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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable James Arreak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Nattilik)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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(South Baffin)

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(Iqaluit East)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, October 30, 2007**

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. James Arreak, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Joe Allen Evyagotailak, Mr. Peter Kattuk, 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. James Arreak)(interpretation): Good afternoon. I would like to ask Mr. Curley to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, and Members. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Aglukkaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 098 – 2(4): Qanuippitali – Inuit Health Survey**

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Qanuippitali the Inuit Health Survey took place from August to September in 18 coastal communities in the Baffin and Kivalliq regions this summer.

It is the first comprehensive look at the health of Inuit in Nunavut. This project will leave a legacy for the future. It provides us with information on the health and wellness of our children, adults and our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the health survey work on the Coast Guard ship Amundsen, has been completed for 2007 with nearly 1,200 individuals participating. This study is unique and incorporates and respects *Inuit Qaujamajatuqangit*. It is also conducted with the utmost confidentiality of participants.

Mr. Speaker, the steering committee of the project includes members of the Department of Health and Social Services, who have been acting as co-principal investigators.

There are many partners in this project and it is important to recognize that this project is being conducted through these partnerships.

Mr. Speaker, *Qanuippitali* strives to improve health care planning, personal health and community wellness of the Inuit in Nunavut. Communities will receive information about how healthy they are and about where health promotion efforts may be needed.

It is responding to Inuit needs and priorities and is culturally appropriate. The entire project is developed in a participatory partnership and co-owned in the long-term, by Inuit and community representatives.

Mr. Speaker, the achievement of this on-going project could not have started without partnerships. I look forward to next year and the continued voyages of everyone that have made the health survey a success in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Simailak.

Minister's Statement 099 – 2(4): Mineral Exploration and Mining Update

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to provide an update to the House on mineral exploration and development activity in the territory.

In 2006, industry invested over \$196 million in our territory in their search for minerals. For this year, the total expenditure is projected to be in excess of \$230 million. This amount does not include expenditures on deposit appraisal, construction and capital costs.

In addition to the high level of mineral exploration activity, mining production is underway, providing Nunavummiut with jobs and other economic opportunities. The Jericho Mine continues to produce quality diamonds in the western Kitikmeot, and other projects are now moving towards production.

This year, mining in Nunavut made headline news when Newmont Mining offered to purchase the Hope Bay project. In recent months other major mining companies, including Agnico Eagle and Zinifex, have made acquisitions in Nunavut.

These developments are regarded by the industry as a strong vote of confidence in the future of mining in Nunavut, and a sign that this sector is strong and growing. These major producers, Mr. Speaker, bring significant new financial and technical resources to mining in Nunavut, and raise the international profile of our industry.

Mining is poised to provide a solid foundation to help us build a strong economy for our residents. To encourage this development, we have developed clear policies, within the framework of *Parnautit*, the Nunavut Mineral Exploration & Mining Strategy.

These policies will ensure that Nunavut continues to attract investment; that our environment is protected, and that impacts on our environment are mitigated. It will ensure that the industry is strong, sustainable, and provides lasting benefits to our people and our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. Ministers' Statements. Minister Picco.

Minister's Statement 100 – 2(4): Ikummatiit, an Energy Strategy for Nunavut

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome, Mr. Speaker. Later today I will table *Ikummatiit*, an energy strategy for Nunavut.

The strategy sets out four main goals:

- Reduce the reliance on imported fossil fuels, and diversify energy sources to include clean, alternative energy and domestic energy sources.
- Improve the affordability of energy for services such as heat, hot water, lighting, and transportation by reducing the cost of providing energy and improving the efficiency of its use.
- Reduce the impact on the environment by reducing the energy-related emissions that contribute to climate change.
- Provide business and employment opportunities to Nunavummiut and Nunavut's businesses by increasing energy efficiency and by using renewable and domestic energy sources.

Mr. Speaker, *Pinasuaqtavut 2004-09* sets out the goal to “*Conserve and reduce the use of energy and find alternatives to diesel fuel for electricity generation.*” Mr. Speaker, the implementation of *Ikummatiit* will enable us to meet this goal.

Last March of 2007, the Energy Discussion paper was tabled, in the House. This discussion paper was used to focus energy consultations and to provide information to Nunavummiut about the unique energy challenges in the territory. Targeted energy consultations took place in Qikiqtarjuaq, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit during April/May 2007.

The need for a comprehensive energy strategy with a focus on conservation, demand supply management and energy alternatives is self evident. Departments and agencies have already begun work on an implementation plan for *Ikummatiit* and, Mr. Speaker, we will keep this House informed of that progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Akesuk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 219 – 2(4): Cape Dorset Co-op Recognition

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, before I begin, it's Meeka Akesuk's birthday today. Happy birthday.

>> *Applause*

This past summer and fall Minister Simailak and myself went to Cape Dorset to recognize the Cape Dorset Co-op for the work that they have achieved in artwork. The Cape Dorset Co-op has been in the art industry since 1958, and to date, they're very successful. We had a discussion with the Co-op.

Usually, the art industry is very fragile but the Cape Dorset Co-op has been in operation since 1958, nearly 50 years. From the beginning, we recognized the individuals who helped launch the art industry, so I would like to congratulate the Cape Dorset Co-op for their very successful art business.

It's been very beneficial, financially, to the people of Cape Dorset and it has made a name for Inuit art. I would like to thank the people of Cape Dorset for this successful business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 220 – 2(4): Poor Condition at Kugluktuk School

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention the terrible conditions at Kugluktuk's high school.

Mr. Speaker, our children deserve a safe and comfortable learning environment. They don't even have enough proper light in the building because of the number of windows that are boarded up. Every time a window is broken, it is covered with a sheet of plywood. How long will this go on?

Mr. Speaker, for the last two years in a row, promises have been made to re-do the floor and painting of this building. Nothing has happened. The carpeting is terrible. How can we tell our children that they are important and that they are our future leaders, and then neglect to give them the proper conditions in which to grow and develop?

Mr. Speaker, a recent fire marshal's report has identified a number of problems that require immediate attention. There are holes in the walls and the ceiling tiles. If these are not repaired, then the fire code will be violated. Our children are at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the Minister of Education to work closely with the Minister of Community and Government Services to have this situation dealt with at the earliest possible opportunity. Our children deserve it.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling some photographs which clearly show the terrible conditions at the school in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 275 – 2(4): Cost of Recruitment and Retention Strategy

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 want to follow up a little bit on the line of questioning I did yesterday that relates to Nursing Recruitment Retention Strategy.

Mr. Speaker, in the article that I tabled of October 12 titled, 'No Quick Fix for Agency Nurse Problem: Aglukkaq,' the minister in there indicates and it's not a direct quote, Ms. Aglukkaq said the plan would likely cost about \$1.5 million. I would just like to ask the minister if that is a correct amount. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Health and Social Services, Leona Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is not correct information in that article as it relates to that \$1.5 million.

I can only assume that the author of this article would have taken that information on the figure from another article she wrote. That figure was mentioned by the President of the NEU in a previous article, but that is not correct. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate what she anticipates the cost to be for this new strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once that file has been dealt with through the FMB, I would be happy to share that information with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the minister indicated that she would have to go back to the FMB to ensure that the commitments, financially, are also approved before she tabled the report. Is she saying that she doesn't have an idea of what it's going to take to implement that strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have an idea of what it will cost; the implementation of the strategy, but following due process, I cannot release that information until we've had a discussion at FMB.

Once FMB has approved or whatever the decision may be of FMB, then I can work with that decision. At this point in time, I still have to work through the process of going through the FMB process, and once that's dealt with, then I'll be prepared to share that information with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the minister indicated, like I said, that she would have to go back to FMB to ensure the financial commitments are also approved, and I can appreciate the minister's response there that still no decision has been made by FMB on that.

Can she indicate whether this is going to be new money that they're looking at getting approval for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Health, Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, not to get into the specifics, once I'm done with the file through FMB, I will be prepared to speak to that issue. At this point in time, I will not respond to that until I've had a chance to go through the materials with my colleagues through FMB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 276 – 2(4): Power Outage in Repulse Bay

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that the community of Repulse Bay is without power again as a result of problems at the generating station. Can the minister update me today on the QEC's efforts to turn the lights back on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Energy, Honourable Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As many of the members know, over the last 24 hours, we've had some very difficult weather conditions in the Kivalliq region, and indeed, in the community of Repulse Bay, we've had some issues with the power plant.

Early this morning around 6:30 or seven o'clock Eastern Daylight Standard Time, from Iqaluit, a charter left to go to Repulse Bay, went into the community and are working right now on bringing up the power supply in the community. So we have a full team in the community working on the issue with the generator. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the answer. And also, I was told that even the backup generators for the school, the hamlet office, and the health centre were not working. I do believe that the two back up generators for the school and the hamlet are working but not the health centre, and they had an emergency last night.

Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is, it appears that a number of communities have been hit by a number of power failures in the past few months, including Kugluktuk and Iqaluit. Can the minister indicate to me whether the QEC has enough capital dollars to undertake regular upgrades to our aging power plants across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Energy, Honourable Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just very quickly on the Repulse issue, as the member has related, the backup generator that the health centre has in Repulse Bay has failed, and because of that, the Power Corporation, I understand, there are some issues with the patients and so on at the health centre because their own generator in the building has failed.

We've had to divert all the power available to that side of the community to keep the health centre going because of the patient effort, and because of that, there was a concern on the other side of town where we're not able to put the feeder on. We're hoping to have that rectified in the next few hours, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on the capital replacement costs and indeed, the capital budget of the Power Corporation is several million dollars and is being spent on a regular basis to purchase new generators for the power plants, upgrade lines and so on.

Again, when we look at the efficiency rate, it's over 98 percent for power across Nunavut in 25 communities when you look at probably some of the worst climatic conditions that our Power Corporation has to operate under.

