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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, October 25, 2007

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Mr. James Arreak, 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): I would like to ask Mr. Simailak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Members. First of all, I welcome our visitor, the Commissioner of GNWT, Tony Whitford, and welcome him to the Legislative Assembly. Welcome.

Before we start, I would like to ask the Member for Rankin Inlet North, to the Point of Order that was made yesterday to the Member for Iqaluit West. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Speaker, I was hoping that you would skip that item for today.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today and I've reviewed the statement that I made on Wednesday and I am pleased to say, Mr. Speaker, I stand by my comment. Thank you.

Speaker's Ruling

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Colleagues, yesterday the Member for Iqaluit West made a Point of Order arising from debate in the Chamber on October 23, 2007. The Point of Order is based on Rule 23 (i) of our Rules, which states that a member shall not impute false or hidden motives to another member. I have reviewed the Blues in relation to this matter.

(interpretation ends) The issue arises from a series of questions that the Member for Rankin Inlet North posed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation regarding the position of CEO on the Nunavut Development Corporation.

During his line of questioning, the Member for Rankin Inlet North remarked that personality differences between the former CEO and the Premier should be ignored when dealing with this matter.

The Member for Iqaluit West is of the view that this statement imputes false or hidden motive.

The *Glossary of Parliamentary Procedure* of the Canadian House of Commons defines the term “impute motives” as ‘ascribing objectionable motives to a Member different from those acknowledged by the Member.’ This definition is consistent with our application of the Rule in prior Rulings.

The issue in this matter rises to some extent from imprecise language used in the course of debate. In reviewing the matter, the minister, in answering the questions to the member, provided very broad responses.

In pursuing the issue, the Member for Rankin Inlet North did not put a clear and concise question to the minister as to the extent that personality differences between the former CEO and the Premier might have had in influencing the decision.

Determining the merits of Points of Order such as this is not an exact science. What constitutes a Point of Order in one context may not constitute a Point of Order in a different context. I am of the view that rulings such as this should not limit or restrict robust and proper debates.

(interpretation) I would remind the Member for Rankin Inlet North that the purpose of Question Period is to pose questions. I would suggest that the proper way of dealing with his concern would be to pose a clear and concise question on this matter to the appropriate minister, who would have the opportunity to respond.

(interpretation ends) Once a reason for a course of action on the part of the government has been clearly provided, it is improper for a member to allege other motives for the decision.

I would further remind the member that it is an established principle of parliamentary conduct that “Remarks directed specifically at another Member which questioned that Member’s integrity, honesty or character are not in order. A Member will be requested to withdraw offensive remarks, allegations, or accusations of impropriety directed towards another Member.”¹

¹*House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, page 522

On balance, I find that there is no Point of Order.

(interpretation) Thank you. Orders of the Day. Ministers’ Statements. Minister of Education and Energy, Minister Picco.

Item 2: Ministers’ Statements

Minister's Statement 086 – 2(4): Together at a Distance

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon and good afternoon to our colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to inform the House about a program that will create a solid foundation for distance learning in Nunavut and, indeed, across the arctic.

I am pleased to announce, Mr. Speaker, that the Department of Education has received a \$600,000 grant to improve *Together at a Distance*, a program to promote literacy opportunities through a pan-arctic learning network. Mr. Speaker, the grant comes from the Adult Learning, Literacy and Essential Skills Program of Human Resource and Social Development Canada.

Mr. Speaker, recently, the department conducted its first online e-learning course. High school students from three communities participated via desktop video conferencing with the teacher in a fourth community, elders in a fifth community and technical support in the sixth.

This technology will allow students to take courses, obtain post-secondary credentials and, Mr. Speaker, explore pre-trades opportunities without leaving their home communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that this internet-based learning tool will help bridge the literacy gap. Electronic-based learning will deliver better classroom support and training opportunities to students in our communities.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, this project is intended to build capacity; to make e-learning a viable tool in delivering and receiving instructions here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 087 – 2(4): Qikiqtani General Hospital

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to share with the members and encapsulate for my colleagues today, a recap of the Qikiqtani General Hospital ceremony this past Friday, October 19.

We celebrated a milestone in health care delivered in Nunavut, and I would like to thank the Baffin Mayors, Qikiqtani Corporation, the Health Committee representatives and all those who attended and were part of this ceremony. I would also like to extend my

gratitude to those who were part of the planning process, and to all health care professionals. This magnificent achievement was reached by working in partnership.

Mr. Speaker, our vision is to continue to deliver top quality care and be a model institution across Canada. Our fundamental values embraces excellence, family focused services, working together as a team, respect and diversity, and the leadership to promote continuous learning in the health care field.

Our new hospital is a state-of-the-art facility that allows us to deliver the best in-patient care - care that is sensitive to our cultural values. It has an expanded in-patient unit, an increased number of day surgery beds and more birthing rooms.

Our goal is much broader than providing programs and services. We want to also train our own and continue working towards long-term stability.

Mr. Speaker, partnership is an integral tool in supporting realistic approaches to health, wellness and social service priorities. Communities and government are connected and reliant on each other to care for those in need, to establish common goals, and to secure the resources needed to achieve our goals.

This has been a proud day for Nunavummiut, and I commemorate the joyous occasion with you all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Qamanittuaq, Mr. Simailak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 191 – 2(4): Search & Rescue at Baker Lake Successful

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise today to announce that the individuals that were lost have now been found and they are well.

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) So I would like to thank a number of people who were very heavily involved in the search. There was Cam Lockett of the RCMP in Baker Lake, who headed the command headquarters, and all those that were working with him at the command headquarters.

I would like to thank those of Nunavut who were on stand-by, all of the people that were searching for the two young men: the Rangers, all the ladies that were cooking in the community hall for the searchers, Community and Government Services, and the Joint

Rescue Coordination Centre in Trenton, and also especially two mining companies that are working in Baker Lake, Arreva and Agniku Ecomines Limited.

Arreva apparently lent three of their satellite phones to the search, donated a whole bunch of thermoses, and also paid for one of the search aircraft for a whole day. Also, Agniku Ecomines Limited who were also sharing the cost of the aircraft the next day and it was actually one of Agniku Ecomines workers that were working on building the road that found the two young men walking home.

So thank you to all of those people and to a great successful search. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. We are happy with your family. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

Member's Statement 192 – 2(4): Input from Qikiqtarjuaq Students

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce and applaud the time and effort taken by forty students of Inuksuit School in Qikiqtarjuaq to write to me about their school.

Mr. Speaker, I recently tabled a series of letters that I received. I urge the Minister of Education and his departmental officials to read these letters at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we regularly hear from our constituents as they bring forward issues of concerns, suggestions for improvements, and other topics of importance to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is a special occasion when 40 of your constituents each put down their thoughts on one specific topic and present them to you. I feel it is my duty to bring this important contribution forward to this House.

Mr. Speaker, the constituents who sent me these letters are not just my constituents. They're students of the Inuksuit School, the future leaders of our community and territory. They write about the challenges that they face in their current learning environment. Many of them state that the school is too old and falling apart. They write that they would like to have a dedicated library so that they don't have to share that space with other classes. They say that they would like a new kitchen and a shop so that they can learn important skills for later in life.

Mr. Speaker, the students would like to see more classrooms, a bigger gym, and a safe playground. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that some of the suggestions put forward may not be within the government's current vision, or budget. For example, having a fountain

running with juice and a dedicated games room for playing computer games may not be possible within current fiscal limits.

Mr. Speaker, for the most part, however...

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Arreak, your time is up. If you'd like to complete your statement you have to ask for unanimous consent.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask my colleagues for unanimous consent to complete my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, for the most part, however, the Inuksuit students have come up with some very good recommendations for the Department of Education Capital Plan to take into consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the Inuksuit School students for bringing their thoughts and concerns to me. Once again, I urge the minister and his officials to read the letters that I have tabled and take them into consideration as they begin the planning and decisions of school projects in the community of Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 193 – 2(4): Unmanned Drones: The Wrong Solution for Sovereignty

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my shock and disbelief of the news that the Federal Department of National Defense is considering the purchase of a fleet of unmanned drones to patrol the Canadian Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, this reminds me that another ill-conceived federal scheme, of which I am sure my colleague from Iqaluit East will agree, and that's to provide Nunavut's weather forecasts from station located thousands of kilometres away from where the snow actually falls on the ground.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut want to be assured that our sovereignty is well protected. However, this plan makes absolutely no sense; its nonsense.

Mr. Speaker, the independent project on government oversight released a study on the Predator unmanned drone. That does not give us, or me, any cause for comfort. Let me share some of their findings with the House.

The study concluded and I quote, “Although Pentagon officials say that the Predator has been a very valuable asset during the War in Afghanistan, it has proven to be a fair weather aircraft. It cannot be launched in adverse weather, including any visible moisture such as rain, snow, ice, fog, or frost, nor can it take off in cross winds greater than 17 knots.

Mr. Speaker, it’s not a national secret that rain, snow, ice, frost, fog, and high winds are exactly the kind of weather conditions that define the arctic for most of the year. The study also reported that, and I’ll quote again, “Although it carries the camera for night surveillance, testing at 30,000 feet showed that the Predator could only recognize potential targets during daylight hours and clear weather.

Mr. Speaker, again, I hate to break the news to our friends in the DND headquarters in Ottawa, but significant portions of the arctic experience 24 hours of darkness for months at a time; something called winter.

Mr. Speaker, we had better hope that any intruder decides to be polite and hold off an attack until the middle of July.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo, Mr. Tootoo, Mr. Tootoo, Mr. Tootoo. Thank you. You ran out of time. If you would like to seek unanimous consent you can do so. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we’re going to be serious about Arctic Sovereignty.

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo, Mr. Tootoo, I will allow you to seek unanimous consent to finish your statement. Mr. Tootoo.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It kind of reminds me of what I’m talking about here.

Mr. Speaker, if we're going to be serious about arctic sovereignty, let's get serious. Let's ensure that manned search and rescue aircraft are permanently stationed in Nunavut. At the moment, search and rescue operations lose valuable hours while waiting for aircrafts to arrive from bases in the south.

Let's ensure that manned aurora sovereignty controls take place. As a former commander of the Canadian forces presence in the North has been quoted as saying, and I'll quote, "Human beings give you a better understanding of what is taking place and a better capacity to react for it."

Mr. Speaker, like I said, let's get serious. I urge all members to join me in rejecting the drones and calling on Ottawa to rediscover the virtues of human beings.

Mr. Speaker, I'll be forwarding on a copy of my statement to the Minister of Defence and also the individual in charge of military operations in the North in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 194 – 2(4): Important Role of Inuit Culture for Mental Health and Wellness in Nunavut

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address an issue that I have recently brought up in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that many of my colleagues will share memories of a childhood when we were sent to school and were forced to leave our Inuit culture behind when we walked through those doors.

Mr. Speaker, years ago, we were taken away from our communities and our families to go to school. We were expected to live, speak, and behave as we were *Qallunaat*. For a lot of people, this destroyed many ties that they had with their culture. People lost their language. People lost traditional knowledge that they had learned from their parents and elders.

Mr. Speaker, it has taken a long time of many Nunavummiut to reach the back of those roots and to rebuild this sense of pride in Inuit culture. One could argue that losing these things has had damaging effects on mental health and wellbeing.

Mr. Speaker, many of the social workers and mental health workers in our communities are not Inuit. They may not have an understanding and appreciation of the Inuit culture. The laws and systems that govern our social services do not take counsel into consideration.

Mr. Speaker, it concerns me greatly that when Nunavummiut have to deal with social workers when they seek counselling from mental health workers, they are expected to adopt *Qallunaat* ways to deal with their problems. Inuit, once again, are told to deal with these things like a *Qallunaaq*. This is not appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, when a person is struggling with deep personal issues, it is even more difficult when they have to use another language to describe what they are going through. To be given the base of another culture and other ways of life does not help someone who is living in this culture and in this way of life...

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Mapsalak, you have run out of time. If you could have the opportunity to seek unanimous consent to conclude your statement.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Member of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation ends) ...this must change, Mr. Speaker. I strongly urge the government to ensure the Inuit culture principles are fully incorporated into all social work and mental health practice in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to hear that seven Nunavummiut recently graduated from mental health diploma programs last weekend. This is an important step in the right direction. I wish these individuals every success as they follow their careers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 195 – 2(4): Youth of Kugluktuk

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the needs of our youth in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday I rose and spoke about the results of the *Liquor Act* plebiscite in my community, and how the youth have strongly expressed their desire for life and hope.

