



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung)

Chair, Management and Services Board

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq

(Nattilik)

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

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Striking Committee; Management and Services Board; Regular Members' Caucus

Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

Striking Committee; Management and Services Board

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk

(South Baffin)

Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Joe Allen Evyagotailak

(Kugluktuk)

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

Hon. Ed. Picco

(Iqaluit East)

Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for Multiculturalism, Homelessness and Immigration; Management and Services Board

David Alagalak

(Arviat)

James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

Deputy Speaker; Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Peter Kattuk

(Hudson Bay)

Steve Mapsalak

(Akulliq)

Co-Chair, Full Caucus; Regular Members' Caucus

Hon. David Simailak

(Baker Lake)

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

James Arvaluk

(Tunnunuiq)

Levi Barnabas

(Quttiktuq)

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

Hon. Patterk Netser

(Nanulik)

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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

Hon. Levinia Brown

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services

Hon. Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

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

Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, October 26, 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): Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Netser to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker's Ruling

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning, Members. Before we proceed to the Orders of the Day, I will be making a Speaker's Ruling.

On October 24, 2007, the Minister of Health and Social Services raised a point of order during question period in relation to a line of questioning posed by the Member for Iqaluit Centre.

The House will undoubtedly be pleased to hear that my ruling on this matter will be brief and to the point.

It is clearly a difference of opinion between the members involved as to how the public should interpret the proceedings of the House with respect to Bill 11, which was passed earlier this year.

I note that both Members have offered us vigorous questions and responses on this issue, which is completely appropriate for a parliamentary forum such as this.

Disagreements between Members over how to interpret information are to be expected and permitted, so long as Members do not allege that another member is being untruthful.

I would also note that when raising a point of order, it is important that Members clearly indicate how they believe that our Rules have been contravened. Points of order are properly used to draw the attention of the Chair to possible breaches of our Rules. They should not be used by Members to express positions within the context of a debate or line of questioning.

I find that there is no point of order. Thank you.

Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 088 – 2(4): Health Committees of Council

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning to everyone. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to speak about the Health Committees of Council conference that was held on October 16 to 18 here in Iqaluit.

This is the first Health Committees of Council conference to take place face-to-face, and I am pleased to say that it was a success.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that communities drive health promotion, prevention and awareness activities. It is the communities that know and can express their needs best.

We look to the Health Committees of Council members, to provide us with ongoing community input. This partnership helps our government provide individuals, families and communities in building self-assured, caring communities with health and social conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the committees for their participation, advice and valuable input provided during this important occasion.

A close working relationship with the Health Committees of Council gives our government the feedback it needs to make sure our activities are effective at the community level. The advice we receive helps us evaluate the suitability and effectiveness of our service delivery.

Mr. Speaker, the goal of the conference was to discuss the proposed Public Health Strategy, the Health Integration Project, wellness programming, and to formally adopt the committees terms of reference.

Our way forward in public health hinges on meaningful partnerships at the community, regional, and territorial levels. Continuing to build on these partnerships, through improved communication, sharing of resources, support, and empowerment is a priority of the Department of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, together, with the Health Committees of Council, we are taking a proactive approach by focusing on health promotion, wellness, education, and community level interventions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Netser.

Minister's Statement 089 – 2(4): Assessment Rates & Rebate

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that, on October 23, the Workers' Compensation Board released some good news that will positively affect both employers and workers in Nunavut. For 2008, the Year's Maximum Insurable Remuneration, which is the maximum amount of salary or wages for which a worker is fully covered by the WCB in the event of a workplace injury, will increase from \$69,200 to \$70,600. As well, the average provisional assessment rate will remain at \$1.71 per every \$100 of assessable payroll.

The WCB Governance Council sets the average assessment rate each year. Through strong stewardship of the accident fund, the WCB is able to maintain last year's average assessment rate. The average assessment rate charged to northern employers not only continues to be stable, it is also once again one of the lowest rates in Canada. However, this is not the only good news for Nunavut employers. Largely as a result of favourable investment returns, the WCB was 132 percent funded last year.

Mr. Speaker, the WCB is passing this success on to its stakeholders, in the form of an assessment rebate. Nunavut and NWT employers in good standing with the WCB will receive a 30 percent rebate on their paid 2006 assessment premium. Cheques will be issued and mailed to employers in good standing by the end of this year. Overall, the rebate, Mr. Speaker, totals nearly \$10.5 million.

The WCB is dedicated to ensuring its services are affordable for employers while still providing fair benefits to workers. The WCB continues to help northern employers keep their workers safe by making prevention a priority, and by living out its mission to promote workplace safety and care for injured workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education and Minister responsible for Energy, Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 090 – 2(4): Increase in Apprentices

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning. The Department of Education believes in the need for a skilled, well-trained work force so that Nunavummiut can take advantage of the opportunities that lay before us. A major part of our efforts is to ensure we have experienced trades people to help build, repair, operate and serve as a foundation for our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to report that over the past six months, we have seen more than a 50 percent increase in the number of registered apprentices here in Nunavut.

Previously, numbers were on an average of about 115 apprentices a year; now Mr. Speaker, today we have over 175 Nunavummiut pursuing a registered apprentice trade.

Mr. Speaker, there are many partners involved in this growth. From employers who assist students obtaining their trade certification, to staff and agencies that work diligently to provide advice, to those who demonstrate commitment to moving their skills sets forward, all should be commended, Mr. Speaker.

As the department continues to provide new training opportunities and expand on existing programs, we are committed to developing skills sets and enticing new employment prospects. Work on the construction of the Nunavut Trades School and the progress in pre-trades programs in our schools is evidence of that dedication. Trades in Nunavut is growing and attracting more and more interest every day. Mr. Speaker, with the ongoing support of this House and the commitment shown by Nunavut employers, agencies, apprentices and others, the future, indeed, looks bright. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 091 – 2(4): Project Management In-Service with CGS Project Managers and Officers – May 14 to 18, 2007

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to announce that the department held a Project Management In-Service for all Project Management staff in May of 2007. The department has developed an annual plan to consider and implement improved client-oriented services to all GN departments to maximize our capital budgets. These meetings were an important part of that plan.

The department conducted an initial client survey to fully understand the concerns and expectation of CGS, and better recognize the expertise across departments for management of capital projects. This initiative was based on the GN's desire and need to improve client expertise, as well as offer the best service possible to our clients. The meeting addressed these issues and concerns.

Mr. Speaker, the department has an appreciation of departmental capital management resources. We understand that resources vary dependent on the number and complexity of projects a specific department has within its mandate. These in-service meetings are important to CGS. They allow us to fulfill our commitment to ensuring our Project Management staff offers the best service possible to each GN department.

Mr. Speaker, this in-service was one step in the department's efforts to improve how we manage capital dollars on behalf of all our client departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 092 – 2(4): 2007 Summer Student Employment Equity Program

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of the continued success of the Summer Student Employment Equity Program. Over this summer, 18 communities, 172 students were hired and 141 of them, or 82 percent, were beneficiaries. Fourteen different departments and agencies participated in the summer student program.

As is in past years, Mr. Speaker, there was significant demand for Nunavut Government summer student jobs. Again, the number of applications this past summer was far more than the number of positions available. Despite creating an appeals process for student applicants, we did not receive any appeals. With the cooperation of departments, students were provided with jobs in a timely manner, and faced fewer obstacles and issues.

A unique opportunity was made available to students in this year's program. As you know, the Western Premiers' Conference was held in Iqaluit in July. Six students were selected and assigned as youth ambassadors for each of the jurisdictions represented at the conference. This provided an opportunity for students to interact with and learn from delegates from across Western Canada and in turn, students were able to assist the delegates better understand Nunavut. All the students that took part were very pleased with their role in the conference and we are confident that this experience will assist them in their future endeavours.

Mr. Speaker, the Summer Student Employment Equity Program will continue to provide Nunavut's young future leaders with valuable and relevant work experience within the Government of Nunavut in a wide variety of occupations and communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 202 – 2(4): Governor General's Order of Canada to Reverend Mike Gardener

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to offer my congratulations and I'm sure all members will agree.

This morning, the Right Honourable Michèle Jean, Governor General of Canada, will bestow the honour to one of my constituents. He is known around our communities that he has lived as *Ajurirsuiji*. That's all I have to say and everybody will know who.

