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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Nattilik)

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

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(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services

Hon. Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

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

Hunter Tootoo

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, November 2, 2007

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Peter Kilabuk) (interpretation): Good morning. Let's say a prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier, Ministers, and Members. We started out different this morning, which is interesting. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Minister Aglukkaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 108 – 2(4): Akausisarvik – Haunted House

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Good morning, Mr. Speaker and everyone. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the members about a worthwhile event that recently took place in Iqaluit at the Akausisarvik facility on Tuesday evening. Since 2005 the staff have been holding a Haunted House event during which food is collected for the food bank.

Mr. Speaker, this year between 250 and 300 people passed through the doors of the facility and enjoyed the entertainment provided by the staff and residents. In addition, the residents and staff filled up two huge blue containers and half of an office with donated food.

It is important to note that one of the primary reasons the Haunted House event was started was so that people would have a chance to interact with residents of the facility. It was conceived as an educational tool for the public and the patients as well as a chance to share some community spirit.

Mr. Speaker, this event has continued to grow since its inception and is a great benefit to all involved as I have seen myself. I would like to commend the staff and residents of Akausisarvik for hosting the Haunted House and gathering food for those in need. I would also like to single out Neil Myers for a special thank you as the originator of the idea.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the Iqaluit residents who volunteered to support this initiative as well. Thank you to all who were involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Minister's Statement 109 – 2(4): Residential Smoke Detector Program

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce a territorial initiative that provides a new smoke detector to each home in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker the department is providing a new smoke detector for each home, in every community in Nunavut to help improve the fire safety of our residents and communities. These smoke detectors are battery operated and are equipped with a type of battery which is designed to last for the entire ten-year life span of the detector.

Mr. Speaker, fires in and around our residential housing continues to be a concern. The causes of these fires vary greatly. Early warning of a fire is a key to getting all of the occupants out of the house safely and to allow time for the fire department to be called and respond as quickly as possible.

In almost all of our housing a wired-in smoke alarm is already serving to provide a fire warning to residents. In some fire incidents this type of smoke alarm can be disabled by a spreading fire. The main objective of this program is to provide a different means of detecting and enhancing the capability of the fire warning system within each home.

Mr. Speaker, the smoke detectors are being sent to each municipal fire department, and with their valuable assistance, distribution within the communities will occur. This initiative will provide one more tool in the fight against fire. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 234 – 2(4): Hockey Game Between MLAs and Firefighters on Sunday

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I wanted to wear something red today. I don't have any more red because we keep winning. I'm sorry that my tie is not red.

As this time I would like to inform the members that on Sunday we will be playing hockey. So if we can play as well as Montreal has been playing, it'll be good.

>> *Applause*

The fire volunteers here in Iqaluit have asked us to play with them on Sunday at eight o'clock. I am urging members to be there at 8:30, so we will start at 8:30. I urge all the members to join.

We will be donating to Qimaavik Women's Shelter because they assist Nunavummiut. We want to recognize them and thank them for their hard work.

So, let's have a good game and I urge everyone to come and join us, and we will win. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 235 – 2(4): Kugluktuk Grade 12 Graduates

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise today to congratulate Kugluktuk's grade 12 students who recently graduated.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to be able to attend the graduation ceremony for these fine young individuals in August.

The graduates are:

Lena Adjun

Kyle Aviak

Helena Bolt

Pamela Bolt

Anessa Hatogina, and

Mickey Kadlun

They should be very proud of their success. We are all aware that graduating from grade 12 is an important milestone.

Mr. Speaker, three of these young people are continuing with their education. Kyle is upgrading his courses with a view to attending college next year. Pam is at Nunavut Arctic College and Lena is attending Lakeland College in Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kugluktuk's grade 12 graduates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. We're proud of them. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Netser.

Member's Statement 236 – 2(4): Update on Member Alagalak's Health

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I talked to our colleague from Arviat and he's recovering in his home. We are proud of him.

>>Applause

When I was passing through Rankin Inlet I was told to mention that they were very proud that the Baker Lake MLA caught his first whale with a harpoon this summer.

He was very happy but when he was cutting it up there was a lot of *Tunnuq*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 237 – 2(4): Importance of Protecting Nunavut Consumers

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I rise today to address the issue of consumer protection.

Mr. Speaker, every time I turn on my computer, I find my inbox filled with junk mail, spam, ads for cheap drugs and offers to get rich quick.

Mr. Speaker, every time I go to the post office, I find no shortage of junk mail, flyers and other forms of advertising in my mail box.

Even at home I can't escape. It often seems that every time I answer the telephone, someone on the other end is trying to sell me something or convince me that I have somehow won a free vacation to sunny Las Vegas.

Mr. Speaker, we live in an age where advertisers, con artists, identity thieves and scammers can reach us 24 hours per day.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that we cannot isolate ourselves from the rest of the world. That is the nature of the information age in which we live.

However, I do believe that our government must make more effort to educate and protect our consumers, especially those who are most vulnerable to fraud and identity theft, such as elders.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Mr. Curley: We must, Mr. Speaker, ensure that our own retailers are following all applicable laws and regulations with respect to the safety of the products that they sell, including second-hand goods, automobiles and items of machinery.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the Consumer Affairs Division of the Department of Community and Government Services to work closely with all appropriate partners in this area, including law enforcement, the Information and Privacy Commissioner and federal regulators. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 238 – 2(4): Congratulate Susan Gardener on Lawn Contest

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to add, just very quickly, that when you get calls and letters from people that you don't even know, and also to begin with a song on a funny Friday, I appreciate the Member's Statement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate one of my constituents, Susan Gardener. Mr. Speaker, Susan is a lifelong Nunavut resident and mother. She also has, Mr. Speaker, a green thumb. Susan's pride and joy over the last few years is her lawn in front of her house located in Tundra Valley.

Susan entered a photo of her lawn on the national David Suzuki 'Digs My Garden' Photo Contest. Mr. Speaker, Susan's lawn garnered the most votes in an online poll, and Mr. Speaker, won the contest; a Nunavut lawn won the National Lawn Contest. Mr. Speaker, Susan's lawn is the work of over ten years to design, build, and grow. It adds a little annual green to our neighbourhood.

Mr. Speaker, join with me in congratulating Nunavut's own Susan Gardener for placing first in the National Lawn Contest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 239 – 2(4): Charitable Donations by Nunavummiut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to rise and once again pay tribute to the generosity of Nunavummiut. I guess it kind of ties into the Premier's statement in regard to the hockey event that is going on Sunday for charity.

As he indicated, maybe if we play as Montreal players, we'll be better. Hopefully, all the players out there will remember their limitations as well. They aren't Montreal players; even though they think they might be able to play like that, that they aren't.