Mr. Speaker, some constituents of mine have expressed concerns to me that the elders and youth of today are not connecting as much as they used to. As legislature, we can provide more for our youth; we can make changes. Our youth need to spend time with our elders to learn hunting and survival skills and to learn about their culture.

Mr. Speaker, there are many things that factor into why our youth are getting into trouble: alcohol, drugs, overcrowded houses, lack of recreational opportunities, and lack of programs.

Mr. Speaker, we need to provide our youth with infrastructure so they may practice or participate in sports and have a place to meet to keep them healthy, occupied, and out of trouble.

Mr. Speaker, we can provide activities for our youth all year long. Everything we do is seasonal. Camps can operate in summer, winter, spring, and fall.

Mr. Speaker, the youth in my community have spoken and we must listen to them. Mr. Speaker, I urge this government to sincerely think about the need of our youth. We have to make them our priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 196 – 2(4): Search and Rescue of Enoki Kunuk

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank the many people who helped in the search for my biological father, Enoki Kunuk of Igloolik. You probably heard that he went missing last spring.

Mr. Speaker, many of you will recall that Mr. Kunuk went missing while he was caribou hunting. He failed to return and a long search began that lasted an entire month.

Mr. Speaker, two air searches failed to locate Mr. Kunuk, including an official search involving military aircraft that was eventually called off. Mr. Speaker, the community of Igloolik refused to give up. We received so much support from all over Nunavut. I cannot begin to name all those that assisted in various ways but I will try and name some of them.

On behalf of Mr. Kunuk's family members, and myself I wish to say a special thank you to the following: the residents of Igloolik and their search and rescue team. The land search team took turns going out looking for Mr. Kunuk.

I would like to say thank you to the military Hercules search and rescue team, the Minister of Community and Government Services for providing emergency measures operations with a Kenn Borek Twin Otter, Norterra for providing the Air Inuit Twin Otter, Air Inuit pilots...

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas, you have also run out of time. You could seek unanimous consent to conclude your statement. Mr. Barnabas.

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

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

There were also many people of Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet who helped us. I would also like to thank Minister Louis Tapardjuk for spotting the ski-doo. I would also like to say thank you to Advance Explorations Inc. and Rock Bay for providing an airplane and a helicopter.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we all know that we live in a very harsh and unpredictable environment. Before you find yourself in a similar situation, tell someone where you are going, and if you get lost, stay where you are. That's exactly what Mr. Kunuk did and it saved his life. We can learn from elders. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 197 – 2(4): Sporadic Monitoring of Arctic Waters

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to say very quickly that I want to take credit for Mr. Tootoo's speech that he read earlier, but I can't.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I spoke about the ongoing media spotlight on Nunavut and the arctic in general. A recent CBC news story announced that the Department of National Defence is looking at having drones, as Member Tootoo has just mentioned. I just want to go into a little bit more detail on what the member was also saying and echo his thoughts.

On unmanned vehicles patrolling the arctic, now, what the Department of National Defence is looking at is having these in place in five years. Today, the sporadic, and I mean sporadic monitoring and checking of arctic waters is carried out by antiquated

Aurora Aircraft. Now, the Aurora Aircrafts, as most Members in the House know, are over 40 years old.

This first line of observation in arctic waters is like looking for a needle in a haystack. The arctic coastline in question, Mr. Speaker, spreads from Alaska on the Yukon border to Cape Chidley north of Labrador and then to the top of Ellesmere Island. It's the largest undefended coastline in the world. This summer is a good example.

This summer the Vikings, a group of pleasure seekers, arrived halfway through the Northwest Passage and docked in Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven looking for a bar; they were in Cambridge Bay when I was over there. They docked in Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven before the Canadian Government or any authorities knew they were actually in Canadian waters.

There have been several cases of boats, ships, and pleasure craft navigating our waterways without us noticing or knowing that they were actually present on our soil, and in this case, on our waters. We also had the case in the High Arctic, when a would-be immigrant sailed from Northern Greenland and got stranded in Grise Fiord trying to find asylum and I believe was deported.

Mr. Speaker, the dismal monitoring of our arctic shores is embarrassing. A robust monitoring plan needs to be put in place now, not in five years and certainly, as pointed out, not with unmanned drones. Using unmanned drones, Mr. Speaker, is too little too late. No less with the continued global warming that we're seeing increase nautical traffic, foreign fishing, and indeed, industrial developments. A robust surveillance program should have been in place yesterday, not in five years.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to sending a letter to the Minister of National Defense on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Member's Statement 198 – 2(4): Inuit Language Bills Weak Need Community Consultations

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today, just recently this winter the language of the Inuit has to be protected as to how we're going to utilize it in the government. First of all, I would like to say to you the Inuit language; I often say that we need to protect our language. Why do we need to protect it?

We don't remember when Inuktitut emerged as a language. We cannot say that we learned it in schools. Our language has existed for thousands of years, although there are

differences in dialect. It has given us the authority and the usage of our language among the Inuit. The Inuit language has to be protected.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the minister for bringing out Bill 6, *Inuit Language Protection Act*. The Inuit language has to be stronger and we need to enhance and protect it. I would like to thank the *Ajauqtiit* Committee for bringing this out.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say again that if we're going to hold on to the Inuit language, then the bill has to be amended to make it stronger and give it more power to protect our language. Let's just not work it in the Legislative Assembly but let us utilize it in the communities so that our children can utilize it and learn it in the school.

I want to say that the *Ajauqtiit* Committee, if we're going to make the Inuktitut language stronger, we will have to go to the communities to do consultations. Even if that doesn't happen, we have not heard anything from residents since we haven't gone to the communities, or even going to Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay for meetings.

But, Mr. Speaker, if we're going to be serious about our Inuit language, the *Ajauqtiit* Committee has to go all the communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Member's Statement 199 – 2(4): Recognition of Late Lucien Ukaliannuk

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize and thank first of all, Levi Barnabas, when we were searching for Enoki from Igloolik.

As Inuit, we've been trying to be brought up as assimilated to the rest of the Western Society and up to now, we're trying to get back to our cultures and languages after we established Nunavut.

Lucien Ukaliannuk passed away this past year, and I think we need to recognize him because he pushed hard not to lose our culture and language, and he needs to be recognized. The Inuit themselves have to stand up to pursue and not just wait around and do nothing, and not just to be serviced by others. We have recognized that he has a honorary doctorate and he was recognized by the communities throughout Nunavut.

At the beginning of September he helped us and some other people have also helped us through this but these have come to pass, and I would like him to be recognized by this Legislative Assembly although he has passed on. The people that he left behind, we want to thank them for allowing him to help us throughout the years and up to now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 200 – 2(4): Domestic Violence

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tell the House about a courageous young mother in my community.

Mr. Speaker, the Members of the House have recognized that domestic violence is a serious issue in Nunavut that wreaks havoc on the women and children who are involved and threatens the social fabric of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, MLAs unanimously passed a motion in November 2005, condemning domestic violence in all its forms. Earlier this year, we approved the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* to help Nunavummiut who are victims of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult for victims of violence to speak publicly about the suffering that they have endured, often over decades. We have many statistics about domestic violence but we cannot see the human suffering that each statistic represents.

Mr. Speaker, at the Kitikmeot Inuit Association AGM last week, Ms. Wendy Avalak summoned her courage and spoke publicly about 14 years of domestic violence that she and her children faced daily. We were very proud of her for speaking out.

Mr. Speaker, when I spoke to Ms. Avalak later, she told me that she's afraid that by speaking out that her life would be harder. She told me that she spoke out to help not only her family but other victims of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot imagine the tremendous pressure that Ms. Avalak was under when she made her decision to speak out. I told her that as her friend and MLA that I fully support her courageous decision. I also reminded her that the Legislative Assembly stands with her and all the other victims of domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the members join me in congratulating Ms. Wendy Avalak for her stand on domestic violence, and that we re-affirm our support for all victims of domestic violence in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Member's Statement 201 – 2(4): Gjoa Haven Youth Group

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also highlight the effort of a group of individuals in Gjoa Haven. I would like to highlight the efforts of the youth in Gjoa Haven. I refer to the Youth Committee and it's led by my brother Kyle Aglukkaq and Jeremy Bergin.

This group is made up of seven individuals and is the Youth Leadership Association Group. They not only work as a group of seven, but also have been consulting all the youth within their school, as well as in their community.

The group is working very hard to open a youth centre in the community, and in fact, I believe they have managed to access some funding from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. Not only are they looking for a building but they're also looking for ways to try to address and highlight some of the issues and challenges faced by young people in our communities today, such as healthy living, stay in school initiatives, respecting each other, sports and so on.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to commend the members for asking me to come to speak to them about some programs that are available through the government and through the group in the communities that can help them.

During that time it became very obvious to me that, at the community level, when young people want to get started, they have a hard time executing their ideas as there aren't very many systems in place to support initiatives of the youth.

In stating that, I would like to thank the school teachers in the community who have volunteered their time after hours to support the youth in their initiatives by group of interest, and showing the leadership and interest in helping the young people.

I would also like to thank the DEA as well as the mayors for their support of the community. It is very nice to see young people today take a proactive approach to identifying issues important to youth to be addressed by youth for youth.

And, I would encourage the young people to continue to address this and encourage more and more young people in the community to organize themselves to get their voices heard at the community level and congratulate this committee in Gjoa Haven for their efforts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Item 3. Member's Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome somebody who is in the Gallery who visits us, one of my constituents, Celestine Erkidjuk. I would like him to be welcomed here in the Gallery.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): I want to recognize a person from Gjoa Haven; Rebecca Ikualaaq. She has travelled with the two pages from Gjoa Haven. I would also like to recognize Tony and Celestine. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to the Gallery a very good friend of mine, I believe. I've shared a lot of laughs and hard times with this gentleman. He is a former Member, Minister, Speaker, as well as a Commissioner, and Sergeant-at-Arms of the House. He has done every role that is possible to be done in politics at the Legislative Assembly in the North.

I know he was mentioned earlier, but I want to take this opportunity to thank him for bringing a special gift to the people of Nunavut and making that trip here on behalf of and for the Government of the Northwest Territories to us here in Nunavut.

Our good friend and colleague, the Honourable Mr. Tony Whitford. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin North, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize one of my constituents and my only sister in Rankin Inlet, Emiline Kowmuk. Welcome. Thank you. I would also wish to recognize some people who have served Nunavut and NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't recognize too many people from Keewatin. I know she was recognized already but when we were

younger we were decentralized. We were moved, often to different communities. When we were young, we were moved under the federal government even before we were married, when we were still students.

There were three of us in Fort Churchill who were sent to work over there. We were working in the hospital and she has helped a lot with midwifery in Fort Churchill. Her name was Emiline Ulliak Curley and now she is Kowmuk after she was married. There were three of us back then. That was before I got married. I was Levinia Nuqallak Ford; Jane Tupik Tagornak, now she uses the name Angangait.

I would just like to thank her. She is my friend and their son is now my son-in-law. I wish to thank her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 245 – 2(4): Job Advertisement Without Staff Housing

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, in the Minister of Finance's Fiscal Update, one of the things he had pointed out that we would be looking at in the supplementary appropriation is funding "Additional resources for the Department of Community and Government Services to actively recruit four additional project officers and a quantity surveyor to enhance their technical division's ability to assist in the planning and costing of capital projects;" which we all know has been, in light of all the carryovers that have taken place over the last number of years, an issue.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the government is looking at is an important position to try and resolve some of those issues. However, Mr. Speaker, I understand I have seen a copy of the advertisement for that division in the Globe and Mail, and it was advertised without subsidized staff housing.

So maybe I'll just ask the minister: if this is such an important position and a priority of the government, and I understand there are a lot vacant staff housing units here in Iqaluit, why it was advertised without staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this position is very important and this will probably be the first time that we fill that position. In fact, it was the very first time that I heard of quantity surveyor and I didn't even know what it was. I believe it was yesterday, or the day before that question was posed.

It will be very important for the department and I believe the member is asking whether it will be provided with staff housing. I know it's very important, I will be pushing that they get staff housing because it would be very difficult to fill that position in the first place, so we'll have to accommodate that. So I will tell them that staff housing should be provided for that position.