>> *Applause*

Translated as the word "The Reverend," Mike Gardener as a member of the Order of Canada.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mike since the 1970s when I was a troubled young man. And he, along with his wonderful family, showed wonderful care to our families during our times of need.

Since arriving in the North as a missionary in the 1950s, Mike Gardener has travelled by dogsled and lived amongst us as Inuit, learning our language, customs and history. In Iqaluit, where he currently resides, he has mobilized community action on a number of challenging social issues. He also served with the city's Adult Justice Committee during our days with the Northwest Territories and on our elder's society. Currently retired, he continues to provide comfort and pastoral care to seniors, bereaved families and families in crisis.

I'm sure all members want to join me in congratulating him and his wonderful family for the heartfelt and well deserved Order of Canada. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

Member's Statement 203 – 2(4): Preventing Pollution in Arctic Waters

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start, I wish my daughter a happy birthday, Sheena Arreak, who is in Clyde River. It's her birthday today.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of an issue recently raised by our own Minister of Environment and the concerns of my constituents: the prevention of pollution in our arctic waters.

Mr. Speaker, concerns over our environment, especially the terminal effects of pollution and the dumping of waste, have been in the headlines across Canada and the world for some time. Global warming and climate change are key examples of pollution's deadly affects.

Mr. Speaker, studies have repeatedly shown that toxic chemicals from waste and pollution are entering our food chain. Our marine mammals have been tested and shown to have high levels of PCBs in their fats. Levels of mercury in fish are rising. The safety of our country food is continually at risk.

Mr. Speaker, even from a practical point of view, the dumping of garbage at sea risks the lives of our hunters and boaters. Anyone whose outboard motor has seized because a piece of plastic has wrapped around the propeller shaft can tell you how dangerous it is to throw bags of garbage overboard.

Mr. Speaker, the decision to allow our Canadian Navy to dump garbage in our Arctic Ocean is dangerous and misguided. Our navy should be focusing on protecting and enhancing our marine security.

Mr. Speaker, Operation Nanook was a military operation held in our coastal waters this past summer. Our navy, in cooperation with our Coastguard services and the RCMP, conducted a number of exercises and drills related to our marine security. I was very pleased that Nunavut could host such an important activity.

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

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

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, enhancing our marine security does mean protection our waters against terrorists and terrorist activities or devices. As Operation Nanook demonstrated, it also means fighting organized crime, enhancing search and rescue capabilities, and protecting our fishing interests.

Mr. Speaker, enhancing our marine security also means combating marine pollution. I believe that our navy should not be adding to the problem of marine pollution. In fact, I believe quite the opposite.

I believe the navy should be monitoring the ships and other marine traffic that travels through our arctic waters to ensure that they don't dump pollution such as bags of garbage and oily bilge water.

Mr. Speaker, I would like our Minister of Environment to know that he has my full support and the support of my constituents on this issue. I urge my fellow Members of the Legislative Assembly to stand behind all efforts to protest against any additional pollution of our arctic waters and to protect our fragile marine environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 204 – 2(4): Environmental Concerns

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is Friday and I wanted to say that our colleague is recovering in Winnipeg.

First of all, I would like to raise the issue because it is similar to what my colleague mentioned, especially in Nunavut, if we look at the environment, we are getting concerned. Even our Prime Minister is concerned about the pollutants globally and about climate change.

I also wanted to state that that is not the only problem, and we have to keep the environment in Nunavut clean. Now we can say that the work of the government to improve the situation, such as the recycling program, which can be used to get a rebate off of the material.

That is very good, and we should see more of that, but we all contribute to the problem and it is bad for the hunters when they are trying to eke out a living. These plastic bags out to be found everywhere on the land, not only in the communities, but also out on the land, everywhere they are a real problem nowadays. We can control that. We don't have to ask the world, "Please don't throw these harmful materials to our environment."

Nowadays there is biodegradable material available. While being in Iqaluit I have had one plastic bag for three days which I got from the Northmart. I can see that in our land these plastic bags and they will not biodegrade and they will not spoil, they are very bad.

I wanted to tell the government that we should make a policy where we'd be able to help the environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Your timing was very prompt. Members' Statements. Mr. Netser.

Member's Statement 205 – 2(4): 35th Anniversary Hamlet of Coral Harbour

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past summer in Coral Harbour we celebrated the 35th year as a hamlet and I wish to thank the people who came, such as the mayor. I also wish to thank the Members for Arviat and Rankin Inlet North, who were able to come to our community. Rhoda Angutialuk and Mauya Etuk worked really hard. We are very proud of them and appreciated their effort.

There were singers from Arviat, Baker Lake, Taloyoak, Igloolik, and from Coral Harbour. Andy Alayak from Rankin Inlet was the emcee and he was quite comical, and

we wish to thank him. We want him to move to Coral Harbour now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 206 – 2(4): Concerns with Federal Government's Treatment of Nunavummiut

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You didn't see me yesterday when I raised my hand, so I'm wearing a Pangnirtung tie so you can recognize me, or notice me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about what I heard yesterday as to what the federal government is doing because I also have concerns. In some cases, what the federal government does in Nunavut is not acceptable, especially with what we heard from the Prime Minister this past summer. I have some concerns. While I was here, I heard that we were sent to a different place and felt alienated that we were treated by the federal government like that.

If they're going to dumping waste into our waters, that is not acceptable to our wildlife and to the environment. It seems like the federal government is just doing whatever they want to do. At that time when they sent us to residential schools, they just took us and sent us there, so we had to leave our families. They seem to be doing that again.

In Nunavut, it is very expensive to live up here and there some people who are hungry...

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk, your tie is very appealing but it cannot hold on your timing. You have to ask for unanimous consent to conclude your statement.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am seeking unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I'm trying to say is that trying to survive in Nunavut has to be a priority because we are facing a difficult situation because we have heard the gasoline prices are going to increase in the Nunavut communities.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, what I'm trying to say is to encourage the federal government, let them know and find out what the situation is to live up here. There are

people out there who are hungry and they have a lot of expensive things to buy and they can't really afford it anymore.

For that reason, I believe that we need to encourage the federal government to resolve these situations. I'm very pleased and proud of the fact that they provide funding for Nunavut but there are negative things that are occurring in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, let's look at the negative things happening first, and then encourage the federal government to look at the situation that Nunavut is in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 207 – 2(4): Recognition of Ulikattaqs of Repulse Bay

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning to acknowledge the people from Repulse Bay who have saved an individual.

Mr. Speaker, a few days ago a couple, a man and a wife, had an accident during their snowmobile ride. Both of them fell into the water. The husband is a full-time hunter and he provides food for the people of Repulse Bay. John Pingasu, him and his wife had fallen into the water.

It took them a while to get out of the water because the weather was really cold. Once they got out of the water, they started walking. They wore caribou fur, so that's how they had survived.

The wife was becoming very weak but they were found. Tony and Sarah Ulikattaq had found the couple. They were then able to get help from Luuti Paskuali Putulik and George Putulik. They took them home, changed their clothes, and they were able to take them home.

So they rescued these individuals and I believe that they have to be acknowledged for rescuing people. Once they got to their community, this couple was sent out by medivac. So we definitely need to acknowledge these people whom I just mentioned and I am very proud of them and thank them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Members' Statements. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 208 – 2(4): Nunavut Health Benefits

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning. Mr. Speaker, I rise today since we met with the Disability Council when they requested to meet with us to talk about their concerns. And Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you for writing a letter to all the Members of the Legislative Assembly in regard to this issue that we need to deal with their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, the point I want to raise is inside the Nunavut Health Benefits that our constituents require according to their needs. They are not included in there; they are not covered by that.

Mr. Speaker, we all represent our communities, which include people with disabilities. They require motorized wheelchairs which are very expensive. They could be used by disabled people but they cost over \$9,000. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, this has to be set properly because they are not even covered under Nunavut Health Benefits.

Our constituencies, whom we represent, have to purchase their own equipment. Also, during my consultation visits in the High Arctic, some of the homes who house disabled people don't even have ramps. So therefore, they can't purchase wheelchairs with motors.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be raising this question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 209 – 2(4): National CBC Award – Joanna Awa

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House about a national award for a constituent of mine.

Mr. Speaker, well known CBC personality Joanna Awa has been selected from among her peers across Canada for the prestigious CBC National Peer Award.

