise and based on an agency nurse's availability. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I understand, previously, that the government had a contract for agency nursing recruitment. Was that agency based in Nunavut? How was that contract, if that exists or even if it expired, did it reside in Nunavut? As well, where was it tendered? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my earlier response I had mentioned that we don't have one specific contract with an agency nurse company. What we have is we use agency nurses who work for various agencies. Those are our contracts; it's the contract with an individual to do relief work for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. Yes, it answers some of my questions. My question is: obviously there is a contract and there is a tender, and obviously when the tender is let, under what venues do you use national newspapers or what not, to recruit for a specific number of nurses required? Does the Health Department actually hire these international nurses rather than going through an agency? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Mr. Chairman, I think to clarify the member, I think he's mixing a number of initiatives. The contract with international nurses was with Trillium. That contract was to recruit international nurses, and I have said many times in this House that we're reviewing that file to focus our resources in recruiting Canadian nurses.

In terms of the agencies, I think those are separate from that international nurse contract we had with Trillium. The recruitment efforts in filling vacant positions, we often resort to an agency nurse who may work for various agency nurse companies across Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I'm not at all confused. What I'm trying to get at is I think there was a miscommunication between the two of us.

But what I'm trying to get at is that when you're asking for a number of nurses to be recruited for Community A, B, C, or D, my question is exactly how that is implemented. I assume that you have a contract with the recruitment agency, whether it is that particular company you alluded to. If it had expired, how are you going to go about it when in fact you're going to tender it? You first have to have a contract with that recruitment agency. Then how do you decide which community they're going to be hired for?

So that information is not clearly available to us or in any report. Could you maybe carefully rundown exactly how that works and whether in fact you actually need the services of the recruitment agency? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you. There are a lot of questions in that. I'll try and respond to some of them.

The current HR process that we follow for recruiting our nurses is outlined in the Human Resources Procedures and Policies of this government for indeterminate nurses. The procedures that we follow in that is that we hire based on advertising, the jobs in various journals, newspapers, and so on in Nunavut.

At the same time, when we need to fill positions immediately, while we're trying to recruit for indeterminate nurses, we resort to the casual pool, or the agency nurses that may be available to do the work. So those are the separate processes.

In terms of dealing with Trillium, that file has been on hold and being reviewed and we're working towards trying to hire more nurses in Canada.

The second piece that we're looking at is the development of our own strategy in the north, for instance, the hiring of our graduates in this week's graduation from nursing, and so on. So that's all part of the process.

In terms of trying to deal with the agency file, we're looking at putting forward a request for proposal to deal with one or two agency companies to deal with the cost pressures that we're under in keeping those positions filled.

So there are a number of initiatives that are happening. I think in trying to deal with the recruitment of nurses, we have to approach it in such a way that it's multi-dimensional, and it's not just short-term but also very long-term. We're trying to capture some of those processes through our own strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. There is certainly a number of responses that are helpful to me, as well as the members of the committee.



In terms of actually going through the recruitment through agencies, obviously, there were some conditions that you probably considered. Do you have any specific kinds of conditions that they require that they have, at least personnel from this part of Nunavut, or is it strictly an experienced company that exists outside of Nunavut? If that is the case, what type of experience does that agency nurse need, with respect to the minister's department, to be awarded the contract? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you. In terms of going out for a request for proposal from a company that may provide agency nurses; that's not yet finalized. Once that's finalized, I'll be able to share it with the Members of this House that will address the member's question in more detail.

As it is right now, I can only speculate what could be in there and I don't want to speculate. So once we have finalized it and have legal division... it's in Justice right now from what I understand, so we'll be able to do the RFP. Once that's done I will be prepared to share it with my colleagues in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** I thank the minister for her response, but I certainly was not trying to jump, quick start, or anything to that effect, because the item that we considered yesterday, the \$1.5 million, assumes that the agency nurses will be required, while the strategy is being implemented. So the strategy was not fully implemented yet, and yet you indicated that the agency nurses might have to continue to carry on. So I was assuming that that practice was already in place.

If that is not the case, will the minister be putting something in that requires the agency to do recruitment with the Department of Health? Will you be putting in a condition where they have at least a senior representative or experienced Nunavut person that knows about staffing, or will you be completely leaving it up to the southern company; it most likely will be, to do all the screening and hiring for the Department of Health? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member's observations are on a lot of speculation. The agency nurses that we hire currently to fill the 52 nursing positions that are vacant in Nunavut today are contracted with the agency nurse, that person. We don't have a broad contract with one company or another company, but we rely on agency nurses that work for agencies who are available to work who have arrangements with us.

So what we're looking at in the RFP process is to select one or two companies in Canada that provide agency nurses. Those terms and conditions will be worked out through the RFP process when we select the firm that we will work with that will provide us with agency nurses when the vacancies occur.

In an ideal environment, we have our division in HR within Health trying to deal with the recruitment on the longer term, such as our students and so on. There are two pressures here in that we have to provide essential services. Essential services have to keep going while we're recruiting. So it's a parallel process; multi-dimensional; and we can't focus on just one to deal with the shortage issues of nurses in the north.

So I want to share that with the members when I have that information, and I would be prepared to share with the members and update members where we are at presently today. We have 52 vacant positions of the 182. That is a lot better than 2004 statistics; a vacancy of almost 50 percent.

So there is some progress. We're not there yet, but once we have that, I will be prepared to share it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I would like to thank the minister at least for trying to clarify and respond to the question that I and my colleagues are posing. I see the deputy minister is here and I'm sure he will be able to help us out.

One thing, the reason for not really having a clear cut question is we really have nothing to work with. The minister should appreciate our hands are completely empty. We don't have any reports about the agency nurses in print. We don't have any information about how the contracts have been structured and so on, and where the nursing agencies that are being hired are located.

I know in the community of Rankin Inlet, the agency nurses that were hired are strictly doing home care, and occasionally they will appear once a week or so to deal with a particular patient.

So therefore, that's all we have. We have nothing in print; no reports of progress, or nothing for that amount of money. We're asking the minister not only to table a strategy, but at least provide a written report to the committee so that would help us.

So I think the minister certainly should appreciate we are trying to do our best to ask the questions. If and when the recruitment agency, or hiring agency, or what ever you call it, is required, then I would hope that the experienced individuals from this company will be required to be on the staff of that company because it's helpful. I'm not sure that just by hiring an agency company to hire the recruiting requirement will have all that time to consult with HR people and so on.

So if the minister is prepared to table at least that plan to the committee, if not today, I would appreciate it if she would forward that to us. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Before I get the minister to answer the questions, would she like to sit at the witness table with her staff; she doesn't mind if she's alone at her seat? Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once the strategy is finalized this summer, I am prepared to share that information with the House and my colleagues.

In terms of where we're at in vacancies, I've said this many times in the House, where we are at in terms of our vacancies, we have 52 vacant positions, just nurses, in Nunavut, of 182. So that's an issue for us.

We had it broken down by region. We have 17 vacant positions in Kivalliq, 15 in Baffin, 14 in Iqaluit, six in the Kitikmeot; a total of 52. So that's where that is in terms of vacancies and we try and fill those to casual and indeterminate recruitment process or to keep the services rolling to agencies.

So I will be prepared to share that type of information with my colleagues once we finalize the strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister. And thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): [Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a question yesterday; however, I was ahead of myself. I think she remembers what my question was about, regarding what has not been approved, \$7,305,000, for increases in travel costs.

We all know that when patients have to go down south. We remember that in Kitikmeot they used to have to go through Repulse Bay through either Kenn Borek, or First Air, or Kivalliq Air. The people from Kitikmeot prefer to go through the Yellowknife route. They had to stop this route because they didn't have enough passengers.

I think the government needs to be more careful in spending their budget. For example, the government has to say if somebody is going down south for medical reasons, if you are going to fly, you have to go through this particular route. We've seen this in Sanikiluaq; they have to charter a plane to go for medical to Manitoba.

We also know that people from Sanikiluaq will have to go through the Great Whale River and then to Montreal on regular scheduled flights. Why do they have to charter a plane to Winnipeg for medical reasons? It causes more delay for these patients because they have to wait for these chartered planes to have enough patients to fly them. Normally, charters are used for emergencies, but there is also a schedule that they could use through the Montreal route, through Great Whale River.

Does this explain the increased cost that we see in the \$7 million fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.]

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. [With respect to the member's question, we're going to need to look into that issue of not relying more on regular scheduled flights. This has been raised a number of times in the House, whether people in the Kitikmeot should come here to Iqaluit instead. This is a complex issue and it is being reviewed with Kivalliq Air. It's going to take time to look into these things.

As for the question regarding the Winnipeg route in favour of the Montreal route, perhaps the Minister of Health and Social Services is in a better position make an answer.] Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct; medical transportation budget is probably one of the highest expenses we have. We spend a lot of money in transporting people before we treat them.

The Minister responsible for Transportation can speak to the broader issues of what they're trying to do, including airline services for Nunavut. In the perspective of health, we do tender costs to try and get the best rate possible for our medical travels and our medivac contracts. Again, we'll be doing that shortly as those contracts are coming up.

The situation with Sanikiluaq, the arrangement at the time was made that it was most feasible to go to Churchill and Winnipeg to provide medical services to patients in Sanikiluaq. I'm speculating here, I'm not sure exactly when that change took place but the boarding home was closed in Montreal and transferred to Ottawa.

All of that's part of the change in the division of Nunavut and how they became part of Kivalliq, and when, I'm not sure. But I had posed that as an option to review further in the House to my colleague, Mr. Peter Kattuk, from Sanikiluaq, and a week later, a petition was held and I didn't have to look further.

I can only say that we need to continue to monitor what kind of services we get from the airlines, and through the public tender process try and get the best rate that we possibly can, promote the development of airlines through my colleague, the Minister of Transportation's role.

Just as an example, in the Kitikmeot, Canadian North just started flying again in the Kitikmeot, which allows a bit of a competition and so on.

So it is a huge issue for us. Whether there's one answer to it, I don't know, but it is one that we have to try and manage. But at the same time we're dealing with the pressures of

high cost of fuel, population growth, and increase in the number of patients with chronic illnesses that we have to send away. So it keeps going up.

There's not one answer to deal with this to try and decrease it again. It's multi-dimensional and there are a lot of factors in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the Transient Centre in Montreal has closed, then where are the people from northern Quebec, Whale Cove, and other places going now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Mr. Chairman, that's a question for that jurisdiction to answer. I'm not responsible for the people from northern Quebec. I can speak to what services we have available for people in the Baffin that have to go a hospital in Ottawa.

When that took place, I'm not sure. It was perhaps during the Government of the Northwest Territories days and so on. I can't answer that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm a bit shocked because if I would be the Minister of Health I think I would try to explore any way possible from other jurisdictions as to how they handle their patients' transportation and accommodation lists.

I recognize in that \$230 million, almost \$240 million, is a very, very big budget for a very small territory due to high transportation costs. It's not the fault of the government but we should try to explore what other jurisdictions are doing because we share the same transportation route in Sanikiluaq as Kuujjuaraapik. I think it would be in our interest at least to talk to our counterparts in other jurisdictions about their operations to see if we can cooperate to cut our mutual costs.

Would the minister then tell me if she will be exploring differing avenues to determine how these costs can be cut down in the future? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) The Minister of Health and Social Services has already responded to that question because she said that they followed the request by the Sanikiluaq residents because it was the cheapest way. They look for the cheapest way to operate it and that's how it was set up. They're always looking for alternate ways to cut costs to enhance this.

I believe that the minister had already responded to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer.