I also saw the ad and I regret that I didn't even consider about the staff housing. So it'll probably appear that staff housing will be provided. I wish to thank the member for pointing that out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. The minister indicated that they're going to push for staff housing for that. So does that mean that that position will have subsidized staff housing; is that the intent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is true that I saw the advertisement in the papers that there's no advertisement for subsidized staff housing. I saw that, too, myself.

However, these kinds of positions are highly qualified individuals. I believe that we've never had one that is, I'm not sure of the history from 1999, but I think because of this type of position, I think it's only fair to provide staff housing for the individual, and I believe that it is difficult to find these kind of positions, they might be limited in Canada, and we're trying to get one.

So to attract the individual further, I would direct the staff to provide staff housing for this position. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that any minister is not responsible for looking at all the ads that are put out for their departments. I know that this is a specialized position that has been advertised in the Globe and Mail, which I believe is probably the most expensive paper in the country to advertise in.

I'm just wondering if the minister could look into and get back to us, if she isn't already aware of how that could have been advertised like that without staff housing in the first place. It's almost like wasting money putting an ad like that in the Globe and Mail. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I guess it was over-sighted by some staff, our policy people. I will make sure it doesn't happen again and to examine carefully those positions; if they're specialized and they're hard to get, then we should try and attract them by any means. I will push that to make sure that staff housing is included. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 246 – 2(4): Power Outages in Kugluktuk

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Energy.

Mr. Speaker, the minister will recall that during the Cabinet Retreat in my constituency of Kugluktuk, there was a power outage. In fact Mr. Speaker, power outages have been occurring almost every week in Kugluktuk.

My question is this: does the minister know why so many power outages are happening in my community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. When we were holding a meeting in the community and I was there, the power went off. Indeed, we went up to the plant and had an opportunity to see the plant manager working on the situation there.

It's my understanding that the situation in Kugluktuk is a synchronization problem. And when I say a synchronization problem, I don't want to get into all the details, but basically, it's ensuring that the generators themselves are in sync.

With the amount of draw on the generators, being the amount of power that's being consumed, and the amount of outage, meaning power output that the generator's putting out, and synchronizing that amount to what is needed in the community at that given time. Basically, that's what is happening there.

It is also my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that the corporation is following up on that situation to see how we can better synchronize the generators, the capacity in the community, so that the outages don't continue.

And again, like I should say that it's not like they're going out for two or three days, it seems that it's almost like a rolling brown out where you lose power for an hour or two hours and the system has to be rebooted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide this House with the information on how old the engines in the power plant are in all of Nunavut communities? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the information with me right here on how old the generators and equipment is right now in the plant in Kugluktuk, but I can try and get that information for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. As you know, some of my colleagues have been asking questions have been asking about the power outages in their communities also, it would be nice for all of us to know the ages of the engines in the power plants in each community.

Mr. Speaker, I seem to recall the minister recently talked about an Emergency Power Outage Plan for Iqaluit. Does the corporation have this type of plan for all communities in Nunavut, and what is the plan for Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the event of a power outage, what happens, just very quickly for the House, if the outage is of a minor one, meaning if the power is going out for an hour or two hours, usually, the people that we have on the ground in every individual community are able to get the power up and running within a given period of time, meaning within that 24-hour period.

If the outage is something that the plant manager can't cope with themselves, then we have regional operation staff that could fly in. So for example, if it's in the Kitikmeot we

have people on the ground in Cambridge Bay, in Rankin Inlet for the Kivalliq region, and indeed, here in Iqaluit for the Qikiqtaaluk region.

At the same time, once we send people in and it seems that there is a catastrophic problem in the community, then we also have extra resources that we bring in. All of our plant managers, on a regular basis, are brought up to speed on plans to deal with the outages that are minor or major, and those plans are in place for every community in Nunavut, including Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again, Minister. My constituents feel they are not being fully kept informed on what is happening with regards to those outages in my community. Can the minister commit to keeping my constituents informed about the power outages in Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member has made an important observation and that is when outages do occur in communities. Sometimes we hear that the residents of the communities aren't kept up to date on what's occurring. The Power Corporation does try, and throughout people at the community level make public announcements on the local radio and so on.

What I'll do now after the questioning in the House Mr. Speaker, is follow up with the Power Corporation to ensure that that communication is occurring, not only in Kugluktuk but across Nunavut in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 247 – 2(4): Program to Provide Traditional Food

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, in the communities that I represent, there is a high cost of living in the communities, especially for a large family that receive income support, and also some elders that don't eat store bought food all the time, they eat mainly country food.

So therefore, I would like to ask the minister responsible, because in the High Arctic where I represent, they are prohibited from hunting caribou, and some of my constituencies and communities have no more caribou near their community.

Could the minister establish a program, or if there is an existing program, could he table that in the House on how the communities can obtain country food? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our department has funds for the communities if they wanted to obtain meat, whether it is caribou meat or other traditional food, we do have a funding program towards that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister. If the community applies... The HTOs themselves last year were able to obtain caribou meat with their own funds that they raised and they asked the Repulse Bay hunters to get caribou meat from there.

This program has a cap of \$10,000 per community. As I stated before, everything costs more in the High Arctic that this \$10,000 is insufficient for the communities that would like to get caribou or any other meat. Could the minister seek additional funds so that the High Arctic communities can obtain meat?

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have set aside \$45,000 and none of the communities have applied for that program from the HTOs. They can work with the HTOs and apply for funding from this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 248 – 2(4): Municipal Vehicle Use Policy

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my question to the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes we are concerned in regard to the vehicles that are used in the communities. In Keewatin we have found out that there were two accidents that occurred where a young boy was hit by an employee of the municipality with a municipal vehicle and broke the bones of this young child. It was a serious injury.

Last summer, we heard and had seen an individual who passed away after an accident, still using the municipal vehicle. We need to protect our people and the vehicles have to be used properly.

Could the minister communicate to the municipalities that they not use the municipal vehicles after hours and that they not use the municipal vehicles in the evening or in middle of the night? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I think we are all aware of the problems that occur in the communities, but the municipal hamlets have their own councillors and they operate their community. If we are requested for support, I have to review this very carefully at first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the minister has the authority to advise or make a condition that when the funding is allocated to purchase a vehicle, if you allocate the funding, then it can be used. What I am trying to say is that you can make a condition and you can control the municipality, or you can ask the Municipal Training Organization.

We want Nunavummiut to be in a safe place and they need some rules, whether it is a by-law or a policy, if you can perhaps, correspond in that matter. We don't need to see accidental deaths. Those accidental deaths could have been prevented if that vehicle was not used in the middle of the night. So I believe that you need to set up a clear policy to be used for municipalities, if you could do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will deal with those after reviewing very carefully, and also, they have community by-laws and they need to be strengthened, too. If I can give direct steps, I will do so, and I know that we need to use the municipal vehicles properly and some of these vehicles have been used. I believe that the RCMP has the responsibility as well to monitor the community, and to monitor the individuals that don't listen to the rules.

If I have the jurisdiction, then I will work on it after reviewing it first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 249 – 2(4): Vacant Wildlife Officer Position

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment and it's with regard to a renewable resource officer who left on August 1.

That position is still vacant and we have not had a replacement yet. The hunters have to sell their furs and sealskins. Can the minister tell me when this position will be filled?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When renewable resources officers leave to another community, or when they leave, it's kind of difficult to find a replacement.

We are working on that, Mr. Speaker, but I cannot tell the member when this position will be filled. Although we're looking for a replacement, I can't tell you when the replacement will be hired but we're working on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister made a statement, but I would also like to ask him about the replacement that he is looking for. When does the minister figure on filling the position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to look into the issue and find out when the competition is going to be closed, and I'll inform the member personally. Thank you.

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

Question 250 – 2(4): Monitoring of Kitikmeot Boarding Home

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

Mr. Speaker, many of my constituents over the years have regularly come to me with their concerns about the boarding home in Yellowknife. It came up again last week at the Kitikmeot Inuit Association AGM.

Their concerns range from problems with the menus, unfriendly atmosphere, and problems with the building. They say the building is not suitable for their elders and their disabled, and their families who are staying with patients to accompany the folks down to Yellowknife.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell me how the Department of Health and Social Services monitors the operations of this facility to ensure that Kitikmeot residents receive a high standard of quality and care when they stay at the boarding home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. The concerns regarding the Yellowknife Boarding Home for the Kitikmeot patients have been an ongoing challenge for us.

In terms of how we monitor the complaints that are coming forth from clients who stay at the boarding home, the practice is that the executive director in the region would follow up with the contractor to try and address the issues that are being raised by our clients that are staying there.

The other way we're looking at improving and monitoring on a regular basis, and not on a complaint basis, is to ensure that we evaluate regularly these standards that they are to meet in delivering boarding home client services. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the answer. I appreciate the minister has a couple of systems in place to raise concerns.

I guess the other method is to call to contact their MLA. I have sort of become the 'Divisional Board of Health' in Cambridge Bay; I hear all the concerns. The boarding home is one of my top ones.

I would like to ask the minister if the minister could explain how patients, who have experienced difficult stays at the facility, can raise their concerns with the executive director, or other Health and Social Services officials in such a way that Health and Social Services will take action and respond in a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, receive complaints related to boarding home and I am sure that many Members in the House have as well in the past.

I guess the overall goal would be to ensure our service providers are providing adequate service. That would be the ultimate goal that we have in the contracts that we have in place to run our boarding homes, and to have a relationship with those organizations to monitor how they do on a regular basis and avoid complaints from our clients.

Having said that, over the last year and a half, we've been working really hard to put the systems in place to have Nunavummiut file concerns related to their travel and the boarding home to the client service coordinator. That position has been established and we're in the process of recruiting a position for that. We were not successful the first time but the competition is out again.

In the interim, we have Andrew Tagak Sr. working in Iqaluit to get the process in place so that constituents and Nunavummiut have a person that they can contact and a system for us to evaluate those complaints by region as well. 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.

Last June, Mr. Speaker, when I was going through Yellowknife, I dropped by the boarding home to talk to some of the patients down there. And as luck would have it, I didn't have any constituents from my riding there but I talked to seven constituents from the minister's own riding. We had a little gathering in the main room there. By the time I left an hour later, my head was spinning with all the issues and concerns that they brought up with me, some of which I've passed onto the minister.

Mr. Speaker, the boarding home facility is nearly 20 years old and is deficient in many of the amenities that patients find in more modern facilities, such as the Larga Home in Edmonton. I hear quite a few comparisons to Larga Homes, and people are asking why we don't have one in Yellowknife.

My question for the minister: would the minister explain to the House if Health and Social Services are planning to replace this facility when the current 20 year lease expires? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Before we proceed, I will correct myself and say that that was your second supplementary. (interpretation) Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The plan in place now is to put a request for proposal for the Yellowknife facility for the actual building as well as for the O&M contract. So that's out now, I believe, and we will take it from there. 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, with all the concerns we have had with leases over the last couple of years, we have been bringing this particular lease up as well.

I would like the minister to give me her assurance and commitment that the Government of Nunavut will initiate an RFP process to replace the Lena Pederson Boarding Home with a modern facility that is suited for elders, the disabled, long-term family visitors, and all other patients from the Kitikmeot. 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 RFP process will invite organizations to put forth proposals for the facility as well as for the operations, and once the ad is out, anyone out there is welcome to ask for the packages for that submission to address some of those issues the member has raised. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 251 – 2(4): Lack of Translated RCMP Documents

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, when I was touring the communities in the High Arctic, I was told on more than one occasion that the RCMP require interpreters, and the communities that I represent are 95 percent populated by Inuit and are unilingual, especially the elders.

As that's the case, could the minister go to the RCMP Commission and make sure that the documents are translated so that our elders can understand what's happening? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this question was directed to me, I would like the member to tell me which documents he is referring to.

There are documents that are translated, so I would like the member to identify which documents he is referring to, and then I can respond to his question appropriately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To rephrase it, the community RCMP, especially in the case where there are no Inuit RCMP, they have to utilize

interpreters in order to do their work. There have been some cases where I have to help the elders when I do get called.

What I'm trying to say is that if the communities are 95 percent populated by Inuit and when you don't have any Inuit RCMP, there are a lot of problems. For example, if you're trying to obtain an ID, or utilize the services, then the elder will have to find somebody who is bilingual to help him/her fill out the documents or the forms and such.