Mr. Speaker, Joanna has become a fixture on CBC Radio. Her voice is well recognized across Nunavut, and indeed, in Labrador, Northern Quebec, Northwest Territories, and even in the Yukon. It is well known that our hospital patients who received a CBC North feed at southern hospital boarding homes enjoy listening to and look forward to hearing Joanna on CBC.

Mr. Speaker, she has been in the business for quite a while. I know about 20 years ago, Joanna interviewed me for the first time about my seal flipper pie recipe. Mr. Speaker, 20 years later, Joanna is still going strong and her energy, her commitment, and professionalism are legendary, Mr. Speaker, within the ranks of the CBC family, not only here in Nunavut but nationally.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of this House I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Nunavut's own Joanna Awa on her CBC National Peer Award, and when she is in Toronto on November 14 to pick up her award, I'm sure we, here in Nunavut, will be cheering her on. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 210 – 2(4): Predators – Thrashers Hockey Game – 3rd Star
Jordin Tootoo**

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning everybody. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I made it very clear that I wasn't a Predator fan but today I am a predator fan, a different predator, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that my cousin, Jordin Tootoo, plays with the Nashville Predators and in the game last night, they played against the Atlanta Thrashers. He was able to help his team out. He provided a goal in the second period and assisted in the third period, and he was the third star of the game.

So I just want to ask all members in joining me in congratulating him on a great game last night and wish him continued success through the year. I know they have not been off to a great start. I also know that he got his two points last night with about nine minutes of ice time. We know that if he had more ice time, he would probably do a lot better.

Even my two colleagues from Iqaluit here, always hope, wish, and pray that he could join the teams that they cheer for and provide some spark to those teams, but they'll have to just keep trying and hoping.

But again, I would like to ask all members to join me in congratulating Jordin on a great game last night and I'm very proud of him. I'm sure his parents are very proud of his performance and wish him all the best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Members, when I have the opportunity to introduce our pages for this week, I was told that they would probably be heading home today. To my right, Keifer Kikoak, thank you, and Percy Ikualaak, to my left, thank you. And further down behind my colleagues,

Jessamyn Mallory, thank you, and right behind Minister Aglukkaq, I would also like to thank Sarah Ali. Thank you for being our pages for this week. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Back to Orders of the Day. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Speaker's Caution

Members, before we proceed with Oral Questions, I wish to remind all members of the importance of correct parliamentary form during our proceedings.

As members are aware, questions and answers must go through the Chair. Members should refrain from the use of the word, "You." Members should, instead, refer to "The Minister" or "The Member."

This will assist your chair in maintaining order, and contribute to the decorum of the House. Thank you.

We'll proceed with Orders of the Day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 256 – 2(4): Accreditation of Qikiqtani General Hospital

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the minister on the opening of the new Qikiqtani General Hospital that took place last week. And I do apologize that I was not able to attend the opening ceremonies because as you know, I was busy here with a number of my colleagues holding public hearings on the Language Bills currently under review by the committee.

All Members of the House, Mr. Speaker, will recall that the Baffin Regional Hospital lost its accreditation in 2005. Accreditation is an evaluation of an organization's services and operations set against national standards.

With the opening of the new Qikiqtani General Hospital, residents of the Baffin region will once again need to be assured that the services of this new facility meet national standards. Can the minister clarify what specific steps have been taken to achieve accreditation at the Qikiqtani General Hospital? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The work has been ongoing for some time now in terms of trying to address the accreditation of the hospital. The department has been working closely with the organization to address many of these recommendations coming out of the Accreditation Report.

The department's plan is to produce its plans to the accreditation organization early in the New Year. At which time the accreditation company will be evaluating what we have done to address many of these recommendations outlined in the report.

Some of the work that has gone to date includes increasing PYs to address the recommendations. At the same time, with the move to the new hospital, many of the recommendations outlined in the Accreditation Report will be addressed with the expansion of the facility and a newer modern facility.

So, the work is ongoing, in fact, the accreditation company representatives were recently in Iqaluit again to meet with my staff. The work is ongoing to date. 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. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated in her response that there are increased PYs, and I know that when the hospital first lost its accreditation, low staffing levels was a critical issue.

Can the minister explain what steps have been taken to ensure that staffing levels would be adequate to provide the necessary services at their new facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That question's a little bit different from the accreditation positions versus the new facility itself.

When the Accreditation Report came out, 26 new positions were allocated to the hospital to address the accreditation recommendations in itself. Some of these positions were to increase existing positions such as housekeepers, RNs, LPNs, health records, clerk interpreters, dietitians and so on. Many of those positions have been filled and are ongoing as well.

In terms of the hospital itself, with expanded services, the plan right now is to move existing staff from the old hospital to the new hospital as is and as we work towards expanding the services, we'll be looking at additional PYs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for allowing that question to be asked.

Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that a self assessment of the hospital is targeted for completion in the spring. Can the minister clarify what that self assessment will achieve and how it will lead to the successful accreditation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The self assessment will be presented to the Canadian Council on Health Accreditation in the New Year. And what that will achieve will be to address the recommendations coming out of the Canadian Council on Health Accreditation when they did the review a few years ago.

At the same time, again, I note for the record that in the process of addressing the accreditation recommendation, the Canadian Council of Health Service Accreditation changed their standards in the middle of us trying to address their original recommendation. So, the Department of Health has been working very closely with the Canadian Council on Health Accreditation to address both the original report and the new standards that they created.

So the report going forward, in terms of our self assessment, would be to, say, where we are at in terms of those standards and not what they've presented to the council for review. At a later time, they would come back to evaluate us and then they will make a determination of whether we have met the accreditation standards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, staffing levels was one of the key components to the last accreditation, and the minister did indicate that they increased the number of PYs at the hospital.

Could the minister provide us, I don't know if she has it with her but if she doesn't, could she provide us with the status report of the increased positions or the positions that were identified in the Accreditation Report, how many of those had been filled, and if not, with some of them that haven't, when they anticipate filling those positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can provide that information now. We had originally identified 26 positions to the Baffin Regional Hospital. Of the 26 positions, 16 positions have been filled to date. The other positions have been created in different areas and are at different stages of the recruitment process, such as infection control practitioners, quality improvement, risk management, coordination and so on.

When I mentioned earlier that the new hospital opening will help address many of the recommendations outlined in the Accreditation Report, one example of that is that we didn't have the space to put all those 26 positions in the old building.

So, with the opening of the new hospital, the 26 positions required to address the Accreditation Report, we weren't able to fill them all because we didn't have the space. With the opening, we will be able to address more of those recommendations in the accreditation.

Presently, we have 16 filled and the remaining vacant positions are in different stages in the recruitment process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Arreak for Uqqummiut.

Question 257 – 2(4): Review of the “Child & Family Services Act”

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

Mr. Speaker, a number of my constituents have come to me with serious concerns about how the loss relating to child welfare is being applied. Parents not understand why children are being apprehended. This is a lack of communication and information.

Can the minister clarify for the Members of this House what process should be followed to inform parents of the decisions made by social workers regarding the welfare of their children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We currently have the child welfare legislation in place and the role of the social workers in the community is to implement the child welfare legislation in the community.

Obviously, in order for the children to be apprehended, there would have to be very serious allegations made and that would have to be investigated by the social worker. Sometimes it involves the RCMP and so on before a child is apprehended. So depending on the situation, the investigation is conducted by the social workers along with the RCMP.

The primary goal, first and foremost, would be to ensure that the child is protected. As far as I understand, in terms of the process in doing so, the child welfare workers would have to communicate to the family why the child is being apprehended as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. The *Child and Family Services Act* is an Act that we inherited from the Northwest Territories upon division. A number of my colleagues in this House have argued that this law, in its current form, does not take into account the Inuit culture and lifestyle.

Can the minister update for this House what steps have been taken to ensure that the laws and regulations relating to child welfare in Nunavut take into account Inuit culture and lifestyle? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct, the legislation, along with any other legislation from the Northwest Territories, was inherited like any other legislation.

Currently, the legislation is being implemented as is. We have not gone through the formal process of evaluating that child welfare legislation process. Through the IQ committee, I understand that my colleague, Minister Tapardjuk, as Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, has done some review on that legislation at a preliminary stage.

As it is right now, it stands as we inherited it. There has been no change to that. However, we try to incorporate Inuit knowledge into how we deal with child welfare legislation, or when children are apprehended.