Mr. Speaker, figures released yesterday by Statistics Canada indicates that in 2006 Canadians reported making \$8.5 billion in charitable donations.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able, once again, to rise in this House, as I have for the past number of years, and report that donors in Nunavut led all provinces and territories in terms of their median donations. In 2006 the median donation reported by Nunavut tax filers was \$450, while the median donation nation-wide was only \$250. Nunavut has led the nation in this category since 2000. In total, over \$2.6 million were donated in 2006 by 1,630 generous Nunavummiut to registered charities. That works out to approximately \$7,000 every single day of the year.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that these statistics only take into account donations which official tax receipts were provided. We all know that Nunavummiut make donations of time and money every day without asking for a tax receipt.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to note that while Nunavut has the highest median donation, it has also the smallest percentage of tax filers claiming donations. I continue to believe that this fact speaks clearly to the income gap in our territory and the unacceptable high level of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, a relatively small percentage of our population has the means to make generous donations, while the remainder of our population struggle to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to speak out in the fight against poverty. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the day when Nunavut has both the highest median charitable donations, and the highest percentage of people making donations in our country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Item 3. Members' Statements. Ms. Brown.

Member's Statement 240 – 2(4): Recognition of Bernadette Okpik Patterk

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to remember my younger sister Sanses Maniliaq Ford. It's her birthday today. I love you and send my greetings. Inuit used to say when I was a child they would say, send their greetings. Nowadays we say *Tagvauvutit* instead of *Tavvauvutit*.

Especially, I would like to acknowledge and to inform the members that our elder in Rankin Inlet South in my riding, who is about 90 years old, as my colleague knows very well, Okpik Bernadette Patterk. Back in around 1957 had made a documentary film or a movie that was aired internationally.

This film was made by the National Film Board when he was a pastor preaching to people in snow houses. So I believe this individual should be recognized. Although he may be 90 years old or more, he still goes to school to teach the students about Inuit culture and traditions. The students really enjoy him.

She has worked at the health centre for many years and she's retired from that job. Many people call her mother. Even though she was working, she took care of the patients and would bring in food to us. I still remember her good deeds. So therefore, I would like to acknowledge her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Item 3. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With great pleasure today I would like to recognize an individual in the Gallery who, despite what he might say as he always does, "this is my brother from another mother," he's not my brother, he's actually my cousin. I would like to recognize Michael Irniq. This year, he was doing some training in Arviat and back working with the Housing Corporation down there. So I would like to welcome him to the Gallery here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 305 – 2(4): Devolution Negotiations

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and our lead in devolution negotiations with our counterparts in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, It's been reported in the media that a federal negotiator, Paul Meyers, has indicated that one of the concerns he said that GN employees are young, inexperienced, and don't stay in their positions for very long. It has also been reported that our position is that we need a slice of the resource revenues to address our manpower problems.

I'm just wondering if the Premier can give us an indication of their point of view on that. Does it mean that we need additional resources to be able to attract and retain employees in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I will compare my record to that of Indian Affairs any single day. We want to retain control of our resources.

Since the land claim was agreed to in 1993, the federal government has had time to train Inuit as they're required to do under the land claim agreement. We were formed in 1999. We've had a few years, a lot less than that of our federal counterparts to train Inuit. Today we are at 50 percent. I believe that the federal government's retention of Inuit in their offices here is at 25 percent.

An Hon. Member: Shame, shame.

Hon. Paul Okalik: So I think if the world is going to judge us on our record of training Inuit and recruiting Inuit, I think we're doing a better job with much less time to train Inuit.

So to be compared, I would like to be compared to that of the department that wants to control our resources and how they're doing. Why aren't they training more Inuit and helping us to manage our resources? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for that response and pointing out the factual information.

Mr. Speaker, in the media, like I said, it's reported that we need those additional resources to address our man power problems.

Mr. Speaker, would the Premier concur that one of the problems we have in employee recruitment and retention is that we're not able to provide competitive pay and benefits packages to our employees due to the limited, restrictive resources that we receive now through the Territorial Formula Financing Agreement with the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We are currently in negotiations with the union so I can't really comment on the overall discussions so far, but as I said, we're doing our part in training Inuit to fill in the positions in our government and if we had control of our resources, we would be doing the same thing.

So I would like to see the federal government do their part and training more Inuit so that the Inuit can assume their responsibilities, and we can have an easier transition of transferring the resources and the man power to our government.

So that's our goal and we're waiting on the federal government to get to the table and start substantive discussions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your second supplementary, Mr. Premier. I'm sorry, Mr. Tootoo.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Tootoo: I'm originally from Rankin Inlet, too, but that doesn't mean that I have to change my name, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we would agree that it would be very nice to see the federal government step up to the plate and live up to their obligations to Nunavut instead of just continuous for... I mean I think the last two governments now, we've heard a lot of lip service from them.

Mr. Speaker, I guess my question, again, deals with what's been reported in the media. It says we need these additional revenues to address our man power problems. Can the

Premier indicate, if he can, an idea of how that would help resolve our man power issues?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It would definitely help us in promoting our resources further.

Right now, if you look at it, the federal government has responsibility for all of Canada. So they can't really be focusing on one part of the country in promoting the resources of the overall country.

So if we had control of our own resources, we would be a lot more active in promoting the resources within our territory and creating more opportunities for our citizens. So that's one of the limitations that are there today. So I'm hopeful that we can make some progress but it's becoming rather frustrating.

As for today, there's limited activity because of the lack of promotion of our resources in terms of generating revenue from our resources.

So we could get control of our resources today and we would still be dependent on the federal government for a little while. I would like to see a day when we manage our own resources and benefit from our resources, and that is where we're trying to go.

It will take time but it will require the other party to go to the table and join us in our efforts to become managers of our own resources and benefit from those resources.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that in Nunavut we have very little opportunities to be able to generate our own source of revenues, given we don't have a whole lot of factories, we can't cut down trees to get our lumber; everything that we buy up here comes from the south.

I think it's important, if we are to proceed into the future and become self-reliant, we need to be able to find ways to generate our own source revenues. I think that through resource royalties, it's probably one of the very few that we have to do that.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier: does the Premier have an idea of say, for every dollar that goes out to the federal government in royalties, how much do we get back?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In terms of resource royalties, we get none. It all goes to the federal government.

An Hon. Member: Shame, shame.

Hon. Paul Okalik: We are lucky right now that there's only one active mine that is generating revenue. So we're not losing too much, but it's just a matter of time before the amount of revenues coming out of mineral and oil and gas activity surpasses what we get back from Ottawa because we have enormous potential.

So I'm hoping that we can make some progress so that we don't get there, so that we can generate our own revenues and not depend on Ottawa every single year, and ask for additional funds to run our programs.

So I'm hopeful that with this government we can make some progress, but to date, it's getting very frustrating. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 306 – 2(4): Status of Housing Materials

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation.

He stated to me that he has no more answers because he already responded but there is a new question that the minister has not responded to. Can the minister provide the House with an update this morning on the exact location and status of the housing materials that are waiting to be shipped to Nunavut?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, I will have you respond to the question if you wish, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. They are still in Montreal and we have indicated to them which community they should be flown to and that has to be placed as a priority.

They are still in Montreal but we are currently working on it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to thank the minister but I would like him to know, and from what I know, there are over 45 truckloads that have been brought to Ontario.

My question is: has the Nunavut Housing Corporation awarded a new sole source contract to sort these materials, and if so, to whom has it been awarded and what is its value? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been trying to do exactly what we've been doing in regard to contracting and it has been given to *Aqqujaaq*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question in my preamble indicated that there was a firm in Ontario that has been sole sourced to sort out the mess that originally was the responsibility of the contractor he signed on to last year.