For the communities that are 95 percent populated by Inuit, is it possible to get Inuit RCMP stationed there? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't deal with just the courts. I do agree with the member completely; we do need more Inuit RCMP. The RCMP that are going to the communities... We do urge more people to apply to become an RCMP. We are going to try and fill positions so that the RCMP will have help from officers who can speak in Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, under the same subject, there has been no change to the phone system that the people who require help use.

When you call the RCMP, you still get connected to the detachment here, and when the RCMP has to respond to a call, they still can't call their local RCMP. Has there been a change to this situation? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The phone system has not changed but the people who answer the calls can speak Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the response time, it takes at least 20 minutes to half an hour to get a response because, of course, they have to go through an interpreter. When the elders call, they can't get an immediate response. What is the minister doing to shorten the response time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have policies if there is an emergency for calls, and I would like to be made aware of if there are any situations that you are concerned about and if we have broken any kind of policies. I'm open to hearing any kinds of concerns; direct them to me any time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 252 – 2(4): Program to Provide Traditional Food

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to ask the same question, however, I want to know more about it. Yes, my colleague asked a similar question, if a community wants to acquire caribou meat with the available funding of \$10,000. Our HTO attempted to access the \$10,000, but it turned out to be too small. I will ask the Minister to support me on this.

I am seeking his support because those funds are inadequate, especially considering the remoteness of our community of Sanikiluaq. We know the \$10,000 fund is allocated to our community.

What I am seeking from the Minister is to recognize and support Sanikiluaq's wish to utilize the funds outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if the funding can be used outside the territory. However, we have allocated \$45,000. I am not clear on where he got the \$10,000 nor am I aware of it. We do have funding which the HTO in the member's Hudson Bay constituency can apply for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister just stated he is not sure if those funds can be used outside Nunavut. Can he find out if they can indeed be used outside the territory and to let me know? Thank you, Minister.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, once I have that information, I will get back to the member.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When is he going to let me know? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll let him know before six o'clock tonight. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 253 – 2(4): Inspector Regarding No Smoking Regulations

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to WCB concerning the *Safety Act* in Nunavut and it's concerning the by-law for no smoking in the buildings.

The regulations are quite understandable and are being utilized in the work places in the Nunavut Government. Sometimes we feel sorry for the people that smoke outside when it's really cold out. They're following the regulations accordingly but some of the communities are not utilizing the regulations. Who are the inspectors for these in the communities so that they are following the non-smoking area in the buildings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. WCB has an office in Iqaluit where they can find out any kind of information.

When I was going home to Coral Harbour and I was in the airport in Rankin Inlet, they were smoking very close to the building at the airport in Rankin Inlet. When you've quit smoking for a long while, it's not fun going through the second-hand smoke going into the buildings and I think when the people are coming off the airplanes, they go right outside the building and smoke. So Mr. Speaker, I'll find that out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think he needs to look very far to find out. I think the government is responsible for the airports, and maybe if the minister can work with the airports.

They need safety workers in the communities in all the buildings so that they're not smoking so close to the buildings. We've been receiving letters of complaint from the communities and the people that are going into the airports. For those that do not smoke, it isn't a pleasant smell when you're just going in and they're smoking right outside.

So if they could have a safety officer or somebody, I think it's possible to do that in the airport. I know the employees here are not very close to the building and they're following the rules. I think that this is urgent that some of the rules are being violated in the communities and the regulations are not being followed properly.

Maybe the minister can make an announcement during this Session to rectify this for the communities, airports, and other buildings, Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I can commit to that. Thank you.

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

Question 254 – 2(4): Victims of Violence

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

Mr. Speaker, victims of violence have increasingly raised concerns that it seems that abusers are receiving light sentences for their serious offences.

I quote from a media review last week from Wendy Avalak and it says, I quote, "The justice system said that they will not tolerate family violence but yet the abusers are getting light sentences and it's the victims who are suffering."

My question for the minister: could the minister tell the House if the victims of violence concerns are being heard by his department and are being discussed with the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this area, it is called the grey zone where my government can't do a whole lot in terms of prosecuting cases because that rests with the federal government currently.

We have been trying to hold discussions to assume those responsibilities so that we can manage them. At the same time, we have been trying to do our part and I appreciate all my colleagues' support in passing the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. That is one area where we can do something and that is something that we have been doing.

I understand those future workers and people that will be implementing that Act were holding workshops this week. I actually had lunch with them yesterday. I look forward to implementing this Act in the future so that we can reduce the numbers and do our part. I apologize to my colleague that we can't do much but we're trying where we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that candid answer. I certainly hope the *Family Abuse Prevention Act* goes a long way in helping our folks here in Nunavut who are victims of violence and domestic violence. I applaud the minister for at least understanding that there is that issue out there. Victims think that abusers are getting off lightly.

Mr. Speaker, there is a Victim Assistance Committee for Nunavut with members drawn from across all the regions. My question for the minister: would the minister explain to the House what the role of this committee is and how they can help victims of violence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The committee is made up of three people and they review applications from communities throughout Nunavut.

They are focused on healing victims and they focus on the community as a whole. So that has been their primary focus to date. So they've had wonderful programs throughout the territory and I believe that I table their report annually. As soon as I get their report, I'll file their latest annual report for the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I read an article in the media just the other day that there's some victims' assistance funding available for hamlets to apply for special projects in their communities. I certainly hope the hamlets are going to put in applications to that program.

Mr. Speaker, victims of violence always require ongoing support in their communities, and a lot of it is counselling, a lot of it is dealing with the legal system, and in some cases, victims need to be re-trained for employment because their spouse has gone to jail for three, six, or 12 months. It's usually three months and they're without a source of income.

My question for the minister: can the minister describe to the House who the victims of violence can turn to in their specific communities for long-term counselling and support to overcome their ordeals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My colleague has identified one area where this legislation, once implemented, will be a very effective vehicle for our communities to heal. So that is the focus of the legislation is to not just look after the offender, in terms of trying to prevent future offences, but at the same there are victims that need to heal so that they can move on.

So I'm very pleased that the workshops are happening now, and hopefully, in the coming year we will be implementing this legislation so that victims will have a place to turn to and receive help so that they can move forward with their lives and become very good members of our society along with the offenders. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the answer. Mr. Speaker, it seems like every special interest group in Nunavut has an organization representing them, except for victims of violence.

Last March in 2007, I asked the minister if his department would consider establishing victims of violence board organizations in each region. My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House if he has directed his officials to study this possibility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I said, the focus at the moment is community-driven activities, not necessarily regions. For it to be effective, I think it has to start at the community level and that's where the focus of our legislation is. For example, there will be community intervention orders that will be put in place.

So we will have employees in each of the communities that will be focusing on the welfare of the communities. So that's the focus for this legislation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 255 – 2(4): Indication of Small Provision for Unforeseen Events in Fiscal Update

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance and it deals with the Fiscal Update that he gave us the other day.

Mr. Speaker, my first question to the minister in this is on page 3 where he talks about the revised deficit includes \$37.1 million in forced growth expenditures that were approved by the Assembly this past June; it also includes a small provision for unforeseen events. I just wonder if you could give us an indication of how much that small provision is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't remember exactly how much it is but I will inform him later on today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the same page it talks about the Fiscal Plan. It also includes initiatives that were announced in the Federal Budget of 2007.

One of the things that I know as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability that reviews the reports of the Auditor General on an annual basis, it talks about, there was some money in there for strengthening financial management.

I'm just wondering if the minister could give us an update as to what the department is doing to do exactly that, to strengthen the financial management within the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are actually nine separate action plans that have been established and approved for implementation and I'll read them out:

- Expand accountability framework;
- enhance the strategy for public accounts;
- strengthen control on our general organizational structure;
- strengthen senior financial officer capacity;
- standardize financial signing authority levels;
- the Human Resources Strategy which includes standardizing job ratings, implementing a Training Strategy, and implementing a Recruitment Strategy;
- review and revise financial policy framework;

- review financial information systems; and
- review public agencies.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I know in the past year there was a move to transfer recentralized financial functions. I am just wondering if that move was part of strengthening the financial management within the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. To correct myself, I said it was your first supplementary, but it was your second supplementary. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this has helped us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's too bad you caught that; I could have used another supplementary question. Given that, I know there were a number of positions that were transferred from the department of EIA and the Department of Health and Social Services. Can the minister inform us, have all those people that transferred over, are they still there and is everything going fine with that transition? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The transfer of Health and Social Services finance positions from Health and Social Services to Finance is now complete. Of the twenty positions transferred, four employees have transferred to other departments; three have accepted other positions in Health and Social Services, and two employees who had planned to leave prior to the restructuring have resigned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit Center, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 008 – 2(4): Meetings and Directives of Executive Council and its Committees

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a Written Question directed to our Premier. Mr. Speaker, the title of the Written Question is, 'Meeting and Directives of the Executive Council and Committee.'

1. How many formal meetings of the Executive Council of Nunavut took place between June 7, 2007 and September 10, 2007, and which of its members were in attendance at each one?
2. How many meetings of the committee of the Executive Council called the Financial Management Board¹ took place between June 7, 2007, and September 10, 2007 and which of its members were in attendance at each one?
3. How many meetings of the committee of the Executive Council called the Cabinet Committee on Legislation took place between June 7, 2007 and September 10, 2007, and which of its members were in attendance at each one?
4. Within the meaning of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, what directives, instructions and orders have been made by the Executive Council of Nunavut since January 1, 2007, in respect to Government of Nunavut departments and Crown agencies?
5. Within the meaning of the *Financial Administration Act*, what directives, instructions and orders have been made since January 1, 2007, in respect to the Government of Nunavut departments and Crown agencies?

¹As defined in section 3 of the *Financial Administration Act*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 121 – 2(4): Smoking at the Rankin Inlet Airport Terminal – Email from Emily Karetak-Tagoona

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the email that we received, along with my colleague, from Emily Karetak-Tagoona in regard to no smoking areas at the Rankin Inlet airport. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Please bring the document to the table officers.

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

Tabled Document 122 – 2(4): Letter to the Minister of Finance Requesting Information about Alcohol Education Committees under the Nunavut Liquor Act

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table my recent correspondence to the Minister of Finance concerning issues of support for Alcohol Education Committees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Can we have that document brought forward to the table, please?

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

Tabled Document 123 – 2(4): Northern Residents Tax Deduction: A Discussion Paper October 11, 2007 – Nunavut Economic Forum

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, again Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a discussion paper on Northern Residents Tax Deductions prepared by the Nunavut Economic Forum.

I also wish to table two resolutions from the City of Yellowknife and NTI asking the Government of Canada to increase the Northern Residents Tax Deduction. I urge all members to read these documents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Please bring the document to the table officers.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Tabled Document 124 – 2(4): Swimming Pool for Arctic Bay – Letter from Mayor of Arctic Bay

Tabled Document 125 – 2(4): Elders' Centre for Arctic Bay – Letter from Mayor of Arctic Bay

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table two letters about infrastructure needs for the Hamlet of Arctic Bay. One letter is about the need for a swimming pool in Arctic Bay, and the other letter is about the need for an elder's centre in Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in the Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 16 with Mr. Barnabas in the Chair.

Before we go to Committee of the Whole, we'll take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:29 and Committee resumed at 15:54*

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

Chairman (Mr. Barnabas)(interpretation): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. (interpretation ends) In Committee of the Whole, we have the following item to deal with: Bill 16. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 16 and the review of the Capital Estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services. If time permits, we would then proceed to review the Capital Estimates for the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Does the committee agree we first deal with the Capital Estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 16 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee –
Community and Government Services**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Brown of Community and Government Services if she has any opening remarks.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes, I have opening comments.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Please proceed.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to appear before you today to update you on the 2008-2013 Five-Year Capital Plan and in particular the 2008-09 Capital Estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services.

The Department of Community and Government Services has many roles to play in the delivery of capital projects for the government. My staff provides a wide range of services to all departments to assist them in developing their capital plans. These services range from project identification and development to technical reviews and project management.

In addition to assisting government departments, Community and Government Services, CGS, is responsible for assessing and securing funding for the annual capital needs for

the communities. Our efforts have helped to build strong partnerships between the government and the communities, a bond that will continue to grow in the future.

(interpretation ends) As you are aware, we have implemented our federal funding agreements for both the Gas Tax and Municipal Rural Infrastructure Funds securing a total of \$52.5 million in new funding for five years for municipal projects. The projects being funded under these agreements are recommended by the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee, which is also known as NCIAC, which is comprised of three mayors and three GN employees.