I'm still not quite convinced if that's the cheapest way yet, but you know, we all should work together and try and determine the cheapest way possible. If the hospital is completed in Iqaluit, will the Sanikiluaq people now be shipped to Iqaluit rather than Churchill? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's an option that we can explore through our request for proposals and tender calls for scheduled travel. No decision has been made in regard to that. I posed that option in the House to the Member from Sanikiluaq, and very quickly, a petition was filed in the House opposing any changes to the current services Sanikiluarmiut are receiving from Manitoba.

In terms of what kind of service we provide, I think it's important that we continue to evaluate how we do. The public tender process for scheduled travel, as well as medevacs, and/or charters is coming up again for all three regions. At that time we'll explore the costs based on the submissions that we do receive for those tender calls. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Mr. Chairman, if I'm going to a hospital for a check-up, it should be up to the health professionals and the Department of Health where they send me. It shouldn't be up to me where I want to go. That takes taxpayer's money.

I think that this system is quite old that is arranged in Sanikiluaq. I think there might be some other more economical way that should be looked at with the airlines. Not just northern airlines, southern airlines, too. For example, Baffinland is using Summit Airlines, I don't from where, but apparently they're cheaper. We have to find a way. I know we should support our airlines here, but sometimes we support them until we can't afford them anymore.

I would like to ask the minister: would there be some reviews done in trying to determine how we can cut down at least part of that transportation cost that is so exorbitant right now? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We continually meet with the various airlines. We continually look for the cheapest way to use the airlines for medical travel and the airlines use cheaper fares for the patients. We continually deal

with this issue and we continually look for ways to cut costs for medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. And also, thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday I was asking the minister under treatment programs there's \$1,542,000 there for the newly developed Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy and additional funding for casual and agency nurses.

Can the minister indicate how much of that \$1,542,000 is going towards casual and agency nurses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The majority of the fund that's identified in this line item, \$1,542,000, is going towards filling vacant positions in casual and agency nurses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Here we go again. I said yesterday that I wanted to exact number, dollar figure amount and not the majority of that was going towards that. So that's what I am still waiting for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nursing and Recruitment Strategy that I mentioned is in the works that we hope to have completed by this summer, within our internal HR division, will be implemented and will involve a number of multi-dimensional approaches that we are trying to take.

That strategy has not been finalized and approved by FMB and/or Cabinet. Once it's done, we will outline what financial commitments will be necessary in implementing that strategy.

In implementing the strategy that's in place, once approved after this summer, we will go towards trying to recruit individuals on an indeterminate basis. But as we work towards that, we continue to need agency nurses in the communities, where we do not have indeterminate nurses, and that's what this item is for.

When I say the majority of the funding that will be used will be to fill the vacant positions to casuals and agency nurses, any savings that we have in implementing the Nunavut Strategy for Nurses, of course, there will be a savings to us where we hire indeterminate nurses and will not be reflected off here. But the strategy, again, is multi-dimensional in that first, we need the strategy approved by the Cabinet to find out exactly

how much savings we can get or how much money it will take to implement it once it is finalized.

As it is right now, our work is to finalize the recruitment strategy and start the implementation of it, but in the interim we need to fill the 54 vacant positions in Nunavut with casual and agency nurses and that's what this funding will go towards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still did not hear a number.

I do not know why the minister does not have it, but surely, when they come up with their submission for what they need, it's broken down there: this is what we need for casual and agency nurses and this is what we need for the strategy. You have to come up with that number somehow. You don't just pull it out from the air.

Again, how hard is it for the minister to say out of those two categories in there, how much of that \$1,542,000, exactly what amount of that is being spent on casual and agency Nurses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$1.5 million supplementary funding that we are requesting will go towards agency and casual nurses is an estimate in terms of how many we will get for casuals and how many we will get for agencies. Exactly what and how that will be broken down remains to be seen because we have not filled those jobs to know how many will be agency and how many will be casual.

In terms of issues around agency nurses, we have used a lot of funding in the past to fill vacant positions in the north with agency nurses. Last year, we had a supplementary bill around that. This bill amount is no different from last year.

What we are trying to promote internally is also to finalize our Nursing Recruitment Strategy for indeterminate nurses and any savings in hiring indeterminate nurses will be a cost savings to this line item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe they did just pluck a number from the air.

The minister cannot tell us for casual and agency nurses... there are two categories in this \$1.5 million. It says right here in black and white, "... additional funding of \$1,542,000 for the newly developed Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy and



additional funding for casual and agency nurses.” How much of that is additional funding for casual and agency nurses?

Surely, she must know to have put the number in there. That is what I’m looking for. Why won’t the minister tell us what that number is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I don’t have that breakdown in my notes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** This is pathetic, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Health can’t tell us how they came up with that number that they needed. There are two sections there.

So in order to come up with the \$1,542,000, surely, they must have a number: this is how much we need for casual and agency nurses. That’s what I’m looking for and that’s what I’d like to hear. I can’t understand why they can’t tell us what that number is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’ve answered that question three times.

The \$1.5 million will go towards agency nurses and casuals. Exactly the breakdown is difficult to tell at this point in time because we don’t know which positions will be filled by agency nurses or casuals. There are different amounts there. Once we’ve have that, we’ll be able to respond to that, but I can’t predict how many will in the casual pool, which is a different rate under the collective agreement and the different rate for agency nurses.

As we implement the nursing strategy, that nursing strategy is not approved yet. It’s not approved yet, but any savings in the implementation of that nursing strategy will be a savings in this line item.

For example, on Friday, we’re graduating five nurses here. We’re direct appointing nurses to indeterminate positions that graduated last year. Those will be a savings to us to this cost item as we implement the nursing strategy.

But I can’t pinpoint exactly what amount will be required to implement the nursing strategy because it’s not finalized by Cabinet or FMB. This line item is no different from what we used last year to fill vacant positions for agency nurses and casuals, and how we move forward in terms of breaking those from casuals, it’s not something I can answer until we fill those positions and have costed it out.

But I can tell you the trend in terms of last year. The same amount is being requested for this year for agency nurses where we were over budget last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I finally understand what the minister is saying, but what I wasn't asking for was the breakdown between the casual and the agency nurses.

I was looking for the breakdown between that additional funding for casual and agency nurses, one block, and what they indicate in here, what that money is going for as well is the newly developed Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy.

I think the minister just made it very clear that all of that \$1,542,000 is going for casual and agency nurses. So I guess the question I have is; it seems rather deceptive and misleading if they're saying that to provide funding for initial resources of \$1,542,000 for the newly developed Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy, and additional funding for casual and agency nurses.

She just said that's not what it's for; it's for casual and agency nurses, so why does it appear to be a misleading statement like that in here when that's not exactly what it's going for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize if the member is reading it that way. I think there is an interpretation in that, it's not meant to be misleading. The fact of the matter is that we need a Nursing Recruitment Strategy as being an item in this House. We're developing that. It's not approved yet. It should be approved sometime this summer. It's a good news story for people in Nunavut.

That recruitment strategy, and we tried to implement it, any costs savings by hiring indeterminate nurses will be a cost savings to this line item. It will mean less use of agency nurses as we implement the Nursing Recruitment Strategy.

But in the interim as we implement it, we are going to need to fill those vacant positions with casuals and agency nurses. That's what it's meant to say. It's not meant to be misleading in that, it's going to be all for that. But recruitment is filling positions whether it be casuals, agencies or indeterminate.

It's multi-dimensional and not meant to be one or the other, but rather to try and capture the fact that we are working towards the implementation and approval of the nursing strategy. At the same time we recognize in doing that, we have to fill the essential services by using agency nurses as well as casuals.

I hope that clarifies to the Members in this House what that line item is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still think, in the Supplementary Appropriations, I have one here for 2006-07 and its number three, it has under treatment programs the same things: provided funding of \$1,542,000 for the increased costs of costly contract service for agency nurses. It makes it very clear that that's what it's for.

This statement in here is not clear. It makes it seem like, if you're looking at it and reading it, it's for two different things, and it's not. I would like to ask the minister if, instead of providing misleading information and incorrect information, that they fix it and call it what it is. All it is is \$1,542,000 for casual and agency nurses. It has nothing to do with newly developed additional resources for the newly developed Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy. It isn't even there.

Yet, you say that's what some of that money is for. Well it's not. It's all for casual and agency nurses. It's very misleading. I'm very disappointed in this government. I don't mind approving it. I said it's great; if we need casual agency nurses, well, we have to pay them; we need them.

But show us what it is. Don't try to get us to approve something that really isn't what it is. As far as I'm concerned, from what I've heard the minister say, is that all that money, \$1,542,000 here, is going towards casual and agency nurses, and it's misleading.

I would ask that that be fixed and show us exactly what it's for and only for what it's for, and then I'll approve it, because right now that's a lie. And I won't approve it. Call it what it is, and I'll approve it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. A Point of Order has been called. Ms. Aglukkaq.

### **Point of Order**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's totally inappropriate for a member to accuse another member of lying. It's against our Rules. I didn't lie. I tried to explain the recruitment effort of what we're trying to do. Hiring agency nurses and casuals is part of the recruitment effort.

I would like the member to withdraw his comments accusing me of lying to this House because it's totally inappropriate. I tried to answer the questions as best as I can, so I'd like the member to apologize and withdraw his comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't call the minister a liar. I said the way that it's written in here, it looks like a lie. You can take it how you want, but the way it's worded in here, it's not correct, based on the information that the minister provided us. That's what I'm saying is not right.

So I will not withdraw my comments. I didn't call the minister a liar. I'm saying the way it's spelled out here in the document, it looks like a lie. I'd like to get a clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I heard the word lie but I didn't hear Mr. Tootoo calling the minister a liar. For that reason, I don't see a Point of Order. I'll give the House Leader a privilege to make his statement. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the chairman for recognizing me. It's very easy to apologize; I apologize to the members for sitting in the wrong chair.

Just following the debate, the member has no concern with the amount of money being brought forward.

I believe the member feels that we need the agency nurses, we need the nursing staff. There is no debate about that. However, the debate seems to be about the verbiage in describing the usage of the money. And if that is the concern, then we apologize if that seems to be misleading to the member.

It isn't appropriate to say that there is intent by the government, in this case when we refer to the government, we mean the minister representing the government on that line page, to be lying. That was the comment that I heard the member saying, not referring to the minister directly but referring to the information that was on the page or the verbiage that was on the page.

So if it will help to expedite matters, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the government, I apologize for the misinterpretation or the misrepresentation of the verbiage in that point; the point being that we need that extra money so that we can staff nursing stations and health centres across Nunavut.

That would be the recommendation from the government side on that issue. Again, to diffuse the issue, Mr. Chairman, this is not the forum for that type of an exchange. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Thank you, for your explanation. I've already made my ruling that there is no Point of Order in this case. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do disagree with the government's response in this, and I would like ask if we can bring our Legal Counsel in here to get an opinion on exactly how that's worded and what that implies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We'll take a ten-minute break.

Order. Order, please. The assistance of Legal Counsel was requested, so I'll turn the mic over to Ms. Cooper, our Legal Counsel.

**Ms. Cooper:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that one of the members wanted an opinion with respect to the line item related to the Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy, and the interpretation to be given to that particular paragraph.

I'll preface my comments by saying I'm not entirely sure that this is a legal opinion but I will give you my opinion with respect to how that clause might be interpreted. I would interpret that in saying that there are two programs being funded: the Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy, and in addition to that, casual and agency nurses to fill in, in the interim, while that strategy is being implemented.

As well, there may be a potential ambiguity with respect to the funding, I think that that could be interpreted as reading that there will be additional financial resources of \$1,542,000 for the Recruitment and Retention Strategy, all that money going towards that strategy, and then additional funding as well for the casual and agency nurses, or it could be equally interpreted as the \$1,542,000 as the total funding for the two programs.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Cooper for that opinion, that's what I thought it said.