My second question is; earlier this week, the minister committed to providing the Members of this Assembly with regular updates on the status of their communities' public housing construction: when can members expect to receive news for the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once all the documentation has been written, it will very likely be the end of this month that we'll be able to give an update on the public housing construction.

Once all the documentation has been completed, then we will give you an update. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each year the Minister of Community and Government Services tables an annual report on the GN's contracting activities. However, this report does not include information on the contracting activities of Crown corporations.

Will the Minister of Housing commit to tabling a comprehensive, transparent, and detailed contract report at the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly on the results of the NHC's most recent Request for Proposals for marshalling and packaging services? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I commit to giving you a comprehensive, transparent, and detailed contract report. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Question 307 – 2(4): Impact of Fuel Price Increase

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

Mr. Speaker, on October 22 the minister indicated that the new fuel prices will not enable the government's Petroleum Products Stabilization Fund to maintain its legislative limits with the cost of this year's fuel re-supply.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, the *Revolving Funds Act* was amended in both 2004 and 2006. The authorized limit of the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund now stands at \$150 million.

My question for the minister: can the minister indicate whether the *Revolving Funds Act* will need to be amended again, and if so, when will a bill be brought forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague made a very good statement. The Revolving Fund was at \$110 million and it went over by \$50 million. We will be getting a report from PPD and see whether there has to be an amendment or not. I will discuss this with the Petroleum Products Division. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That certainly doesn't sound very hopeful for us.

Mr. Speaker, in the same news release the minister mentioned that on November 1, the retail prices for fuel will go up 10 cents per litre and 20 cents on aviation fuel. It says further in the news release that aviation fuel increase brings the price into line with those charged in other Canadian jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, the airlines have already announced, I saw their news release or news story that they're passing this increase onto their consumers in the form of higher ticket prices.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut itself purchases a significant number of airline tickets each year for medical travel and other purposes. I believe I heard the Minister of Health mention 14,000 tickets; across Nunavut, there are probably 30,000 tickets for all forms of travel by government.

My question for the minister: can the minister indicate to the House what the net impact of this increase in ticket prices will be on the Government of Nunavut's bottom line? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been anticipating an increase in fossil fuels, and I have been asked by some people in advance when the fuel prices were going to be increasing.

This summer there was a vast increase in the per-barrel market and I think it went up to \$90 per barrel. We don't have much of a choice as CGS and Petroleum Products Division but we give this information to the FMB and then we set the prices.

I'm not exactly sure what kind of impact it would have on the communities but as we heard, the airline companies were going to be increasing their airfares. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. Here in the minister's news release, she also mentions energy contingency was built into the Government of Nunavut's fiscal plan. I'm not sure what 'energy contingency' means but, Mr. Speaker, the price of a barrel of oil recently touched \$96 U.S., I think it was two days ago that I heard that on the television. Two years ago it was \$50 U.S.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell us if the Government of Nunavut has reached the crisis level with respect to high fuel prices? At some point, we're going to be unable to pay to stay in business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you. There was an increase on November 1 and this is the first time that the regular members would have not been given enough time with a notice of when there is going to be a fuel increase.

We have given them one-week notice, but in any case, there was a constant increase in the fuel prices and a 20-cent increase in the aviation fuel. We were able to keep a subsidy to make sure that it could be affordable for consumers.

Yes, there's going to be an aftereffect with the increase but there's going to be a rebate program for hunters. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. Mr. Speaker, one important thing about fuel is we all need fuel, particularly for our houses. With ATVs and vehicles we can choose not to drive, but when we're living in our houses we have to heat them. We need fuel to operate our power plants. So unfortunately, we have to pay for the fuel for those because we don't have much choice.

The minister mentioned subsidies and contingency plans. When the government's paying more money, it takes the money away from other programs and services that Nunavummiut need. So one way or the other we're going to pay; the suffering of programs and services for higher fuel prices. So we have to do something.

My question for the minister: can the minister indicate to the House what steps the Petroleum Products Division is taking to work for the Department of Finance to implement the Government of Nunavut's new Fuel Price Hedging Policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our department is working extremely hard. As a Nunavummiuq, I do pay for petroleum products like everybody else.

In regard to your question and in regard to the Hedging Policy, we did review that. It might have to be put in the future but not this year. We are currently doing a review and the Department of Finance was the ones who brought up the Hedging Policy.

Once it's approved, then we'll see. Thank you.

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

Question 308 – 2(4): Gravel Shortage in Kugluktuk

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the minister and her Cabinet colleagues for taking the time to visit Kugluktuk in September of this year.

One of the issues facing the community is the shortage of gravel. As the minister is aware, heavy rains earlier this year caused floods that washed away parts of our roads. The hamlet also needs a crusher and a blaster.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate to me what assistance can be provided to Kugluktuk in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for posing those questions. We were in Kugluktuk and it was very welcoming.

In regard to gravel, there is a shortage there and Kugluktuk is one of those communities. They are having a very hard time meeting the gravel needs of their community and I'm well aware of it. The Hamlet of Kugluktuk and CGS worked together to rectify this problem.

Let me put my glasses on.

On this issue, some of the communities have been trying to get support from the government in order to produce gravel. Some gravel deposits are farther in some communities but we've been trying to find out how much it will cost if we bought some gravel by barge. It will be something like \$800 per cubic metre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. The 2007-08 business plan for the Department of Community and Government Services indicates that one of its priorities has been to "establish a granular program." I know that \$56,000 has been budget for 2008-09 for granular programs in the Kitikmeot. Can the minister tell me how much of this funding could be accessed by Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The CGS Department will have identified the program for the engineering consulting and they'll be working towards Kugluktuk. They have started earlier this summer.

We won't know what the total will be until later but we will get the estimates a little later on. The report will be done this year for the community of Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Madam Minister. I understand that the minister's department is working on a study on the issue of granular materials in different communities. Can the minister tell me today when she expects the study to be completed and tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I found the piece of paper I was looking for. (interpretation ends) A model containing information of data on quarries in Nunavut will be ready in the fall of 2007. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Mapsalak.

Question 309 – 2(4): Update on Insurance for Outfitters

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this spring, Levi Barnabas had asked a similar question and I just need clarification on it. I want to ask the minister at what stage the assistance for outfitters' insurance is at up to now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have similar concerns for the outfitters in communities and they are paying a lot of money for insurance.

Nunavut Tourism is able to assist hunters by letting them know where they could get insurance packages and assist them in that way by providing applications.

The insurance issue is being reviewed to see how we could decrease the cost that the outfitters to pay. We are able to assist them within Economic Development through the Small Businesses Support Program. At this time we are able to assist them through that when the insurance is very high for the outfitters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the minister could identify how much they could be assisted through the insurance program for the outfitters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They have different levels of payment for insurance. If anyone wants assistance, they can ask our department. They also have regional offices they could contact to find out how much insurance they would be allowed to pay for the outfitters. They could be assisted if they contact the offices.

I can't tell you exactly how much is allowable to pay for their insurance. Whoever has an outfitting business in the communities, they could contact our office for more information on the levels of the insurance payments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The outfitters are not able to keep up because of the high cost of insurance premiums. Are they looking into how they could assist the outfitters? They could have a contact to find out how they could lower their insurance payments as owners of outfitting businesses in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are looking into doing reviews to see how the outfitters can lower the costs of their insurance premiums and we would like to assist them in any way we can.