In addition, the federal government has recently announced the Building Canada Plan that calls for long-term dedicated infrastructure funding for provinces and territories. CGS has been given the lead on this file. In collaboration with ED&T, we are in the process of negotiating the Framework Agreement with Canada. It is our intention to be among the first jurisdictions to get the Framework Agreement negotiated and signed.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to my department's five-year capital plan, we have realized new additional funding for municipalities. With that, there have been major changes to the Government of Nunavut's capital planning process and how capital dollars are allocated, which is reflected in overall project budget totals. By leveraging in new money and managing expectations, we are confident that we can more effectively meet the needs of our communities.

Mr. Chairman, some significant water and waste projects are underway. This includes upgrades to the Kugaaruk sewage system, the Kugluktuk water treatment plant and sewage lagoon. We are utilizing a combination of GN and federal dollars for these projects.

With regards to the Petroleum Product Division, there are a number of priority projects either currently underway or planned within the next five years. Fuel storage facilities exist in all communities, but new and evolving regulations for these facilities are placing pressures on the division to modernize and ensure compliance. As our communities grow, the demands for petroleum products continue to increase and this forces us to build bigger facilities.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that these brief comments give an appreciation of the demands upon my department for capital funding and the challenges associated with prioritizing projects. Our awareness of the great need and the challenges communities face is what sets our course for capital planning. The vision of our future is one of the partnerships to better support communities and the needs of Nunavummiut.

I look forward to your questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. I would like to ask you if you will be bringing officials to the witness table.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is my Deputy Minister, David Akeegok, and to my right, Mr. John Dawe. He works on the capital planning.

Also, Mr. Chairman, in the Gallery is Shawn Maley whom you all know is the Assistant Deputy Minister for Community Support. Also, beside him, from Kitikmeot, Brent Brody, who is assistant to the deputy minister and he is in Technical Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Brown. Welcome. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to welcome the minister and her deputy minister, as well as Brent Brody and Shawn Maley. (interpretation ends) It's good to see you here again, both of you, from way west part of Nunavut. (interpretation) Welcome.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development, I am pleased to provide opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the 2008-09 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, the standing committee had the opportunity to meet with the minister in September of this year to scrutinize the department's draft 2008-09 capital estimates.

The operations of this department have a significant impact on the success of the GN's overall capital planning process. The standing committee continues to have concerns with respect to the issues of project management and capital carryovers.

In June of this year, the Legislative Assembly approved over \$18 million in capital carryovers for this one department alone. In his opening comments to the Committee of the Whole, the Minister of Finance stated that the capital carryovers have "increased significantly" over the past two years. (interpretation ends) He also indicated that the Technical Division of CGS will "review all substantiation sheets for all multi-year capital projects to determine the following: reasonability of annual cash flow requirements;

community capacity issues; and the ability of project management staff to oversee project delivery.”

Recent ministerial correspondence to various standing committees indicates that a number of capital projects have been delayed due to higher than anticipated contract costs and/or bids from potential contractors exceeding approved budgets. These factors have delayed such projects as the Kitikmeot Medical Boarding Home and resulted in cost escalations to the Pond Inlet community hall project. The standing committee is also aware of the impact that such factors as inflation, higher prices for steel and fuel, the Alberta economic boom and a lack of sub-trades availability have had on the construction costs of major capital projects in the territory.

Following its recent retreat held in September of this year, the Cabinet announced that it has directed the Department of Community and Government Services to “present solutions for the future management of large-scale projects and materials transportation that could benefit from economies of scale.” During the minister’s recent appearance before the standing committee, the minister indicated that the department is working to increase its staff capacity in the area of project management. The standing committee will continue to monitor this issue closely. Members are mindful of the importance of providing sub-contracting opportunities for smaller Nunavut companies.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee expressed concern during the minister’s appearance with respect to recent news reports concerning the issue of regulatory approval for a number of departmental projects related to the construction of sewage lagoons. These reports indicated that the Nunavut Water Board has recommended that the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs “take stern and immediate” action against the GN due its failure to fully adhere to the licensing process.

During the minister’s appearance, Mr. Chairman, the standing committee was informed that the department is endeavouring to be in full compliance with regulatory requirements. Members recognize the complexity of the regulatory environment in Nunavut, which is an issue that also impacts the development of the mining sector.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee encouraged the minister to publicly clarify the department’s strategy for ensuring that it is in compliance with existing requirements, and to indicate what plans the department has to work with other partners to streamline the regulatory process. For example, the standing committee knows that the current 2007-08 Business Plan for the GN’s Department of Environment indicates that it has been working with the Nunavut Water Board to review water licenses and conditions for development projects, and that it has provided a number of recommendations in this area.

Mr. Chairman, the provision of safe drinking water to our communities is a fundamental function of government. One of the department’s ongoing capital projects is the construction of a new water treatment plant for Kugluktuk.

The department's substantiation sheet for this project indicates that "the existing water plant is not able to produce drinking water that meets the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*." These guidelines were updated in 2004.

Mr. Chairman, it is unclear as to how many of Nunavut's communities currently meet these guidelines and how many do not.

The *Public Water Supply Regulations* made under Nunavut's *Public Health Act* provides standards for the quality of public water supplies in the territory. These regulations were inherited from the Northwest Territories in 1999. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that the recent report released by the Government of the Northwest Territories indicates that a number of NWT communities fail to meet minimum requirements for the testing of drinking water. The report also indicates that while all NWT communities can meet territorial regulations, not all can meet the Canadian guidelines.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee strongly recommends that the minister's department undertake a similar review of Nunavut's situation, and that the report be publicly tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, the GNWT report to which I made reference indicates that Nunavut and the Northwest Territories are the only jurisdictions in Canada that do not have a mandatory operator certification requirement for persons working in water treatment plants. The standing committee was pleased to hear the minister indicate that the Municipal Training Organization, which is funded by her department, has developed a course for municipal operators in Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee also recommends that the upcoming 2008-09 business plan for the department clearly address this issue.

The standing committee is also aware of the upcoming new federal regulations concerning national standards for sewage treatment. The standing committee also notes that the September 12, 2007, announcement by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment concerning the development of a national strategy to improve the handling of municipal wastewater and of an economic plan for sustainable funding of the initiative.

Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee was formed in April 2005. It is composed of representatives in Nunavut Association Municipalities and the GN. It was involved in priority-setting for projects receiving funding under the federal Gas Tax Initiative and the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee noted that the 2007-08 Business Plan for the Department of Community and Government Services indicates that one of its priorities is to "continue the work of the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee."

While the standing committee recognizes that the needs of the communities greatly exceed available GN resources, a collaborative approach of capital planning and priority-setting is important.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee encourages the minister to continue her efforts to lobby the federal government to address Nunavut's infrastructure deficit. Members are hopeful that the infrastructure investment plans announced in the federal government's 2007 budget will help enable Nunavut to achieve progress in this area.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee was pleased to note that the 2007-08 Business Plan for the Community and Government Services indicates that one of its priorities has been to "establish a brand new granular program." Although there was no funding for granular programs in the department's 2007-08 Capital Estimates, \$192,000 is budgeted for 2008-09 for granular programs across the territory. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is also pleased that the department recognizes that the quality of granular materials varies greatly between communities, and has initiated a Nunavut-wide study on the issue. The standing committee looks forward to the minister tabling this report at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that 2007-08 was the final year for the GN-Iqaluit Capital Contribution Agreement, which provides the funding for the city for capital projects. It is the standing committee's understanding that department is currently negotiating an extension to the agreement.

\$2.4 million has been budgeted to be provided to the City of Iqaluit in 2008-09. The standing committee recommends that the minister table a report on the city's spending under this agreement, so that all Members of the Legislative Assembly and the general public will have a clear picture of how the funds have actually been used. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee also encourages the department to consider entering into such agreements with other communities that can demonstrate the capacity to manage such an arrangement.

The standing committee notes that the department's 2008-09 Capital Estimates include \$3,895,000 in funding for small capital projects, which includes such items as fire trucks, community planning studies and granular programs. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee encourages the department to clearly list these projects in the annual capital estimates document which is tabled in the Legislative Assembly, given that they amount to over 15 percent of the department's total planned spending.

Mr. Chairman, all Members of the Legislative Assembly receive, from time to time, official correspondents from the GN that outlines budget transfers between capital projects during the course of the year.

The standing committee has stressed the need for these documents to provide significantly more detail, so that members are kept informed of the exact status of the capital projects that have been impacted by such transfers.

Mr. Chairman, members are pleased that significant investment is being made in community halls. This standing committee has consistently highlighted the importance of community halls and their positive impact on community health and wellness.

Mr. Chairman, the committee also recognizes the need for the department to address the issue of bulk fuel storage in our communities. The growth of communities and more stringent federal regulations will require the department to modernize and expand existing storage facilities. Improvements in this area may, in the longer term, help to reduce the need to periodically re-supply communities by air, as was required this summer when a number of Nunavut airports ran low on aviation fuel.

Mr. Chairman, on October 22, 2007, the government announced this year's fuel price increase. The standing committee notes that the regulations enabling the GN to implement its new hedging strategy were published in the June 2007 edition of the *Nunavut Gazette*. Members look forward to evaluating the success of this new strategy in addressing the high cost of energy.

Mr. Chairman that concludes my opening comments on the 2008-09 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Before we proceed, I would to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken. I suggest to the members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the department's estimates.

Do members have any general comments? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and her officials to our Committee of the Whole meeting today. I would like to congratulate the minister for doing as much as she can in this proposed capital plan budget with the little resources that you have.

I believe it's not a big secret that in Nunavut our municipal infrastructure deficit is between, I believe the number is \$500 million to \$600 million. So you're trying to help 25 communities get community halls, tank farms, ice arenas, sewage lagoons, and treatment plants with I think it's \$20 million, roughly in that area. So it's just not enough.

It absolutely astounds me that we can't get more financial assistance from the Government of Canada to help our communities so our residents can enjoy a good standard of quality of life that most Canadians down south take for granted.

It's absolutely astounding, and I know as a former Mayor and President of NAM, I was in Ottawa a few times lobbying with the ministers with me.

On one occasion, we lobbied the Minister of Finance at the time, and our back of the envelope calculations at that time were about \$265 million. We gave our presentation to

the Minister of Finance at the time in Ottawa when Minister Martin subsequently became the Prime Minister of Canada. So we took it to the highest levels in Canada, at the time, the serious infrastructure shortages that existed in Nunavut.

We also lobbied our parent organization at the time, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, who took up our cause when they understood the serious situations that exist up here. They helped us lobby very successfully in getting that one percent base allocation formula put in place. One percent doesn't sound like a lot but when the federal government is announcing a \$2 billion federal infrastructure program, one percent of that is \$20 million for us, plus the per capita.

I think they should... the Government of Canada; they absolutely have to help us up here. There's no way around it. I can't see how they can't recognize that there is a huge need up here for infrastructure.

Unfortunately, in Nunavut, we live in a part of Canada that is remote. The wear and tear on our building and facilities has probably exacerbated because of the weather conditions. It's very difficult to construct up here. The facilities are probably costing two to three times what it would cost in the south. So there has to be some recognition of that at the highest levels in Canada.

I know the minister has talked about going to Ottawa and continuing to lobby, and preparing documents that show the disparity between the North and the South. I hope that lobbying works out.

I know we have an opportunity in the North. We talk about sovereignty and we heard announcements this summer from the Prime Minister of Canada of building a deep water port in Nanisivik. There's some talk that there should be another port somewhere, but to me, sovereignty includes establishment and support for communities in Nunavut. There are 31,000 people in Nunavut all along the Northwest Passage and as far up north as Grise Fiord.

So if they want to help us assert sovereignty for Canada along the Northwest Passage and into the High Arctic, then what better way could they show that than by helping us build and develop our communities where people actually live and are going to live for centuries to come. To me, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that out. So the funding that we're getting from the federal government, to me, is just a drop in the bucket.

When the Minister of Community and Government Services has to appear before the House every year for capital estimates and the best you can offer the communities is \$20 million to \$25 million, when our municipal deficit is \$500 million, it's a tremendous juggling act that your capital planners must undergo on a daily basis back in their offices.

I don't know if he still works here, I remember Doug Sitland explaining that to me one time on how he had to move money around just to address some of the emergency issues,

such as breaches of berms in the sewage lagoons. Of course, the federal government has their regulators who can fine mayors in communities if there are violations of federal regulations pertaining to water or sewage facilities. So I have to applaud you in your efforts to help us out.