Given that, I think it's clear that the way it's worded in here implies that there are two different programs that funding is for. It's clear that the minister stated only for one.

Maybe Ms. Minister, if you have a way to correct that so it shows exactly what that funding is for, and not something that it isn't for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Sue for that. I'm not sure if it clarifies anything more, but from the government side, I will propose the following wording so that there's no question where that money will go. I will suggest the following wording:

To provide additional financial resources of \$1,542,000 for casuals and agency nurses.

I will propose that, and strike out any reference to any Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy in that line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's exactly what it's for. It's not for what was implied in the initial wording. I'm glad that they're willing to clarify that for the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In addition to that, as the member is in agreement with the way it was trying to be worded was any savings not used for casual and agency nurses would be used to implement the nursing strategy, I want that said for the record because the intent here was to continue using casual agencies in filling jobs while we implement the nursing strategy. Any savings would be put towards that.

But for the record, that was the intent of this line, that recruiting is multi-dimensional and that statement there was trying to capture that. The way it's worded is now is very clear it's going towards casuals and agency nurses.

So for the record I wanted to explain myself further so people understand what the intent was of that line. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're adding that on there? You were just saying that the initial change is exactly what you said first, and not adding in what you said secondly? It sounds like you were saying two different things that you're adding on there; I just want to make it clear exactly what that wording change will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I'll get our Legal Counsel interpretation for that. Thank you. Ms. Cooper.

**Ms. Cooper:** I'm not sure if I...

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, for clarification, the amended wording that we're proposing from the government's side is to say that 'to provide additional financial resources of \$1,542,000 for casuals and agency nurses.

And what I said for the record is and I want people to understand that the intent of this was that any savings that we don't spend in casual hiring in agencies was going to be used for the recruitment strategy.

By removing that, we will only use the funding for casuals and agency nurses. For the record, that's what I wanted to explain further so people understood what the intent was of this strategy. The proposal, again, is to strike out the word "for" right down to the following sentence, and end at "agency nurses". Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. I was giving Ms. Cooper a chance to...I'll continue. A Point of Order has been called. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Normally, a change in the wording or any motion or anything that is official has to be tabled before we can consider it. My memory is not good, so I can't remember what was being said. What I want to say is, have the minister table the proposed change and have it translated please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to provide that translation with that one sentence and translate it and table it for the House. Before I do that, I'm assuming that we're in general agreement to that type of line before I can proceed and then I can translate. Is that the... well, debate it then.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very important that we have that in writing so we could end that. And I'm not going to ask a question on that until I see the wording in writing before we approve. I know the minister would like me to disagree with what she says, but she's not going to have that this evening.

That's my assumption. No interruptions for me please, Mr. Chairman. I need the wording, I told her my memory is not good and I need the wording in writing before I can vote on the item. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. I'll give the minister time to make her presentation for that. We'll take a five-minute break.

*>>Committee recessed at 17:24 and resumed at 17:39*

**Chairman:** I call the committee meeting back to order. A new interpretation of this line item was requested, so it's provided. I will get the Minister of Health and Social Services to explain it. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think you all have that line in the item or the translated item before you, in English and in Inuktitut as requested.

The new suggested wording is to provide additional financial resources of \$1,542,000 for casual and agency nurses. We are suggesting that the item on page 9 of the supplementary bill be changed to reflect that to accommodate the member's concern. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo has the floor. You have a couple more minutes left on that issue if you want the time, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this clarifies as to exactly what that money is going to be spent on, so I agree with that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I wanted to find out earlier on those 54 vacant positions are for this... are the financial resources for those 54 vacant positions be funded under this line item?

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within wording it that way, yes. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. (interpretation) When were those 54 vacant positions been vacant? Is there anything being done by Human Resources to fill those 54 vacant positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last two days I have been talking about our need to broaden our scope in how we recruit nurses, which is what was before you.

The Nursing Recruitment Strategy outlines a number of initiatives which I hope to finish off this summer, which will outline different ways we're trying to hire long-term nurses, training, and so on.

The idea of this, as I stated earlier, was any money we save in not hiring casuals and agency nurses in filling a vacant job through indeterminates will be used as part of the recruitment strategy.

So the new wording is this money will go strictly towards casuals and agency nurses without the flexibility of using any savings for other nursing recruitment strategies that would come out as a result of that report we're finalizing this summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I appreciate that we found that ... earlier the minister said there are 54 vacancies that she alluded to earlier will use the resources of this particular amount. That is what I'm getting at.

I'm amazed that she has to wait until she gets this money because I believe the Department of Health has certain human resources personnel to recruit and so on. How urgent are these 54 positions? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, to further clarify what I was trying to say, there are always efforts to fill the 54 positions.

While we're advertising as an example, there's an advertisement of three weeks, screening, interview, offer, and relocation. That takes about a good two to three months to do. During that process, we fill those jobs with agency nurses and/or casuals that we can find, and this would support that.

How urgent are they? The filling of nurses has been ongoing. They may be vacant with indeterminate but they're filled with agency or casual nurses because essential services have to keep going and we have no other alternatives.

So this would support filling those vacancies while we look for indeterminate nurses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** So do I understand the minister that there are 54 vacancies that are currently in the Health Department that will now be provided with the financial resources? When you calculate that, you're now going to be spending \$28,000 plus per vacant position. Does it cost that much to recruit these 54 nurses when you put in that amount?

Why does it cost \$28,000 to recruit one personnel? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 54 positions I made reference to is our current snapshot of where our figures are right now for vacant nurses. Right now we have to try and fill them through the indeterminate process, recruitment advertising, interviews, and so on. In the case where we can't, we will have to use this funding identified to fill them.

You are, again, comparing apples and oranges here in that you're using the 54 vacant positions against this. It could be broader than that. The 54 vacant positions, some of them could be filled through indeterminate compensation and salary, and so on. You're

asking how much on average it costs this government to recruit one PY in Nunavut. That's something the Minister of Human Resources can respond to.

It's not cheap to relocate a family from Ottawa to Pond Inlet with 15,000 pounds, salary, advertising and so on. It's expensive. It cost me to use my airline ticket to go to Gjoa Haven and back here, \$5,000 every time I go home with two suitcases and getting charged excess baggage to top it off. So it is expensive. It adds up quickly to \$28,000. I think that's fairly close, if not higher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Page 9 of Bill 11. Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Healthy Children, Families and Communities. Not previously authorized. \$1,479,000. Does the committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total Healthy Children, Families and Communities. Not previously authorized. \$1,479,000. Does the committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Treatment Programs. Not previously authorized. \$11,816,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total Treatment Programs. Not previously authorized. \$11,816,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total Department. \$13,295,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you, very much.

*>>Applause*

**Chairman:** I'll ask the committee to go back to page 2 of Bill 11. Page 2. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. \$45,382,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please go to Bill 11. This bill is in your white binders.

Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. Just a minute. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hearing the comment from the minister; if we don't use this money for agency nurses and casuals, we'll use it for retention and casual positions. This is in your comments. I just hope that clause 1 is used in that application; the *Financial Administration Act* is applied properly.

Just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. That's what the bill states. The bill will be followed and that's in the bill.

Clause 1. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Go to the Schedule on page 3 of the bill. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2008. Vote 1. Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$45,382,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Supplementary Appropriations. \$45,382,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Go back to page 1 of the bill. Clause 4. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 5. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 11 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2), that Bill 11 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. That's it for Bill 11. Thank you, Minister Simailak, Mr. Green, and Mr. Ma.

(interpretation) If you have any closing remarks, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, very much.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for Energy to make his opening remarks on Tabled Document 49 – 2(4).

**Tabled Document 049 – 2(4): Discussion Paper for Ikummatiit – An Energy Strategy for Nunavut March 2007 – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the committee for having the opportunity to appear before the committee today.

We have set aside this time to discuss an issue that consumes 20 percent of our government's budget. I am talking about energy or, more accurately, our use of energy, Mr. Chairman.

As members know our energy system is wholly dependent on fossil fuels.

Being dependent on one source of energy holds us hostage to volatile oil market.

Last year's spike in world prices had a direct impact on us – today we are all paying more for our energy.

We can't isolate ourselves completely from volatile and high world oil prices, but we can reduce the impact by using other energy sources, by using our energy more prudently and by streamlining and strengthening the management of our system.

The need for change was also underlined by the recent United Nations reports on climate change.

Our addiction to fossil fuels comes with a financial cost that is unacceptable and with too high a cost to our environment.

Nunavut needs to wean itself off oil – and we are taking steps to achieve that goal.

It is part of our culture in Nunavut to adapt and thrive in challenging conditions.

We will deal with our energy challenges. We are already doing so, but more will and needs to be done, and more will be done. That is why we need an Energy Strategy.

Last March I tabled *A Discussion Paper for Ikummatiit* in the Legislature, which is intended to lead us towards an energy strategy.

I am pleased that we will be able to spend some time going through this discussion paper today. We will need your ideas and input on how best to proceed with an energy strategy and what should be in that strategy.

Since tabling the discussion paper, it has been on the government's website and we have talked to several stakeholders, including the business and tourism sectors, hunters and trappers associations, Inuit organizations, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, as well as the Nunavut Economic Forum.

We're confident that this discussion paper will guide us to a comprehensive Energy Strategy for the Government of Nunavut.

With the advice from Inuit elders and *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* coordinators in the GN, the name that was put forth for an energy strategy is *Ikummatiit*.

I believe this is an appropriate name, considering what needs to be done to lessen our dependency on fossil fuels.

The other components of an energy strategy would include public education and an outreach to encourage a mind set change when it comes to energy conservation.

We also need to restructure the system for greater efficiency. One of the results will be an establishment of an affordable energy fund.

With many subsidies in place and limited tracking mechanisms, it can be difficult to predict and control energy costs and to identify savings. The fund would permit and

require departments and agencies with significant energy components to work together to advance conservation and management goals.

The government has protected Nunavummiut by subsidizing energy costs and we will continue to do so.

However, we can do a better job by putting in place a system that is more accountable, transparent and easier to manage. That is what an affordable energy fund would do.

An affordable energy fund would make subsidies more visible and put the management of subsidies under one roof. The fund would be an energy-subsidy specific account in the books of the GN and all monies voted by the Assembly to support energy consumption, as well as indirect subsidies, would be allocated to the Affordable Energy Fund, in a word, would become transparent.

The Legislation for the Affordable Energy Fund already exists but has not been proclaimed. Developing and monitoring this fund will require significant interdepartmental cooperation and the structuring of budgets. Departments and agencies have begun working on the necessary procedures and mechanisms that will be needed so that the AEF could become operational in November of 2007.

There is an urgent need, Mr. Chairman, for action to reduce our addiction to oil and our system is already undergoing significant improvements. Working on an energy strategy is occurring in tandem with the work that's under way in our energy system.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation is producing operating profits, thanks to the work that has been done to put the corporation's finances on a solid footing and we look forward to receiving the first dividend payment from QEC.

Operating costs at QEC have decreased. Administration costs are down and the efficiency of the generators have also increased, resulting in significant savings.

QEC has also completed district heating systems in Rankin and in Iqaluit. Recycling heat from the exhaust of diesel generators in three of these communities will result in annual savings of 2.3 million litres of heating fuel and will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by almost 6,000 tonnes.

The Nunavut Energy Centre is well on the way towards establishing itself as the go to place if you're looking for information or assistance on energy conservation and energy efficiency.

The Nunavut Energy Management Program, which is for the time being used in Iqaluit to retrofit government buildings to make them more energy efficient, is also now well established.