There aren't many outfitters in Nunavut. We are reviewing the insurance plans and looking at ways to see how we can better assist them in the communities so that they can keep up with their insurance payments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How long will it take to complete the review that you are proposing to do? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It won't take long. It's almost done. We will see how large the amount that the outfitters have to pay for their insurance.

The Small Business Support Program would be able to assist outfitters when they're paying for their insurance. We are also looking at other programs that might be able to assist them, too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 310 – 2(4): Shortage of Mental Health Workers

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, the mental health workers in the communities of Nunavut are very important and hold vital services. The positions for the mental health positions are not filled in the communities, even though there's a huge need for mental health workers in the communities.

In one of my constituencies we have one mental health worker. Other communities have more than one job description and the mental health worker is overworked. Can the minister put forth more positions in the communities and fill the positions for the mental health workers?

They are overworked and I'm asking the minister if she will get more PYs for the mental health positions in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be happy to provide that information to the member. In the three communities of Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, and Arctic Bay, in terms of what positions are available for mental health, I have to get that information and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister update this House on what efforts are being made to provide counselling services in all Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Counselling services are provided by a variety of a number of positions throughout Nunavut with the Department of Health or outside the Department of Health.

One example is wellness counsellors. We have wellness counsellors in most communities. We have social workers in communities. We also have travelling psychiatrists that come to the communities to provide counselling. As well, mental health nurses are in the communities. There's a variety of positions in the Department of Health that provide some form of counselling services. We also have A&D workers at the hamlet levels that also provide counseling.

So I can provide that information in terms of the variety of functions or positions that we have within the Department of Health that provide some form of counselling or advice to people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 311 – 2(4): One Firefighter Trained in Iqaluit

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

I understand firefighters had training this week and last week. I have a concern on this training because, from what I understand, there were two firefighters flown in from other communities but there was only one firefighter here from my community or constituency. I want to know what the reason was for sending just one firefighter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's true. There was a training here starting on Monday. They completed their training today and they'll start heading home. We had supper with them last night.

That's a very good question. There were people from a lot of communities. The captain mentioned that there was one from Sanikiluaq. I can certainly check into why there was only one person from Sanikiluaq during the training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. She stated that she will let me know. Can she tell me when she will give me the information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My staff is listening so they're probably checking into it right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very happy that she will let me know by one o'clock and her fellow minister said the same thing. So I will be very happy if she provides the information by 1:00. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. There was no question. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 312 – 2(4): Update on Foster Parent Review

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 know it's an unfortunate thing that we face, not only here in Iqaluit but in a lot of places; the demand and the need for foster families throughout the territory. I believe there was a review done a couple of years ago on this issue by the department. I would just like to ask the minister if she's aware of any findings or any changes that came about as a result of that review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware if there was a review done or not but I'll find that out.

I know with the Foster Parent Association what we've tried to do was provide training for foster parents and promote the foster parents' program throughout the territory. I understand the association themselves are also trying to organize foster parent associations in the other two regions. The one here is quite active.

So we have tried to put that information out to the general population in trying to get more foster parents in Nunavut to address the needs in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know, like for example here in Iqaluit, they were actually even putting ads out on the radio looking for foster parents or foster families. I would like to ask the minister, with our unfortunate demand for foster families, when was the last time that the department reviewed the rates that foster families receive for fostering children?

I know over the last few years there have been substantial increases in the cost of living here in Nunavut. So I would just like to ask the minister if she could indicate when the last time those rates were reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recall the foster parent rates were increased within the term of this government. So some time after 2004, they were increased to address the concern that the member has raised. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response and I do recall it. In the review and the changes of rates, I believe it's been some time since those rates have been changed, but given the almost annually increasing cost of living here in Nunavut, would the minister consider looking at indexing those rates to go along with the increase in the cost of living if that isn't the case already? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to doing that review for the member as well as this House and provide that information on whether we can index the rates for foster parents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question, I just want to clarify and I would like to thank the minister for committing to looking into that.

I know that her department has the responsibility for that program but given the change in the financial responsibilities for the department, my last question is this: is the responsibility still with her department for issuing the cheques out to the foster families for the rates that are provided, or does that now fall under the Department of Finance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I know, that responsibility, in terms of the day-to-day management of the foster parent program, and budget rests with the Department of Health. In terms of processing the cheques and so on, I believe that falls with the Department of Finance processing function. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 313 – 2(4): Consumer Protection for Sale of Used Cars

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I want to be quite clear on my concern with respect to consumer protection.

I believe the consumer protection legislation that we have in any regulations is inadequate to clamp down on some of the issues that I mentioned, concerns of constituency during my statements.

For instance, most of the general stores like Wal-Mart or Sears for that matter, if they're going to be selling automobiles, they will actually have automobile services that are properly licensed and regulated. We are now seeing products like North Mart or North West Company selling used cars and used trucks without any regard for consumer safety.

I would like to ask the minister whether she could commit to review the current legislation and protection for consumers, and see whether or not licenses are required or not so that there will be a safety factor that are clearly stipulated on products they are selling?

Mr. Speaker, I believe the consumers in Nunavut require the minister to look into that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleague. (interpretation ends) The area of responsibilities and key initiatives on that information I have, this consumer affairs section of the department's Community Development Division was established in Baker Lake in September 2000, which is quite old and I believe it needs updating and maybe improvement.

As far as information goes there, the Consumer Affairs Division administers the consumer service area and its relevant programs and legislation, including the *Real Estate Licensing Act*, the *Consumer Protection Act*, the *Secondhand Dealers and Pawn Brokers Act*, the *Business Licensing Act*, the *Lottery Licensing Act*, and the *Billing Classification Act*.

I would believe it would probably be under *Secondhand Dealers Act*, what my colleague is speaking on. I would further check into that and see what the department can do. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I believe that they have some tools to deal with the problems that I just outlined. These problems that I outlined, in terms of safety; whether the products are safe and whether they are certified products; are really required by consumers so that they're not spending thousands of dollars.

I can honestly tell the minister that there was one individual who bought a used car/truck from the North West Company and ended up spending an additional \$6,000 the following week to bring it up to standard.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is: will you consider requiring these companies to actually have a license to service products instead of just getting a quick dollar for a product that is sold as is? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can certainly check into this further and check what was said, especially with the North West Company. A lot of times they sell things just to get quick money. A lot of times we can't seem to go any other way.

I feel for the person of whom he mentioned about. I can assure the members that I'll certainly check into this. If we can, we will try to make changes for that.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Minister, for responding to my question. I believe that these are not isolated cases at all, particularly in places like Rankin Inlet with the North West Company selling vehicles, approximately in the range of 50 vehicles every summer now.

There are other products that are coming in available to consumers. I just want to raise it and help the minister out a bit.

I noticed this summer that the products that I considered unsafe were being sold on the counter, like firecrackers, by one of our Co-op stores in the Kivalliq region. So for the young kids, these are actually fun stuff for them. So in the dark of the night, middle of the midnight, they're out near the houses and crack these up, and it scares the elder to death.