I think mostly what we're seeing now, is some of the outages that we've talked about before, are caused by high winds when you have lines flapping. The issues in Repulse

Bay go a little further than that. Indeed, their issues are with the generators themselves and with some of the malfunctions present. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that the construction of public housing units were delayed because of problems with the sealift. Can the minister indicate to me whether the QEC has received all of its materials yet, or have these sealift problems also affected the corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of any issues with our sealift this year in regard to making sure that the essential equipment, capital expenditures, and those products that are coming in on an annual basis have been delayed, or if there has been any type of logistic as well as administrative problem with our sealift. So I don't have any information telling me that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few years ago, the power plant in Sanikiluaq was completely destroyed by fire. Can the minister indicate to me what contingency plans the QEC has for Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. There was a tragic fire in Sanikiluaq, and indeed, within 48 hours of that fire, we had emergency generators and service up and running to the community, and indeed, brought in a brand new power plant in the community on time and under budget.

In the case of any community, we have contingencies in place where we have, if there was a fire, if there was a catastrophic failure of a generator, or indeed, if there was a fire in a given plant and we weren't able to use it, then we have resources available to us which, if it happened right now, in this time of year, for example, Mr. Speaker, we would probably have to Herc in generators and so on.

So those contingencies are in place not just for Kugaaruk and for Repulse Bay but it is in place for all of our communities in Nunavut. Unfortunately, we have had to exercise some of those options and make sure that those plants work. A good example, as the member related, was the fire in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 277 – 2(4): The Use and Mis-use of Medication

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

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was interested to note that my colleague, Mr. Curley, from the Kivalliq region was hearing similar concerns from his constituents about the use of Tylenol in our health centres. I hear a few concerns from my constituents in the Kitikmeot, in Cambridge Bay in particular.

In fact, one of my constituents thinks the Department of Health is turning her into a drug addict with the use of prescriptions of Tylenol. I requested information on the use of Tylenol in our health centre in Cambridge Bay for the last four or five months and haven't had any success getting that information.

My question for the minister: can the minister inform the House what processes are in place in our community health centres to monitor and track what medications are prescribed and how often? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Health and Social Services, Honourable Leona Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Where we purchase the inventory for medication is the tracking that we have for the medications that we purchase for services and the use of those. Whether they are monitored by each centre or by region, I would have to get that information for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. You first supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I hope she can give me that information. I sent a quite detailed letter to their office in Cambridge Bay and I heard it's complicated information to obtain.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that Tylenol in its smaller forms can be purchased over the counter at many stores across Nunavut. My question for the minister: can the minister update the House on what kind of information is available through our public health and wellness programs to inform and educate people on the use and misuse of drugs, such as Tylenol? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Health and Social Services, Leona Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to check to see that part of the Public Health Initiative with the department and what programs they have in place for promoting or educating the use of any medication and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I have touched on a sensitive issue with the Department of Health and Social Services when it comes to drugs and prescription drugs, the use and misuse. I hope that she can gather that information for me and my colleagues on this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, for Inuit in Nunavut, prescription medication is paid for through the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. A few years ago a national strategy was developed to monitor drug use in the NIHB system to evaluate drug misuse and abuse and develop programs to educate people on the dangers of misusing prescription drugs.

My question for the minister: can the minister clarify for the House whether Nunavut is involved in this national strategy, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, there's a list of medication that is approved for usage that is covered by the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program and we are involved in the delivery agents of the Non-Insured Health Benefits to Nunavummiut.

At the same time, under our pharmacy program, I'm not sure of the exact title of it, but there are approved prescription medication in Canada that is added onto that list of drugs that we can purchase for Nunavummiut, and that's updated on a regular basis as the Canadian agencies that review new prescription drugs in Canada approve those. So we are involved in updating our resources.

We have in place as well, through the Pharmacy Division in the Department of Health, a contract arrangement to purchase bulk prescription medication throughout the Department of Health, as well as prescribing medication to various centres through our disposing centres in each of those three regions. So there is a system in place to deliver and purchase prescription medication.

At the delivery, and in terms of what information is shared with patients and so on, that's something that I would have to get more information on and how those are monitored at the community level.

At the same time, it should also be noted Tylenol is an over the counter product. It's not all distributed through the health centres in the communities. So I note that yes, we do provide it through Non-Insured Health Benefits, so it is a free medication for people that fall under that insurance program, but at the same time, that medication is also available over the counter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that detailed information. I realize that a lot of forms of Tylenol are available over the counter; Tylenol regular strength, Tylenol extra strength; but Tylenol with codeine, Tylenol 3, I don't believe they're available without a prescription. So it's certainly something we should look into.

Mr. Speaker, the minister touched on another area of interest related to the area of prescription drugs. Often in the House when we speak of the rising cost of health care, we end up talking about the rising cost of medical travel. However, across Canada the rising costs of drugs and medication become a concern.

My question for the minister: can the minister update the House on whether the costs of prescription drugs for Nunavut residents are on the rise? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A year or so ago, it seems like a long time ago, but we had found a new arrangement to purchase our drugs for Nunavut.

In the signing of one agreement for the entire territory, there was huge cost avoidance for us in purchasing our prescription drugs for Nunavut through that arrangement. Since that time, whether there has been an increase in purchasing, I would have to get that information and report back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 278 – 2(4): Bills Based on Estimates

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for NPC.

Mr. Speaker, NPC continues to bill a number of power consumers on a monthly basis by using estimates of power consumed instead of reading the power metre correctly before billing the consumer. Why does the minister allow NPC to bill power consumption by estimate rather than by actual power use by simply reading the metre correctly?

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Energy, Honourable Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a good question. I believe the member had asked me earlier this spring a similar question on metre reading. At that time, and again at this time, I would suggest to the member that what the Power Corporation does on a regular basis, in some cases, is read the metres.

In some cases, Mr. Speaker, the person who reads the metre isn't able to read the metre. There could be various numbers of reasons for that. For example, in some cases, they are not able to get to the house because of snow. We've had cases in some houses where people have had dogs, for example, that have been tied up near the metres and the metre reader hasn't been able to get to a unit.

In those cases where the metre is not being able to be read, the Power Corporation would then take an estimate of what the power usage would be based on historic norms for that unit or residential unit, or that metre, and then takes an average of that for the estimate for that monthly reading. The following month, the metre would be read, and if it's under or over the amount, then that change would appear on the person's bill.

So hopefully that helps answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is really for the benefit of the minister, not me, that I'm raising this question.

It appears and it's pretty much a known fact that NPC in many communities cannot abide by billing guidelines on sunny, balmy, fairly decent weather by accurately reading and billing the consumer. And therefore, the practice of using power estimates is used, even on very decent weather and so on.

So will the minister provide this House with other options that will ensure consumers are fairly treated and accurately billed for the power consumed instead of relying on power estimates as practiced by NPC? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Energy, Mr. Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the member has information on a particular bill that estimates have been used on a regular basis and so on, and that it was a bright, balmy, sunny day, as the member likes to say, then he should bring that information forward to me as the minister.

If there has been some type of miscalculation, misreading, non reading of a bill, then the member should bring that information to me personally and say, "Minister, here is the house number. It is our understanding that it's been estimated. It hasn't been read," then bring that information forward.

For this, if you'd rather stand up in the House and suggest that the Power Corporation is doing this on a regular basis to any number of customers, then I don't think that's appropriate, and I certainly don't think it's fair to the integrity of our Power Corporation employees who work very hard in the worst type of weather to ensure that we have reliable power. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister seeking help, but I believe that NPC is well staffed; they're fairly able to carry out their duties as required by law.

Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister whether or not he would consider other options by privatizing metre readings to private services so that consumers can be accurately billed during sunny, balmy weather and not have to use excuses for not correctly reading it. I'm just offering that question to the minister. Could he consider that and maybe institute that policy quickly?

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Energy, Honourable Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any time we look at the issue of privatization, it means looking at the contracting out of services being done right now by our employees. And I don't see any evidence or information on a widespread basis as relayed in the House that this is actually occurring. So no, I would not look at the opportunity to privatize the billing services. That seems a little balmy to me.

What I would suggest, again, is if the member has the information where an individual, a resident, a residential house or unit, indeed, a business, has been estimated on a regular basis and not getting a fair bill, bring that information forward and I will have it reviewed.

I do not think the practice is widespread. There's no information to me regarding this issue that tells me that this is a widespread occurrence. What I do know is that it does happen time to time as I explained when you have weather conditions, for example, when you have the inability of the metre reader be able to get to the metre, for whatever reason, it could be dogs and so on. So that's what I would suggest to the member.

Again, I strongly urge the member, if he's making these types of allegations in the House, that he back them up with documentation so that I can take it forward to the Power Corporation and have these supposed customers credited back onto their account. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister does not have to go far in asking for information. He can request that information from the Power Corporation because the billing problems continue with NPC.

I would like to ask the minister: what qualifications are required by NPC to carry out the duties of power metre readings in Nunavut on a monthly basis?

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Energy, Minister Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reading of a power metre is done by internal training within the corporation itself.

We actually have two usual types of power reading. In most of the smaller communities, the manager of the plant and their assistant read the metres locally. In larger communities, for example, like Iqaluit, you actually have a dedicated metre reader and that's what that person's job would be.

The training, the expertise, the administrative knowledge as well as the logistic supports for that position are provided internally and locally at the Power Corporation in the given community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Question 279 – 2(4): Gasoline Subsidies to Communities

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, the Premier.

Recently, we have heard that the price of gasoline will be going up. Now, prices differ in the communities in Nunavut when compared to the south. Gasoline is used to obtain food for families and generate family incomes and allows young people to go out and follow their fathers out on the land and thereby gain land skills.

Gasoline is able to better the lives of the people in our communities. But looking at the gas prices going up in the communities, I want to ask the Premier if subsidies have been requested from the federal government to the communities to help out with the gas prices within the communities, and if he has not, why not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Minister Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fuel prices are not controlled by any single consumer in the market place, and so we don't really have any say in it. However, its importance is considerable and is much utilized in the communities in Nunavut as we are all aware.