Under the Nunavut Foster Parent program, when children are apprehended, the first primary placement would be within a family member of that child. If the child was apprehended from two parents, the social workers would work to ensure that the child is placed with extended family members before the child is placed elsewhere.

So that's one example of the recommendations that had gone through the foster parent group that we work with in trying to deal with children that are apprehended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Once the child is apprehended, some of them are sent to different communities to the people that they're not used to. This is a concern to the Nunavut communities.

Can the minister clarify to this House whether the *Child and Family Services Act* will be reviewed with a view to making it more appropriate to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The placement of children with foster parents is a very long process that we follow in evaluating, first of all, whether the individual can be considered as foster parents. We have an evaluation process that involves criminal records checks, that involves medical records checks, home visits and so on. The criteria is quite long, and first, they would also have to volunteer.

Before we can place a child anywhere, we still have to take the steps necessary to ensure that by placing the child in a foster environment, that we're not putting them in danger.

I want to say that for the public that it is a rigorous process that we follow before we place the children. It's not just taking a child away from individuals and placing the child in a family. There's still a process that we have to follow in placing that child with family members as per the requirements under the legislation.

The legislation right now has not identified an area to update in this term of this government. So recognizing that, it has been an issue that has been raised in the past, we are internally trying to see how we can deal with that, but I don't expect that legislation will be amended or changed in the term of this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. I know the legislation is going to take some time. A lot of times it's a big concern to their lifestyles when replacing them to another family because their lifestyles and their attitudes change.

The minister answered some of my questions, but we need this legislation as soon as possible, for the *Child and Family Services Act*. Can they put this legislation into effect as soon as possible? Will the minister commit to reviewing the *Child and Family Services Act* before the term of the Legislative Assembly comes to an end? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will consider the member's recommendation and bring it forward to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation. It takes time to go forward and I know we have a number of legislations that we're dealing with during the term of this government. I will put it forward through that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 258 – 2(4): Canadian Dollar Value

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I thought that my colleague was going to be first. I would like to direct my question to the Minister; I believe he's responsible for Consumers; for Economic Development and Tourism. This question is with regard to the strength of the dollar which I believe it is at its highest to date.

I think the minister should have meetings with the consumers in Nunavut because I don't believe there has ever been any such forum. We live in a territory that has extremely high prices and we have to fit our clothing, the hunters have to buy supplies, and the seamstresses have to buy the materials to make the clothing.

With that, would the minister consider having meetings with the retailers? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I apologize. I would like to ask you to identify which department you are directing this question to. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: I am not 100 percent sure which minister is responsible, I know that there is a Minister responsible for Consumer Issues and I believe it's the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Economic Development. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very glad that the member brought up this question. I do know that the goods are brought in by barges and ships, and the products were bought when the Canadian dollar was lower.

We have to keep an eye on whether the price of goods is going to be increasing or decreasing. I have been trying to get a meeting with the North West Company for the last few months and he went to Baker Lake a few months ago but I wasn't able to be there. But I do want to have a meeting with retailers. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sure that the people of Nunavut are eager to find out if you are going to have a meeting with the retailers or not. It's not only the

North West Company that I am talking about; there is also the Arctic Co-operatives and the private companies.

For example, if I say the price of goods is way too expensive, I want to make a comment on the tabled documents which is about the Northern Residents Tax Deduction; on page 2 it says that our price of goods is about 75 percent higher if we compare it to the southern prices. The Employees Union had made that statement in 2003.

When the goods come up here, it's not only the freight cost that's factored in; they put in a 75 or 50 percent over and above that for profit. Is it possible for the minister to have meetings with the retailers to make sure that the prices of goods are kept to a minimum, or to be at a better price? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will try to set up a meeting. I have been trying to make an arrangement to have meetings with the retailers and I will make sure that I pursue it further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question: if the minister was to be able to have a meeting with the retailers, could the minister give us an update on what was discussed and what came about? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we are able to have a meeting, I will make sure that I inform the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 259 – 2(4): Health Benefits Coverage of Scooters/Wheelchairs

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's Statement, I raised an issue and I will direct it to the Minister of Health and Social Services. The department does not cover wheelchairs and scooters, why is that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Non-Insured Health Benefits Program is an insurance program that covers drugs, medical, transportation, dental, medical supplies and equipment, vision care, and wheelchair activities. It's a federal

program that we administer for Inuit in Nunavut. Whether they cover scooters, I'm not sure. I know they cover wheel chairs for people with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. Does the Department of Health and Social Services look at the applications to see if it is essential to have that equipment? I have heard of individuals who bought their own wheelchairs and scooters. What is the minister going to do about this issue? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The insurance program that we administer on behalf of the federal government for Inuit of Nunavut, when a person goes to the clinic, usually, medication, seeing an eye doctor, or dentist, all of that is covered and patients don't have to apply to receive medication and what not.

I do know that, in some cases, under the insurance program, that if you received eye glasses in one year, you cannot receive another pair of eye glasses under that program until the following year. There are guidelines like that that are being administered.

So I imagine, in that scenario, that that would have been the case if they had to apply or pay out of their own because the insurance coverage covers, say for instance, one pair of eyeglasses every 12 months as a scenario. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister consider reimbursing the individuals if they had bought equipment in over a year as long as they have a receipt proving that they had bought the equipment and if it's obvious that the individual would need that wheel chair? Would the minister consider reimbursing those individuals with receipts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be happy to look into the matter with this individual and evaluate why the individual had to purchase their own wheelchair, and look into the matter. If the member has the receipt, please forward it to me and I'll have my staff follow up on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 260 – 2(4): Health Committees of Council

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services and it concerns the health committees of council.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to hear that the health committees of council had their first conference take place face-to-face. I recall that the health committees of council were established around the year 2000 when the Government of Nunavut eliminated the regional health boards, and for the record, the Kitikmeot still thinks that we should have a regional health board but that's an issue for another day.

My question for the minister; she mentions the terms of reference were signed with the health committees of council: can the minister tell the House how the terms of reference will give a voice to residents regarding health issues in their communities? 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 health committees of council, the terms of reference, what we try to do in developing the terms of reference is also, in the process of doing that, we had consulted with the mayors of all of the Nunavut communities. Many of the committees of council are under the hamlet; they're subcommittees of the hamlet.

So in developing the terms of reference with the committee, we, first of all, had to recognize that there are subcommittees of the council with the emphasis on health. In developing those terms of reference, what we try to outline is the role that they would play in supporting us in our initiatives, such as public health initiatives, and clarify the roles of health professionals in supporting the health committee; how often they would meet, as an example, how they are paid and so on.

So those terms of reference took a long time in developing but what we try to do is really clarify the roles that they would play at the community level in directing the Department of Health in developing wellness initiatives for the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Cambridge Bay health committee of council there has fluctuated between five to eleven members, there have been concerns about not having enough

elders on there and not enough youth. There are too many health department officials on the committee, and then, in some years, the health committee actually didn't function. So we've had those problems.

The concern in my community and I've heard from other mayors over the years, that the health committees don't actually have any powers to make changes, I think it's just an organization that the Government of Nunavut set up where they can say they're exchanging information but nothing really happens.

So, the concern I have is: what powers would the health committee have to advise the minister or the health department? Maybe if I could question the minister if she could expand on what powers and what authorities the health committees of council would have to make meaningful changes at the community level as a benefit to residents. 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 guess to start off; the difference between the boards and the committees is that the committees are not the boards.

So having said that, the aim of the terms of reference that we've been working with is how we can work better with the health committees that were established back in 1999-2000 in the efforts that we're undertaking as a government in the whole area of developing healthy communities.

So the department's approach to trying to deal with them is to seek input from the community level through committees on the whole area of health promotion, prevention, awareness activities by community, and community-driven priorities; what are the priorities of a community in keeping people healthy? It could be teen pregnancy, it could be smoking, it could be FASD; depending on what they are, we want input through the committee.

The other area that we had discussed with the health committees is what are their roles in keeping our staff at the community level in helping us with our nursing, social work, retention, what is their role in that. The health committees do not have direct supervisory responsibility of health centres. They do not supervise our staff, for instance, but certainly, they have a role in sharing information from the community issues to the health care professionals.