Could the minister consider some of the products and review them, whether they should be sold over the counter? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will certainly investigate under these developing policies that reflect Nunavut-specific needs and include current government mandates. I will try and see what fits under there for safety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 314 – 2(4): Funding for Immigrants

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

(interpretation ends) We've heard a lot about doctors' and nurses' shortages in the newspapers and through radio. Can the Minister for Immigration explain the process to bring in these people and other immigrants? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Multiculturalism, Homelessness and Immigration, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for the question.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut has been involved in a process with our federal partner on a provincial nomination program. We haven't signed one off yet. What we have been doing is looking at specific recruitment or targeting specific positions, for example, like nurses, where we had an opportunity some time ago to bring nurses in from Australia and from the Philippines and so on.

In cases like that, they're really not immigrants. They're actually people we bring in for specific tasks. If they come here on a work permit and they're entitled to stay for a period of time, then at the end of that time they can apply for immigration status within the country, or territory, or province where they're living. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated that there's a nomination program within the Government of Nunavut. I would like to ask the minister: does the federal government provide funding to pay for these costs for the immigrants? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is about \$300,000 available to the Government of Nunavut for the process of helping facilitate immigration to the territory and the settlement of staying when we use that.

We haven't drawn down on the monies specifically through the provincial nomination program because we're still in the process at the jurisdiction of working with the federal government on having a provincial nomination program in place for the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister.

I think either last year or the year before we had nurses in training who came to our community to help Nunavut, but my question is: to date, how many nurses have immigrated to Canada? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Multiculturalism, Homelessness, and Immigration, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, the process that we use to bring in nurses and other professionals, what we do there is we target certain sectors of the economy where we need these specialist people, in this case nurses, and in other cases it could be a doctor, it could be an epidemiologist. In those cases, Mr. Speaker, what we attempt to do is identify those people.

They have to pass the registration to practice their profession in Canada itself and they don't necessarily actually apply for immigration status when they come in. They come in under a work permit. So hopefully that helps answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We see through the media that in all of Canada we have a shortage of health professionals, nursing professionals, and doctors.

For Nunavut, we already know we have a shortage of nurses and doctors. So what is the problem in Nunavut for that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like any other jurisdiction in Canada, we've seen a real shortage of different positions, in this case, the medical professionals of nurses and so on.

We did do recruitment in Australia that the member may remember, early in the life of the first government, and we were able to follow up on that success with bringing about 22 other nursing professionals to the territory over the last several months.

However, Mr. Speaker, when people want to come to Canada, Canada looks at the overall policy for us when we look at immigration, that's a federal jurisdiction. What the Government of Nunavut can do as a provincial and territorial government, we can have a nomination program in place where we try to bring in specific categories of employees, and that's what we've been working on.

At the same time, we're also working with the federal minister and signing off on a provincial nomination program as a jurisdiction so that we can access some more federal dollars, but at the same time, identify some of those skill shortage positions that we are trying to bring in. That may be electricians, it could be plumbers or what have you. It is not solely for health but it would be across a whole spectrum of employment opportunities or occupations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Members, you will note that Question Period is now over. Mr. Tapardjuk.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Minister Tapardjuk.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge and also thank our Sergeant-at-Arms who came from Igloolik. Today is his last day. He wasn't told that we start Friday morning at ten o'clock, so I apologize. I would like to thank him again for being with us for a whole week, so I would like to acknowledge him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I also would like to thank our replacement Sergeant-at-Arms this morning. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written

Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on Review of Bills. I'm sorry. Mr. Curley.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report on Bills 002 – 2(4): Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development: Report on the Review of Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have a report, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honour today of presenting a brief report by the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development on its review of Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Local Authorities Elections Act*.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 5 was introduced earlier this year by the Minister of Community and Government Services. The bill was referred to the standing committee for scrutiny following its second reading in the House. The bill proposes to amend legislation governing the election of members to local authorities, including municipal councils and District Education Authorities.

Mr. Speaker, after its referral to the standing committee, a call for public submissions on the proposed legislation was issued. The standing committee also wrote directly to a number of key stakeholders to solicit comment on the bill, including the Chief Electoral Officer, Mayors, Chairs of District Education Authorities and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities.

During its scrutiny of the proposed legislation, the standing committee identified a number of specific issues of concern. Mr. Speaker, these included candidate eligibility, dispute resolution mechanisms with respect to debts owing to a municipality and the filling of vacancies on local authorities. The standing committee was pleased with the minister's willingness to work with members in addressing these issues. The standing committee considered a number of potential amendments to Bill 5.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the *Nunavut Elections Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2002. This completely new piece of legislation replaced the old *Elections Act* which was inherited upon division in 1999. Experience has clearly demonstrated the value of this undertaking.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that work is presently underway by Elections Nunavut to bring forward a new, made-in-Nunavut *Plebiscite Act*.

Mr. Speaker, as you will also recall, the First Assembly gave careful consideration to the concept of harmonizing the administration of Nunavut's elections at both the territorial

and municipal level. This issue was reviewed at our Full Caucus Retreat in the fall of 2004.

Mr. Speaker, after giving careful consideration to these issues, and after carefully reviewing the submission provided by the Chief Electoral Officer, the standing committee is of the view that the most preferable course of action would be for the minister to bring forward a new piece of legislation to govern the election of members to local authorities, rather than simply amending the existing and outdated statute.

This course of action would allow for the harmonization of Nunavut's three primary pieces of elections-related legislation: the *Nunavut Elections Act*, the *Local Authorities Elections Act* and the *Plebiscite Act*.

This will provide a firm foundation for the future, and the standing committee is confident that this work can be accomplished in a reasonable period of time. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, the standing committee recommends that Bill 5 proceed no further in the legislative process and be allowed to fall off the order paper.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to clearly state for the public record that the standing committee is pleased with the collegial way in which the minister has worked with the standing committee, as well as her officials, Mr. Speaker. We are confident that the course of action proposed by the standing committee will lead to a positive result for all Nunavummiut. With that, I move that the Report of the Standing Committee be received by this House. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Do members agree that the report be received by the House?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. (interpretation) Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 139 – 2(4): Court Order (Nunavut Court of Justice) NBDC Inc. and Qulliq Energy Corporation, October 9, 2007

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to table the court order filed October 26, 2007 in the Nunavut Court of Justice for the dispute between the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation and the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

I note that Qulliq Energy Corporation has been ordered to pay all NBDC's costs. I urge all members to read the court order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation) Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

Tabled Document 140 – 2(4): Procurement Contracting Activity Report for Legislative Assembly of Nunavut 2006-2007

Tabled Document 141 – 2(4): Indemnities, Allowances and Expenses to the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, March 31, 2007

Tabled Document 142 – 2(4): Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Fund Financial Statements March 31, 2007

Tabled Document 143 – 2(4): Legislative Assembly Supplementary Retiring Allowances Fund Financial Statements March 31, 2007

Speaker: Thank you. Members, I wish to table for today the Report of Contracting Activity for the Office of the Legislative Assembly for those contracts of a value greater than \$5,000 for the fiscal year 2006-07.

Again, Honourable Members, pursuant to section 36 of the *Legislative Assembly & Executive Council Act*, I wish to table the report on the payment of the member indemnities, allowances and expenses for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007.

Again, members, pursuant to section 21 (1) (b) (c) of the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act*, I wish to table today the audited financial statements of the Retiring Allowances Fund for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007.

(interpretation) And again, members, (interpretation ends) pursuant to section 20 (b) of the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, I wish to table today the audited financial statements of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Fund for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007.