We subsidize its price to achieve a cost reduction because of the importance of this product in maintaining our livelihoods, particularly in the communities. The federal government has repeatedly stated that it does not get involved or subsidize the price set by the private sector. We are going to subsidize the fuel cost. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't very good to hear that we are saying that the fuel cost is going to be expensive; it is already expensive. Can he ask the federal government for subsidies to help the communities because the fuel cost for

gas is too expensive and the fuel cost is very high in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remember that the Quebec government assisted with the price, but they still pay more in Quebec and southern cities compared to us. We are looking after our people better than they do down south. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think he answered my question. I am asking, maybe the Premier himself could ask the federal government to get more help pertaining to the fuel cost in subsidies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, as I said earlier, that the government were told and asked and they just continued to say that these oil companies are owned by the private sector.

For that reason, for ourselves, as the Government of Nunavut, we are trying to assist our people in the communities. I know it would be a lot more expensive if we didn't assist the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I was saying is that the use of gasoline in Nunavut is unique. It helps the family to get more food and it gives them a brighter future.

I believe that the Nunavut Government has to provide more assistance and help because our life up here is unique. Down south, people use gasoline to go to work. These are people who are in the work force and do not appear to be in as much need for subsidy.

What I'm saying now is that in Nunavut, gasoline is assisting the family to be together and go hunting. Perhaps, I would like to suggest to the Premier that he put this into consideration. That was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 280 – 2(4): Recruitment and Retention of Government of Nunavut Employees

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the minister issued a news release in which he indicated that on March 31 of this year the GN had achieved 50 percent Inuit employment. This is good news. However, Mr. Speaker, these figures are now six months old.

Can the minister indicate to the House when he will release the GN's employment figures for June and September of this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, in regard to his question on the report on the employment figures, I will look into that for the months that he just asked, if they are available. Once they are available, I'll be very pleased to table them in the House, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that having current, accurate figures helps us in looking at our recruitment and retention, and problems that we have in the government. I look forward to finding that out from the minister when that will happen. Like I said, it's almost six months overdue now.

Mr. Speaker, the government's new Staff Housing Policy was announced over two years ago. The minister's department has been working with the Nunavut Housing Corporation to measure the impact of this policy on the GN's recruitment and retention of employees.

Can the minister indicate to the House whether the Staff Housing Policy has had a positive or negative impact on recruitment and retention? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although we had done a review on the GN employees who have resigned their jobs, we put out a questionnaire to find out why they had quit their jobs. We still have not obtained the whole report. We wanted to test this out for a whole year.

After interviewing the staff that are leaving, we will be reviewing the survey that was done with the Nunavut Housing Corporation along with Human Resources. We will be reviewing that information. We'll have to provide a report of those results to the Cabinet.

To date, we have not completed the review yet because the housing issue is very difficult. That's where we're at today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The report he referred to, for the March 31 numbers that the minister released; the last one that has been released; indicates that there are 725 vacant positions across the GN's departments and agencies.

Mr. Speaker, 312 of these vacancies are in the Department of Health and Social Services. Can the minister indicate to me and to Members of this House what issues his department has identified with respect to recruitment and retention of positions for the Department of Health and Social Services?

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): In regard to his question on the staff of Health and Social Services, we've had various problems as the minister keeps stating that they have a strategy on the employees of Health and Social Services, so therefore, I cannot respond to the strategy right now.

After we've reviewed that information, then we'll be able to provide more assistance and make a recommendation to resolve this issue. After we review the results, then we will be able to come up with the information. But at this point, I am not able to do that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know now that's been over a year since the GN's collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union expired. We also know that there are a lot of problems with the retention of employees.

Can the minister assure the House that the GN's offer to the union will be sufficiently generous to ensure that we encourage our existing employees to stay in their positions and their jobs with the GN, and also attract people to apply for the vacant positions that are out there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. By the way, that was your third and final supplementary. Honourable Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member. To date, the negotiations have been going with NEU and GN but they have not talked about the dollar figures. I understand next month, in the month of Christmas, they will be talking about the figures and start negotiating the numbers and that's when we'll find out how that will be.

To date, in regard to funding, I am unable to speak about that issue, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 281 – 2(4): Table Consultant’s Report on NDC

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

Last year, during our session in January 2006, the minister offered a reply to the House after I questioned him in regard to the consultant’s report on NDC. We now know that they were completed last January but when will the minister table that report?

The minister had already said during winter that he would table that report in the spring but spring has passed already. I was wondering when the minister can table that report. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Honourable David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize that the review referred to was delayed.

The report has finally been completed and our department had reviewed that information. At this time, we have set up a group of staff consisting from the Departments of Economic Development and Finance. They are reviewing the report at this point to determine what else should be included in the document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) My question was that the minister had already made a commitment during the standing committee that he would table the management consultant’s report after it has been completed and after it had been reviewed by his staff.

I would like to thank the minister that they have already done the review. The minister had already made a commitment to the House and after that statement that he would table that information.

Can the minister tell me that he will table that report as soon as possible because he has to follow through with his commitment which he have made in the winter of 2006? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I made a commitment to table that information or that report in the winter time. But that review did not look as if they could put it into one.

So what I'm saying is that our staff and the Department of Finance are not reviewing it again with those two departments working together. They're reviewing that again, and I will look at the report to find out if it's ready for tabling in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to be quite clear. The minister made a commitment to table the report and I think that that commitment should be honoured once it's made that the action will be taken.

The minister has assured us more than once that he will table the report to the House, to the legislature. Now, the minister, in his response to me, is saying the report is now being implemented and so on. That's fine and dandy, Mr. Speaker, but I think the commitment to honour by the minister is much more important.

So is the minister retracting his commitment to table the report, or will he table the report soon? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I did not say that the report is being implemented now. I said that the issue was not examined to the satisfaction of the interdepartmental working group in terms of amalgamating the two Crown agencies. So that whole issue is being revisited.

As I mentioned, the issue was not examined to the satisfaction of the working group that the initial study that was done ran outside contract or consultant in terms of the amalgamation of the two Crowns.

But I did commit to the member a little earlier that I will revisit that report that we have now and see about tabling it in the House. I did make that commitment to revisit that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the clarification. Mr. Speaker, this assimilates the interest in the final report prepared by the consultant. Whether or not it's acceptable to the departmental officials is really not our concern. We are interested in the final product. Will the minister, again, make a commitment that he will table the report shortly? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have stated twice that I would look into this issue right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Question 282 – 2(4): Hedging Policy Used in 2007 Resupply

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

Mr. Speaker, we're all well aware that regulations to allow the Government of Nunavut's new Fuel Price Hedging Strategy to be implemented were published earlier this year in the *Nunavut Gazette*.

We're also aware that the price of a barrel of oil is now over \$90 U.S.; six months ago I think it was around \$70 U.S. My question for the minister: Can the minister tell the House if the policy was able to be used for the 2007 resupply? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Finance, Honourable David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) No, the Hedging Policy was not used for this summer's fuel purchase. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister tell the House if he's 100 percent certain that the Hedging Strategy will be used for the 2008 resupply? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Honourable David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot give 100 percent guarantee that it will be used for next summer's fuel resupply.

We use experts in this field from outside of government and a lot of our decisions in the future will naturally be based on those recommendations by those experts in the hedging business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. It was interesting that we passed the Hedging Policy and it wasn't used. The minister is mentioning using experts.

Mr. Speaker, all members are aware that this strategy has some risk. While we could save some dollars, we could also bid the wrong way and actually pay more for our fuel. Our Government Operations and Accountability Standing Committee publicly offered comments on this critical issue earlier this year in March 2007.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that the minister be candid with the public on this point. My question for the minister: can the minister indicate how much risk the Government of Nunavut is prepared to tolerate under the Hedging Policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Finance, David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We now have a process in place to work with financial hedging instruments which would be limited to exchange trade and options contracts on both the New York and Chicago mercantile exchanges. Those transactions will be guided by annual projected fuel volumes, consideration of working capital requirements, and management's concerns regarding the cost of fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. It's certainly encouraging to know that the minister's department is working on the Hedging Policy, getting instruments in place that can help us and that they have experts advising them.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell us how well the Government of Nunavut's Department of Finance is working with the Petroleum Products Division on moving forward with the Hedging Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Finance, Honourable David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, the two departments work very closely together because of the necessary information and background that is required.

So yes, both departments, PPD in CGS and also Finance, work very closely together on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 283 – 2(4): Recruitment & Retention Strategy FMB Proposal

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Finance, who is also the Chair of the Financial Management Board.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today, the two ministers indicated that an important decision on implementation of the Nursing Strategy is hinging on a meeting with the Financial Management Board. Can he give us an indication on when they plan on having this meeting to look at that proposal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, Honourable David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe our next meeting is on November 5, or whatever the Thursday is of that week. I believe it is November 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate if he is aware if that submission from the Department of Health will be on the agenda for that meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I don't know what's on the agenda. I have not seen the agenda for the next FMB meeting yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it causes a little bit of concern if this government has something as important, such a good news story as the Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy that they're talking about and other things the Financial Management Board has to look at.

It is my understanding that this policy was approved by Cabinet, so they should know if that's something that they're going to be looking at. So I would like to ask if he can look into it and find out, and let us know if that's something that's going to be on the agenda. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, Honourable David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, as I mentioned in my earlier reply that I have not seen the agenda as yet. I will certainly look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is: who knows what's on the agenda? When do you know? When is it determined? These are some issues I'm sure that FMB deals with are issues that have been around for a while and they were issues that were brought up as a result of Cabinet decision.

Do we just wait until we walk into a meeting that morning and find out what we're dealing with? Is that what happens? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we normally have the agenda set about 48 hours before the next meeting. So again, I don't know what's on the agenda at this point. We can only deal with items as quickly as the departments can bring them to the FMB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. I have two more minutes of Question Period but I have no more names on my list. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 284 – 2(4): FMB Submission for Recruitment and Retention Strategy

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

Based on the Minister of Finance's comments, can she indicate whether her department will have the submission ready to go forward to FMB earlier than November 5? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Health and Social Services, Honourable Leona Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That would be the plan. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. She said that would be the plan. Is that submission complete yet, or when do they anticipate having it completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Health and Social Services, Leona Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The goal is to meet the deadline before the FMB meeting. Once that process is done, we'll be dealing with the files on November 5 at the FMB meeting. Once that's done, I'll be glad to release the Nursing Recruitment Strategy.