Some committees, in the past, have functioned well; some committees have not functioned well, which is another reason why we had gone back to meeting with the committees to come up with a terms of reference that would have some consistency in how we work with the committees at the community level, and consistency in the support that they receive and how they function. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Mr. Speaker, as an MLA, I estimate that 50 percent of the issues that I deal with every week are related to some health issue or concern. I'm sure it's the same with all my colleagues in the House that a lot of their constituents come to them for help with the health department.

A former Health and Social Services Minister told me that the chair of the health committees would have direct access to the executive directors and the Minister of Health, if necessary, to correct problems and address issues.

Can the minister today tell me, is that still the case, rather than come to the MLAs, can constituents go to the health committee chair and then the chair can address the issues? 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 Public Health Healthy Community Initiative, the Public Health Strategy, will further explain the roles of health committees once I table that document in the House.

Health committees in the communities, in my view, have a real strong role in advocating health issues at the community level, and surely, any individual can go to those committees as they are advocates for people in the communities. They have direct access to the staff at the health centre in conveying concerns, as well as the ED; Executive Director. So, that is an option for members.

Again, through the updating of the terms of reference, we hope to clarify that further. At the same time, through the Public Health Strategy initiatives, we're also trying to strengthen the support that they receive at the community level through our department and what role my community health representatives will play in supporting health committees in the development of public health initiatives at the community level. 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 sharing that information.

Mr. Speaker, I was the Mayor of Cambridge Bay in the year 2000 when our health committee was struck and I attended several meetings over the years with that health committee. They wanted to do a lot of work for the community and help the residents out.

I believed at the time and I still believe, in the absence of a regional health board, that a committee like this can play an important role in the community. They have a lot of work to do to operate effectively because, after all, health affects all of us everyday; we know someone who is sick, or ill, or needs help pertaining to health.

My question for the minister: if she wants the committees to play a larger role in the communities, will her department plan to increase the \$10,000 funding that they receive now so that they have resources for studies, health surveys, travel, honourarium, and to hire support staff? 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. Again, recognizing that these committees are subcommittees of the hamlet, it's certainly something that we can look into. What I will say is that what we're looking at internally is how we can better support the health committees that are at the community level and how can we ensure that they get the proper support in conducting their meeting; in conducting their study; in determining what their priorities are around public health priorities at the community level.

So, internally, we are looking at positioning our organization to be more supportive on an ongoing basis to the health committees to address the issues that are important and defining what priorities are at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 261 – 2(4): Who Purchase Skins – Vacant Wildlife Officer Position

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Environment.

I believe it was yesterday that he told me, well, I made him aware that we don't have a wildlife officer and there are probably lots of people who have sealskins to sell. I wonder where they can go to sell their sealskins. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question. This was moved to Economic Development but we do buy sealskins.

Presently, in Sanikiluaq, they don't have a wildlife officer. Maybe the Minister of Economic Development can respond better, but at this time, we don't have a wildlife officer in that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know what to say, then I'll direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. If you can repeat the question for the minister.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister of Environment discuss this with the Minister of Economic Development before two o'clock today? He told me yesterday that he would respond yesterday and he did. So I wonder if he can respond to me before two o'clock today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a tough request by the member but I'm willing to commit to working with my colleague on his issues to the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 262 – 2(4): Cultural Training for Social/Mental Health Workers

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and it's to supplement the question I posed the other day about mental health workers, nurses, and social workers.

I'm representing the whole of Nunavut because for people who have gone to corrections, it's very difficult to talk to people, especially if they're raised down south.

For those applying for positions as social and mental health workers, I wonder if the terms of reference could include knowing the Inuit culture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To clarify further, I think it's important to state that the programs like the Mental Health Counselling Certificate Program or the Social Work Program, in going through their Nunavut Arctic College Program outline yesterday in every subject that's taught under that program, as an example, includes a

component on Inuit culture and traditions, and there's Inuit history and culture. Under Healthy Living, there are Inuit culture components, disease and disorder, and so on. There's a whole number of components around the Inuit culture in the training, as well as in the social work.

So having said that, in our screening criteria, or requirements for our social worker positions, I am not sure if there's a specific line that says, "You must take a course in Inuit culture or history," in the criteria of selecting individuals to be interviewed for jobs, but I can certainly look into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for responding to my question. If that is not in the criteria, can the minister make sure that it is included in there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The positions that we have at the community level, with nurses, social worker positions, community health representatives, alcohol and drug counsellors and so on, as much as we can, we try to train Inuit for those types of professions. Each of those jobs, for example, to be a mental health or social worker, there's certain requirements that they have to manage under the legislation. So the Inuit culture is one piece of that but it's not everything either.

Social workers, or nurses, for instance, to do their jobs, yes, it would be a great benefit to us to have that Inuit knowledge piece but to also diagnose illnesses, it's important to also have training in different areas. So for instance, for people that are in the mental health, or require mental health assessments, we need personnel that will be able to assess whether, in fact, what type of mental illness they may have, whether it is FASD or whether it is schizophrenia, or multi-personality, or some type of disorder.

You need skilled, trained people to make those kinds of assessments as well in interviewing your clients and supporting your clients. So I guess what I am trying to say is that, in looking for people to carry out this work, it's a combination of necessary work and service we need to provide to citizens in Nunavut, which is why the Department of Health has been working really hard to train Inuit in Nunavut to take those jobs so we can combine those two knowledge in delivering that service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for her response.

Perhaps, in some communities, and I'm sure the majority of communities have an elder society where these individuals who are going through hard times, or who have to be helped, or whether they have gone through the court systems, or whether they have personal problems, if they are young people that they go to these elders.

Even though there are social workers, the young people don't like to go see social workers, especially when they are not Inuit. So therefore, there is usually an elder's society in the community. Can they be recognized as social service workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of trying to get support from the people in the communities, I just spoke earlier about the role of Health Committees in addressing some of the work that we're trying to do at the community level.

We have the committees in place that have elders and so on, that can assist us in that work, and perhaps, address some of the concerns the member is raising in the counselling field. It's always up to a person whether they want to approach a certain individual or not, and yes, I know sometimes the comfort issue is a concern.

In terms of trying to provide this service, we do try and work with the community Health Committees in delivering, and the option to any citizen is to go to that group as well at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Question 263 – 2(4): Health Care Facilities' Operations & Medical Care

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get assistance from the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, especially with regard to... and I'm sure I'm not the only one. Sometimes we get confused in the Kivalliq region as to who is responsible for the medical facility and medical health care locally.

For that reason, could the minister elaborate for us, first of all, as to who is responsible and who the boss is for each region, and with regard to health care facilities, as to who the bosses are for those? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the day-to-day operations for the delivery of Health and Social Services in the Kivalliq region, that would be the Executive

Director, Norm Hatlivik, in the Rankin Inlet region that oversees the facilities and in cases where the facilities are operating, he would also be the same person overseeing that.

In capital planning processes, that would be the manager of capital projects along with the deputy minister of the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Mr. Speaker, that clearly puts the question back to the minister. There is, obviously, very confusing states because we do not actually see day-to-day accountability properly handled in the region.

When all the responsibility, as well as the accountability and day-to-day operations, are assigned to one individual within the GN bureaucracy, it's difficult to operate effectively, and that's the case right now. We have files that we're not able to distribute or send to anyone.

Could the minister commit to reviewing the day-to-day operational review processes and accountabilities, and report back to the House at the appropriate time as to whether or not you could improve the operations of the health care facilities and medical care in the region? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would seek from the member clarification on exactly what he means by saying there is no day-to-day accountability and the GN bureaucracy and files; that could mean anything. So if you could help me in clarifying what it is that you want us to review, we certainly can do that.

In terms of the day-to-day delivery of programs at the community levels, through the executive director and supervisors, we can evaluate programs as they go on but if there's a specific concern around a file, I don't know what files he means, so if he can help me clarify that and then, at least, I can start tackling the concerns that he is expressing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Your second supplementary, Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clearly, today the minister has had a number of years on this portfolio. If she was doing her job effectively, I believe she would understand fully where the confusion in the region lies.

I suggested in my preamble that there is a lack of clearly defined responsibilities to who administer facilities, day-to-day health care facilities, that's buildings and so on, and who

is responsible. I'm not just about capital planning, I'm talking about day-to-day issues of those 27 health care facilities, and there are 25 of them in Nunavut.