Much work is being done and much work needs to be done. To succeed, an energy strategy and implementation plan for that strategy is important, Mr. Chairman.

At the end of the day, we will need more than a strategy. We will also need all the assistance we can get from our federal partners. It was this kind of assistance that was instrumental for the development of hydro electricity in the Yukon and in the Northwest Territories. Now, it's Nunavut's turn.

We are ready to work in partnership with our federal government, just as we're ready to work and join other Canadians who are challenging the idea that energy is plentiful and can be used without regard to our environment.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with the committee over the next several days as we look forward to dealing with the energy challenges that we face. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. I was going to ask the member who moved this item to Committee of the Whole. I'll now ask the minister if he has any witnesses he would like to bring to the table. Minister Picco.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Does the committee agree that the minister brings witnesses to the table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses to the witness table.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. (interpretation ends) For the record, minister, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me today, on my immediate left is Mr. David Omilgoitok, from the Energy Secretariat, and Intergovernmental Affairs, IGA. He is key on working forward on this expedient process under the Energy Secretariat. On my immediate right is Nino Wischnewski. Nino is a Director of the Energy Secretariat. Nino has changed.

Mr. Chairman, next to me is not Nino Wischnewski. It is, of course, Ms. Anne Crawford, President and CEO of the Power Corporation and its associated subsidiaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Welcome, Ms. Crawford and Mr. Omilgoitok.

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.

Are there general comments from the members? There being no general comments, are there any questions? Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials to the witness table.

Mr. Chairman, I found this document very informative. It summarizes in a very concise way the convoluted system that we have in place in Nunavut. I appreciate the minister for putting that out there. I recommend all Nunavummiut to grab a copy and sift through it.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, for many years the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay has been on the forefront of energy conservation; we've had wind turbine farms on at least two occasions. Both times, for various reasons, the wind farms have ceased to operate.

I visited a community in Alaska in August of 2002, Kotzebue, Alaska, where was a very nice wind farm up there; 14 wind turbines. I asked them about their technology and they received it from Canada. They said that the wind turbine farm was providing significant benefit to their community. I asked them where they were getting the funding and they said that they were getting a lot of support from the State of Alaska.

My question for the minister; in light of what he stated today in his opening comments: is he committing that he will actively work with communities to find resources and support them in their initiatives, wherever and however he can, to develop energy efficient forms of power? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his comment. The member is correct. Right now in Nunavut, the area around electrical generation and energy, in particular, is kind of convoluted. At last count, we had eight different government departments or agencies that are involved in energy related areas.

Specifically to the issue in Alaska, again, sometimes we see something happening in one part of the country or the world in this case and try to bring that back home.

On the energy side of things with wind power using wind turbines, I believe the last time I had an opportunity to see what was occurring in Alaska, some things that I've seen written and wrote about Alaska was that there were considerable subsidies put in place by the Alaskan Government to be able to have that wind energy there. There are so many issues with the synchronization of wind and the diesel generators that are technical.



The short answer is yes, the Power Corporation and the Energy Secretariat are willing to work with communities, wherever possible, to be able to look at energy efficient ways. We've done that, for example, when you look at what's occurred just recently in Rankin Inlet, with the reheat projects and with some of the other reheat projects we're doing across the territory, and certainly now, we're trying to get Nunavut Energy Centre up and running Nunavut wide type programs.

So the answer is a very strong and positive yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. Also it's good to hear. It hasn't always been that way in the past as the minister knows, before I was MLA, I was the mayor in the community and I was in the private sector.

We did approach the Government Nunavut on several occasions for support and it wasn't there. Other individuals in my community who are working on energy projects were giving up in frustration.

One individual, who's left Cambridge Bay actually, he must've dedicated close to 15 to 18 years of his life to a project in Cambridge Bay before he gave up in frustration and left the territory.

My question for the minister on this particular document, it's an interesting document, and it's called a discussion paper and it contains a lot of useful information. I'm wondering if the minister could explain how the Government of Nunavut is going to use this document in terms of going forward from today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had some discussion, we look at the genesis of this document that came out of how we tried to structure energy and taking over the Power Corporation in the early years of Nunavut.

Since 1991, we've had two documents, *Ikuma I* and *Ikuma II*, which talked about the energy related areas and talked about setting up the Power Corporation and so on. And in the next stage now is the *Ikummatiit* to look at an energy strategy for Nunavut.

After we have some opportunities on the discussion paper and get more of a feedback, sometime in September, we're going to try putting into play and practice some of the recommendations that we've heard from the public, from what we hear today, for example, in the House and what we've heard over the last several months from Nunavut.

We'll bring that forward into an energy strategy. Right now, we're on the consultation phase; the next phase this fall would be then to put together the strategy itself. What

we're discussing today is actually the discussion paper on *Ikummatiit*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the information. Can the minister tell the committee what feedback the Government of Nunavut has received to date on the document? You mentioned that it's been on the website, and I take it's probably been distributed to some organizations and individuals in Nunavut, what type of feedback have you received to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've heard quite a few comments already on the consultations that we've been doing on the energy strategy. I'll just read a couple of the summits and give an example of the range.

When asked to rate the existing energy system in Nunavut, the majority of our participants, people who have given us input, felt that it was a need to change in all areas of energy production and the energy system.

People felt that Nunavut's energy system needs to be more environmental, responsive, affordable, and reliable. That's across the territory that we're hearing this information.

Two primary barriers to homeownership and business, and we've heard that here in the House, was the lack of capital to invest in energy efficiency, and renewable energy matters, and the lack of government or utility incentive.

So there's a whole range of things that we've heard from Nunavummiut. It is on the website, as the member has said. We've had the discussion document distributed across Nunavut, and we've had a lot of feedback through some of the consultations that we've actually done in communities, too.

We've just had one a few weeks ago here in Iqaluit, for example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. The minister mentioned December 2007, that he wants to have something completed.

Can the minister be more specific in terms of what the Government of Nunavut's timeline is for the development of the energy strategy, and any associated implementation and communication plans with Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've put the discussion paper out, as I think the members know; I think they were tabled in the House on March 16, 2007.

Since March 16, over the last two months, April and May, we've actually visited and done consultation sessions in Rankin Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, Iqaluit, and Cambridge Bay.

We've also focused on the hospitality outfitting business sectors, the retailing sector, the mining sector, we've talked to the hunters and trappers organizations, the Inuit organizations, carving and arts sectors, we've talked to the NAM, which is the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, and we've even talked to the union and property management firms.

We've moved in all those types of directions. Once all the information is collated and correlated, we will take that information then and put it into the energy strategy, which we would hope to bring forward this fall, or early 2008. That's why I gave the date of December 2007. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I certainly support the minister's initiative in developing an energy strategy. I've asked him on several occasions in the House about an energy strategy. So it's certainly a positive development. I look forward to seeing the strategy finalized as soon as possible.

With that in mind, can the minister give us an indication of what he anticipates to be the final cost of the creation of the Government of Nunavut's Energy Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to maybe backup and just to clarify my timeframe, Cabinet is having its retreat, I believe, the first or second week of September, and I would bring most of our information at that time to the Cabinet. I believe that we're looking at October for the fall session.

Hopefully, we'd be in a position where I would be able to table it at that time and get some debate on it, and maybe have it in place, like I said, by November or December.

The final cost of the actual strategy will have to be inclusive of the discussion paper, as well as the consultation tours, and so on, that we've been working on. That hasn't been any type of huge amounts; it's been around \$100,000 to date. That's exclusive of the salary dollars of the people working on it within the different departments, as well as the Energy Secretariat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that clarification. I'm sure it will be an interesting discussion at the Cabinet Retreat.

It leads me to my next question, Mr. Chairman. Reading through the document: as I mentioned earlier, it's an interesting document, and it summarizes everything in a fairly concise place where a person can sort of figure out how the system works. But I noted that in the Government of Nunavut five of the eight Cabinet Ministers have responsibility for different energy related issues in their portfolios.

My question for the minister, when he's sitting around with his colleagues: can the minister tell me and tell the House how he ensures cooperation on energy issues when they arise? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the ongoing efforts that we've been doing on energy; some of them are visible, like opening up the energy centre and so on. Some of them aren't visible.

One of those processes that we've set up now is a team of senior deputy ministers within the government who have energy related areas under their portfolios as deputy ministers and they come together on a regular basis, and that's part of a clearing house idea.

Also at the same time, we also have the Nunavut Energy Secretariat, which is headed by Mr. Nino Wischnewski. And that, again, lies with our deputy minister within the government itself. When it gets to the point of Cabinet discussions on energy and energy related issues, there's already that basis of information, as well as some debate that has occurred at the ministerial departmental level, for each of the ministers before they get to the Cabinet level Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank for the minister for that. The minister's answer sort of highlights what I've been touching on, and it is quite a convoluted and complicated system. You talk about the Energy Secretariat and Executive Intergovernmental Affairs.

I'm wondering how you interact with the Energy Secretariat on a day-to-day basis. How does that work? Can you give us a simple explanation about how that's set up and how you communicate with them, and how you work together to resolve energy issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I like the angle that the member has taken on the question. We just spent almost two hours debating one line item for \$1.5 million in a supplementary bill. And here we're talking about energy, which takes up over 20 percent of the total expenditures of the government. That has to be coordinated through eight different government departments and Crown agencies.

So when the Energy Secretariat, itself, is working on issues, it has to have feelers out in each government department, and at the same time, it has to look at what subsidy values are being impacted, that includes the Department of Finance which has to look at the budgeting issues around the fuel prices that are going up and down.

Like we said today, every one cent increase in cost, every one cent increase of a litre fuel has cost the Government of Nunavut another \$400,000. That's unbelievable. The direction of the Energy Secretariat and the Ministers responsible for Energy, that's myself, is to try and coordinate what is occurring within that file through the liaison offices of the Energy Secretariat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Also to take another tack here. When you're sitting around the Cabinet table discussing energy issues, can you tell me how consensus is reached in circumstances where the minister would disagree on energy related issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** What I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, when there hasn't been any disagreement; we haven't gotten to that point yet around energy areas. I think everyone in Cabinet realizes very quickly when you see 20 percent of your budget is gone out the door to one particular area like energy, then it's hard to have a control on it when you see the prices of things go up and down. Everyone wants to try and cut back and be as efficient as we can.

Again, like I said earlier, that type of debate just now on \$1.5 million, \$1.8 million for two hours, we're talking about \$200 million or more of our total budgets when we talk about energy issues.

You have that type of debate but there is no need for reconciliation or a referee to come into the room or anything of that regard. This is not the USC. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I don't want it to come across like I'm cynical, but I'm encouraged by the document. I sincerely hope that the minister is sincere in what he is saying, that the government is

serious that they want to save money; they want to initiate energy efficient type of projects that will reduce our dependency on fossil fuels.

It puts everything in a nice clear perspective of how serious the situation is, but being government; government has a reputation for making up these nice documents and preparing discussion papers. We joke about discussion papers that it's just a thing to delay discussion, instead of making the hard decisions that we have to make.

With my comments in mind, can the minister tell me, ultimately, who in the government is responsible for energy related decisions that will or have to be made going forward? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is part of the discussion that we've talked about.

As I said earlier, we have eight different departments and agencies that are involved in the energy field. One of the recommendations that are coming out of the *Ikummatiit* Strategy is to look at amalgamating and integrating all the energy related areas under one minister, which hasn't occurred yet.

We know that POL is under one department, and the Power Corporation is under a different minister and so on and so forth. That's one of the recommendations that are coming out of the document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I certainly appreciate the minister and regret that the individuals that he alluded to are not at the table.