In terms of what's finalized, there's work in progress related to the submission, and once that's done, it will be submitted to FMB. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Order. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it's no secret that my former colleague from Qamanittuaq would say that our healthcare professionals were in a state of crisis here in Nunavut. When you look at the exorbitant demand that we have on agency nurses and the cost implications of that, this is something that is long overdue and needs to be implemented.

I urge the minister and all the FMB members that this is something that they need to address as quickly as possible. Is that the direction in which the minister will be pursuing with her colleagues at FMB? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We recognize the urgency of getting the Nursing Recruitment Strategy released. We have been working on that for a good year now.

During our summer session in June, we had tried to put some money towards the Nursing Recruitment Strategy which was rejected in the House. So based on that, we are working to try and finalize this plan, more in detail...

An Hon. Member: A Point of Order.

Speaker: Ms. Aglukkaq, a Point of Order has been called. Mr. Tootoo, go ahead with your Point of Order.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Point of Order is that the minister is providing incorrect information to the Members of this House. The department did not try to put any money towards the strategy in June and there was a ruling on that already. So that should be withdrawn. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Aglukkaq, to the Point of Order.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This June, we had put forward a request to use some funding towards the kick-start of the Nursing Recruitment Strategy.

It is in the *Hansard* in June, during the Committee of the Whole, the allocation of the \$1.5 million definition in this House was changed to remove any allocation of savings towards the Nursing Recruitment Strategy. We tried to allocate money but that definition was changed in the House that we were not able to allocate any funding.

So this process that we are under is going to try and address the process of trying to get the funding for the Nursing Recruitment Strategy. That is in the *Hansard*. The funding itself was approved but that funding was approved with a narrower definition was to only use the funding for agency nurses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. On October 26, the Speaker delivered a ruling which applies to the Point of Order just raised here. I find there is no Point of Order. Thank you.

Oral Questions. (interpretation) The time for Question Period is now over. (interpretation ends) I'm sorry. Did you have a final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo? There will be none. 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. Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Committee Report 001 – 2(4): Interim Report on Review of Bills 6, Official Languages Act and Bill 7, Inuit Language Protection Act

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to have the opportunity today to provide the House with the Interim Report of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* Review of Bill 6, the proposed *Official Languages Act*, and Bill 7, the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

The Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* held a public meeting on Bill 6 and Bill 7 in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly from October 18 and 19, 2007.

A number of themes have emerged during the standing committee's consideration of the bills. During the public hearings, a wide range of diverse perspectives and recommendations were articulated by witnesses. In some cases, recommendations on certain issues differed between presenters. The report articulates these differences.

The standing committee looks forward to continuing its work on the review of Bill 6, the proposed *Official Languages Act*, and Bill 7, the proposed *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

The standing committee's next step will be to invite the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to appear before the standing committee during the week of December 3, 2007 to address issues emerging from the committee's review. This appearance will be held in public. This will be the first time that a minister will appear in public before the standing committee at this stage of the legislative process regarding proposed legislation that has been brought forward in the House. The standing committee strongly believes that such an appearance is warranted. Language is very complex if you're in Nunavut and many presenters strongly argue that the bill should be amended. The standing committee looks forward to having the opportunity for a full discussion with the minister on these issues.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes my summary of the report of the standing committee and I know that the report be received by the House and that the report be printed in its entirety into *Hansard*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Do members agree that the report of the standing committee be received and reprinted in *Hansard*?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Peterson.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 131 – 2(4): Letter from the Minister of Finance re. Alcohol Education Committees

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the Minister of Finance's letter in reply to my recent correspondence concerning the issue of support for Alcohol Education Committees and I thank him for his response. The information contained will be of use to my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. (interpretation) Please bring the documents up.

(interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Mr. Mapsalak.

Tabled Document 132 – 2(4): Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* on Bill 6, Official Languages Act and Bill 7, Inuit Language Protection Act – Written Submissions, October 2007

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table today a collection of written submissions that were provided to the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* on Bill 6, the proposed *Official Languages Act* and Bill 7, the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Tabled Document 133 – 2(4): Kugluktuk School – Photographs of Deteriorating Condition

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a series of pictures that clearly shows the poor condition of the high school in Kugluktuk. Our children should have a safe and comfortable learning environment.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Picco.

Tabled Document 134 – 2(4): Ikummatiit – Government of Nunavut’s Energy Strategy – September 2007

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to be able to table the following document; the much anticipated Government of Nunavut’s Energy Strategy, September 2007, *Ikummatiit*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. I would like the documents brought forward, please.

Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 020 – 2(4): Extension of Review Period for Bills 6 and 7 – Notice

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, November 1, I will move the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay, that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bills 6 and 7 back to the House be extended by a further 120 calendar days.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. For the record, I think you said Tuesday. Did you mean Thursday, Mr. Mapsalak?

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Let the record show that he said Thursday. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions.

Item 16: Motions

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

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

Motion 020 – 2(4): Extension of Review Period for Bills 6 and 7

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

WHEREAS Bill 6, the proposed *Official Languages Act* and Bill 7, the proposed *Inuit Language Protection Act*, received second reading on June 6, 2007;

AND WHEREAS Bills 6 and 7 have been referred to the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* for scrutiny;

AND WHEREAS Rule 68(1) provides that bills referred to a standing committee shall not be proceeded with until the Assembly receives the report of the committee or 120 calendar days pass from the day the bill was given second reading;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee recently held well-attended public hearings on these important pieces of proposed legislation;

AND WHEREAS the standing committee is committed to fulfilling its responsibility to review these bills with care;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay, that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bills 6 and 7 back to the House be extended by a further 120 calendar days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded Honourable Member for Nanulik, that Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Related Statutes*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and the following other Acts, as a result of coming into force of subsection 4(2) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*:

the <i>Archives Act</i> ;	the <i>Medical Care Act</i> ;
the <i>Disease Registries Act</i> ;	the <i>Payroll Tax Act, 1993</i> ;
the <i>Education Act</i> ;	the <i>Qulliq Energy Corporation Act</i> ;
the <i>Evidence Act</i> ;	the <i>Vital Statistics Act</i> ;
the <i>Financial Administration Act</i> ;	the <i>Wildlife Act</i> ;
the <i>Human Rights Act</i> ;	the <i>Young Offenders Act</i> .
the <i>Insurance Act</i> ;	
the <i>Labour Standards Act</i> ;	

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried, Mr. Premier. Before I go on, Bill 18 is ready to be referred to the appropriate standing committee.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Income Tax Act* to reflect changes in the federal *Income Tax Act* relating to tax brackets, tax credits for medical expenses and deductions for taxable dividends. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand, please. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 19 is referred to the appropriate standing committee.

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 into Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:03 and Committee resumed at 15:32

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

Chairman (Mr. Evyagotailak): 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 this committee? Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 16 and the review of the Capital Estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by the Departments of Justice and Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Are we in agreement we continue with the Capital Estimates for Nunavut Housing Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 16 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee – Nunavut Housing Corporation

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akesuk, do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my immediate right is the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Peter Scott, and to my left is the Chief Financial Officer, Eric Whitworth. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the Committee of the Whole. We were on page L-6. Grants and Contributions. Headquarters. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Minister and officials of the Housing Corporation, please feel welcome. I do have a few more questions. We have all heard that the materials failed to make it to the barge in the port. Can you explain to the committee as to how you are investigating this incident? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Some of the material that came in by the barge was not all brought in and some were delivered to the wrong communities. We are still investigating the situation. We opened all of the boxes which were going to be sent to the communities that came in by barge and sent them to the communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Your response didn't really answer my question. I will rephrase my question.

I heard that in Pond Inlet, when they were opening the containers, some of the materials were supposed to go to the Kivalliq region. Are you going to be looking after this properly so that it doesn't get way too expensive? Some of the material weren't supposed to go to Baffin Island.

Can the minister tell us as to why that happened? Pond Inlet is far from that shipment's destination. The boxes that were opened contained materials that were supposed to go to the Kivalliq region. I was informed of this earlier. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are investigating how they were packaged and why the material that wasn't supposed to go to Pond Inlet got there.

We are investigating this as much as we can so that we can give a full explanation to my colleagues. We want to find out why the shipments ended up in the wrong destination and what we can do to correct the situation. We also want to determine the most cost effective way to resolve the mix up.

If Mr. Scott wants to add more details to my comments, he can do so.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to the member's question, we are still compiling our overshoot and damage reports from each of the communities. That involves opening up all the containers and crates to verify what was shipped by the marshallers.

As far as the materials that were not sent out or put on the ships, we have finished re-packaging all of those materials to prepare them for airlift. We can't take sealift materials and try to fly them in. So they have to be re-packaged into packages that can go on the aircraft.

That has been completed and a complete inventory of what is left behind. We just now have to match that up with what's missing in a variety of communities, and determining

if there was misshipment of goods and determining the most economic way of getting materials moved between communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I have another question to the minister. The project managers from the Housing Corporation in each region, in the Kitikmeot and in the Kivalliq, are doing an investigation of the change in procurement practices with regards to the materials being bought in Montreal or down south.

You had separated the packaging, distribution, and marshalling, so now, they're just dealing with one of them. The store is not responsible for packaging anymore. Once you get them on the truck, you don't need to re-pack them from Montreal or from Churchill. It seems like you're just saying that in other places, like Churchill, they will just re-pack them and send them to the communities.

I'm in a hurry to get an answer because the work is increasing and there's more than one supplier now involved in shipping these materials. When this is the case, are you going to be able to keep up with the materials being delayed? If it's not corrected, then please correct it and know exactly where you're shipping the materials and when and where they are going to be shipped.

Are you going to investigate your employees if they're doing a good job at re-packaging the materials and sending them to the appropriate communities? (interpretation ends)
Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will be monitoring our staff so that this doesn't happen again in the future. We will see how we can improve the process so that this doesn't happen again when they're shipping the materials to Nunavut.