And then there's the medical care. We tend to interfere, politically, as MLAs locally when there are problems with our constituents because we don't know who is responsible for it. For instance, there are no administrators in local health care facilities.

I believe the minister certainly could improve day-to-day operations for who is accountable for administrative problems, as well as the day-to-day issues of medical care of the concerns of the constituents.

Right now, I interfere as an MLA, and so do my colleagues, whenever the constituents come in. So can the minister help us improve responsibilities fully be shared by not just one senior bureaucrat because he is not able to handle all the issues that he faces everyday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll review the member's suggestions and get back to him.

I guess, to clarify very quickly, the facilities that we use in the communities, the health centers and the regional facilities, we occupy those buildings but we also have partners that maintain it, such as Community and Government Services and they subcontract for services and so on. I can certainly provide clarification to the member who oversees the day-to-day maintenance of the buildings, building maintainers and so on.

To direct more direct service to people at the regional level, we have an executive director in place that would oversee some of those services and concerns. If that's not happening I would be happy to review that as suggested by the member and review the *Hansard* and pull that information and follow it up with my staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I use the word "local health care facilities," that includes the operations of the medical fields; health care that are operated and carried out by the local nurses. That's what I mean. I'm not talking about maintenance. There's no confusion on who's maintaining the facilities; that's not confusing.

Mr. Speaker, what I'm asking is that our constituents tend to believe that the local nurse in charge is responsible for administration. That means when there are problems with the escort policy and there is some concern with the patient not being fully cared for locally; we're not sure who is responsible. Where does the buck stop in the first place?

So these are the things that we're saying, that we've been told that the nurse in charge is responsible but I don't share that view. So I'm asking the minister to clearly outline duties and responsibilities of nurses in the communities and the doctors and who is ultimately responsible for the administrative responsibilities of medical care in the local facilities. It doesn't need local maintenance; maintenance of health care is what I'm saying.

And also, regionally, who is responsible? If we are asked to deal with only the executive director, then, in some cases, politicians will have to interfere, like myself. And that's not acceptable.

So I'm asking the minister to table a clearly defined duties or responsibilities as to who is responsible ultimately, locally and regionally, and who administers the health care in the regions. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member raised questions on the building and services. So at the end of the day, the Department of Health and Social Services provide services to the people in the regions.

If the member wants that information clarified by community, who does what in the health centres and so on, I would be glad to provide that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Members, Question Period is now over. Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 126 – 2(4): Letter to GN Minister of Environment re. Clean Up of Old Town Clyde River and Cape Christian Sites

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table my recent correspondence to the Minister of Environment and his reply concerning the Old Town Clyde River and the Cape Christian Sites. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

Tabled Document 127 – 2(4): Information and Privacy Commissioner Annual Report 2006-2007

Members, I wish to table today the 2006-07 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut. Thank you.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Are we on Item 15? I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Just wait a little bit. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 18 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Related Statutes – Notice

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Monday, October 29, 2007, that Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Related Statutes* will be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

Bill 19 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2 – Notice

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Monday, October 29, 2007, that Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2*, will be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. 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 Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 16 with Mr. Evyagotailak in the Chair.

Before we proceed, we will take a break for lunch and I would like members to return at one o'clock.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:50 and Committee resumed at 13:02*

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

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

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

Chairman: Are we in agreement we continue with the Capital Estimates for Community and Government Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Madam Brown, do you have staff you want at the witness table? Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Yes, I do.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to have the Community and Government Services staff attend the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's staff.

Minister Brown, for the record, please introduce your staff.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my Deputy Minister, David Akeeagok, and to my right is Mr. Dawe, our Director. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the Chamber. We will continue on page J-8 of the Capital Estimates Book. Questions on J-8. Kitikmeot Region. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I promise I won't take all the time. I just have a couple of questions I would like to ask.

I would like to follow up on an issue that was raised yesterday in the chairman's opening remarks. I'm hearing concerns from contractors on their bids on GN projects are not being accepted because they are too high. As the chair noted yesterday, a number of factors are driving up the costs of construction projects in Nunavut.

The recent announcement from the Cabinet Retreat indicated that CGS has been directing to "present solutions for the future management of large scale projects." Can the minister and her officials indicate how they are addressing this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. Since we heard those complaints from the standing committee before, the staff and I have been trying to address the different issues around those high costs of overbidding and things related to that.

In addition to a project and office resources, in order to address capacity issues without a project management staff, as well as a quantity surveyor to monitor and control capital costs, and other things that we are trying to address, is to ensure that our major work tenders are issued earlier in the season.

We have been hearing that from different groups that perhaps, if we issued the tender or RFP process earlier in the year that could be one factor that might help to alleviate some of these problems, and not to overload our communities with several capital projects. Also, to initiate an NNI pilot training program for the Cape Dorset school projects.

There have been a number of issues or initiatives that we've been looking at to investigate alternative approaches to construction contracting. An example would be with a construction management approach. Phasing in a project; breaking down a large project into smaller parts in order to provide more opportunities for small and medium contractors so that the local capacity can handle it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the answer. These contractors love to bid but I don't think they can if the government limits the project to where these companies will lose money. So I would like the minister to really look into it.

I also heard concerns from contractors about building disputes with the government. Can the minister indicate to me how the government works with contractors to resolve disputes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The CGS and the staff handle a lot of contracts, big ones, medium ones, small ones, and of course, from time to time, there are disputes. To handle those disputes, we try and meet with the contractors as soon problems arise and try to work things out with them. Sometimes it doesn't only take one meeting to solve those problems. There have been ongoing meetings.

Contracts are huge. They can be very complex at times and disputes can be complex as well, but the staff have always tried to resolve them. And, if I need to, I do go to the

meetings with the staff and deal with the contractors. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lastly, how do they look into these situations? Who do they hire to look into these situations to rectify the problems to find out as to what the government has put out as a contract?

Whether the construction could be built or whether that project could be done by the contractors, how do you know as to how the capital funds are enough for the contract work that's put out there, whatever it is? This is my last question. How do you deal with those contracts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Mapsalak. I'll get the Director, Mr. Dawe, to answer the question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are quite a number of approaches that we can use to look at disputes with the contractors, not necessarily disputes but even just issues surrounding the payments particularly. It depends an awful lot on what the issue is.

One of the things that we always try to do is to set up a series of pre-job meetings with the contractors. This is usually something that's done at the project manager level. Within each region, the project officers and the project managers, who are responsible for the project deliveries, they will meet with the contractors, they will discuss cash flows, they will discuss schedules, and try to get a handle up front on where these things might arise and try to address them a bit more proactively.

If some of the problems come up, if the dispute is a difference of opinion as to what the work might be valued at or something like that, there are contract provisions within the contracts to address those through different mechanisms, like mediation or the job meetings.

In a lot of cases we find it's sometimes just a simple matter of a payment maybe being delayed. Quite a serious item, I know, for a smaller contractor, but a little bit unavoidable sometimes, especially in these days where we're coming really close to our budget levels and we have to make sure that we have the money available when the bills are due.

So that then falls to our finance people within CGS and we try to make sure that the budgets follow closely but we know are going to be the payment requirements. We work it out as best we can to make sure that the cash keeps flowing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Dawe. Thanks again, Mr. Mapsalak, for your questions. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, I want to follow-up on some of that because all of the major contracts that are normally administered by CGS have, I think, across-the-board kind of an impact with respect to how well they're doing it. That's a good impact but not to the negative one. There are also negative ones.

I'm not 100 percent sure, and I want to thank the Member for Akulliq for following up on the statement I made as the chairman but I want to add to that. I'm not fully convinced myself, whether or not CGS has the full record of problems associated with tenders. I think there are many good examples that you could table in the House if there are contract problems with costs.

So variation with the government's own cost estimates and the bids coming in; I don't think we have our hands on all of this stuff. What we hear from the minister is Alberta's boom is causing these cost escalations. I'm not convinced with that myself.

For instance, we heard from the Speaker's Ruling this morning that we're not supposed to assume the minister is thinking that way, or we're not supposed to be asking the minister "What do you feel about this? What's your opinion of this?" And yet, we have no problem in saying, "In our opinion, the Alberta economy is causing inflation or cost estimates being submitted." Now, that's just a speculation in my view.

So I think I would ask the Clerk and the staff to ask the government to quit submitting ideas from there that are not really factual because these are not government positions.

