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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Nattilik)

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(Nanulik)

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Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, November 7, 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): Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Evyagotailak to say the opening prayer. Mr. Evyagotailak.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak, Mr. Premier, Ministers, and Members. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education and Energy, Minister Picco.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 120 – 2(4): Passport Photographs**

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to update the House in regard to our government's initiative on passport photographs.

Earlier this year, I reported to the Members and to the House that we would be purchasing the necessary camera equipment and supplies to provide hamlets and all of our communities in Nunavut with the resources to allow Nunavummiut to have better access to passport photographs.

Mr. Speaker, members may recall that, while passports are federal responsibility, our government recognized that our residents needed assistance in getting the documentation that they require to secure a passport.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that the process is now complete: communities who requested a camera system have received them, and we are advised that the supplier has been helpful in answering questions from officials in the months since delivery.

Mr. Speaker, our residents face a number of hurdles in acquiring the kinds of secure and verifiable identification that they require for travel within Canada and beyond. Passport

camera systems in the communities, we hope, is a step in removing one of those hurdles. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 121 – 2(4): Client Travel Policy

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Alagalak if you're listening, *Haluuqpagit*.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Department of Health and Social Services has revised the Client Travel Policy. The policy will be applied more consistently across Nunavut, and both health professionals and clients should find it easier to understand.

The policy outlines how essential medical and social services are provided to eligible clients when services are not available in home communities.

Mr. Speaker, we have clarified the criteria for escort travel, resulting in equity and fairness across the territory in the application of this policy.

We have also developed guidelines and a procedural manual for our staff.

As an example, unless an elder indicates that they do not want an escort as of April 1, 2008, there is a provision in the revised policy to approve an escort for unilingual elders over 60.

Ultimately, the new policy allows for more control over medical travel costs that provides only travel assistance for essential medical or social services needs.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the policy, we have developed a Handbook for Client Travel. Each region has its own handbook with specific regional information about pre-trip planning, airport arrival, accommodation, appointments, support services, and what to do if clients encounter problems while travelling.

Later on today I will be tabling the policy and accompanying guidelines that support the policy, as well as a copy of the Handbook for Client Travel.

Mr. Speaker, we are taking in a 'phased-in' approach to the policy, with certain components taking effect on April 1, 2008. This allows the department to provide training and make the necessary changes in our system to effectively implement the new aspects of the policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders, and Youth and Human Resources, Minister Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 122 – 2(4): Arctic Winter Games 2008 – Regional and Territorial Championships

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to inform my colleagues that this year we will have a record number of participants in all the Arctic Winter Games trial events. Every single community in Nunavut is involved in our Arctic Winter Games team selection process.

Team Nunavut will be represented in 11 sports during the Arctic Winter Games. Team Nunavut's identification and selection has been completed in the Cultural Representation, Volleyball, Gymnastics and Inuit Games earlier this season. In November and December, athletes will be identified for Indoor Soccer, Basketball, Badminton, Wrestling and Table Tennis. Early in the New Year, athletes will be identified for Hockey, Short Track Speed Skating and Curling.

I would also like thank all the volunteers that coach and organize these events for our youth. They perform a very important service to our youth and are a very important part of my department's goal of creating healthy, active communities.

In closing, I wish all the competitors the best of luck, and I urge all of you to attend our regional and territorial trials, and cheer on not only your home communities, but all the athletes participating. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Akasuk.

Minister's Statement 123 – 2(4): Sanikiluaq Housing Project Training Female Work Crew on the Job

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an exciting project underway in Sanikiluaq. The Nunavut Housing Corporation, in partnership with the high school, the Qammaq Housing Association and various community groups, provided the material package for a three-bedroom house on the condition that the unit would be built by a 100 percent female work crew.

>>Applause

The corporation also provide the land and foundation system for this project.

Mr. Speaker, Sanikiluaq, under the leadership of the school principal John Jamieson, has undertaken a number of construction pilot projects over the years resulting in, not only new infrastructure such as housing units and a daycare, but excellent training opportunities for young people who may want to enter the trades.

The Housing Corporation, through the Housing Trust Delivery Strategy, is committed to provide employment and training opportunities for Nunavummiut. This project in Sanikiluaq provides an opportunity for about 25 women to get on the job training, and is an example of how the corporation supports trades training, and encourages women to get involved in the building trades.

Mr. Speaker, the experience these women are getting from this project will help increase the ranks of apprentice women in the construction trades. And, in the long run, Mr. Speaker, it could also serve to increase Inuit employment levels in the community if anybody involved with building that house decides to continue pursuing a career in construction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 257 – 2(4): Arctic Bay Elders

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I also say hello to Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my thanks and appreciation to our elders and the valuable contributions that they make to our lives.

Mr. Speaker, the Elders Society in Arctic Bay is a very active and dedicated community group. They are involved in meetings and counselling, and offer support to residents.