Next year we're going to do a better job in shipping the materials so that they're able to go to the appropriate communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the minister; I think it's very important that we look at whether or not the project managers, the people who oversee all of the procurement, as well as the packaging distribution responsibilities, are really adequate or not with the Housing Corporation.

I don't want to underestimate the importance of procurement. These are very complex responsibilities for purchasing because there are huge financial commitments that are normally made by the supplier. And, often they are not paid in their line of credit, as well

as the huge financings that have to be arranged in order to procure certain things and deliver, so huge, complex purchasing requirements.

I want to ask the minister: will you ensure that the risks that Nunavut Housing Corporation put into by choosing a particular contract arrangement is fully assessed and evaluated before it left?

Could the minister ensure that he will undertake to protect the public in this area and ensure that the Housing Corporation will have a hands-on approach for these kinds of services that they provide? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will do that and investigate the issues with materials for housing in the communities. What you're saying is very clear. We would like to utilize the funding that we received from the federal government properly and accordingly. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I thank the minister for that commitment. I think it's really quite important that the minister justify the reason for changes, or clearly explain somehow, from regional distribution, as well as procurement and packaging services, that was working. It may have cost a little bit more than what they're facing right now, which we don't know whether or not there will be any savings.

My question to the minister is, in order to ensure that the public, not only the sealift arrangements, distribution, and packaging are fully working, but that you actually get to build the facilities and provide Inuit with housing should be the most important objective in the whole thing.

I don't believe that you are meeting the targets now for building units as a result of the chaos. Will that somehow, the report, if any, that is being done, be presented to the House? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Once the investigation is completed, we'll give you a written report as to what has been happening and we will send a letter to those communities affected by this delay, including the hamlets in the communities identified.

We will be bringing forth a letter as to how it has affected the communities and our progress in the building of houses. Right now, the 725 units are progressing on time despite these setbacks. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate it. I share the minister's hope that we will complete these units and so on. I believe there will be a lot of damages and whatever else with the supplies. I'm not as optimistic as he is that these units will be built on time. They will not be built on time, that's for sure.

The thing that I want to ask the minister: in order to find out exactly what's happening with all of the logistical problems and why the terms of the contracts were not met, is that going to be done by consultants, or is it going to be done internally? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our staff will be looking into this. We have already begun with the process and the investigation. Mr. Scott is working on this update right now. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I want to ask the minister or his officials, have you hired a consultant to look into all of this mess? I don't want to term it mess, but the contracts that are not being met, have you actually hired a consultant to date? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We have not spoken with any consultants because our staff is working on this issue at this time.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. The minister says they have not hired a consultant. I want to ask the minister: are you engaging in any services from the private sector to find out exactly what's going on with the logistical problems? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: I'll get Mr. Scott to answer that question.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: The only outside help that we have engaged is that we have extended the services of a company called Sealift Info that assisted with monitoring the materials as they were arriving and leaving the marshalling yard. They will be continuing to assist us, under contract, to sort out some of the remaining logistical challenges that we have.

To date, we have not engaged anybody to look into the reasons for this issue that's come up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It appears, in my interpretation, that the private sector consultant has been engaged to look into the current problem. Will that report, at least that comment with the current sealift period, be presented to the Assembly once it's completed? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, we will try and table it right away because we want all information to be clear to the members and also to the impacted communities in regard to the construction of the units along with this problem. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Housing Corporation issued Requests for Proposals last year in January for the following services required: for packaging and so on, like distribution and logistical services for a number of locations, including Montreal, Kivalliq, and Hay River. Can the minister tell this House exactly how long the contracts were arranged with the successful proponents? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. It's for one year, and once that year is up, we will review the work that they've done. They were contracted out for one year. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. So the contracts that were entered into are for one-year contracts for three locations. Could the minister or his officials indicate to this House whether or not the contractors that were hired will remain doing the work for this coming fiscal year? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. They were awarded the contract last year to work on this but we have suspended it for now. I don't think there was any new opening for that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. The Minister of the Housing Corporation: can you explain to the House, as you have said to us that with the changing policies, there were considerable savings to be made in this new arrangement, if that is the case, why aren't you extending the contract to those contractors that you hired? And, if you're not satisfied with them, please explain to the committee why you are not satisfied. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we want the construction of units to go ahead. It would have gone ahead properly if they had addressed the materials to the appropriate communities.

In their contract, it stipulated that the contract would have a one-year term, and if they did their job properly, then we would consider re-contracting them. That's what we had used in dealing with this. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the minister. I think you need help from your officials on that because it's not even one year. Why would you want to cancel the contract when they have not even had a chance to fully account for their responsibilities that were clearly, I'm sure, agreed to in the contractual arrangement?

Can the minister explain in detail why he's not satisfied, if any, with any of the contractors that they hired for the three regions, and specifically, which contractors is he not satisfied with? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation will respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, when the RFP was issued, there were no responses to our marshalling requests for Hay River and for Winnipeg. The Winnipeg or Kivalliq marshalling was all done through Montreal.

Once the last ship had left the dock in Montreal, leaving behind quite a bit of the material, as we discussed yesterday, we cancelled the contract because they did not comply with the terms and conditions that they were engaged to do. That's largely why we were dissatisfied with that particular contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Scott. I would like to thank Mr. Curley for asking questions. Do you have additional questions? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Yes, thank you. Yes, I do. Mr. Chairman, I thank the President of the Housing Corporation. I looked at the Request for Proposals from last year but it did not specify that Winnipeg was the receiving point, nor mentioned at all in the RFP. It did explain Churchill was one of the location points.

So can the minister clarify for us whether or not Winnipeg is one of the receiving points for all of the supplies that the Housing Corporation requires? The minister did not explain that there were problems in Manitoba or Hay River. It appears to be one region mainly. Is that correct?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, Churchill, I'm not too sure, it used to be Fort Churchill, but it's the Manitoba one. As the member said, the Kivalliq cargo came from Montreal. We had the same contract. Perhaps, there were 21 communities that received from the same point there. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I would like to thank Mr. Curley for asking questions here. Your time is up. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm kind of tired of reading, but my colleague is unable to ask questions so I have to ask questions on behalf of another member.

(interpretation ends) Since the quality of materials shipped was more than the description in the Request for Proposal, can you explain how the contractors will be indemnified?
(interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) There was 7,200 metric tonnes of material coming from down south that we know, and also in that same place, there are 125 tonnes still down south that have to be shipped up to Nunavut.

So if I understand your question correctly, that's how it is. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you explain why the containers of 300 units finally exceeded 400 units, not including the materials that were not shipped? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Mr. Chairman, can I have a clarification on that question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mapsalak, can you clarify your question for the minister?

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question that I'm supposed to pose is written that way. They were expecting 300-something containers. Now, they're way beyond 300 and they went up to 400 units. If I understood the question in the way it is written, it's talking about the material. Did they arrive through the ship? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We did not do an inventory to see how many units there would be at the marshalling yard. We said that there was 7,250 tonnes. We didn't know how many marshalling yards there would be but we knew how much the materials weighed. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Minister.

(interpretation ends) When the Nunavut Housing authorized the delivery of materials, was the contractor for marshalling and packing in processing of all final, precise, and pertinent documentation permitting them to perform the contract? (interpretation) I hope that I'm clear. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood you correctly, the contract usually stipulates what they have to follow. The company that was awarded the contract should have known the contents of the contract. They said that they were capable of dealing with the contract. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you. After it was obvious that all of the materials weren't going to be shipped, the contract was full of solutions to diminish the costs of forwarding the materials to the communities. Please explain why these solutions were not considered by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Mr. Scott to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the best of my knowledge, the marshalling contractor did not put forth any alternate suggestion about how to get the material to the missing communities. So I'm not aware of any discussions of that nature. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Scott. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you. Is it a general practice for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to blame the contractors for the Housing Corporation's lack of planning and preparation of major contracts, like marshalling and packaging? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's not the usual practice but we try to make sure that we get the best contractors to do the necessary work as housing is very important. We try to get the best contracts.

The construction of houses has been very beneficial to the communities as we are training our staff. We want this to continue smoothly for Nunavut, so it's not our usual practice to blame contractors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do want to see the Housing Corporation do the best that they can but we are having problems with the houses that were supposed to go up in the communities.

I think it would be better to work closely with the people that you have contracted to make sure that this problem is rectified at least in the upcoming year. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps, when we provide the report to you, we will also indicate how much more money we had to spend after the contracts had been written.

After we have the report ready, we would be able to see what else we could do. I can't say exactly who will be awarded the contract but we will have to do a thorough review of how much impact it has on Nunavut with respect to building housing units and how it will affect the individuals who we are training in the communities. We will also see where we can make improvements.

As this is providing communities with significant economic development, we will monitor this very closely. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I would like to thank Mr. Mapsalak for his questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials back to the Committee of the Whole.

A few questions, first on the list that we've talked about here since late yesterday and today, it just deals with this new concept or new way of approaching the purchase of supplies and materials for the housing units that are being built throughout the territory.

I believe yesterday the minister or Mr. Scott indicated that this is the first year that they're looking at using this approach on that. I'm just wondering if he could just give an indication or a rationale of where this new approach came from. I know that Mr. Scott indicated yesterday that they said they had to look for new ways to save money and deliver stuff. I'm just wondering: where did this concept come from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. First of all, I stated yesterday that we were asked by the standing committee to look at cost saving measures for the shipment of materials for the housing units. We took the advice of the standing committee and we had meetings with the various ship operators to look at how we could save money.

If Mr. Scott would like to make a supplementary, he may do so.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The idea or concept of using containers to containerize the material, as opposed to the traditional crating of everything, came from one of the shipping companies, NEAS, out of southern Montreal. That was their sales pitch that convinced us that substantial savings could be achieved if we used containers.