So I think the other more realistic one is what's happening with this cost escalation is in our own backyard - one that we can fully look at, take it, study it, and confirm whether or not it is the case. Now, are you asking what that is? I'll tell you.

Some of the contractors were saying to me that the NNI Policy is a reason for cost escalation. Okay, now, I'm sure many of the managers have heard that from the contractors. Now, I think it's the responsibility of CGS people and the minister to study that, whether or not it is time to review or not.

Here's where the problem is, in my view, the lack of reason for not studying it is this: ED&T is responsible for NNI Policy. I mean the minister is responsible. I'm not sure if their staff is really 100 percent hands-on kind of people that are doing cross references with the costs coming in. I think you guys are in a better position to say whether or not complying with the NNI Policy is really jacking up prices or not, right?

What the contractors will tell you is, "The NNI Policy is causing us to put tenders that are significantly higher," 30 percent or more high than regular and so on. They say, here's the reason, and the Minister of Education will be really quite perked up with this and I

hope he will, they say, "To hire untrained people is more costly than hiring people with certification." And, that's what they say.

Now, I want to ask the minister: do you concur with the private sector's argument on that, and if so, will you undertake a thorough study of whether or not the NNI Policy, in some ways or not, is causing the problems with the cost estimating and the bids coming in higher than expected by the private sector? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Picco, I see you have your hand up. Would you like to reply to the comments and questions? Go ahead, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the comments being made by the member and the direction that he is leading the discussion. I just want to clarify a couple of points.

First of all, when the government states that there are issues with cost increases like capital projects because of the hazy economy in Alberta, that's not something that we make up. That's proven out in the facts.

I can say, for example, I was at the Labour Market Development Ministers' Meeting last month, where many of the ministers there, including the minister from Alberta, talked about how they had to cancel several billion dollars worth of capital projects in the province of Alberta because they are coming in over budget, and also because there's a labour shortage.

We know that by 2012-13, there may be up to almost a million shortage of labour for skilled carpenters, plumbers, electricians, candlestick makers in the country. So that's real and that's what is driving it.

The NNI issue, again, is something that has come up in the past but it doesn't account for when we see the total over budget of projects. For example, we did budget \$17 million for the school in Gjoa Haven and it came in at \$33 million. That wasn't reflective of what the extra cost of an NNI was.

I just want to make sure that when we're asking for questions - that the clarification from the Speaker yesterday was - is that we don't want to be asking the ministers their opinion or anything like that. We want to be able to look at the context of the question, and indeed, put a question and then have the answer for the sake of debate in the House.

So, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me an opportunity just to clarify that.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Does the Minister of CGS have anything to say on the member's comment? Go ahead.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I just wanted to give a little piece of information that we have to follow.

Because it's under *Article 24*, there's not much our department can do to not use the NNI Policy because the signatories are, of course, under the land claim then, it was the Government of Nunavut, NITI, and the federal government. Those are the people that pushed for NNI, and as a government, we have accepted that policy so we have to abide by that.

I just wanted to state that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the two responses from the Government House Leader as well as the Minister of CGS.

Here's where I'm coming in; I think we need take into consideration that we take every view of the provinces or whatnot, if it's not clearly stated by the government report, because I can ask the Government Leader to table that provision or where they're saying all of these figures are coming in that high.

It could be, whether or not it's an engineering, or the comment by the minister, I would take it personally as a grain of salt when I hear a statement from any minister about why the costs... and it could be just one of the factors, in my view, that the Alberta economy is contributing to these things. It could be maybe a global warming thing and the fact that it could be the global increasing of petroleum products everywhere that we are seeing. So I'll say it like Mr. Trudeau would with my hands extended. Maybe it's all inclusive with all of these things coming in.

But in our own backyard here, I'm told by very able contractors and companies that NNI is increasing the cost of bids submitted by our own contractors, who are emerging companies that have proven records right now. I can tell you there are a number of contractors in the Kivalliq region that have done good work for construction projects and they're not bidding ever again on public housing. They're saying it's just a waste of time. What they're saying is NNI is in charge of really project managing the public housing contracts that they don't want to touch it.

So I think it's the responsibility of the CGS Project Manager, mainly on major projects, that you advise these other colleagues of yours that it may be time to review the NNI Policy to make it a little more reflective, not necessarily compromising on the need to hire Inuit on projects, Inuit content, or local contractors, but really try and improve it so that it becomes a positive incentive rather than a negative incentive.

Would the minister be prepared to consider this request? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. NNI rests with another minister but we certainly can have discussions about it and there's an annual review of the NNI Policy.

Again, to those prices escalating that was mentioned earlier, we will be dealing with that in the FPT meeting with the provinces, and I will table that so that it would be up for discussion. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Yes, I appreciate it. Mr. Chairman, I have a follow-up with some of the statements I referred to in my opening comments. It has to do with the need for the minister and we have not heard from the minister whether or not she would be willing to table a report on the city spending under the agreement with respect to the Capital Contribution Agreement. One of which just expired, I believe, in excess of \$30 million, close to \$40 million in my view.

Can the minister commit to tabling that report so that we can have a proper understanding of whether or not all of the provisions that were agreed to had been positive and met by the City of Iqaluit? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It will be expired on December 31, and once we get the report, we'll table it in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brown. Thank you, Mr. Curley. Community and Government Services. Detail of Capital. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and her officials back today. I just wanted to get a bit of a clarification, Mr. Chairman, on the Kugluktuk substantiation sheet for the hamlet office building, where in the background it says that the hamlet and the Government of Nunavut leased the space in a commercial office building. It says, "...in combination with GN as a separate second tenant, the entire available space is leased, and both hamlet and GN are now finding the space provided is not adequate."

As I recall, that was an issue a couple of years ago for the standing committee about the government's leases. I think one of your officials sat before us and said that the GN was in negotiations to try and find a reasonable lease cost for the GN space.

So I'm just curious if the minister can tell us when the GN lease expires on that building that they're sharing as a separate second tenant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

Mr. Akeeagok: For the Kugluktuk office space lease, an RFP has gone out because the lease, if I'm correct, the expiry date was for this year that we had extended because there is a dispute between the municipality and the company that owns the building.

Until that is resolved, we've held off on awarding any of the Requests for Proposals for that particular office space because the municipality and the company are not on the office space itself but on the land itself.

So it has expired and we have had a short-term extension until their disputes are resolved but the RFP has gone out for the Kugluktuk space requirements. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information.

The reason it became a little bit of a concern here for me was because it went under benefits as the larger, more modern and specifically suited facilities that would be available for the hamlet, but it went on to state that "vacated space will become available to meet the GN's growing needs for additional office space." To me, that implied that there was, that the Government of Nunavut had actually, possibly negotiated to take over the additional space.

As we recall with the space in Cambridge Bay, that office building there, where the standing committee was very concerned that the proper RFP process had not been followed and the landlord there had simply proceeded with the 20-year contract, instead of going out through the proper tender process.

So I want the minister's assurances and commitment that with the GN's space needs in Kugluktuk that they will... I know you said there's an RFP out there, but I want your assurances that the RFP process will be followed explicitly and there won't be any shortcuts, that every contractor and developer that has an interest will be given an opportunity to bid on office space requirements in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member. Yes, that will be followed through just as the member stated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Community and Government Services. Detail of Capital. Kitikmeot Region. Total Kitikmeot Region. \$6.5 million. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Tangible Assets. \$18,447,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. J-10. Petroleum Products Division. Tangible Assets. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: I have a very short question on that one, Mr. Chairman. It has to do with the ongoing compliance requirements. Can the minister or her officials explain to the committee here exactly what compliance requirements have the federal regulations involved in this, and if so, what types of the particular nature of the compliance requirements are we faced with within the time frames in Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have the director, John Dawe, to answer that, please. Thank you.

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

Mr. Dawe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The regulations that control tank farms and oil tank storages, in general, are federal regulations. They relate to such things as spill control and how to control something if it does spill.

An awful lot of it relates to safety and equipment to prevent spills. These regulations change a fair bit and we wind up having to do things like different monitoring systems on valves to make sure they stay closed or that they flag if they are not closed, different materials which the tanks may have to be built with different reserve capacities in the event of a spill, so that the building is big enough to handle it.