(interpretation) Thank you. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Health, Minister Aglukkaq.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 20 – Midwifery Profession Act – Notice

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, November 5, that Bill 20, *Midwifery Profession Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. I apologize. I believe Mr. Picco had his hand up. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to direct attention to Item 15, which is Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister, I will allow you to proceed under Item 15. Minister Picco.

Bill 21 – Education Act – Notice

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, November 5, 2007, that Bill 21, the *Education Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister for Finance, Mr. Simailak.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request the consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for first reading of Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. The minister is requesting consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no Nays. Please proceed, Minister Simailak.

Bill 14 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008 – First Reading

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Colleagues. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for South Baffin, that Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 14 has had its first reading.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for first reading of Bill 15, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2007-08*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The minister is requesting consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Minister Simailak.

Bill 15 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008 – First Reading

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq that Bill 15, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 15 has had its first reading.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for first reading of Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2006-2007*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The minister is requesting consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Minister Simailak.

Bill 17 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2006-2007 – First Reading

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nanulik, that Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2006-2007*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 17 has had its second reading.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 14 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008 – Second Reading

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for South Baffin, that Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of Nunavut to defray capital expenses of the Government of Nunavut and reduces an appropriation for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. (interpretation ends) To the motion. (interpretation) Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 14 has had its second reading, and accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

Bill 15 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008 – Second Reading

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 15, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of Nunavut and reduces two appropriations to defray the operations and maintenance expenses for the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 15 has had its second reading, and accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

Bill 17 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2006-2007 – Second Reading

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nanulik, that Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2006-2007*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes a supplementary appropriation for the Government of Nunavut to defray the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 17 has had its second reading, and accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 19.

Before we proceed, members, I would like to be given the opportunity at this time to welcome and recognize my wife, Rosie Kilabuk.

>> *Applause*

And sitting beside her, from my constituency of Pangnirtung, Vincent Pickett, welcome to the Gallery, and Sylvain Gabrielle, welcome to the Gallery.

>> *Applause*

Thank you, Members. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 14, Bill 15, Bill 16, and Bill 17 with Mr. Barnabas in the Chair.

Before we proceed with Committee of the Whole, we will take a lunch break and resume at one o'clock.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 11:46 and Committee resumed at 13:04*

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

Chairman (Mr. Barnabas)(interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bill 14, Bill 15, Bill 16, and Bill 17. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 16 and the review of the Capital Estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, followed by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, and if time permits, the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Are we agreed we continue with the Capital Estimates for Economic Development and Transportation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 16 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee – Economic Development & Transportation

Chairman (interpretation): I would like to ask Minister Simailak if he has witnesses he would like to bring to the table.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman if they may come in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Methuselah Kunuk is with me, and Deputy Minister Rosemary Keenainak is coming in a little bit later. She is a little bit late, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We were on page K-8, so we will go to that page. I still have Mr. Curley on my list.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the minister providing information to us on a number of projects, very importantly and particularly, the one related to the Nanisivik Airport/airstrip. The committee was really quite clear in September that we would like the minister to provide us with the updated status of that once he has consulted with the federal government.

I was amazed yesterday, in spite of the fact in my opening comments I alluded to that issue, the information was not transparent but we almost skipped it, I suppose, and it came in through the back door kind of thing from one of the members asking something about an airport between Arctic Bay and Nanisivik.

I would like to ask the minister exactly whether or not he has any other information that he had not voluntarily presented yesterday, but he may have wanted today because his officials may have consulted with the National Defence people.

In particular, I would like some idea of whether or not the minister's officials are discussing with the feds about what the timelines would be like for them to start operating or working on the deep sea port, and once you have a deep port for National Defence, you need other infrastructure, and if there are, what are they? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have informed the Department of National Defence that we intend to close the Nanisivik Airport once the new airport at Arctic Bay is complete.

There was a meeting last September between the National Defense Nanisivik Scoping Group and several of our own government departments. At that time, DND said they did not foresee any need to keep the Nanisivik Airport operational. At the moment DND is considering their need to keep the road between the Arctic Bay Airport and the port itself operational. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the response, Mr. Chairman. I would only ask the minister to keep the committee and the Assembly fully informed of the federal plans as they come in, so that Members of the Assembly that are adjacent to that area will no doubt want to raise some questions, once the federal government has announced their actual plans.

So would you commit to keeping us fully informed on information coming in from the feds? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we certainly will do that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I would also add that the Committee on Infrastructure, CGS, and Economic Development be fully kept informed of those even through correspondence.

I also have one other question. I noted that you alluded to the Building Canada Fund, what the federal government is initiating with the other provinces, I suppose, as well as the Nunavut Territory. Has the government or your department established a certain kind of criteria that will be used to determine eligibility to have projects funded?

The reason I asked that is because you alluded to the fact that maybe you could use part of that funding for existing projects. My question and concern is: do you not agree there is always caution on that? Do you not think that the policy should be established first before the programs or funding starts to be allocated to existing programs, or does such a policy exist? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned a couple of times yesterday, we are in the process of drafting up our own priorities for that program. We, as a department, with the Department of CGS, is the lead department on those discussions with the federal government on what the parameters will be of that money and that will continue.

So the policies are being developed and we will move forward as we finish up our negotiations with the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. My question would then be: since the Building Canada Fund initiatives were mentioned yesterday, I would like to ask the minister responsible for that program, the Minister of CGS, that members will be fully informed of policy initiatives so that we fully understand, as MLAs or the committee, exactly which types of programs qualify, whether existing ones qualify, or if it's for new initiatives.

I think it's important that the Minister of CGS fully explain how the policy is being drafted. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought that was a question to the Minister of CGS, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): I apologize. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can he repeat his question please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Brown. Please clarify your question, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, my question was very clear and I think the Government Leader was interfering with the proceedings of this committee when I'm raising a point. So I believe you can rephrase that question and present it to her.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley, I cannot speak for you, I'm sorry. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I would ask the Government Leader to not interfere with any of the work. Yesterday during the proceedings, all of you will recall, the question of the project that the federal government initiated and may be working on entering into an agreement, which is called the Building Canada Fund, was mentioned.

The minister alluded, in one of his... I'm not speaking for him, but he mentioned that maybe one of the projects could get some funding from the Building Canada Fund.

So my question was to the Minister of CGS. We are concerned that before the policy is drafted that you don't start dipping into cookie jars like the Government Leader normally does with... no I'm not saying that, with the Crown corporations in our funding.

So if the guidelines are being developed by CGS, will the members of the committee have an opportunity to see these guidelines so that we will understand fully whether or not old projects qualify for that or is it for new initiatives mainly for Nunavut communities, instead of headquarters-related projects like departments? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Our time was stalled for a bit when Ms. Brown was trying to get clarification for the question. Ms. Brown, I would like to ask if you have any answers to the questions. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes, I don't fully understand the question. Could he rephrase his question? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Brown. I think Minister Picco wants to answer the question. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to answer the question. The minister is fully capable of doing that. What I do want to say is that the member is out of line on his statement not once but twice.

There should never be any type of allegation, although he tried to correct it, of anyone putting their hands in a supposed cookie jar. I resent that statement and I would like the member to officially, on the record, withdraw it. That's not acceptable in the House.