So we did do some consultation with some of the experts that are out there that are involved in shipping of materials and whatnot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it the first year that this whole concept of bulk buying all of the separate material and then sorting it out once it's received at the marshalling yards? Is it the first year that's been tried and where did that concept come from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. This is the first year. If Mr. Scott would like to make a supplementary, he may do so.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the first year that we've tried this approach. Largely, the concepts were developed and fleshed out through our senior management in consultation with the regions and in open discussions of how we can get the same results at a cheaper cost to the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to confirm the correctness because I think I heard the minister or his official indicate that by using that method of purchasing this year that they saved \$6 million. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that it's just the first year that this has been tried and it's obvious that there were some things that didn't go as planned. I'm just wondering if the minister or his officials could give us an indication of what they've learned from this year and any changes that they've made to address those concerns for next year's cycle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at further cost saving measures. I'll have Mr. Scott respond. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: One of the issues that may have caused some of these problems was that the marshalling yard that was partnered with our contractor in Montreal didn't have full access to the entire compound that they had claimed that they would have access to.

So as the materials were arriving, and all of the materials were provided by our supplier on time by the middle of May, the marshal down there didn't have access to the entire yard that he had committed to us that he had. So the first issue was the lack of space.

This year, initially, the new RFP for marshalling services for this summer, 2008-09, we've changed the specifications to ensure that there's adequate space because, to provide the type of service, you need a substantial piece of real estate in order to be able

to sort out and re-package all of our housing packages for each community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I understand that space was a problem. Were there any other things that are different? Mr. Scott indicated that an RFP has just gone out for next year or season. Can he give us an indication of any other specific differences that they've changed in next year's RFP that they learned from this past season? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we award the contract, we have to make sure that there is enough space to house the material and we will make sure that we do a total review of the applicants to make sure that we avoid the problems that we've encountered this year. I hope that I was clear and Mr. Scott could also add to that.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the changes that we've put in the RFP is, I believe, a requirement to provide office space for NHC staff that are down monitoring the marshalling.

We did have, between NHC staff and our contractor, sealift info. We actually did over 240 man days on the dock site last year. Maybe that wasn't enough and maybe we have to have full time staff at the beginning of the sealift season which would be early April. When the materials are starting to come in, have full time staff on site until the last ship sails. We will look at that as an option. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Scott for that response. I think it's important that and I've always said that with any organization and with the government, if they do something, they should be evaluating and looking at it, and finding and addressing areas of concerns instead of pretending they're not there.

I'm glad to hear that the corporation is looking at that and trying to address some of those issues and they're evaluating how things went this summer or didn't go. Once that report or review is done, I'm sure there will, more than likely, be some other areas that will be looked at and changed in the future.

On this whole issue with this particular contract, I know, I recall hearing in the media at one point that the contractor had indicated that one of the problems on why that situation came about was that there was considerable volume of stuff that was delivered and

wasn't actually specified in the contract. I'm just wondering if we can get a clarification on that from the minister and his officials. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Mr. Scott to respond to that question.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contract last year called for approximately 7,000 metric tonnes. It wasn't an exact amount. The amount that was delivered to the marshalling yards in Montreal was just less than 7,200 metric tonnes. So in relationship, our estimate was fairly close.

We have been delivering five-plex packages to Nunavut for the last couple of years. We have a pretty good idea of how much weight and volume is involved in each of these five-plexes, so our estimate in the contract was very close to what was actually delivered to the yards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also understand that some of the things that may have led to delays to things being put on the boat had to deal with packaging and freighting. I'm just wondering if the specifications for that were outlined in the contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that was the case where they were specified for marshalling. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister give an indication if that was a problem this summer? Was there stuff that was refused by the shippers because the crating or specifications were below standards? Were they actually brought to the docks and sent back because they weren't crated properly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Not that we're aware of, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One thing that Mr. Scott mentioned earlier, it had to deal with having people on site down there. I guess maybe I would just ask the minister, if you look at the overall Nunavut Housing Trust delivery, it's a huge undertaking.

I'm just wondering if one of the things that the minister feels is that the corporation has adequate human resources to deal with a project like that, considering and still maintaining all the other programs and services that are provided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Mr. Scott to respond to the question.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly, the additional work load that was created as a result of the Housing Trust has put a tremendous strain on the corporation's resources. The corporation only has 88 approved PYs, and currently we're at about 75 percent capacity, so there are 22 vacant PYs.

Also, we are competing with a very hot market particularly for technical trades and technical staff. We've been able to fill some of our gaps and some of our holes with contract employees, but it has been a very difficult task to attract the types of resources that we need in order to complete the delivery. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wonder if the minister could commit to include that aspect of it in the review of this year's cycle, if you want to call it that.

If we're going to take a good look at everything, we take a good look at everything and make sure that we don't run into a situation like this in the future. We can't just look at one component of it. We need to have a complete picture. So I'm just wondering if the minister would commit to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will review that because we certainly don't want to see this happen again in the future, especially when we have a dire shortage of housing in the North.

We certainly don't want to see this happen again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, Mr. Scott indicated earlier that the marshaller did not have access to another space that they were going to use. I understand as a result of that a lot of materials were stored outside in the environment and there was a lot of rain and stuff like that. So I'm just wondering if they know of, or when will they know if there are any materials that have been damaged as a result of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Mr. Scott to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned earlier, we are still receiving reports in from the communities on overshoot and damage reporting. We are uncovering a number of damages in the materials that were delivered to the communities not necessarily as a result of materials being left out in the rain or exposed to weather but as a result of improper packaging, banding, strapping and that sort of thing.

Odd little items, too, like a whole box of framing nails that apparently had been broken open and then reshuffled into a box of Skippy peanut butter we have delivered to one of the communities. So we are still looking for the peanut butter but we got the nails. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sounds like a sticky situation.

>>*Laughter*

The other thing that Mr. Scott mentioned earlier, Mr. Chairman, is when they looked at the containers where they had discussions with the carrier. He indicated that they were convinced of that, that that was a good idea and that they switched to that.

I know that this whole concept of marshalling and receiving, and all of that is something that's new to the corporation. I don't know how many companies out there that do that kind of work but there are companies out there that are good at it and have done it for quite some time.

I'm just wondering, in your view or in your review, would look at or consider sitting down with the companies and looking at getting some possible ideas and other ways to try and improve and make the whole process better? I'm just wondering if that's something that they would consider. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will certainly look into this. As I stated earlier, we certainly don't want to repeat this with housing projects. We still have to build houses and figure how we can bring them up in a more cost saving way. We will keep monitoring this.

What Mr. Tootoo suggested is a very good idea and will be very helpful in how we can try and make improvements so that we will not repeat what happened this past summer. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question, I know and I asked when we had Community and Government Services in here, as we all know, it seems to be a growing pattern within the government where all of the capital projects that are being tendered are coming in anywhere from 20 to 50 percent higher than what has actually been budgeted for.

I'm just wondering if the minister or his officials could give an indication, is that the same as what we're looking at with housing, or are they coming in on budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the units that we wanted to build in communities for four years are still being worked on, we will work very hard in order to continue on with the construction of units in Nunavut.

We wanted to build houses for Nunavut and if we saved some money there, we would certainly want to use that money to build more houses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We don't have a quorum (interpretation) I apologize. (interpretation ends) Shall we take a 10-minute break?

Some Members: Agreed.

>>*Committee recessed at 16:31 and resumed at 16:48*

Chairman: Thank you. We'll get back to the committee meeting. I would like to thank Mr. Tootoo for asking questions. Your time has expired. Mr. Peterson. (interpretation) I'm sorry. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you. I think you need Tylenol or...

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) We didn't quite answer the questions that were raised by Hunter Tootoo. The funding that we requested is enough. We have more than enough for the housing units we're trying to build for now. To clarify further, we haven't used up the monies that we have allotted for the 725 new units to be built. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials to the Committee of the Whole today.

I wanted to follow-up on the questions on the Housing Trust from the Kitikmeot perspective. I haven't heard of too many problems in our region but I thought it would be appropriate if I did ask you a few questions. Can you give me an update on the status of the delivery of the materials in our Kitikmeot communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): The materials being sent to the communities are on their way to the Kitikmeot. I spoke to this person and the barge just arrived. They are unable to bring in the material to the community. The barges were a little bit late coming to the community of Cambridge Bay in the Kitikmeot area but they are getting closer to the community now. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Yes, the barge into Cambridge Bay was unreasonably late this year for some reason. I can't recall it ever coming into Cambridge Bay in October, particularly late October.

Pursuant to your commitments or statements to my colleagues on the review and inventory of materials in each of the communities, will you also be conducting an inventory of the materials that arrive in our Kitikmeot communities to ensure that when the construction is undertaken, there will be no delays with missing materials? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Our staff in the Kitikmeot region were informed by our office to monitor the materials that will be used to build housing units in the communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Our next barge isn't until August, September, and possibly October of next year, if there are any

missing materials, how would you anticipate bringing them into the communities so that the contractors can proceed without delay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you're missing some materials, we will have to work with the suppliers that are shipping the materials to the communities. We will have to monitor them very carefully to ensure that the materials are going to the appropriate communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I haven't heard of any real concerns in the Kitikmeot but I have heard of, obviously, all of the problems in this part of Nunavut. It's always good to anticipate, as we know housing is a critical issue in all of our communities as well, any unforeseen or unreasonable delays could have a negative impact on our communities.

In your opening comments, Mr. Minister, you mentioned receiving \$4,290,000 from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. From previous capital estimates, we've talked about the sunseting of that program. Do you have an updated report on when that CMHC funding will sunset? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It may be done in the year 2037. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that information. You mentioned in your report as well that you're working towards obtaining further federal contributions for the Ten-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan.

Could you elaborate a little bit about what lobbying you're doing and what presentations you're making in Ottawa to convince them that we need more housing up here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We met with Monte Solberg, the minister from the federal government, about two weeks ago concerning the housing situation and the materials that were going to be shipped to Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. Could you elaborate on what was discussed; what arguments or case you put forward for more housing in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Once we met with the minister in the federal government, we discussed the Ten-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan.

Before the Throne Speech at Parliament Hill, we met with him a little over three weeks ago as to what actions we are going to take concerning housing but he was reluctant about indicating what they're planning to do. We discussed how much more housing we wanted to build in Nunavut for the next ten years. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I look forward to the standing committee members getting more information from you as you continue your lobbying in Ottawa with the federal government.