I, myself, am not intimately involved with the exact details of each compliance, but those are the types of things, generally, that we have to look at. It is a federally regulated item and it changes fairly often, equally with respect to the smaller things, like I've mentioned, there were also some major changes afoot sometimes with respect to reserve capacities and how big a tank has to be in order to hold a certain amount of fuel and this sort of thing.

So it's kind of a moving target that we often have compliances that come up because the regulations changed after they were built. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. This particular item we're dealing with is very essential and an important component of CGS responsibility.

I would like to ask the minister or her officials whether or not we are on top of all of the tank farm needs in Nunavut, and if so, is there's such a report available, within the short-term or long-terms needs, whether the facilities that we have are enough for now to address places that require a certain investment in the near future? And if so, which communities do we know that need the expansion of tank farms in Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there's ongoing monitoring on these tank farms in every community and fuel visits.

As for the question as to what study has been going on, or which communities are needing expansion, Rankin Inlet is one of them, Pangnirtung, and Coral Harbour. Those three are identified as having the need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I don't see any reference to the Kitikmeot region, or I believe Kugaaruk is in the Kitikmeot region, where most of the fuel had to be flown in, in order to meet the additional fuel needs of the community. It had probably related more so on aircraft fuel.

Do we have enough facilities in a place like Kugaaruk so that we don't necessarily have to dip into the extra supplementary estimates in the spring time to meet the fuel supply needs of the Kitikmeot region? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That particular community of Kugaaruk, that has been completed up to code, and we hope that it's sufficient because it is one of the communities that were worked on and it's being completed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. That's it. Thank you.

Chairman: Community and Government Services. I'm sorry, Mr. Peterson. Go ahead.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to follow up on my colleague's questions about tank farms in the Kitikmeot. I noted in your opening

comments, you said that, “As our communities grow, the demands for petroleum products continue to increase and this forces us to build bigger facilities.”

As the minister knows, in Cambridge Bay, the facility there is a private tank farm; it’s owned by a private contractor. And in your response to my colleague, you said that the Government of Nunavut monitors tank farms for compliance and you study the growth need.

So I would like to know if the minister could clarify for me, in this session, tank farms in Nunavut, do you also look at the private tank farm in Cambridge Bay, and if so, do you believe that it will serve the needs of the Cambridge Bay community for the next 20 years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising that. In Cambridge Bay, that is a unique case in the whole of Nunavut. If the members agree, I would like to ask Mr. Body to join us at the witness table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Yes, I agree. Mr. Body.

Thank you. Madam Minister, for the record, please introduce your staff.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Mr. Body, who is the ADM with Technical Services. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Welcome to the Committee of the Whole. Go ahead, Mr. Body.

Mr. Body: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The statements are correct. It is a unique situation in Cambridge Bay and it is a privately owned tank farm. I do know that there are discussions underway discussing the possible expansions there. To be honest, I’m not part of those discussions, so I cannot fill you in on details at this time, but I do know they are taking place and the capacity issue is part of that discussion. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Body. I welcome Mr. Body to the witness table. It’s good to see you. Mr. Body is a temporary resident of Iqaluit. He is a permanent resident of Cambridge Bay, so he knows what I’m talking about quite well.

Mr. Chairman, in Cambridge Bay over the last decade, we’ve had rapid growth and I foresee even more rapid growth in the next 20 years with all of the mining opportunities that are being developed over there and they’re increasing airline travel in the Kitikmeot.

We have more and more vehicles added to the community every year. We're adding a lot of housing, not only public and social housing but private housing. So there's an increasing demand. If we're ever successful in getting an airport expansion, I can foresee a more rapid growth in Cambridge Bay.

So I'd like an assurance from the minister and her officials that they will stay on top of the private tank farm discussions and ensure that development will occur in the tank farm well in advance of when we may need the extra fuel. We've heard many times over the years where communities are running out of fuel or close to running out of fuel and it cost a lot of money to the Government of Nunavut to fly fuel in. It also causes a lot of concern to residents where they have to cut back the use of fuel and curtails development in business operations.

So if the minister could give me a commitment that they will keep me informed, particularly as the MLA for the riding, on how the discussions are going with respect to expanding our tank farm so it does suit our requirements for the next 20 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have staff in different regions and they're the ones who really know what's going on.

Yes, we will keep you informed. What the member is requesting, we will communicate with them as to any changes because that's very important. Yes, we'll definitely try our best. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brown. Mr. Peterson, thank you. Community and Government Services. Detail of Capital. Tangible Assets. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$2,260,000. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, before we have a final vote on the items here, I have a constituent issue that is really critically important. It has to do with the contractors and the way in which the contract tenders are submitted by CGS.

I took a very credible complaint, I don't know if it has reached the minister's office or not in some parts it has to do with complying with the NNI Policy whereas tenders that you put out require 51 percent ownership and if you do have that, you get a certain point. I think it's very critically important that you and your project staff evaluate this 51 percent content.

Sometimes many of the contractors have taken advantage of that provision, where they just establish a post office box in the community, and I'm not 100 percent sure whether the evaluation is actually being done by the department.

I believe that your contracting managers should really have a sharp pencil of whether or not they do comply because, in a place like in my constituency, there are proven operators of construction and heavy equipment, as well as the construction companies that exist in local communities.

And yet, they're saying, as a contractor, particularly related to QEC projects, they hire those companies from the south and they have just technically met the 51 percent content by having some arrangement with the so-called Inuit ownership with no real experience, probably just a student or whatever.

Can the minister undertake to ensure that there is a proper evaluation of the tenders when they are submitted so that our own contractors in Nunavut fully take part in building their communities? Thank you.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Body.

Mr. Body: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the statement is referring to the registration of companies for NNI status and that is done through ED&T.

However, that being said, in our contracts, there are requirements for Inuit labour levels, for instance. Those levels are monitored by the contracting authority which usually is the project manager.

So in that respect, yes, we can certainly monitor those projects to make sure that the Inuit employment levels are met as part of those requirements in the contract. However, the actual registration for NNI, that is done through ED&T. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I think that confirms what I just said earlier that they meet the technical requirement provision in the agreement that this goes through NNI and NTI so we qualify.

But I believe it's very important for the project managers and people who administer the contract provisions that that experience, as well as the local, is truly reflected in there. It doesn't prevent you from evaluating whether or not that the people who submitted bids... in the business world, I know what language I would use but I won't repeat it here. In the business world, they would say "Does experience matter?" Does the availability of the local contractor be considered more than any other southern companies that say they have a strong Inuit component or whatnot and so on?

So I'm advising you that you're not prevented from using some of your discretion to evaluate who does provide the work and ensure that the local sub-contractor is fully able to also take part.

So in some cases, twice now, even last year I referred the matter before to the Minister responsible for QEC, that local contractors were not benefiting on some contract work needed on some of the QEC projects. So that reflects what I'm saying.

So I'm just asking the minister that you will use your wise ability to evaluate these contracts and that contracts are best awarded to people who will be around here, who will continue to build Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We try to follow all of the policy's contents. I think the member is asking me to do that and I will do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Curley. Community and Government Services. Detail of Capital. Petroleum Products Division. Tangible Assets. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$2,260,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Tangible Assets. \$2,260,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Turn now to page J-4. Community and Government Services. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditure. Total Capital Expenditure. \$23 million, 107 million. Does this committee agree? Sorry. 5,000. I'm sorry.

>>*Laughter*

Chairman: I will say it again for the record. \$23,107,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you very much. Are you agreed that the Department of Community and Government Services is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to thank the minister and her officials. Do you have any closing comments before you step down from the witness table? Go ahead, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the members. Our department would like to thank my officials for always being supportive to me. Also, the Department of Community and Government Services business is quite lengthy and our mandate is quite huge.

I would like to thank you for completing the review of this department. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I would like to thank your staff. What is the wish of this committee? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, in view of the other commitment that many of the members, at least the two standing committees have, I would now like to move that we report progress. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker: Thank you, Members. Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Evyagotailak: 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. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Member for Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove, Ms. Brown. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of meetings of standing committees: at half past two this afternoon, the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* in the Nanuq Room; at half past three, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability in the Tuktu Room; and tomorrow, the meeting of the Management and Services Board at half past one in the Tuktu Room.

Orders of the Day for October 29:

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
 - Bill 18
 - Bill 19
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. This House stands adjourned until Monday, October 29, at 1:30 p.m. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 13:58*