Number two, when the member says I'm interfering with the minister, I was actually trying to help the minister with a question. There were no pages around to send a note to the person. So I physically got out of the chair and spoke to her.

As House Leader, I am entitled to do that as you are entitled to walk around the House and speak to people. That's not acceptable to make allegations of interference and so on.

So I would ask Mr. Chairman that you ask the member, and I'm sure the *Hansard* will back me up on my statement about the cookie jar and the interference in the proceedings of the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Curley, I would like to ask you to retract your statements. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: I will ask you the question: why should I do that?

Chairman: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can sit here and quote the rules and regulations of the House, and all the members know the rules and regulations in the House, but we don't make allegations about members.

In his case, the member, "...as the House Leader usually does have his hand in the cookie jar," whatever that means. I think the allegation is that... I don't even want to go where he is making the allegation to. So I would ask the member, in respecting the rules and traditions of our House, that he would respectfully withdraw that comment on the record.

Secondly, his comment of "interfering with the minister," the minister has the opportunity, as any minister or member, to walk politely around the room. There were no pages. I tried to explain that there were no pages for anyone to give instructions to. So I went to the minister to try to help with the question so that the member could get his answer.

To suggest in any way or any fashion that the House Leader is interfering with the process, it's not only contradictory, it's wrong. So I would suggest to the member, possibly, he would follow our Rule 23(b) and withdraw that comment off the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. (interpretation ends) For the record, are you raising a Point of Order? Minister Picco.

Point of Order

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would raise a Point of Order, if that's what's necessary. I raise a Point of Order at this time for the Honourable Member, Mr. Curley, to withdraw his statement, his innuendo, concerning cookie jars and interference in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Curley, to the Point of Order.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, for entertaining us on that, Mr. Chairman. When I use the word "maybe," is that an allegation? Is that a clear cut allegation? I'm not sure. It's just like saying, "I'm not sure whether that the minister has really had an influence on the Building Canada Fund or any other fund." That's just a speculation. Speculation, I don't believe is an allegation, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): We will go through the *Hansard* and we'll have a ruling on the Point of Order.

We are dealing with (interpretation ends) Economic Development and Transportation. Detail of Capital. Transportation. Tangible Assets. Headquarters Region. Total Headquarters Region. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I would like to tell the Minister of CGS that, mainly the fact that the Building Canada Fund had been raised since yesterday not so much by members here on this side but by the minister, it's important that she fully explain to us where the status of the guidelines is, if any, and would the new projects for Nunavut communities qualify versus existing ones that are being carried out by the various departments.

It's important that we have that information. So I would like, not now, but the minister read my question carefully on the record tomorrow and maybe she can provide an explanation next week. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ms. Brown, I would like to ask you if you wish to respond to the question. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes, thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Please proceed, Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you. I don't think that I have to get up.

(interpretation ends) Under that new initiative called the Building Canada Fund, it's a new program. All jurisdictions in Canada got funding. Whether big or small, they got \$25 million, around that figure; \$25 million. It's guaranteed funding and it's from 2007 to 2014.

Other departments will be able to receive funding from there. ED&T is one of them, along with CLEY and Environment. I'm not sure if other departments, maybe the Departments of Education and Health.

Anyhow, the details are being worked out right now. This is the funding that we heard about, the \$240 million in guaranteed funding. Pardon me, I said I had my briefing notes but it's not the right one. Anyhow, it's got a lot of components in it. I know under CGS, we'll be looking at different areas. One of them, I'm not understanding what it means, Brownfield Program. So I have to get a full detailed briefing on what they mean by Brownfield.

This is good news because it's equal for all jurisdictions, like I said earlier. So I really like that part because it wasn't allotted per capita, but instead, it's \$25 million for all jurisdictions in Canada. If I had my briefing note, I would go further, but at this point I'll stop here. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Brown. We're on (interpretation ends) Economic Development and Transportation. Detail of Capital. Transportation. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$6,770,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Tangible Assets. \$7,970,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We'll go back to page K-4. Economic Development and Transportation. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$9,470,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Are we agreed that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Minister. If you have any closing comments, I'm giving you the opportunity. Welcome, Rosemary.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to my staff for their valuable assistance as always. To the members, the commitments that we did make, we follow on them by providing necessary information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them out of the witness table.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. I would like to ask the members if they would like to deal with the Legislative Assembly and the Speaker.

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 16 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee –
Legislative Assembly**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would escort the Speaker and his officials to the witness table, please.

Welcome, Speaker. At this time I would like to ask you if you have any opening remarks, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do have opening remarks for my colleagues.

Chairman (interpretation): Go ahead, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues. It is a pleasure for me to appear before you and Members today to present the 2008-09 Capital Estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

As members will note, the 2008-09 Capital Estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly amount to just over one percent of the Government of Nunavut's total planned

capital spending for the coming fiscal year. Our capital budget continues to be modest and responsible.

The Assembly's capital estimates for 2008-09 continue to include an annual allocation dedicated to our capital reserve for the long-term vision of a new facility.

This reserve will increase over time and will allow funds to be available to a future Assembly for the planning and design of a new legislative precinct.

Our other priority areas for the coming fiscal year include:

- Ongoing investments in equipment and furniture renewal for the Chamber and members' offices;
- Further enhancements and upgrades to the Legislative Assembly's audiovisual and information technology systems; and
- Replacement of Elections Nunavut equipment.

That concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer any questions that members may have. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do you have officials you would like to bring to the table?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Although we are quite strange to your officials, but for the record, perhaps, Mr. Speaker, could you introduce your officials?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you didn't know my officials from the Legislative Assembly, to my right, Mr. Quirke, and to my left, Mr. Pollock, will be here with me. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the members if they have any general comments. Thank you. There are no general comments. We'll start with the review of the Capital Estimates for the Legislative Assembly. We'll start with page A-6. (interpretation ends) Office of the Assembly. Detail of Capital. Office of the Clerk. Tangible Assets. Total Headquarters Region. \$825,000. Does the committee agree? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask one brief question, although I didn't ask the question during the review of this.

I would like to ask a question, Mr. Speaker, in regard to the vehicles that we use. There are only two vehicles belonging to the Legislative Assembly and they seem to be getting old.

So I would like to know how they replace them and how they replace the government vehicles. When they sell the vehicles, how old are the vehicles that belong to the Legislative Assembly?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The replacement of the vehicles is in the capital estimates, but Mr. Pollock can tell you when we purchased the vehicles. We do have plans for 2010-11 to replace the vehicles.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very quickly, I would like to ask a question on the audiovisual system upgrade, and more on the issue and concern that we had raised many times in this House related to television coverage of our session and the concerns in various regions that we're not able to get coverage at some times.

I wonder if you can, for the public view, perhaps, briefly explain what the Legislative Assembly has done to provide services to Nunavummiut so that Nunavut Legislative Assembly sessions are broadcasted throughout the territory just for their information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and also my colleagues. We have been carrying out our plans to date. We have continued to look for ways to broadcast our sessions and how we can improve our profile in the communities.