I don't know where to begin, but number one; I think we're living in a very critical situation and I don't really truly believe that Nunavummiut are truly aware of the frightening situation we're facing with energy costs continuing to skyrocket.

We have a significant amount of homeowners, as well as private sector, that truly depend on the free market system that we have in Nunavut. Therefore, I say with a tremendous amount of sincerity, I think we're in a very serious situation.

And with continuing world prices of petroleum products that are increasing at an alarming rate, which scares me in a sense, yet, I'm not fully sure that our approach in dealing with the energy strategy is really the right approach.

I think we have, the government is 'sugar coating' these very serious issues that we're dealing with by saying everything is under control and all is well. I'm not sure. I think we're in a very critical and serious situation. I appreciate the minister for tabling it and

with my help he was able to table the document. I missed some of the events that were happening in the local meetings.

I really think they need to advertise the serious impacts because they are important. I don't think it's important enough to meet with one regional organization and say we had a community strategy. I think it should be broadly advertised.

For instance, in Rankin Inlet, I had a very small radio show about energy and energy costs, and the ongoing problems that we have with billing and overestimates using the estimating practice, and not having information that says in your bill that the estimate was corrected on this day; nothing to that effect.

People responded about energy. One of the comments that I got is probably frightening to many is why don't we look at investing in uranium power. That's a practical idea from someone who had seen technology related to uranium because they did not see the minister promoting more hydro development.

Is it really practical in Nunavut? Are you going to be able to afford raising that amount of money? Is it contingent on the federal government as a partner? I don't know. I'm not sure we can do it single-handedly in Nunavut, to go on hydro. The environment is certainly going to be impacted.

Like David Alagalak said, if you're just going to rely on the water sheds coming in from the hills and the mountains, one day you're going to run out of water on the Sylvia Grinnell River. I'm not sure 100 percent there is a huge enough lake. That's one example.

We need to hear from the government what is practical. Should we be expanding support for the wind power? I believe that is something that we have; I think we have the wind source. Why is it not practical; when will it become practical? That kind of stuff.

I looked at the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce. I don't know whether that was presented it to the minister. They said, in their annual report that I tabled the other day, that we should be looking at and maybe try and get a partnership with the Manitoba Government to expand the grid of the Manitoba Hydro to at least four communities: Arviat, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, and Chesterfield Inlet - whether we could expand it to Baker Lake, that depends.

I think Baker Lake is probably in a better situation than many of the Kivalliq communities because they are now going to have a partner in developing energy sources. I think there are a number of mines that are going to happen out there.

So Mr. Chairman, I think we are in a very critical situation. The price of petroleum products are not going down. It scares me. There was one elder in Rankin Inlet that said, "I'm scared, too. What's going to happen? We can't afford the small amount of monthly bills, even if we're subsidized." Energy products are so unaffordable. We cannot afford it anymore.

We want to hear from the minister, when we are going to get serious about those? I think there are many number of times we 'sugar coat' a number of huge practical...When we're looking all these bio-mass projects, we're looking at wind power and we're looking at hydro. When you read that, and by the way, it's a good document, that's why I insist that it be tabled.

I really want to, in my opening comments here, be completely fair in presenting the energy strategy or discussing it. I truly believe the minister should hire somebody, either someone who is doing full-time discussions; I don't believe the QEC, itself, could handle that. I will believe the minister is serious in presenting the energy strategy and seeking ideas when he appoints somebody who is going to be practical, fair, and spending full-time at developing ideas.

Alternative energy sources are going to have a tremendous impact, not only on the business community, the communities, the consumers, but it will also have a tremendous challenging thing that will come upon our environment. At the same time, the world is running out of oil, in many respects, too.

So I want to ask the minister: are there alternative sources of energy that are practical for Nunavut? Do we wait until all of the consultation and everything is complete before we finally say, 'Oh, we found a magical idea and it's going to be this.'

So in the practical approach, we may already have some idea of where we should be concentrating on, and if so, minister, I know I'm spending a lot of time on this, if so, what are they? So that's my first question. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I want to thank the member for his support, and indeed, the member is correct with his prodding that we're able to bring this document forward. I think it gives us a good opportunity to debate issues around energy and everything that that includes.

At this time, I would like to ask the person that Mr. Curley has been talking about before, and over the last several months we had no one who was a dedicated person working within the Energy Secretariat; we didn't even have an Energy Secretariat.

We've done what Mr. Curley is talking about; we've actually hired a full-time person in the Energy Secretariat as a director, a person with extreme skills in business, with the private sector, and in government. He's with us today, so I would like to ask him to join us at the witness table, Mr. Nino Wisnewski, and then I'll get into answering the questions asked by Mr. Curley. Mr. Nino Wisnewski. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Picco. (interpretation) Do you agree to have Mr. Wisnewski go up to the witness table?



**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a good opportunity because you have more time in simple questions to answer questions. So I appreciate the member asking several questions. I just want to deal with a few things very quickly.

We could replace one-third of the fossil fuels we use in Nunavut right now, so that's fuel purchases, we could replace one-third of the fossil fuels used in Nunavut for electricity can be replaced by hydro. That's the direction that we're moving in and there are several reasons for that.

When we look at wind energy as an example, which has come up several times, wind energy really works well when you have a grid system to put it in. What I mean by a grid system is when you have 10, 12, 15 wind turbines or windmills circulating and creating electricity let's say in Ottawa, or Winnipeg, or places like that, because in those cases, whatever amount of energy you create from the wind can be sent in to other parts of the city or other parts of the province as it were because you have an electrical grid. Whatever that's being produced in Winnipeg could go into St. Boniface and so on.

In Nunavut, if you need 10 megawatts of electricity for example, in Iqaluit you draw, I believe, 10 megawatts of heat up to 12 to 15 megawatts. So let's say you had your wind turbine system in place and you could draw five megawatts of power from that wind turbine system. If you needed to have eight megawatts, then that means your diesel generators would have to kick in for the next three watts.

As everyone knows, wind is never at a constant speed. If the wind speed drops down to four megawatts, now your generator is going to kick up and pick up the extra couple of watts of electricity because the City of Iqaluit, with just Apex, or Pangnirtung, or Rankin Inlet are all self-contained, they can't put their electricity any or other place, and that's one of the problems is synchronizing the generator with the wind turbine. You will still need the generators, you will have to still go out and buy fuel for the generators and so on.

The cost of producing one kilowatt of electricity with the wind turbine, when you look at the size of the wind turbine you would have to put in place, and the number to have any significant savings would probably, and there are different estimates, be between 70 to 80 cents per kilowatt hour.

That's why in the Alaska, an example that Mr. Peterson talks about, the Alaskan Government is highly and heavily subsidizing the electricity that is coming from the wind turbine so that the consumer can actually purchase it.

So, in this case, in Nunavut, we are actually subsidizing the cost of electricity, as every member knows, at the average cost of 37 cents a kilowatt hour, like Mr. Curley has pointed out, we subsidize it right down to around 19 cents a kilowatt hour.

It would cost us a small fortune if we had to subsidize from 50 cents a kilowatt hour down to that same amount. So in several reasons, it's not technically feasible to do that because of the synchronicity problems and so on.

However, with the hydro development that we've been talking about, we would be able to service that area. Right now, the exciting news for Mr. Curley and the people in the Keewatin is that we're putting an RFP out in the next several weeks for hydro development opportunities within the Kivalliq region of Nunavut.

The transmission line that Mr. Curley talked about, there was a study done by Manitoba Hydro, and I've met with the Minister of Energy from Manitoba Hydro at least three different times, Mr. Sale and Mr. Chomiak, when they were ministers in Winnipeg, to talk about the opportunities that may be there for bringing a line and having a grid system in place coming out of Manitoba. I can say without fear of contradiction, there wasn't much support for that because it didn't make much sense to bring a line into Nunavut.

There was a pre-feasibility study done on bringing an electrical generation line north of Churchill into the Keewatin and hooking up Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Baker Lake, and Chesterfield Inlet. The cost would have been around \$900 million, and the feasibility study said it was feasible to do that. But that also meant that every house in the Keewatin that would be hooked up, would have to convert to electric heat, for example. So there were a lot of caveats involved in that line.

The best way to look at the development of possible hydro is to actually develop for ourselves, in Nunavut, and then export that extra power with the help of a line.

Now, Mr. Curley made another good point. He said, "Where are you going to come up with this \$400,000,000 or \$500,000,000 basically to start doing these energy projects?" We will need the federal government to come on board.

No different than what the federal government did with the Hibernia Project. The Hibernia Project was a several multi-billion dollar project, and there is no way that one province could finance it. It was going to be languishing. The federal government stepped up to the plate and took an equity position in the Hibernia Oil Field.

It's similar to what we see here in Nunavut. There is no reason why the federal government couldn't come in with an equity positions in hydro site or in hydro development in Nunavut.

Number one, we'd be eliminating greenhouse gases. Number two, we'd be more energy efficient, and number three, we would be bringing down the cost of doing business in the north. And, we need to be able to be proactive.

I have put a call into Mr. John Baird, who is the Minister of the Environment, who I know quite well actually because he served with me as the minister when he was with the Ontario Government.

I'm hoping to be in a conversation with Mr. Baird in the next week and a half to broach the subject of support from our federal partner and some ideas on how we move forward with the potential hydro projects, not only in the Baffin, but the in the Keewatin and the Kitikmeot region. Almost every region of Nunavut, there is a huge possibility of hydro. That in itself lessens our dependence on fossil fuels. So that's the direction that we're moving with.

Hopefully, that helps answer some of the questions that the member raised and the comments that he made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I appreciate the response. Certainly, I would like to eventually hear from experts. This is not a political issue whatsoever. I want to make that clear because it could be understood to be political. In no way can we say that the energy situation and the energy crisis that I believe that we have is a political issue. It's a very huge, practical problem.

I can say to you that we need to do away with what I call is "sugar coated" statements. I'm not as optimistic as the Minister of Energy, or Ed. Picco, on this because the costs are incredibly huge.

I'm not sure the federal government will trade with a partner with a market that is so small that they want... I know the minister can do anything to wiggle something out of somebody. But I'm not that optimistic with the minister will see a hydro project, maybe here, likely possible, but with the other communities; until we see some of the cost sharing agreements that are starting to come up, then it will bring hope.

I want to hear a practical story because you're not just speaking or responding to me, you're responding to Nunavummiut, and Nunavummiut are in a desperate situation.

The market is a factor, if you look at a long-term energy project like oil development; these eventually pay for themselves because the supply is delivered to the huge market. We don't have that; we can't even export what we have if we develop a hydro project up here. It will depend on the local market; we're not going to be able to export to any of them.

So if at all possible, let's do away with these, the other day I used the phrase, 'publicity stunts.' Once the federal government is going to be doing a program, we try to jumpstart them and incur costs, when we could be diverting our own money to something useful and maybe directly benefit homeowners.

Again, I asked the minister, are these projects realistic? Are you realistically assuring us that you will enter into financing agreements with the federal government? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I like what the member is trying to imply. We can either sit around and throw our hands and not be able to do anything, or try to come up with a strategy.

When you look at it, just in this community alone, you're spending money to purchase 30 million liters of fuel a year to heat that community. There are some opportunities for a cost offsetting.

The member is correct - we are not going to be able to move these projects forward, unless we have support from the federal government. Our federal partner has in the past helped step in, and as the member knows, to create opportunity with some of the hydro development sites, for example, in the Northwest Territories. That wouldn't have been accomplished unless the federal government came in with loan guarantees and so on. And, at that time the federal government was able to step in and brought those projects to fruition.