I see in the Kitikmeot region, on page L-9, there's quite a significant amount of money set aside for M&I retrofit for housing. I've been to several houses in my riding over the last year. It's at the request of my constituents because there's usually a problem with the house.

Recently, I was in a house where there were indoor fumes from the furnace and I asked my constituent, "Well, how long has this been going on?" and she said, "Over a year." I checked with the Health Department and they said that's a health hazard. And then another constituent had problems with the sewer tank and he had been trying to get it fixed for over a year as well, maybe a couple of years. Again, that was a health hazard.

So I'm just wondering if the minister or his officials could take us through a typical scenario where the Local Housing Organizations are on a preventative maintenance routine where they would go inspect each house on an annual basis - the furnaces, the sewer tanks, or other functional parts of the house - to make sure that it's up to standard, up to code and that they're healthy and safe for constituents to live in. How does that work? How do you ensure that that work is being done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. These are identified in the details of the capital plans. We would like to retrofit all of the old houses and the government has stated that we need to fix those houses so that there can be much healthier places to live in. We are doing some renovations in some communities. We are seeing how we can properly renovate them so that they can be better to live in.

If Mr. Scott could elaborate a little more on this, he can do so.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott, go ahead.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The housing associations are funded to perform various functions, primarily preventative maintenance functions and, to some degree, demand maintenance.

Part of that is doing an annual unit condition rating, which then tells us the conditions of each of the units, or should tell us the condition of each of the units in the communities. It should indicate which ones are the worst ones and which ones should be shown as priority when it comes to developing the M&I program for their community.

The M&I program, we have a three-year M&I plan that is generated by the local housing organizations based upon their priorities, or what they feel are their priorities as far as major work that needs to be done on the units. They're prioritized based on health and safety first, and then energy efficiency secondly.

What we are finding though, as a result in the increase in demand maintenance being placed on maintenance staff, that not all of the unit conditioning ratings are getting done every year and not all of the preventative maintenance for four quarters are being generated by the maintenance and management program are being initiated as well.

That is obviously a concern of ours but it's a result of a bit of the man power issue that is there as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that useful information. So how do tenants, if they're in a house, how do they bring their concerns forward?

I get a sense that some of my constituents have brought the issue forward at some level. They've persevered and they've stayed in the house. Clearly, the last house I looked at, I personally didn't think it was safe, and I contacted the health department and I think they concurred with me.

The tenants are threatening to call the health inspector but usually you go to the landlord first and they will rectify it or try to rectify it and send in an assessment. So if you're a tenant in one of the social or public housing, how do you bring your concerns forward to ensure that they're taken care of? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Mr. Scott to respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott, go ahead.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first step that the tenants obviously should take is to contact the local housing office there and put in a work order request.

I'm well aware, as the member is, too, that often these aren't addressed immediately, especially if they're not considered to be high priority and sometimes they get put on sort of a waiting list while the housing organization clears up all of the higher priority work orders.

The other option is that they can go directly to their representatives on the board of directors that they've elected to talk to the board, or go to one of the monthly or bi-weekly board meetings that are held at the housing organization.

And after that, there are a number of different remedies. They can go to their MLA and talk to them, as you said your constituents have found that to be useful sometimes. They can also approach the rental officer if they feel that they're not being treated fairly by their landlord, which is the housing organization, then they can go to the rental officer for remedies there as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Scott. Mr. Peterson, can you keep your questions to the capital estimates? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Scott, for that answer. I would like to think that the MLAs are the last resort. I don't think all of them come to me but usually they come to me after they've exhausted all their other avenues. I think the LHO usually responds. Thank you for that information.

I noted in your opening comments, Mr. Minister, you were talking about providing more staff housing, particularly for the new trades school in Rankin Inlet, and the continuing care centres in Igloolik and Gjoa Haven. They are requesting additional funding to construct these staff housing units. It reminded me of my continuing efforts to get staff housing for the health centre in Cambridge Bay for medical professionals.

I'm wondering if you could give me an update on where the Housing Corporation is at in terms of having housing available for the medical professionals in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, perhaps there were seven or eight units that were geared towards the nursing centre and there are 25 vacant units in Cambridge Bay. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's useful information. As well, it appears that housing is not a problem in Cambridge Bay for health professionals, so the problem is elsewhere now. I will follow up appropriately with that information.

I wanted to ask him also, I have quite a few constituents in my riding who are elders and disabled, and they live in public and social housing. Do you make funding available for renovating those houses to ensure that they are suitable for elders and disabled to enter/exit, in terms of the steps, door handles that are easy for people with arthritis to open, caps on sinks and bathtubs that are easy to turn on and off, maybe even bathtubs that are low enough so that they can step into them, and railings to get up off of the toilet.

Do you make money available for renovations to houses for that purpose? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We try to make funding available to our elders and for the people with disabilities. We have a program that provides funding for those. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I'm sure that you're probably working in cooperation with the Department of Health to identify the home care people to identify who needs their housing upgraded to that status.

Under the homeowner programs for the Kitikmeot, you have \$450,000 budgeted. Can you give me a brief overview of how the program is being delivered in the Kitikmeot and how successful it is, say, in my riding of Cambridge Bay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, the first one you just mentioned, we work with the Department of Health and Social Services to determine which elders or people with disabilities require more assistance.

Perhaps Mr. Scott can respond to the latter question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's only because I was quicker flicking through the briefing book than he was.

Under the various programs that the Housing Corporation delivers in the Kitikmeot, for this year, 2007-08, we've taken in 138 applications for the various programs and 42

applicants have been approved out of that. There are also a number of other applications that are still pending final approval for another additional 35 applicants there.

The bulk of those approved applications are under the Home Repair Program, quickly followed by the Emergency Repair Program. So those are the two most popular programs currently delivered in the Kitikmeot region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Scott for those answers. With respect to those other programs if you're buying a house, you get \$30,000 or \$50,000, is there information available on those programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we have that information on hand as to whom and how many have applied for support through the Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program for material and renovation. All of that information is clearly written in the document that we have. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Your time is up. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a follow-up to some of the questions that I made earlier. I believe the minister is a lot more refreshed now from yesterday and today.

Mr. Chairman, I think the logistical problems are quite clear but I'm not sure, as a member of the committee here, that the problems that face us is really not all of the problems of the logistical contractor. I believe it has to do with the choice that the... because of the change in how the suppliers have been asked to deliver to the distribution centre, maybe so in Montreal, but mainly in that one location.

So I'm wondering, having said that, why would the minister now not change the tender, or RFP, to reflect the problems that we experienced and make it more efficient? The reason I'm saying that is you have now directed, I suppose, or advised the suppliers to deliver to the distribution centre in Montreal.

And they really don't... I'm not sure, are they advised to have a clearly marked product when the trucks are delivering? If they were clearly marked, why would some products going to the Kivalliq region be in Pond Inlet, for instance? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Before I get the minister to answer your questions, I would like to remind the committee members that we are still on page L-6. Grants and Contributions. Headquarters Region. Go ahead, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We wanted to have the packaging and crating of material to be done properly so that they could be shipped to the appropriate

destinations. They were crated and packaged but some of them were delivered to the wrong communities. We already mentioned how we can improve this.

Perhaps Mr. Scott can respond to Mr. Curley's question.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can only assume that the material, as it was coming into the marshalling yards, was clearly marked because our contractor, the Sealift Info, was able to track all of the materials coming in and be able to track the materials going out.

How some of the stuff got mislabeled and sent to other communities, I can only venture to guess that the capabilities and the capacity of the marshalling yard down there. Just as an example, I used the same marshalling company for my own personal sealift for this year and it ended up in Salluit, Northern Quebec, and I ended up with a crate of motor oil in my drive way, which was destined for Salluit.

So that kind of gives you an idea of how Pond Inlet material ended up in Igloolik and we have three roofing packages for two buildings in Kimmirut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. That explains some of the possibilities of the major materials that were slated for, for instance, the Kivalliq or a completely one.

Who makes the determination or the decision to the supplier that particular materials purchased should go to that distribution centre instead of, for instance, the Kivalliq when most of the material is lot closer through the Manitoba location? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sorry; there was no bid coming in from Manitoba. So therefore, we started working with the marshalling company in Montreal, as there was no bid from Manitoba, for the distribution and marshalling of the materials for the housing units slated for the Kivalliq region. So that's why they started working from that location. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the reason I'm asking that question is because I'm not 100 percent sure that you don't direct the supplier, from a certain point, to ship through Manitoba, for instance, where a number of materials are also going through because there are a number of marshalling companies and also freight forwarders there; quite experienced people; that you would actually be saving anything.

So my question to you also is that: when you say to this Assembly or to this committee that you are now encouraged to manage cost savings, how do you verify that cost savings that you say that you have made in the amount of \$6 million? Is that an estimate, or is that verified? How do we get to read that audited or estimate in any document? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money we expended for 2006-07, we will use that for 2007-08 estimates, and that's what we had used for the previous fiscal year's figures. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Akasuk. (interpretation) I apologize. (interpretation ends) Mr. Curley, go ahead.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the committee needs more information than... your proposal has stated that you're having a substantial savings and that you're going to be building a lot more houses from the cost savings that you made.

Can the minister explain to us: exactly what method are you going to use to verify cost savings? Is that going to be done by some audited statements? Is that going to be done by just a comment from you, or how is it going to be a verifiable statement for the members to consider? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The staff of the Nunavut Housing Corporation will make sure that they provide accurate figures. I do believe that we have a very capable staff and they have to make sure that they have accurate figures.

Our staff from the Nunavut Housing Corporation Finance Division, I'm sure, will provide the accurate figures and give us the cost savings amount. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the minister. I trust that this report will be professionally done and that we will have an opportunity to fairly evaluate the performance of the Housing Corporation.