I was a little disappointed, I guess I'm sort of getting used to this now, but in Cambridge Bay, of course, we have some major infrastructure requirements as well. I know our community hall in Cambridge Bay is close to 30 years old by now, I think it was built in 1978 or 1979. I recall several times that we've asked for a new community hall, as well a larger one because our community has 1,700 people in it. That community hall was originally built in 1987 and was supposed to last 20 years.

I appreciate that the department was able to help us fix it up quickly after it was damaged in a fire but it's still the original size. It's in pretty good shape and it will last for a long time to come but it is rather small.

I'm probably going to be asking you for an update on the status of our sewage lagoon and our dump relocation. I know those have been a couple projects that we've been talking about for the last couple of years. I think there's money set aside for that.

I'll also be very interested in talking to you about our metal waste dump. If you've had an opportunity to visit Cambridge Bay in the last year and driven up towards Mount Pelly, our tourism destination in Cambridge Bay, one of the more interesting attractions to tourists these days is to drive by the metal waste dump and see the vehicles stacked two, three, and four levels up above the berm that was supposed to hide them from the sight of people driving by.

It's become quite a serious situation there now, with more vehicles, buildings, and other metal being dumped there. If you fly in over Cambridge Bay from the air, it's a real mess. I'm sure you've had an opportunity to look at that.

I'll end my comments with that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. General comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to welcome the minister and her officials with her in the Committee of the Whole and also the officials in the Gallery that travelled from down south, I call Rankin Inlet down south from here, to the Gallery.

I couldn't echo more the comments of the chairman and my colleague from Cambridge Bay on some of the challenges that all municipalities face as far as infrastructure goes. When Mr. Peterson was mentioning the deficit of the infrastructure, I thought maybe that's why the Department of National Defense is looking at using drones to patrol the Arctic because we don't have the infrastructure to house real people.

One of the other things that were also mentioned by the Chairman and I know, as the Chair of Government Operations and Accountability, is a concern with all of the carryovers that have been happening over the last number of years. We're looking at some general questions in that and also in ways that we've indicated. We're looking at increasing the capacity in the project management area.

I think also some general questions in relation to the whole project development process. I've been here since day one and I don't recall just skipping these sheets with numbers and project titles and stuff like that on there. As you indicated in your opening comments, the services your department provides to all the other departments is assist them in developing their capital plans from project identification to development of technical reviews and the project management. So I'll be looking to ask some general questions in that area and how all of that is working.

I don't know if that whole development part of it is part of the problem. Maybe we've been doing it like that all along and there could be ways to improve it. So I'll be looking at asking some questions on exactly how that's done and see if there's ways there that we can find to change things to improve them.

One of the things that has been mentioned with all these projects that get listed and even in all the ones that we have this year, it looks good to have all those projects in there but if we know, through experience now over the last couple of years that with the larger projects that are coming in, the tenders are coming in substantially over budget than there are. Is this whole process, is it really accurate? How can we find ways to resolve tenders consistently coming in way over budget?

Maybe something's wrong in that process there that we can try and identify to try to resolve some of that. Like I said, it looks good to have all these projects on here not just with your department but government-wide. We're doing all these different projects but at the end of the day you know half of them aren't going to get done because they're all going to come in way over budget. At least the optics of we're doing with all of these projects is out there and people get disappointed when projects fall off the books or don't get done. I think we have to do our best to not raise unrealistic expectations throughout the territory and do our best to provide accurate, substantive information.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I'll leave that as my opening comments and look forward to asking the minister and her officials some general questions on that before we get into the details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation ends) General comments. (interpretation) Thank you. We're now on J-6. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Detail of Capital. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated in my opening comments, and the minister in her opening comments indicates that their staff "provides a wide range of services to all departments to assist them in developing their capital plans," and that

“These services range from project identification and development to technical reviews and project management.”

I am just wondering if we can get an overview of exactly how that process takes place from conception right through to completion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for his questions.

(interpretation ends) The Technical Services Division has initiated recommendations for changes to the current format for capital substantiation sheets. In over budgeted situations, the GN may exercise the contractual condition that reserves the right to negotiate the tender price solely with the low bidder. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad that they're looking at making some changes because it seems like for the last couple of years things haven't been that accurate.

I'm just wondering if the minister; could we get these binders full of substantiation sheets? In my experience, I can be corrected if I'm wrong by the minister or her officials, the department will come to the Capital Planning and Technical Services Division was identified where the different departments will prioritize what projects that they want to move forward on.

Maybe just from that initial contact from another department in there, can it be outlined what the process goes through so we get to see these substantiation sheets with everything on it to seeing it into the actual capital estimates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Dawe to respond to that, please. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the way the member phrased his question indicates that there is a clear understanding here of two different roles that CGS plays and that in one instance, we are putting forward requests for our own CGS money. The other aspect being that our Technical Services Division provides services to all departments, CGS included, but all the other departments as well.

If I read the member's question properly, I think he's picking up from that point forward, where a department will identify the work that it wants to do and no doubt has some idea of what it thinks the cost is going to be. From that point on, the department certainly can and they often do get in touch with our Technical Services Division, and they are able to advise them on things like whether the cost estimate might be reasonable, how they might want to look at phasing things out over a period of time, and generally give them assistance in developing the substantiation sheets that eventually wind up before you.

The departments all come together through the Interdepartmental Committee on Capital Planning and that committee reviews all these substantiation sheets, and then more formally, passes them over to our Technical Services Division. They will then review them and go back with recommendations that "we think this estimate might be a little bit low," or "we think you might have to fund that one a little bit more," or a little bit less, or whatever recommendations might be.

By the time those comments are all worked into the system, probably the sheet is revised. That's the point at which they are then compiled by the Department of Finance and they become big capital estimates as they then appear before the government standing committee and the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Dawe. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to use a substantiation sheet and just pick one. I just flipped open a page. It's not singling in on any one project or anything like that.

You go through it with some of the information at which department is straightforward, which fiscal year - straightforward, the community hall - straightforward, the FB project number, there's a number there and in this case it's 717066. Once that project is identified by the department, is it by another department, or are those numbers provided or assigned by the Department of Community Government Services to identify that particular project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's correct. They're assigned by the numbers by the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that. I just wasn't sure whether it was assigned by the CGS Department or a different department. If I understand the minister correctly, it's her department that assigns those project numbers, and I would assume, to put into their project management database or whatever they have to monitor and follow those particular projects. Can you confirm that that's correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each department is responsible to assign their own department by number. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for clarifying that. I guess one of the other things I wonder is it has always estimated capital costs and cash flow requirements. Underneath that then, there's usually the scope of work of the project.

Is the cash flow part of it where it shows the prior year's costs and separate planning design, construction, the whole gamut that's on there, and the scope of work, is that information that's provided by the department that's submitting it to CGS, or is that done by the Department of CGS Capital Planning and Technical Services Division? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will let Mr. Dawe answer that one, please. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Generally speaking, the information provided there that the member is referring to would depend very heavily on the type of project that's involved and which particular department might be preparing it.

The scope of work would be something that the client department might define. So Health would let us know what it wants in terms of a health care centre. Our Technical Service Division would give them maybe a little bit of help in fine tuning it and define it to the point where we can pass it along to consultants when the time comes and that sort of thing.

So primarily, defining the project and defining the scope of the project is the client department's responsibility. So that would be Health's responsibility, or Education, or whoever the project is for.

When you come down to preparing the cash flow, that's where Technical Services and CGS gets much more heavily involved in that place. It's ultimately the client department's decision, but that's where we can provide some advice and we do to help them build their sheets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Dawe for that response. The department reviews the scope of work on these, instead of whatever the other sponsoring department provides to you.

Say, for example, you had a project with a number assigned to it; say a zamboni room being added on to an arena and it was project 125. The scope of work and the money everything was there, we're saying just to add a zamboni room onto the arena, bang, bang, bang, and that was it.

For some reason, because all of their tenders came in way too high, it got postponed for a year. The following year, that same project came in, but this year, "well, we're extending the arena as well." I'm just wondering if that's something that would be looked at. Would that be considered a separate project with a different project number, or would it be allowed to be incorporated into the same project number even though it had a completely different scope of work on it as well?

I don't know if that makes sense. I'm just trying to get some clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Dawe respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand the question properly, it's basically what happens when an estimate deviates from the budget and what we do with it, in terms of re-describing the project, I think, basically a decision like that, what a department would do about a funding problem, would be more or less within the department's own decision making. A number of options would be available.

You could start from scratch again - redefine the project, redefine the scope, redo the estimate, and submit it as basically a new project, or a different project, or a refinement of what you had asked for before - but it basically becomes kind of a new submission instead of the old one.

There are also a number of options such as maybe doing it in phases, in which case maybe adding the zamboni room now, and then the handicap ramp as a different phase might be doable. You might be able to combine things.

There are a number of approaches that you can take. Basically, it's the client department's call as to how they want to approach it but, again, our Technical Services Division can give them advice on what may or may not work and what the ramifications might be and what the costs might be, the effects on schedule and that sort of thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Dawe, for that response. I just want to try and make this clear. If a project comes in with a completely different scope of work that you would look at it and say that it should be a different project and not the same project that was identified, let's say, the previous year.

That should come in as a separate project because if you review the scope of work and you look at the scope from the year before, it's substantially different. You would look at it and you could tell that department that this is a completely different scope of work and should be treated as a separate project. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Dawe will respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Dawe.

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess what we're looking at here is basically two different scenarios.

One is that if the project scope has changed, if it's necessary to redefine what the project is all about or how extensive the project is, the fact that it does or does not now include something else; if the project's scope is substantially changed, then I would suggest that it is a new project and would probably have a new budget number. Those budget numbers are basically internal control things, but yes, as an indicator, we would probably have a new budget number assigned.

If the project was re-submitted because the client department found that the estimates were too low, "we can't do it for that price, we have to go back and start all over again," okay. If the project is re-submitted with the same scope of work but now, with the newer prices, I would suggest that it's not a new project as such but a re-submission of the old project, perhaps not with the commitment to the money, but saying that "okay, we still want to do the project but it's now going to cost this amount of money." So in that case, most client departments would probably keep the description of the substantiation sheet the same, except for the numbers and it would be the same project.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Dawe. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Dawe for explaining that. I just want to confirm again, I heard if the scope of work comes in and you look at it and it's totally different from the previous year's scope of work, then you would go back to them and tell them it should be a different project and it should be assigned a different project number. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't understand his question, so maybe Mr. Dawe will respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that we're into a little bit of confusion here as to the stage of a project we're talking about because I've been referring to the substantiation sheets and the input that Technical Services can provide.

At that point, there is really no project whereas the client department is applying for a project, and the member is quite right, if there's a substantial change in the sheet from when it was submitted before, then we would recommend that it be a new project.

I think the member's question... I hate to second guess but maybe he's getting at a project that now may be already approved, in which case the substantiation sheet is not quite a dividing factor anymore. Maybe I can get a little bit of clarity if I didn't quite answer that properly.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Dawe. Mr. Tootoo, rephrase your question.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think he understands that I was just trying to understand the process and how things would be looked at and dealt with through the process that it goes through when it comes in.

At what point, and I'm just wondering if there is a mechanism in place and it sounds like there is through your Capital Planning and Technical Services Division, that if a department comes in with a project that has a completely different scope of work than the previous year for whatever reason it was lapsed or didn't proceed, that there is a mechanism in place there where the department has and says, "Okay, hold it. The sponsoring department, this is a totally different project than what was initially on the books last year," and would send them back to submit it as a new project and not an old project.

I think that's the process I was just trying to understand and I believe that's what you had indicated the process that's in place. Hopefully, that clarifies it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I would like to basically confirm that the member is correct. There are basically two processes here I think that we're talking about.

If it's an approval of a new project, then we are discussing substantiation sheets in places where Technical Services can be of assistance and suggest that maybe "this is not the same project and you might want to redo it." That's not an authoritarian; it's an advice type of thing.

If a project is already underway and in place, you get into more of a project management type of decision and the project manager has some authority to make adjustments within certain percentages for small things that are done.

Other things might get done because of an expedience with respect to the budget. For example, previously we've discussed methods of addressing budget shortfalls. One of them was to be able to issue larger or smaller contracts to attract more capable people, or to give smaller companies opportunities. This is one example where that type of thing might be done.