When we look at the offsetting costs by having the displacement of diesel fuel and so on, and amortize those costs over 25 to 30 years, when the life of the project would be considerable longer than that, it will, at the best scenario, be a good business case to bring forward.

I can't deny that we need involvement from the federal government; there's no way we can do it, unless we have another type of white knight out there on horse that's going to come forward and say that they're going to finance it for us. I don't think that that's going to occur.

So we need to be able to bring the project forward, we need to be able to identify sites, and we need to be able to provide the logistic as well as administrative work to move that project forward, and that's what we're doing.

At the same time, we're not just putting all of our eggs in one basket and saying there's all going to be hydro. As the members know we can almost replace one-eighth of all of our heating fuels can be going forward with our reheat projects that we're seeing in Rankin Inlet.

We are working on some other projects, too, to see if we can actually cut down our electrical generation cost but also looking at the environmental side of diesel generation and have that energy strategy. Energy is not just about providing electricity to a community; energy is about how we use the power and how we develop our energy

sources. For example, we have huge opportunities for oil and gas in Nunavut, which is part of energy.

All those types of things should be factored in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for providing that information. I have to make a comment on wind energy - we know, as the minister says, it's 70 to 80 cents per kilowatt hour, but as we all know that technology is always evolving. So at some point in time, one would think that the technology has evolved to a point where it is energy efficient and it can be considered in Nunavut.

I would encourage the minister to keep pursuing the wind energy option, visit jurisdictions where they have wind energy like Kotzebue, Alaska, and I believe the Atlantic Wind Energy Research Institute in Prince Edward Island, and other jurisdictions.

I know there are countries around the world that are heavy into wind energy and making great strides forward. I don't totally discount the idea that wind energy can't, at some point in the future, if not right away, but maybe some time in the next decade or two, it would contribute significantly to Nunavut's energy needs.

I wanted to ask some specific questions about the minister's discussion paper. I found the discussion on the backgrounder on subsidies quite interesting. It's on pages 15 to 17. The comment that jumped out at me, "... the Government of Nunavut's subsidy programs are multi-layered and complex, making it difficult to monitor and track energy subsidies. As a result of true costs to providing Nunavut's energy requirements, it's difficult to ascertain. Most Nunavummiut do not know the true level of subsidization because of this complexity." I would wholeheartedly agree with those statements.

Then the summary on page 16, where the consultant attempts to put a figure to the total on energy subsidies in Nunavut as \$43,839,030. They say it works out to \$1,500 to every person in Nunavut. I found that quite staggering.

We know that from previous studies; the Government of Nunavut's own Ikuma Reports and the Auditor General's Report from 2001; that subsidies are quite heavy in Nunavut.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell us what action has been taken with respect to accurately calculating the total cost of fuel and energy in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just very quickly, I just want to... the first opening comment there by Mr. Peterson, and that was on the issue of alternative energy and ensuring that we just don't say no to wind because of the costs involved and so on.

Most of the wind farms we see, for example, the North Kay Farm on Prince Edward Island, is heavily subsidized, and it wouldn't be in place without quite a subsidy regime through ACOA, the federal government, and Prince Edward Island.

However, we are, as a corporation again, as part of the Energy Strategy, what the Power Corporation is doing is moving forward to hire a dedicated professional generator engineer to look at alternative energy sources, which includes power, solar, nuclear, and other energy sources that may be out there that we've discussed here today.

Quickly, on the other issue on how do we ascertain what those costs are, hidden subsidies, and so on, that's a big part of what we're doing here today is to talk about where is this 20 percent of your budget is going and where that 20 percent is, so we could see less fuel being purchased to generate electricity, but where are the other different subsidies?

The member, for example, we have known all social housing units, for example, across Nunavut, the electrical bills are based at 6 cents a kilowatt hour, which the average should be around 37 cents, or 19 cents. So as a homeowner, you would be paying that amount.

I'll ask Mr. Nino Wischnewski, the Director of the Energy Secretariat, just to touch base on the amounts of the Affordable Energy Fund, and what we see in some of the dollar values, and how we account for some of those subsidy values. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Wischnewski:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, as the minister has pointed out, our subsidies are multi-layered and are generated by several places. As a first step, I guess, what we did was to try and pinpoint exactly what is our total dollar amount for energy subsidies, hidden and direct subsidies.

So recently we came up with that number and we realized that this is an opportunity to find ways of assuming we know what the amount is... how do we manage that better, and can we start thinking about using that amount in a more innovative way, to move the mindset and the intent of some of these subsidies, start de-emphasizing the subsidy component a little bit and emphasizing the incentive component a little more.

One way that other jurisdictions have done this, and the Northwest Territories comes to mind, is something called an Affordable Energy Fund. That would include, if we do go down that road, it would include quite a few changes in how this money is managed and how this legislature allocates that money.

So it sounds simple but it's quite a complex issue. So we've started work on that in the government. The Deputy Ministers' Committee on Energy that the minister alluded to

earlier is involed, the Energy Secretariat is involved in this, and the Department of Finance is very involved in this.

We hope to have some recommendations and options available before the Cabinet Retreat on how to use this money, where to put it, and how they can maybe better use this money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I was leading up to some questions on the Affordable Energy Fund, and maybe I'll just ask them here while we're on that subject. The *Ikuma II* Report: Meeting Nunavut's Energy Needs was mentioned. One of the recommendations was to create an Affordable Energy Fund, and then you just mentioned it.

It hasn't been created yet but is that something that's coming forward very soon? Can the minister answer that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The legislation has already been put in place, as the members know. That bill has received assent.

Within the bill's framework, there are opportunities to be able to proclaim certain items under the respective bill. In this case, I believe it's November that the proclamation for the Affordable Energy Fund could be made, or not made. That will depend on some of the information that we will bringing forward at the Cabinet Retreat in September to see if we have the support to be able to do that for the proclamation date which would be in November.

I would like to take this opportunity also, Mr. Chairman, just to ask Ms. Crawford, who has been working for several years now on the Affordable Energy Fund, not only the financial aspects of it, but the logistic aspects of it within her role as a senior deputy minister but also now in her new role with the Power Corporation. Ms. Crawford. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. I will now recognize Ms. Crawford.

**Ms. Crawford:** Thank you. I would reinforce what the minister said. The Affordable Energy Fund in Nunavut has been in our legislation since 2003. It hasn't yet been proclaimed. Obviously, a lot of things have to be put in place in financial terms.

A lot of the coordinating between the eight departments, which you discussed, has to occur for that fund to be effective. We're much closer to being able to do that than I have

seen previously, and the target date, which the committee working under Mr. Wischnewski has said, is November of this coming year.

That proclamation depends on a recommendation from Cabinet to the commissioner that the legislation actually come into effect. And, that will depend on how the work of the committee proceeds.

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

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

Could the minister... I don't know if he can explain to us or clarify, but it seems to me that we already have a convoluted and complicated system, and now we're adding the Affordable Energy Fund. I'm hoping that that is going to streamline it and make it more efficient. I think that's what Mr. Wischnewski was alluding to.

I don't know if it all has to go through the Cabinet Retreat in September. Can the minister clarify how the Affordable Energy Fund will be managed once it is proclaimed possibly in November 2007? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been, I think, extensive work done interdepartmentally on how to formulate and put in place, administratively, the Affordable Energy Fund.

I know that Mr. Ma has been working on the finance side on how we would administer such a fund, how that would be voted within the House under the Financial Administration Manual, as well as under the *Financial Administration Act*, if there is a clarification needed from the Auditor General, and so on. That type of financial work needs to be done. Mr. Ma has been working on that.

On the directorate side, Mr. Wischnewski has been looking at what should be part of the Affordable Energy Fund and how can you make it more transparent. The idea is to do exactly the opposite of what Mr. Peterson is saying, and that is to move it away from the convoluted process of where it is right now and make it more transparent.

There are different ways of doing that, so I'm going to ask Mr. Wischnewski, some of the ways that he's been looking at it under the Energy Secretariat to explain the transparency factor of the Affordable Energy Fund in the context to some of the things that not only the Auditor General would be doing but our own Department of Finance that has the check and balance with the fund itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Mr. Wischnewski:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess at the end of the day what we would like to achieve is moving the funding that now exists in various departments for subsidies like the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program, the Senior's Program, and education, some of the monies that goes into the Petroleum Revolving Fund to make up for the difference between the price of purchase and the recovery price, the recovery on it of the cost, the price we set for retail is able to recover that cost and there's sometimes a gap, and that would be a subsidy, obviously.

Putting all of that together from those various departments, setting up a mechanism to put it into one envelope so that you have one amount of money allocated for subsidies, and obviously, some money won't be all drawn down, I would imagine the 12-month supply won't be drawn down immediately. So there will be money in that fund that can be used, for example, you can consider things like providing loans for energy efficient projects, as proposed and suggested by property management companies, for example, for government buildings.

There's a whole range of the monies being transferred so that you can manage it. I think that's probably what would happen. The committee is focusing on just how do we transfer this money into this one envelope, and once we've achieved that, how do we manage that money. And then, at the next phase, perhaps go into some of the more innovative and creative uses of that money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Wischnewski for that explanation. I'm not sure it clarifies it for me but I understand your intentions.

Can the minister or Mr. Wischnewski just clarify for me; he has mentioned the committee a few times. Who is on the committee? Could you explain that a little bit and what their role and mandate is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What Mr. Wischnewski was saying, I thought it was quite a good transparent explanation of the Affordable Energy Fund.

By taking all the monies that are dedicated to our energy related matters, including the purchase outside of the Revolving Fund, and right now, the Petroleum Product's Revolving Fund is about \$125 million; however, debt replaces it, as we all know, because it's a Revolving Fund - once we purchase the fuel, we pay back that fund.

The people on the Energy Secretariat and the Deputy Minister of Energy's Committee consist of all the deputy ministers involved in the energy related issues. It also involves the CEO of the Power Corporation, Ms. Crawford, who would be sitting there. We would have Intergovernmental Affairs also there, so David O. would be there, who was a

witness at the table earlier with us. We would have representation from the Departments of Finance and Community and Government Services, for example.

So those key players look at the total Energy Strategy of the government in the context of purchases, as well as the supply side and management of affordable energy in Nunavut. So hopefully that clarifies the member's point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that explanation. The minister talked about all these people on the committee and it seems like they are all Government of Nunavut officials.

Do you have any experts outside of the Government of Nunavut who advise the committee, or who participate in some way in providing information to the committee and their experiences and knowledge from other jurisdictions in Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have actually done that. We actually have a company now working on behalf or for us out of Manitoba, who has been working on the Affordable Energy Fund in Northwest Territories and other jurisdictions. They are providing logistic and administrative advice to the Government of Nunavut.

On the private sector side, we just had a review done last year on the Power Corporation itself and two private sector individuals who were going to join us as witnesses earlier this week but were not able to stay around while we finished the debate on some of the supplementary bills; that's an opportunity where we could bring them back to the committee in the fall.

We have done what the member has suggested and we have gone out and got some private sector involvement in the development of some of these affordable energy strategies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

That's good to hear that there are other people involved besides the Government of Nunavut. It's good to get a broad range of experience and knowledge at the table that brings different perspectives to the issues.

Mr. Wischnewski mentioned bringing all the resources together into one envelope. The question on that is, if that eventually happens: can the minister indicate what he thinks the

approximate annual appropriation would be to support that fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you turn to page 16 in the strategy, you will see an amount of a little over \$43 million. That would be the basis of the starting point of the Affordable Energy Fund at the first go around.