I think it's really important that there will be an independent performance review of the Housing Corporation as well. Would the minister be agreeable to an independent review of the performance be made with respect to transportation, distribution, as well as all of the others, in order to prevent that kind of thing from happening again? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are getting audited by the OAG. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: My next question is this: will the minister commit to keeping the Members of the Assembly, particularly those MLAs that are impacted by the delay and material matter arriving at a particular location, will the minister ensure that transparency is carried out and that he will write to each MLA as to why there have been such delays?

Will he also keep the MLAs informed by way of progress reports and letters to MLAs that have not received that particular commitment that the Assembly has approved? Could he explain to us exactly when he expect the material and the houses to be completed in those particular communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) We will make sure that we do that. Once all the documents are completed, we will provide you with the details, and once the letters are received, if you have any questions or concerns, we will be more than receptive. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, I would like the minister to state to the House whether or not he would be willing to consider using the Manitoba distribution centre for all of the housing material, instead of through Montreal, because there was no reason whatsoever to have Kivalliq housing materials going through Montreal, and therefore, prevent a community like Arviat from seeing at least 15 units being built this summer? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we get the responses from the western part of Canada, we'll make sure that they are considered. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the distribution and freight forwarding companies in Manitoba and Churchill have experience. You don't need this RFP to tell you that it is not possible to ship through the Manitoba Railroad with the material that is designated for the Kivalliq.

The reason I'm saying that, Mr. Chairman, is that I think it's very important the minister gets to build the houses and deliver the material and provide housing to Nunavummiut.

My suggestion will do that. So, minister, why not direct the Housing Corporation officials to ensure that all the housing needs of Kivalliq go through Churchill, Manitoba, and if not, why not?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We try to make sure that we get the best suppliers and we do a review of the proposed costs. We also try to make sure that there's cost savings involved. That has been the process to date as we want to be able to build more houses for the same price.

If there's an able agency or company in Manitoba, we'll make sure that we follow our rules and procedures and do a review of their proposal. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, I know exactly where you are coming from. You were supposed to be building houses in Arviat. If they had gone through Manitoba, these houses that were supposed to be built in Arviat would have been completed by now because it's November already.

If you want to make sure that you build the houses that you said you were going to build, make sure that you go through Manitoba because they're extremely capable. It doesn't make any sense to have them shipped out from Montreal when you're sending them over to the Keewatin area.

Would you be able to accommodate that as there wouldn't have been any delays in any of the housing projects in the Keewatin if they had gone through Manitoba? If you don't want to do that, then I can tell you that the contractors will do exactly the same if you're going to be using Montreal as a departing point. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We do want to build the houses that are required in Nunavut.

Again, I would like to state that we don't want to see another incident like this. We're looking at more money to build more houses to meet the needs of Nunavummiut. We'll make sure that everything goes more smoothly, and to date, we will be looking at the savings that the Housing Corporation has made. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I know exactly where you're coming from. You're looking at cost savings, you're saying that, but I would like to tell you that those houses that were slated to go to Arviat came from Manitoba and that's exactly the opposite of cost savings.

Everything that's going to the Keewatin should go through Manitoba because it makes the most sense and costs less.

Would the minister be able to make sure that he looks into the idea of shipping from Manitoba? They have trains that run year round and there are also marshallers or expeditors who work out of Churchill all year round. We would have been able to utilize that company. I would like to tell you, Mr. Minister, if it worked out well for the Kivalliq region and Churchill, it would probably work out better for the Baffin region. Would you be able to look into that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I'll look into it.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Grants and Contributions. Headquarters Region. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On here there's half a million dollars slated for staff housing. I'm just wondering if the minister can give an indication on L-6, where that staff housing is going to go, or if it's just retrofit for staff housing, outline that and also where the Staff Housing New Supply, \$6.8 million, is going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is for Arviat and Gjoa Haven. I apologize. These are for retrofitting the staff housing for those two communities that are currently occupied. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are those GN owned staff housing units, or are they leased units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they are owned by the Government of Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other part of my question under their Staff Housing New Supply, \$6,835,000, can the minister indicate where those units are going? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. That's for the staff houses that are going to Igloolik, Gjoa Haven, and Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I assume that the ones for Igloolik and Gjoa Haven are going along with their continuing care centres that are going on there. I'm not sure if the ones in Rankin Inlet are for any specific department as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's for the trades school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if their department has looked at building any staff housing units in Arctic Bay. I know that earlier on, the Member for High Arctic pointed out that there was a couple of teachers that left because they didn't have staff housing. I'm just wondering if you're looking at situations like that that are being looked at to be addressed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently making a list of the communities that don't have adequate staff housing, and once we do a total review, we'll then decide on the allocation of staff houses and when. We currently don't have Arctic Bay on our list. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister give an indication of when that review will be complete? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is hard to tell at this point exactly when it will be. We are currently starting the review but once it's completed, then we will be able to know exactly when we will send more housing to other communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: My question was not when they will re-assign stuff to other communities but just when they anticipate having that report completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will include that report with the Staff Housing Policy review. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just ask the minister when they will expect to have that done. Hopefully, that clarifies it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure exactly when it would be. (interpretation ends) Mr. Scott would have a better idea of where we are with that report. Mr. Scott.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if work on it has been started yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Mr. Scott will respond to that as to exactly where they are at right now. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are in the process of refreshing the Staff Housing Supply Strategy that has been an ongoing updated report. The next snapshots of that report, of that strategy, should be ready within the next couple of weeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Scott, for that response. As he said that the next snapshots will be in the next couple of weeks, is that something that can be shared with members, or is it something that has to go to Cabinet or whatever? I'm just wondering if that information can be shared with the members to see where we are at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, after it goes through the Executive Council, then if there is a request for them to be tabled or put in public, I would be able to do so. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to just ask the minister to wait for a request to table it here. If he could just provide that information to the members once it's available, if the minister could commit to doing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will definitely try my best. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that snapshot of the review that they're looking at, do they take a look at places where all of the staff housing units are in every community? Do they look at and determine how many units they have and how many vacancies there are per community, for example; is that information included in there as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, those are recorded. We also have the communities where they have shortage of housing, or if there are vacant units. Yes, we do keep track of the records because we will be using that to strategize on where we should build more staff housing. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. He indicated staff housing shortages in some places. I'm just wondering if the minister is aware if there are any positions out there in any of the communities that haven't been able to be filled because they don't have staff housing for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: I'll get Mr. Scott to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not aware of any specific positions that are not being staffed as a result of lack of staff housing.

As everyone is aware, there are shortages particularly in some of the smaller non-decentralized communities, where teachers and other positions of GN have to share facilities and share staff housing units. Those are certainly the communities where we have identified as high priorities for delivery of additional staff housing units.

There certainly are vacant positions in a number of different communities and we want to make sure that there's adequate housing that's provided for the critical staff, which is nurses, medical staff, teachers, and social workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Scott for that response. The other question I wanted to ask, and I know it was something I mentioned in my opening comments, and I believe it's through the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Program for social housing throughout the territory.

Here in Iqaluit, I'm just wondering if I could get an update from the minister or his officials on the status of that project that was to be delivered under the trust fund for social housing here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just as a bit of a briefing on the project here in Iqaluit, there are 20 units that are scheduled to be built as part of the 2007-08 allocation to Iqaluit. There is a 10-plex that is starting this fall here and there are two three-bedroom five-plexes where the material, I believe, has been delivered to Iqaluit.

That project started off as a tendered project under supply, ship and erect, and the prices on particularly the 10-plex were higher than I was prepared to award the contract on. There were no bidders on the two five-plexes.

So as a result, we took over the general contracting responsibilities for that and turned that over to the Iqaluit Housing Authority. They're going to be managing the project for us. They currently, I believe, have six apprentices on staff that they're prepared to put on site to work with the journeymen so that they can continue their training towards their selected trade.

As of last Friday, we were looking for the beams that were supposed to come off the ship; the steel beams and the piles are in the ground; it's kind of hard building a house unless you've got the steel beams. I did drive by the site on Sunday, there were beams on site but I hadn't followed up since Sunday to see if the construction was actually started with the beams on site. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad the beams didn't miss the boat. Just on those ones for here, was that material all handled through the marshaller on the contract that was awarded?

I know that you mentioned earlier that these we're done on a supply, ship and erect approach. I would assume that that was done differently. Could I get some clarification there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was done differently when we went directly to the supplier for this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the minister. I'm just wondering if, when you look at the differences between the two approaches that the corporation has looked at again: this is what it cost us for these 20 units and these two five-plexes by doing it this way versus the similar amount of stuff it would have cost to do it the other way. Is that something that they've looked at and they are now in the process of trying to find ways to reduce costs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe Mr. Scott will respond to that question.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott, go ahead.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the process is that we did do an analysis of the bids we did receive under the supply, ship and erect, which meant the materials were included in the whole contract.

What we did in the comparison with what our price was by actually going directly to the same supplier that the contractor was utilizing and we estimated that our price of materials for the 20 units in Iqaluit was half a million dollars less than what the contractor had put in his original contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering, I'm pretty sure that it's been out there already and I just want to ask it for the record, is it so that you're looking at, in Iqaluit here, another 30 units over the next year; the two five-plexes and the 20 units? Does that include the two five-plexes, or is that a part of it, or are those 20 units? I'm just wondering if I could get the total number of units that are going to be constructed here.

I'm just wondering if the local housing authority, and the same in every community, is going to be able to get the O&M costs required to operate those units as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be constructing 20 units this year and at the end of the second year, we would have completed 30 units. So when they complete those 20 units, I believe we'll have to construct about 26 more units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for clarifying those numbers. The other part of that question was: will the housing authority be getting the O&M dollars to offset... I know that when they look at the housing costs, they say that for every dollar in capital is about \$9 or \$11 in O&M costs required to operate those units.

With the increasing cost of utilities and everything out there, I know that it could put a strain on housing organizations throughout the territory, but will they get the additional O&M cost required to maintain those units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, with respect to the increasing size of communities, we will give them more funding. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all the questions I have for now. I guess it's time to recognize the clock and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Are you making a motion to report progress?

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

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

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. 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: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Okalik. 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 meeting tomorrow morning of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development nine o'clock in the morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for October 31:

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

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

- Bill 16

20. Report to Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 31, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:54*