If there's some change to the scope of work, it's often expedient for price reasons to add it to an existing contract, and then maybe the scope of work does change a little bit. It may, on the other hand, be expedient to take something out of the scope of work for a project so that we can make a separate contract for it and give a smaller contractor the opportunity.

So there are certain leeways in there that are kind of within authority to make some adjustments within some guidelines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Dawe. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for clarifying that. I'm just wondering if changes in scope of work were a reason why tenders are coming higher than initially projected on a project. If the scope of work changed and that wasn't taken into account in the numbers that we see in here, the forecast of budgeted numbers, that that might be one reason why things are coming in higher than what's actually budgeted for.

I would assume then if you do look at that there is a change in the scope of work that the numbers are accordingly looked at as well to ensure that they reflect the changes in the scope of work in those minor deviations or minor additions that you had indicated. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's exactly how it is but Mr. Dawe will make a supplementary. Thank you.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, basically, that's quite correct. By the time the budget is allocated for a particular project, the scope is well defined. We know what the scope would be. It's in there in the substantiation sheet.

The discussions that we've had so far about changing scope and redefining sheets, that's kind of prior to now. Up to this point where we are now, the scope of a project is defined and the department is asking for the budget.

If the actual price does not match the budget, it should not be because of the scope of work, because from this point forward that project should proceed on the basis of the scope of work that was defined there, and sometimes the scope of work should be looked at because you can do some detail designs and some studies, and maybe you'll have to tweak things a little bit. There are definite guidelines through the Financial Management Board to go through all of the policies and procedures as to how far you can go with that.

So, no, at this point in time, if we have a project, it's a defined project and it has a set budget, and if it comes in over that, then what we're finding usually it's because of the escalation type of factors. It's not because we're giving the money, then changing the budget and trying to fund a different project. No, it's not that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good to hear. Going on to another part, I would assume, determining capital projects and things like that, is where, as the minister, in her opening comments, indicates that they've developed technical reviews, I would assume those are technical reviews of all government facilities.

I'm just wondering, do you do those, when I used to work for housing they called them 'condition ratings' for houses, but does the department do those for the facilities for other departments and how is that worked into determining if a sponsoring department comes to you and says, "We want this project to go ahead because of the technical review that was done on it." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my Deputy Minister, David Akeeagok, to respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For those projects with the assistance from our Technical Services Division, we are now

providing some of those substantiations in terms of providing advice on cash flows and their O&M estimates. It is more formal and we use the Interdepartmental Committee on Capital Planning.

So there are various functions that we do for CGS Technical Services. One of the main roles is to assess the substantiation sheets and provide some advice either to our own department or to our client departments. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, David, for that response. I'm just out of time, so I'm going to go with one other question I want to ask before I'm out of time.

When you get the substantiation sheets in from the sponsoring departments, and I know every year they have prior year's amount and they go on from whatever year you're looking at. This year is the 2008-09 year we're looking at, over the next five years and then also a future cost one.

Does your department have a role in looking at, and say it's something... In some of these cases that we've had, some projects have been on the books for a number of years and different parts of it have been completed at different times, like the design work being done, or supplementary appropriations; adding money to a project part way through and not after.

Does your department or the Technical Services Division and Capital Planning have a role in ensuring that those numbers are accurate, say if something has been on for the last five years and it says there's only \$400,000 on there, but there was a couple of... it might not have been the initial year for the design or something but over the next few years, for whatever reason, the rest of it didn't go ahead but there was some additional monies put in there. Do you have a role in ensuring the accuracy of those numbers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes we do have a role in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are on page J-6. (interpretation ends) We will now proceed with the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with J-6. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for the minister and her technical people. It has to do with the public water supply regulations I alluded to earlier in my capacity as the chair of the standing committee.

In your view or your director there, how well are we doing? Even before this study began, how far apart are we complying with public water supply regulations? Are we meeting the standards, or do you feel there is a substantial shortfall, or not meeting the water standards of our own regulations in Nunavut, which includes NWT as well?

I know the NWT has done their work already, but how seriously does the minister or his official treat the water supply regulations being complied with or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have good water in Nunavut in the communities and we are complying with those regulations. There is daily testing on waters in the communities, whether it's a water truck or through utilidor, and those tests come back and the results are reviewed. The water is very safe, so I can honestly say that the compliance is up to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good to hear, Mr. Chairman, but I think it would be much more transparent if the minister were to table that report if any. Is there such a report that says that we're meeting all of the technical standards required by the public water supply regulations?

After all, the GNWT has stated that a number of NWT communities failed to meet minimum requirements with the testing of drinking water in their territory.

Just because regular testing is carried out, it doesn't mean that we are meeting the standards. The work may be carried out, but have you actually got the facts that you could table in the House, and if so, will you table them, please? Thank you.

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

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

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

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We received copies at the regional office, and once we compile the information, we can make it into a report and table it. We also thank you for bringing that up when we were having a meeting. We look forward to tabling that report in the House. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As recently as last winter, Rankin Inlet had to go through advisory notes. This is quite a large community, it's the second largest community, it has reasonably good access to water supplies but yet, because it hasn't gone to the best location yet for the water supply, it had a negative impact.

The department's own substantiation sheet, with respect to the water treatment plant, indicates that the guidelines for the Canadian Drinking Water Quality Standards, for instance, could not be met by this government but it does say that our own standards, public water supply regulations, are manageable because they're probably a lower quality.

So what I'm asking the minister is: because the public health and public safety particularly related to water quality is so fundamentally important, could you make this Water Bill your priority to actually table the report and initiate the re-study, and the report be tabled as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can attempt to do that and to gather that data from the communities and present it to this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that not only should that be carried out now, but it should be a regularly provided and submitted to the Assembly, at least on an annual basis. We need the public to understand whether or not we are drinking water that is safe not only for the elders but for the youngsters as well.

I have another question with respect to the technical requirements of the GN. There was a news story that came out this summer, I believe the Nunavut Water Board had the intent to at least pick it up asking the Department of Indian Affairs to prosecute the Nunavut Government for not meeting technical requirements, for instance, not having a license to build water supply requirements and water treatment facilities.

The minister and her officials did make a statement that indicated that they have come to some agreement and some arrangement. Could the minister or your officials, again, formalize that view of whether or not you are complying with the Nunavut Water Board technical requirements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry about that, could you answer that please, Mr. Dawe? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member's question is primarily directed at the Cape Dorset Sewage Lagoon situation. I can advise that the lagoon is built but we are not using it until such time as we get the water license which will allow us to use it.

We are, as we speak, our staff are actively working on compiling the last bit of information that the Water Board have asked for and there are public hearings scheduled for early January, at which time we should be in a position to obtain the formal water license and that would bring us fully into compliance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the standing committee's review of the department's plan in September, the issue as to when the permit should be granted or pursued became sort of a discussion amongst our committee members.

Can I ask the minister exactly when, in your view, should the permit be requested and obtained? It's like a chicken or egg situation - should you have the permit, or after all of the technical standards have been met, or when it's 'turn the key on and it's ready go.'

So, in your view, how are you going to resolve this situation with the Nunavut Water Board? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Dawe will proceed. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Dawe.

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In answer to the member's question, it's quite clear that the timing of these regulatory approvals is that we should have them in place before the work starts. That did not happen in this case. There were a number of factors as to why this situation occurred.

To get at the crux of the matter is that we are working actively to make sure it doesn't happen again. As I said before, we're working on the water license for this particular installation.

We're also meeting regularly the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. We're meeting with the Water Board. We have meetings scheduled even cross-departmentally with Environment and EIA to work out a process with the Water Board so that, hopefully, the approval process can go hand in hand and by the time we're ready to start construction, we have our permits in place. That would be the ideal situation and that's what we're working for. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response. I think it's getting a bit clearer exactly how in one's interpretation.

I suppose the regulations are there to protect the public from safe water supplies, as well as the government at least complies with all of the standards that are required. Why, in the minister's view, in your view, should the department begin to build water facilities without having a permit? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Dawe respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That situation arose because of an unfortunate collection of incidents. It turned out in this particular case that there were technical challenges to the particular installation. The Water Board was changing the way it was looking at some of its applications and some of its processes.

The thing is that we put in our tender at what we thought was a reasonable time. By the time the tender was closed and we were ready to start construction, in a normal course of events, the permit would have been in place. It just didn't happen that way and we got caught, and that's one of the things that we're trying to work so hard around.

The reason that we went ahead with the construction was that we were under some financial obligations with our contractor. It would have cost us considerably more in time and money had we delayed it.

We were under DFO regulations to actually get this done. We are still under regulations to get this project done, and rather than waste another couple of years, we maintain that we were not actually breaching the requirement unless we started using it. So we're not using it yet and we will have the permit before we start using it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. I think it's deadly important that we comply with the provisions of any laws permitting requirements because anywhere, I suppose, where the inspectors are involved, particularly in the private sector, when constructions of major projects are underway, there's normally a stop work order issued for companies or agencies and not doing work.

It's a little embarrassing for our own government to be building, proceeding along, and urging the contractor. Eventually, someone is going to be hit with a liability, or a charge for that matter.

So I would urge the minister that there'll be no confusion in the interpretation of the regulations and when it should begin, because that should be something that, as a matter of fact, is fundamentally important to the success of the project or whatnot.

Could the minister reassure us that we will comply with these regulations and that there'll be no confusion with the interpretation of these regulations? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that will be done. We have ongoing dialogue with the regulatory boards and we'll make sure that there's closer communication so that that doesn't happen anymore. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I have another issue that I raised earlier in my opening remarks as a chairman.

I said earlier we were pleased to hear that the minister indicated that the Municipal Training Organization is carrying out a course for, I assume, for municipal operators for water quality. If that's the case, exactly where are these guidelines or standards coming from? Are these qualified water quality surveyors or whatnot?

Can the minister indicate to us if they are in compliance with the national standards or GN standards? How is it actually being developed so that they will eventually be qualified to do water quality sampling in our communities? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question is a very valid one. We do get feedback from the nationally recognized certification program and that's where it's coming from. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Yes, we had a very general sort of a presentation from the minister and her officials on that. Could the minister provide a more detailed, specific course outline so that the public, at least this Assembly, will have a full understanding of exactly what kind of course is being developed and whether or not this is just not an ad hoc kind of short term thing but one that we can see clearly that it's a proper course or whatnot.

So it would be helpful if you would table that outline of the standards being offered to the individuals being trained. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can do that as requested. We will table a detailed course outline. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. We are on J-6. I would like to advise the members (interpretation ends) of a caution. Be careful when you're using the term "in your view." That can be meant as asking for an opinion, instead use words such as why, or, and how does this happen. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: In my opinion, Mr. Chairman, I have an absolute reason for using it because it's like a preamble. Your second shot is going to come in a lot sharper once you get a general comment from the minister. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation) At this time we are on page J-6. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Detail of Capital. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Grants and Contributions. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$2.4 million. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to get some clarification from the minister on how they... As in my opening comments I mentioned there is a municipal infrastructure deficit of between \$500 million to \$600 million, and the department only has, at least in this capital plan, \$23 million to allocate to projects over the next year.

She mentioned in her opening comments, the work of the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee, which is comprised of three mayors and three GN employees, I know, Mr. Chairman, as a former mayor, as many of us around the table are former mayors, there are 25 mayors in Nunavut. How does the minister get 25 mayors in Nunavut to agree on the allocation of the limited funding that's available for these projects? Can you take us through that process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Dawe to answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A quick outline of the process by which we boil down the projects:

It starts, basically, with a consultation process through our own regional people and the Members of the Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee. That committee consists of not all 26 mayors, as the member might've indicated, but it actually consists of three mayors. They are members of NAM that are appointed by the Nunavut Association of

Municipalities to our committee. The committee also consists of three GN employees, two from CGS and one from the Department of Finance.

So, basically, there is consultation done with all of the communities and we gather together the information on the projects that they would like to see done.

There's basically a process of prioritizing and trying to allocate the money that we figure is reasonable that we should be able to get towards the most important projects. That's a joint venture of the CGS people and the NAM people to this committee. Those are the projects that eventually wind their way up through and come on the table as you see the program before you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Dawe for that answer. I understand the process, but if I'm a mayor of any Nunavut community and I really want a community hall or a new hamlet office, and I believe we need it because our facilities are 25 to 30 years old and our community has grown substantially, I'm putting my faith and trust in this committee.