There are some other issues that we would have to look at. The total costs to purchase fuel, for example, and if the amortization and O&M cost of the upkeep of storage tanks and fuel tanks in communities, for example, that type of physical and capital asset would be inclusive of those amounts. It would also be the dividend payment from the QEC that could be paid into the Affordable Energy Fund, and we had some discussion on that earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. He gave me a substantial number, almost \$44 million. That's based on 2005-06 and it will probably be higher than that amount.

Can the minister indicate, in addition to the Affordable Energy Fund that they have been working on, and hopefully be proclaimed in November, I don't know if it will happen, but if it does, it will probably be good for him; but can he indicate if the government is currently supporting other energy subsidy options aside from the Affordable Energy Fund? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just very quickly again, Ms. Crawford had some ideas of possible ways of alleviating some of that pain that the wallet as it were, for many Nunavummiut on subsidy programs, and she'll have a chance to speak that in a second.

I just want to say that the Affordable Energy Fund itself is not a subsidy, it should be a pool. It's actually a catchment of the different subsidies that are in place across the government departments and Government of Nunavut when we look at the energy sector area and that includes the purchase of oil and fuel, generation of electricity, and so on.

If I could, I'd ask Ms. Crawford just to elaborate a little bit on the first part of the question and that was on the subsidies in place across Nunavut and what that amount would be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Crawford:** I was present when they were calculating the various subsidies. Obviously, the ones we've been able to capture in the report that's presented, the \$43 million, is in old year dollars, and there have been significant increases in the cost of energy over that period of time, as well as some of the subsidies have moved up.

For instance, the electrical subsidy is based on 50 percent of the cost in Iqaluit. So as the cost in Iqaluit has moved up, the government has moved the subsidies for all communities all across the territory, correspondingly.

So those things have resulted in changes in how the subsidies... not the nature of the subsidies, but the amount of the subsidies that are being paid. Obviously, as our fuel prices increase, the total cost to the government increases.

There are subsidies built into fuel cost, which the corporation, at the current time, benefits from, which is passed along to consumers through the Fuel Stabilization Rider. That's because our fuel comes from the Petroleum Products Division and the government contributes to the operation of that division.

Minister Picco had asked me if we could think of a project where we could clearly identify how an Affordable Energy Fund would be beneficial. I had just indicated to him that residual heat would be a good example to demonstrate how the Affordable Energy Fund might work.

When the corporation puts in a residual heat project, instead of fossil fuels being burned to heat buildings, the heat from the plant is used to heat buildings. That means that PPD doesn't have to import into the community that million or two million litres of fossil fuel.

That means that the 10 cent per litre subsidy on fossil fuels that the government would have paid as part of the PPD process, doesn't have to be paid. So that money stays in the budget. The new tank fund might be built and the tanks that have to be built to hold the fuel that would've been used to heat those buildings, that tank farm doesn't have to be built, or those tanks don't have to be built.

So that each time we make a positive step, in terms of conservation in the energy infrastructure, it rolls back to all the other sources of energy, and potentially, it puts money into other pockets. In an Affordable Energy Fund you would be able to tag those savings and be able to reinvest them in other energy investments.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Ms. Crawford for that information. I'm familiar with what Ms. Crawford has just outlined. We do have a residual heat system in Cambridge Bay. I think the power plant there provides additional heat to the hamlet office and there might be some other buildings in the community. It does provide substantial savings to the hamlet.

Those are good examples of how we can save money. My colleague from Rankin Inlet mentioned, \$400 million to \$500 million would be required for all these energy projects, but if the federal government doesn't come on board and help us out, we're going to be left to our own devices.

And, it seems to me that saving... like there's nothing in our current infrastructure, in terms of public housing and the Government of Nunavut's own buildings. There should be a heavy emphasis on conserving energy.

There is a paragraph in the public housing section here on page 17 where it says, "... if public housing can generate an economic saving of 15 to 20 percent by adopting modest retrofit measures, rather than complete rebuilds, an annual savings in the order of \$3.15 million to \$4.2 million may be realized." That's quite a significant amount of money.

I'm wondering if the minister could provide some idea: has he talked to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, in terms of what they can do at their level in their area of responsibilities, to encourage energy savings to retrofit measures of public housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very quickly on a number of points that the member has made and Mr. Curley mentioned this earlier.

In Nunavut, we're very unique. We're the only jurisdiction in the country that has to purchase 100 percent of its fuel and electrical supply for its residents. If you look at any province in Canada, and indeed the other two territories, Gulf Oil, Esso, PetroCanada, these different private suppliers bring fuel to the provinces that operate gas bars and so on.

In Nunavut, the Government of Nunavut has to do all of that. In 99 percent of the cases, we subsidize, and we even have a few private fuel suppliers in our communities, and that cost is a factor.

Every time we look around, there is a subsidy in place to subsidize someone and we need to be able to track those. I think that's part of the issue with the Affordable Energy Fund; how do you do that? How do you make it more transparent for Nunavummiut, and do Nunavummiut really care? Do they want to go to their house and say, as long as I have electricity, the light comes on, and my house is warm, the government's responsibility is to bring that forward.

I think what we're trying to say is that at some point, and some of the members have alluded to this, it becomes unaffordable because once you start subsidizing more and more, this is money that you can't put into social programs, that's money that you can't put into education, that's money you can't put into health, and that's money that you

can't put into a lot of other areas in government. I think that's why we need to start working on that right now.

In public housing, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has moved very aggressively on several areas, when we're looking at energy efficiency in its units. Almost \$10 million annually in the public housing portfolio... the portfolio of the Housing Corporation is almost \$10 million and it's for modernization and improvement of the housing stock that they have in place. This includes looking at the home renovation programs, as well as the home repair programs.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation just recently introduced a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation design award for the five-plex design which shows energy efficiency, double glazed windows, and so on.

So the Housing Corporation has moved forward on energy efficiency in housing in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

When you put the savings into context: if the Nunavut Housing Corporation can save \$4 million per year on energy for public housing that's equivalent to 12 to 16 new houses a year. If the Government of Nunavut can save 15 to 25 percent off of a \$200 million energy bill, that's a least one new school, and possibly two new schools in Nunavut, which we desperately need.

It is in our interest to try and save money because I don't think we can continue to pay \$200 million a year, and it's not going to stay at that level. It could go up 15 to 20 percent a year. At some point you're getting at a critical mass where you just can't afford anything else. All your money is going to energy. That's just a comment there.

On page 18 of the discussion paper, there is an interesting note at the top that approximately \$750,000 of electrical retrofit work was identified and completed in Iqaluit in 2005-06 on various Government of Nunavut facilities. Savings realized from this work will enable the cost to be recovered within three years.

Does the minister have any information on that project? Is he willing to share with us the savings that will be achieved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding that when we looked at the assets that we have and some of the work that was done to improve electrical supplies and so on, it was with some of the government buildings but also some of the other physical assets that we have.

The pay back time, I believe, was estimated to be about three years. That's based on the best estimate that the GN had at the time. Most of the work was carried out through the auspices of the Department of CGS, as most work is done through the government.

The savings realized from that work will enable the cost to be recovered within three fiscal years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate all the responses that are coming in. But when you compile the responses that you're doing, all the benefits that we currently see with respect to various energy improvements, whether it's residual heat and all that, they're all going into this government's buildings, pretty well. I have not seen any that benefit the private sector.

No one appears to care really all that much for the private sector, the homeowners, and public housing, possibly. They can probably be done. Again, I want to remind the minister that he's not just speaking to me when he's responding. He's speaking to my constituents who can't afford to pay for the cost.

I would like to, first of all, at least thank the minister and the team that will be meeting to deal with all these energy components, and so on. I hope also that there will be a consideration to look at all the different electricity rates that we have in Nunavut. I bet you they're close to 20 or 25, I don't know, but the rates are all different.

For instance, probably the most expensive electricity rate that we would see is probably Grise Fiord, of all the places, likely the next smallest one, Whale Cove. These two communities probably pay twice as much as the cheapest electricity rate. If that is so, can the minister confirm to this House that smaller communities pay the highest rates? Why isn't there any attempt to consolidate electricity to a single rate for the whole of Nunavut? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just very quickly on the residual heat projects, as an example, with some of the work going into not just the government but the private sector.

In the member's community of Rankin Inlet, when we did the extension of the re-heat plant, we also hooked it up to existing GN buildings, as the member had indicated, the college, they were bringing in the water treatment plant, but we also hooked it up to five commercial buildings in the community, as well as the new health centre. Some of those commercial buildings include the Royal Bank building, the Inuksuk building, the Tapiriit building, and so on. That's a help to the private sector, as the member had indicated.

You also remember as to how many rates that we have in Nunavut; we have approximately 100 different electrical rates in Nunavut. Each community has a rate. So there are about four different rates in each community; we have a government rate, a non-government rate, a domestic rate, a residential rate, a commercial rate, and so on.

So one of the reasons why we didn't go to a single rate, and the member may remember, just before Nunavut started in 1998-99, when I was a Member of the Northwest Territories Assembly, we had a huge process of actually going out and doing a rate review or a rate re-balancing for the Power Corporation at that time. Most Nunavut communities were going to be linked into zones and so on, and have the bigger communities subsidizing smaller communities. It was felt not to move that way.

The Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce and the Baffin Chamber of Commerce, and so on, felt that each community should have their own specific rate and should pay for its own self and its own costs. And that's why we moved to that specific customer base rate by community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I think we have to, again, refer to the Nunavummiut that when the residual heat projects are carried out, that they be carried out slowly to their benefit the government's overall budget and the energy budget.

But to those that are qualified to benefit from the residual heat transfer, there is a criteria and what are the criteria, Mr. Chairman?

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The major criteria, and again, I appreciate the member's question, and he's right, the reheat is a fantastic project that not only saves electricity and heat, but is a benefit of cost savings in the wallet of the agency or business that's hooked up.

The criteria, major criteria for example, as a homeowner, single homeowners could not be hooked up to the reheat program because they're just too small. The heating system would not be able to accommodate a house. That's why you have to go to commercial buildings and government buildings and so on. That's the limitation of that.

The number one criteria in place, then after that, would be the proximity of the building to the power plant. And, of course, if you're a long ways from the power plant, it wouldn't be feasible, for example, to pipe the reheat from the top of the Power Corporation building here in Iqaluit to Apex; it's just too far away. So that's why you're trying to hook up the college and every other building that's in direct line of the plant to a lesser degree.

So those are the major criteria that would be in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I appreciate that. I think it clarifies the point that I've been trying to make, and that is, you have to have a government arrangement in order to benefit; you have to have a contract. If you don't have a contract with the government, you're not going to benefit from that.

That is exactly what the private sector is speaking. The private homeowner is... when you compare all the subsidy programs and everything that the minister is indicating the government is currently carrying out, they're all part of the government contracts and so on. And, if you don't have that, it's not beneficial.

When you look at the economies at scale, what amount of money is being transferred to the private sector, there isn't very much that is going to the homeowners that are really, in a sense, that are having a very difficult time in being able to afford it. Sure the minister will assume we are subsidizing you with the energy.

Let's also remember that we pay six cents per gallon or litre for all the energy that is supplied to the community. It's not 100 percent subsidy to the private homeowner. They are doing their share. They pay their taxes; they pay the taxes on the fuel and so on. In return, what are the private homeowners receiving from the government?

That's part of my clarification. I think it's important that when you look at the costs that are continuing, each time the price goes up, so do the electricity rates.

I would like the minister to respond to the homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand what the member is saying, I am a homeowner.

The government has put several programs in place where the majority of Nunavummiut who own their own homes can access those types of programs. These are provided by the Nunavut Housing Corporation, as well, it's under the Eco Trust Fund with the federal government. We still have several hundred thousand dollars that are available there. I think there are over 250 homeowners, private homes in Nunavut, that have accessed some of these program dollars over the last several years.