At this time, the current situation is very good. For the next session, the communities will have more discretion on what they want to watch. So we'll be able to broadcast the session and the people will have more choices in what languages they would like to watch in the next session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good news for us. Would that also include radio coverage? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're now planning on broadcasting on TV and broadcasting on radio will not change. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no more names on my list. So we'll move on page A-6. (interpretation ends) Office of the Legislative Assembly. Detail of Capital. Office of the Clerk. Tangible Assets. Total Headquarters Region. \$825,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Tangible Assets. \$825,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Headquarters Region. Total Headquarters Region. \$70,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Computer Hardware and Software. \$70,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Now, go to page A-8. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Detail of Capital. Expenditures on Behalf of Members. Tangible Assets. Headquarters Region. Total Headquarters Region. \$111,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Questions? Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question on that line, the description says, "Election Year MLA Furniture and Equipment." What equipment and furniture is being purchased in prep for election year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry, which page is my colleague talking about? (interpretation ends). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you can state which line item you are referring to.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm referring to page A-8 in regard to Election Year MLA Furniture and Equipment. Total Headquarters Region. \$111,000 and the other one, \$124,000. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For five years, we have been using furniture and equipment in the Offices of Members of the Legislative Assembly and also in the constituency offices. Those are to replace the furniture and equipment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): Thank you. That's it.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Now, go to the (interpretation ends) Office of the Legislative Assembly. Detail of Capital. Expenditures on Behalf of Members. Tangible Assets. Headquarters Region. Total Headquarters Region. \$111,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Tangible Assets. \$111,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Headquarters Region. Total Headquarters Region. \$124,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Computer Hardware and Software. \$124,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Now, go to page A-10. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Detail of Capital. Tangible Assets. Headquarters Region. Total Headquarters Region. \$30,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Tangible Assets. \$30,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We'll go back to page A-1, sorry, A-4. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1,160,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are we agreed that the Office of the Legislative Assembly is concluded? Sorry. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have never had the opportunity to ask a question, so I would like to ask a question.

I would like to ask a question in regard to the budget for purchasing of arts and crafts. I was wondering if that is included in the capital estimates and I would just like to know where it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. I think there's a record here. There have been two ministers asking during question period today. Mr. Speaker.

>> Laughter

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's no funding for new arts and crafts purchases, and also, just to let everyone know that we have already purchased artwork and hand crafts, and there's no funding for that line item. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the Premier would like to move onto this side, he is so welcome. I know we're dealing with capital estimates, but with regard to the *Hansard* Blues, sometimes when we want assistance, we need to fax them out to our constituency assistants.

The Blues are very difficult to fax to our constituency assistants in the communities, but last year or the year before, I asked a question requesting that they use white paper. What is the progress on this? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time the colour of the *Hansard* Blues, if they're going to be sent to the communities, your constituency assistants can use plain white paper. They can be photocopied onto plain white paper. There's no problem when you are taking that information from the computer. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're on (interpretation ends) the Office of the Assembly. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1,160,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Are we agreed that the Office of the Legislative Assembly is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. If you have any closing remarks, Mr. Speaker, I will allow you do so.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the ministers and the members for their questions. Thank you.

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

At this time I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if she has any opening comments. I asked you if you would you like to make your opening comments, Minister Aglukkaq.

Bill 16 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee – Health & Social Services

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, I'm ready to proceed.

Speaker (interpretation): Please proceed, Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to present the Capital Estimates for 2008-09 for the Department of Health and Social Services.

Once my staff is here I will introduce them, once they are at the witness table.

Our capital budget is very focused for 2008-09. We had to make some hard choices. We recognize the financial limitations the government as a whole faces. We are working hard to balance, in ways financial and ethical, the very real needs of Nunavummiut and our ability to meet them.

The department is proposing a capital budget totaling \$14,373,000. This would include:

- \$4,511,000 for the Qikiqtani General Hospital for the design and the renovations of the current regional hospital
- \$4,135,000 toward the construction of the Igloolik Continuing Care Centre, and
- \$4,527,000 toward the construction of the Gjoa Haven Continuing Care Centre

The capital expenditures proposed for 2008-09 are considerably lower than the past years, now that the construction of the major health centres for each region is nearing an end. Using the five-year plan, the department will concentrate on the repair and maintenance of existing facilities until funds are available for their renovation or replacement.

We have asked the Department of Community and Government Services to carry out technical assessments of our aging facilities to help us prioritize the work required by these facilities.

I would note that the decision by full caucus to give priority to the new continuing care facilities back in Arviat 2004 has put pressures and continues to do so, in our plans in replacing the health centres in Taloyoak, Repulse Bay and Arctic Bay. Given these pressures we had to reorganize the following projects:

- The replacement of the Arctic Bay Health Centre was in the department's past five-year plans but has been deferred to future years upon the direction of the FMB.
- Having said that, the department will be working with CG&S to obtain modification of the early design of the Repulse Bay Health Centre so that this design can be used for Taloyoak as well as Arctic Bay once construction funds become available in the GN's capital plan.
- The proposed purchase of a CT scanner for the Qikiqtani General Hospital has also been deferred to future years. In the meantime, the department will continue to seek alternative financing specifically from the appropriate federal government programs.
- Given our fiscal pressures the proposed boarding home for the Kitikmeot in Cambridge Bay has been deferred to later in the capital plan. The department is still having discussions with Health Canada regarding future boarding home initiatives in Nunavut. At this point it is my hope that any future boarding homes in Nunavut would be cost neutral to the Government of Nunavut.

The department is continuing to conduct a review of its boarding home program with a view to:

- Forecasting short to medium term demands for space.

- Negotiating a revised revenue arrangement with Health Canada for Non-Insured Health Benefits related rates, to ensure that these services are offered at a cost-neutral basis for the Government of Nunavut.
- Preparing Request for Proposal documents to extend existing spaces and acquire new spaces after negotiations with Health Canada are finalized.

We are ensuring that work will be done on all of our older facilities to maintain their integrity:

- The \$500,000 requested for Small Capital would be used for repairs such as boiler replacement, ventilation system improvements and the replacements of obsolete communication technology.
- The \$500,000 requested for Minor Projects would be used to replace medical/dental equipment and vehicles.
- Our current five-year plan includes facility replacements for Repulse Bay and Taloyoak. I have indicated the Arctic Bay Health Centre is still a priority for the department and it will be included in our next plan.
- The aging condition of a building determines the priority to be given for its upgrading and/or replacement.

The Department of Health & Social Services is giving practical effect to the *Pinasuaqtavut* goal of healthy communities through its Capital Budget.

- We are ensuring modern facilities are in place to support the wide range of services we provide, such as home care, social services and public health.
- We are expanding residential care services in Nunavut for those who can no longer live at home for health reasons.

I look forward to your support for the 2008-09 Capital Estimates for the Department of Health & Social Services.

I welcome your comments and questions from the members on our capital plan submission. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time looking at the clock, I would like to move to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

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

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

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of meetings, there are four of them. At half past two this afternoon, the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing, and Economic Development in the Nanuq Boardroom. At four o'clock, the Standing Committee on Government Operations, and Accountability at Tuktu Room. On Monday at nine o'clock in the morning, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability in the Tuktu Boardroom. At 10:30 a.m., a meeting of the Regular Caucus with the Minister of Finance in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for November 5:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address

10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees.
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 20
 - Bill 21
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 14
 - Bill 15
 - Bill 16
 - Bill 17
20. Report to Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Monday, November 5 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 13:58*