How is a mayor who, let's say, is not on the committee, how can I have faith and trust, and be reassured that my project that my community has asked me to get for them is going to receive some serious consideration. And if not be a priority project in this go-around, let's say, in this fiscal year or in the next fiscal year, what stage will my projects for important community infrastructure become a priority?

Because after all, what you do is go through this process every year. So do those projects remain in the priority line, or do they drop off and you start all over again on square one? It's quite a wonder it becomes another case of six people sitting down and cutting and chopping, and narrowing it down to \$23 million worth of projects.

I was wondering if you can give me a sense of how, if I was a mayor, that my projects will be priorities and at some stage, if not this year but the next year, at some future year, that that project is going to make it to the top of the list? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Dawe answer the question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, the decision is made on a ranking system basis, which attempts to address the issues that you're talking about in that how one mayor can be sure that another mayor is giving them a fair shake, if you'll allow me to paraphrase.

Every single project is considered; that's an operational part of the committee. The projects go into a process where they go through a ranking system. We look at the technical merit of things; we look at the costs of it; we look at are there other ways of doing it; how important is it; what kind of risks there are if we're not doing it; and these are all the assigned waiting factors through a system which basically removes the impartiality so that lobbying, if you like, is kind of minimized.

We can make recommendations purely on the basis of priorities for what money is available. What happens to those projects after the fact of the ones that don't get approved? We try to keep them. If we get them in the capital plan, we try to move them through the capital plan fairly reliably until they come to the year where they can get funded.

Having said that, we do recognize the priorities change and one of the main goals of the NCIAC for the year coming up is to re-consult on a major basis with the communities, and say, "Okay, we have some projects left. Are these still priorities? They have no priorities." So it's an evolving process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Dawe for that explanation. I don't really have a concern with the process. It's just the question of whether my projects, as a mayor... obviously, I'm not, but I have been there and know what it's like. We lobbied for three or four years before we got our water supply line, even though it was like 27 years old and breaking down all the time. So I know how complicated and convoluted the process is, but that was before this committee.

So if I was a mayor and you make promises to your constituents, they elect you, obviously, because you say you're going to deliver certain capital projects to your community, you want to have some assurances that your community's priorities are being taken seriously and will eventually plan it into the capital plan. I understand the waiting system as well.

I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, and I've asked this questions before. We do have 25 communities in Nunavut, I'm wondering if the minister and her staff have had time to assess all of the infrastructure in each community. What's currently there? What should be there? What the age of all of the infrastructure is and when it should be replaced. How long past its expiry date is it? What the total cost, by community, would be to replace the all of the infrastructure.

Also, Mr. Chairman, if I had an opportunity to take a typical Nunavut community, maybe take two or three out, because they are different sizes, and compare them with communities in Southern Canada to see how we stack up against southern communities in terms of the quality of infrastructure that we have and its impact on improving the

living standards of the residents in our communities? Have you done anything like that, or is that something you're thinking about doing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to get Mr. Dawe to answer it a little bit later.

(interpretation ends) I wanted to mention, because you keep referring to 25 communities, of course, there are 25 communities, but one community in Nunavut is quite successful in acquiring their capital plans because that one community is consistent every year when they do their planning for capital plans. They have their priorities from J-1 to J-5. It never changes; every year, it's the same one that they present. When it's not changing, then it's easier for the committee to determine that this community has been consistent and this is what their priorities are.

I just wanted to state that because I've learned from one community where they are very consistent and very strong in what they want, and I think that that's a good example to follow because some communities change their priorities when new mayors or when new councils are elected. They kind of jump around and that has been a factor in the past when they present their priority plans and it's kind of hard to... last year they wanted this but this year now, it's different again.

So I wanted to state that but I will give it to Mr. Dawe to add to what you were asking. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have, basically, two approaches in the inventory type of question that the member raises. One is through our insurance program in that we assist the municipalities in insuring all of their infrastructure, and of course, there are assessments done with the value of it and what we need to do to insure it. So that necessarily puts a value on some of this infrastructure.

More directly, we do have a management system in place, it's called RECAP, which is an acronym for re-engineered capacity in... it fools me. It's basically an infrastructure management computer program, if you like, that lists all of the infrastructure that we have, its value, and a maintenance schedule for costing out the life cycle of it.

We do have our municipal infrastructure, ARMET, but we don't have it fully populated yet with the final costs and that's a work in progress that we're working on as we can get to it.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Dawe for that information. I am interested in that RECAP program.

Some of us are getting a little older and our memories are starting to fade, but I can remember very well when we got our community hall and when we got our ice arena, and all of the other sorts of stuff have been around Cambridge Bay for quite a long time. You start to lose track of time but you know that your infrastructure is old and needs to be replaced or upgraded.

So that information will be good to have available for mayors, standing committees, and for your own purposes. I look forward to getting an opportunity some time to read some of the reports that have been generated from the RECAP particularly for my community and my riding.

I wanted to ask the minister, Mr. Chairman, because she mentions it a couple of times here – the Gas Tax and the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Funds, and there's another one, the Building Canada Plan - these are all federal government programs to help communities across Canada to provide infrastructure for their communities.

You're preparing a document; I think... are you preparing a document to do some lobbying? Is there any lobbying going on currently in Ottawa with the federal officials and with the government to continue to make the case that Nunavut needs a major investment or infusion of infrastructure funds for our communities? Can you give us an update of your lobbying efforts in Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, every year we go down for a meeting and I meet with my federal counterparts. The deputy ministers also go down for meetings, maybe even more than us

(interpretation ends) My department officials are negotiating the Framework Agreement in collaboration and it is anticipated that the Framework Agreement will be finalized some time in the fall of 2007.

There's also another program called the Building Canada Fund. This has been announced and its intent is to provide reliable long-term funding for infrastructure planning and development. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the answer. So there is some progress in Ottawa, I guess, albeit it's still small levels of funding.

Can you give us... you probably provided this information in the past, but under the Building Canada Plan or the Building Canada Fund that you mentioned, how much

funding would be available for Nunavut per year or let's say the next five years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Almost \$250 million is guaranteed funding to be delivered to infrastructure projects in Nunavut from 2007-14, which has worked out to about \$25 million a year for the next seven years. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. That's a lot of money for us but I hope it will be well used. Is it money that's specifically targeted for certain infrastructure projects, or is it available for any kind of Municipal Infrastructure project in Nunavut with no strings attached? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let my deputy respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The eligibility categories are still being negotiated, as Minister Brown mentioned, we are negotiating on the Framework Agreement.

The category that we reviewed is quite extensive. It covers pro-economy for... because this is a national-wide theme, on the highway system, clean environment, public transit, green energy, solid waste management, strong communities that's on drinking water disaster mitigation, cultural sports, tourism, and regional and local airports.

It covers a lot of eligibility. As we are just negotiating on the framework, the scope isn't narrowed down yet but it's currently a lot to do with territorial, national, and municipal infrastructure. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and her officials for that information. When do you anticipate the Framework Agreement being concluded? The reason I ask that is I'm trying to get a sense of when the funds from that program will be available for use in Nunavut. What fiscal year will it be? Will it be the current or the next fiscal year, or the fiscal year beyond that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let my deputy respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The program that was announced is to start for this fiscal year. So we are negotiating on the Framework Agreement. As the minister mentioned, we are probably one of the first jurisdictions to sort of come to some agreements.

We are still doing an internal review of the legal, financing, and policy-wise. Once that is done, the next step would be to negotiate on the funding agreements and once those funding agreements are done, the funding would flow through from the federal government. So it is our anticipation to get this funding for this fiscal year.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that information. Just to clarify, when you say this fiscal year, do you mean the current fiscal year, 2007-08, or next fiscal year, 2008-09? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 2007-08 fiscal year. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Brown. Go back to page J-6. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Detail of Capital. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Grants and Contributions. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$2.4 million. Total Grants and Contributions. \$2.4 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Tangible Assets. Headquarters Region. Total Headquarters Region. \$3,895,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Qikiqtaaluk Region, including J-7. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$3,652,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Kivalliq Region. Total Kivalliq Region. \$4.4 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Kitikmeot Region. Total Kitikmeot Region. \$6.5 million. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple questions here. Although Cambridge Bay is not on the list, on one of the committees I thought I would ask for an update on the status of the projects that were on a capital plan last year - the sewage lagoon and the dumps - if the minister could give me an update on those projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will let Mr. Dawe respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman. The reason that you don't see some of the money that you're talking about here is because some of that work is funded from the Gas Tax program, which, of course, is not Vote 2 here and it's not voted here in this program.

The member is quite right, there is quite a bit of work in Cambridge Bay's schedule. We have, at the moment for the solid waste work, a Request for Proposals out at the moment to stake an engineering consultant now to do the detailed design work for what's necessary at the landfill. That's the landfill - the water flow problem through them - and the metal waste as well.

That consultant, I believe, is now already in place and that work should be proceeding. I know we have done the preliminary work and they should be now proceeding to detailed design.

The sewage lagoon work is not quite at that same schedule, it was funded more recently than the landfill work but, again, it is proceeding. We're trying to get our consultants in place to get the detailed design and schedules done.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Dawe and the minister for that update. My next question ties back to my earlier discussion on the work of the committee prioritizing various capital projects.

I know in Cambridge Bay that, over the years, we have asked for a larger community hall, a new hamlet complex, and we've talked about a new metal waste dump, or certainly improvements to the metal waste dump.

I wonder if the minister or Mr. Dawe can give me an idea of where those three projects are in terms of priority ranking through that process that you described earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Dawe respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The metal dump project, as I just mentioned, is already funded and is proceeding. It's part of the overall solid waste project that's underway there at the moment.

The other projects for Cambridge Bay... okay, we don't have either of the other two projects that the member mentioned on the capital plan at the moment.

The one thing I can advise is that, as I mentioned before, it's time that we went out and re-consulted with the communities now. That's one of the major initiatives that we have in progress for the year coming. It's to get out and redo the entire round of community consultation process that we did before because projects like the ones that the member mentioned, if they were community projects two or three years ago when we did the first round of consultation, if they were not funded, it's now time to check to see if they are community projects that still have high priority, or are these new ones that we should be moving up higher on the priority.

Basically, as we're working our way through some of the NCIAC projects, we have to keep aware of these things and give opportunity for change where it's required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Dawe for that information. It's good news to hear on the solid waste site. When I heard the term "solid waste," I was thinking about the main garbage dump but I see now it includes the metal waste dump. That will be quite a challenge for you because you've got like 30 or 40 years of history in that metal waste dump.

I know somewhere in your materials I read you're trying to develop a policy of repatriating vehicles back south. I don't know if you can repatriate vehicles going back to 1950s or 1940s, but certainly, they are there if anyone wants to look at them.

In terms of the community hall that we have there right now, that is 20 years old and it's in good shape. I believe and many of us in the community believe that it's undersized for the population. I was in there last week for a community event and there wasn't enough room for all of the folks to gather around. And, I have been in there for funerals, and for some of the funerals, you have to stand out in the porch and outside. So it's just not large enough for the size of the community.

The hamlet offices that we have are, I think, close to 30 years old and they weren't originally designed as a hamlet complex. They were designed... in the Kitikmeot, it used to be administered out of the Fort Smith region, so they needed some government offices. So they quickly built those offices. I think it was in 1979 or 1980.

When the government moved into the Enokhok Centre, they turned it over to the hamlet. It wasn't designed as a proper hamlet complex. Over the years, the administration at the hamlet has grown significantly and it's overcrowded. The building is wearing down and they really need a new facility. I know when I was mayor in the early part of this decade, it was a hot topic then and discussed several times. So I can't see seven years on that it isn't still a priority for the community.

I appreciate the minister's comments about when a community makes the same case every year for the same projects, you know, a priority, and maybe that's what Cambridge Bay has to do is changing it every couple of years.

I certainly hope that we do get out to do some consultations with Cambridge Bay that you do bring up the community hall with them, the hamlet offices, and the other facility that they need over there.

So with that, I'll end my questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't pay attention and didn't realize that there was a question. I don't know whether there was a question or not but I'll have Mr. Dawe to respond to that question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Brown. There was no question. We're on page J-8. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, in view of time, I move that we report progress. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Thank you, Minister Brown and your officials. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can escort the witnesses.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 16 and the Capital Estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for October 26:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 16

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 26 at ten o'clock in the morning.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:01*