I would like to ask Ms. Crawford if she would like to elaborate on some those programs that we have in place, specifically for private homeowners that the member was talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Crawford:** I'm speaking, in this case, for my colleague Peter Scott who is the President of the Housing Corporation, who isn't here at this point.

But, obviously, out of the recent ECO Trust monies, monies were set aside for the private homeowners. The residential electrical subsidy, the NESP brings the cost of electricity in every community in Nunavut to 50 percent of the Iqaluit costs.

So half of your bill is paid by the government if you're a private homeowner in Iqaluit, and in some cases, in some of the highest cost communities, a very significant amount of your bill is paid by the government for a private homeowner.

The Housing Corporation has a number of programs which permit retrofitting and they've just been given permission to increase the retrofitting costs that they're allowed to provide by \$15,000 to specifically accommodate energy efficiency projects.

So those are some of the ways in which private homeowners receive assistance from government on a regular basis.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Crawford. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I would caution the minister and their staff. I think we have to be very carefully that we don't sugar coat those figures. Not all these programs are available to homeowners. There are caps, there are restrictions. So they're not across the board homeowner programs.

I have one constituent in all these. It's frustrating. Her husband was unemployed. She applied three times for a retrofit. All these three years, the same reply, "I regret to inform you, your application has been not been approved." So it's not right across the board.

What I'm trying to get at is that where, as much as possible, as I said earlier, Nunavummiut are geared toward the free market system. I believe that's what we are. We're not 100 percent subsidized by the government.

By and large, we're doing pretty well with the small consumer-based market. Everything that we do is pretty well based... people have to pay for the goods and services they're getting.

So having said that, I think we need to try and ensure that when we talk about homeowners in the private sector, let's have a real private sector initiative or program so that... and any other program, whether they be housing improvements to conserve energy, let's see them overhauled, that they actually go to... for instance, there was no criteria as to who qualifies for residual heat transfer.

It's not based on means steps. It's not based on this government, this building, these series of private sector homeowner buildings, that house government staff, are making quite an amount of profit. That's not a factor.

But when you go to the private homeowner, they say, "Oh, you're making too much money. You don't qualify." Why discriminate against people who can't afford to make a living? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that's part of the reason why we're doing this strategy and doing some of these discussions, so we can have this type of debate. I agree with the member.

When we're putting programs in place on behalf and for the government, we need to ensure that they're as open as possible. A good example of that is the cross subsidization under the territorial Power Subsidy Program so the lowest income family and the highest income family will receive a subsidy based on their electrical costs, and that's across the board.

If you're a homeowner and you're in a unit, and you needed help, for example, the senior citizen, yes, there is a cap on how much money... if you make over \$60,000 in that house, \$50,000 in that household; you wouldn't be able to get a subsidy. But there has, as the member has indicated, there has to be check and balances on what types of subsidy programs that you put in places as a government.

On the private homeowner side, if you make over \$100,000, you may not be qualified to get some of the grants, loans, and programs that are in place. Most people would feel that is fair because if you're making over \$100,000, you probably should be able to pay some of these extra costs as it were that you should have. However, if you're making less than that threshold, maybe you need a little bit of help from the government through a subsidy program, or a grant program, or a loan program.

The Home Renovation Program, for example, that gives up to over \$50,000 per homeowner if you need to make a renovation to your house or your private home unit. Again, almost 60 percent of our people in Nunavut are in social housing units and they wouldn't qualify for that type of money because they don't own their own home.

So again, those types of programs are in place, and again, there is an opportunity, like through discussions here today, is how do you make them more affordable, but also, how do you make them more accessible. I think that's what the member is saying. There's no argument from me on trying to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. Assuming that you don't meet the threshold and you're over that, you're assuming then that the government assumes, obviously, because there is no exceptions to FMB. If you don't meet the threshold, then your only option is to go to the bank and get an additional loan.

You really believe that they qualify to that? What you're saying is if they don't qualify for the government program; let the high energy costs that they're incurring in inefficient energy buildings continue. That's not acceptable to me.

I have another question to the minister. Unless the minister didn't understand what I said earlier, he assumed that because there are so many complex things, we're going to raise our hands in the air. No, that's not what I'm saying.

I think what I'm saying is that if we have a small energy for the private sector or consumer base, shouldn't we also be looking at beyond just supplying energy to our Nunavummiut in terms of hydro? Are there any other systems in place that we could probably develop to export hydro energy? I don't know. Maybe we have a pretty big land mass in the Keewatin. I'm not sure if Baffin would be able to... you could probably get a link with the Manitoba Hydro system. But something of that nature should be looked at.

My other point, there are two points to that, one is that we have a... the minister is probably more optimistic, I'm not ... eventually seeing the day our own energy in terms of petroleum products we have would eventually get to the market. Is that actually feasible? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just clarify again. The Home Renovation Program, which I spoke about, it's my understanding that up to \$50,000 per private homeowner can be accessed. There is no cap on that amount, so you wouldn't have to go to the bank or anything like that. That \$50,000 is a forgivable loan and there is a criterion to hold onto your house for X number of years and that you're making an investment into Nunavut, and so on. So they can access that program.

I am optimistic... yes, go ahead. No, I'm just saying it's the \$50,000 based on the information that I have. Now, the Minister of Housing is here and he can clarify it, but it's my understanding that there is no cap. There is a cap of \$50,000 on the homeowner but there is no threshold of that for eligibility.

On the second part of the member's question on the optimism that I have as Minister of Energy, for example, for oil or gas, and so on, I think it is feasible.

A lot of people forget, Mr. Chairman, I'm sure you remember, and most of the Members in the House remember that in 1986 we had a producing oil well called Bent Horn, which provided the oil to the power plant in Resolute Bay. We ran that, I believe it was for four and a half years through Pan Arctic, who was involved, and it didn't need any type of refining. There was a concern with some of the dirt sediments that was in the oil itself, which meant that the filter had to be changed more often on the plant.

However, yes, I am optimistic. I think right now the numbers show us that we have over 20 percent of known oil and gas reserves in Canada, known reserves. At some point, those oil and gas wells will be explored, and that energy can be used.

I'm quite optimistic when we look at some of the oil and gas, as well as some of the other mineral finds in Nunavut, especially when we look at the economic side of things. When we look at what's happening with global warming and climate change, having access to that. There has been interest, by the way, from different mining companies to be able to look at more exploration throughout the Basin area for oil and gas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. Probably my last one. In terms of the other programs that he mentioned, I had a constituent who has been denied three times because the case was that they're making too much money. So there has to be some other home renovation program.

I didn't want to make a political statement out of anything. I believe the minister just made one with respect to his optimism with the oil and gas development in the arctic. I would love to hear it from the experts on that because if it was feasible to develop that, why hasn't it been developed now? What are the reasons? What benefit would there be, directly, aside from royalties, to offset the cost of oil we pay in Nunavut, if that were to happen? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did mention very quickly the Sverdrup Basin area of Nunavut. Nunavut has 11 percent of Canada's crude oil potential and 20 percent of Canada's natural gas potential.

The Canadian Energy Research Institute just produced a favourable feasibility study on the economics of producing natural gas from the Basin. When I say I'm optimistic, it's not because of something that we're not sure of. It's because of information that we have.

I am optimistic that at some point in time, in the next 10 or 20 years I would suggest to you when you look at the uranium, diamond, oil and gas, and some of the other things happening in Nunavut, I think Nunavut is well placed, economically, as a territory but it's going to take time.

While we're waiting for that time to occur, we need to move forward on an energy strategy for Nunavut, which takes in, not only the devolution process that's ongoing, but takes in the extra cost of being self-sustainable in Nunavut; being more frugal, as it were, when we're dealing with energy related matters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Probably a couple of short questions here on page 9 of the discussion paper. There is a question that the discussion paper is going to ask readers. It says, "Question 6. Would you support the introduction of legislation, such as the *Energy Efficiency Act*, to restrict the importation and sale of inefficient energy equipment in Nunavut?"

I'd like to ask the minister if he's had any feedback, or does he have a feeling for Nunavummiut's opinions are on the introduction of an *Energy Efficiency Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've actually had some feedback, some positive, some negative. I'll just ask Mr. Wischnewski to give you a very quick overview; I know we're pressed for time, so maybe a very short answer on some of that feedback on question 6 on page 9. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Wischnewski:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the feedback we've had from our targeted consultation indicates there is support for an *Energy Efficiency Act*. I know we had one in the House, before the House now, for compact fluorescent light bulbs. The legislation that this question refers to goes wider than that; it looks at ovens and fridges and electrical appliances.

Would Nunavummiut support legislation that control what is there and what they can buy and what is it important in Nunavut? The answer seems to be something to consider.

The other thing that has come up is that people are quite in favour of; this is part of the legislation, a graduated licensing system for vehicles. If you bring in an eight cylinder truck, you pay a high licensing fee. If you bring in a four cylinder, like a Honda, a small vehicle with four cylinders, you should pay less to register that vehicle. So there is some favour for that, mostly positive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Minister and Mr. Wischnewski for that answer. That was my last question and at this time I would like to recognize the clock. It is getting quite late, we are all hungry. Motion to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. Mr. Curley.

**Point of Order**

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. Yes, I have a Point of Order. I do not dispute the argument at all on it. I think it is important that we provide accurate and not provide misleading information.

There is a cap on salary for eligibility on the homeownership retrofit program. The Minister of Energy made a statement that there was no cap. You can make \$100,000 a year when you qualify. It's important that information be corrected; otherwise it will burn in a false sense of optimism.

Sometimes the Minister of Energy does so without accurate information, so I would like him to correct that statement he just made. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's point and I am just looking at the sheet with Mr. Wischnewski.

The member is correct, the amount is up to \$50,000 and there is a threshold for family income of \$125,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. I will go back to Mr. Peterson's motion. Does the committee agree we conclude debate on Tabled Document 49 – 2(4)?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you.

Thank you, Minister Picco, Ms. Crawford, and Mr. Wischnewski.

There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour raise your hand please. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

**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 Tabled Document 49 – 2(4), and would like to report that Tabled Document 49 – 2(4) is concluded and that Bill 11 is immediately ready for third reading. And Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

### **Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 10 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008 – Third Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by Honourable Member of Rankin Inlet South/Whale Cove that Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008*, be read for the third time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 10 has had its third reading and can be assented to.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for South Baffin, that Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008*, to be read for the third time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 11 has had its third reading and is ready for assent.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. (interpretation ends) Mr. Clerk, before we proceed with the Orders of the Day, will you please ask if the Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chambers to give the Assent to Bills.

>>Applause

### **Assent to Bills**

#### **Bill 10 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008 – Assent**



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

**Deputy Commissioner:** Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be seated. As Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut, I hereby assent to the following bills:

- Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008*;
- Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operation and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008*.

With the arrival of summer, our thoughts turn to the land and the traditions of our people. As you conclude your work here and prepare to return to your families and communities, I wish you all a safe journey home and a blessed summer. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Please be seated, members. (interpretation) Thank you, Members of the Legislative Assembly. Members, at this time, on behalf of the House, I would like to thank the pages who have been working with us all week.

>> *Applause*

I would also like to thank all the interpreters and wish them an enjoyable summer with their families.

I also like to thank the tireless efforts of the staff of the Legislative Assembly and I wish them a safe vacation over the spring and summer.

Again, Members of the Legislative Assembly, before you leave to go home, I wish you a safe summer and spring, and to enjoy being with your families. Thank you, very much.

Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for October 23:

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
19. Consideration for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters
20. Report to Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until October 23, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:54*