Mr. Speaker, I greatly appreciate it when the Elders Society takes the time to offer their input and suggestions, especially on issues that affect all of our society. I would like to thank the Chair of the Society, Mr. Tommy Tattatuapik, for his thoughtful comments on traditional approaches to life.

Mr. Speaker, our Elders Society would greatly benefit from a dedicated facility that they could use for meeting, counselling and administrative functions. I encourage the government to provide them with the support that they need.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our elders are an important source of knowledge. They can provide important guidance on issues such as relationships, child rearing and how to deal with depression and thoughts of suicide.

I encourage my fellow MLAs to get input from the elders groups in their communities. They have a lot to offer us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. My apologies, I don't think the last sentence was recorded because your time was up. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin, Minister Brown.

Member's Statement 258 – 2(4): Rankin Inlet Cadets

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On behalf of my colleague from Rankin Inlet North, I rise today to praise and congratulate Officer Cadet Dorothy Tootoo of Rankin Inlet.

Dorothy is doing a wonderful job for the young people of Rankin Inlet for the cadets in a big way, and big time, and in so little time. Dorothy has a nephew here among us who sits right across from me, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

I know what you did last summer.

>>*Laughter*

I know when you were born and where you were born, so behave.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, just last week, Official Cadet Dorothy and three young cadets were involved and invited to APTN Aboriginal Music Awards and Manitou-Abii Powwow Competition in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The three young ladies are Private Tracy Kanayuk, Private Pamela Napayuk, and Private Mary Qapuk. The girls performed live at the APTN Music Awards, as well as participated in the grand entry at the Manitou-Abii Powwow.

The girls felt like stars and so they are in my eyes. I am told they received so much attention and many people went to see them and talk to them. The girls wore traditional outfits, beaded *Amautiit* and *Kamiit*. They had everything traditionally made by my late *Annarvik*, my aunt Piunngua&&aq Jenny Tootoo, known to many Nunavummiut.

One of the cadets' mothers, Mary Qapuk was also in Winnipeg at the same time when her daughter was performing. Mary and her daughter, Private Mary Qapuk, is my colleague's from Rankin Inlet North constituents and that is why it's important for my colleague and me to work well together and agree on all Members' Statements. Thank you, Tagak.

(interpretation) I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Also in presence was Mr. Eric Robertson of CLEY, who is well known to most of us here and also the cadets had a chance to meet the Speaker of the House of Winnipeg, Mr. George Hickes, and Mr. Hickes spoke to the girls in his Inuktitut language. The girls couldn't believe it. They were very impressed.

The experiences for these three young ladies were awesome as they showcased their talents, skills and culture. It's virtually important for the young people to build their confidence, self esteem and a sense of belonging.

A big thank-you going out to Dorothy Tootoo.

Also, I would like to mention our own Minister of CLEY for his ongoing support.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Minister Netser.

Member's Statement 259 – 2(4): Impact of Alcohol and Drugs in Communities

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to mention how alcohol and drugs can destroy our communities.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the most obvious, of course, are the things we can see such as family violence, broken homes, and in a lot of cases, the jail terms drugs and alcohol produces to our Nunavummiut. Of the people involved, it increases the burden of child raising and on the remaining parent, or worse, the children are taken and placed in foster care away from everything that is familiar to them.

Mr. Speaker, what is not so obvious is the effect it has on the personal lives of the children involved. Yes, as far as the social system is concerned, the child is warm, fed, has a place to sleep and will go to school, and all of this is good basic support.

However, Mr. Speaker, the psychological effect will be felt by that child for many years to come all because we, as parents, become involved with alcohol or drugs, or both.

As a child myself I watched every move my late father made and I imitated him. Mr. Speaker, the same is true for us today. As parents, we are modeling our children. Our children always suffer when the family is affected and I believe they suffer in ways that we are still not yet capable of understanding even with all our education and technology.

Our children are our hope for tomorrow and if we, through carelessness or neglect, with alcohol or drugs, destroy that hope, then we are destroying our future.

Mr. Speaker, we all have responsibilities to the future and ensuring that we leave our children with the best possible care for survival in the future.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, we each have to accept responsibility for our actions. Violence against women, child abuse, sexual or otherwise, violence within families, violence outside of families are all symptoms of a deeper problem usually rooted in drugs and alcohol abuse, which our children witness everyday and the cycle continues.

Mr. Speaker, we can stop the cycle, but only when we accept responsibility for our own actions. This is such a simple solution. Why is it so difficult? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 260 – 2(4): The Rise of Diabetes in Nunavut

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address an issue that is a growing concern in my constituency and across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, diabetes is a disease that is becoming more and more common in our population. I am very concerned that a growing number of people in my constituency are now being diagnosed with diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, given the rising number of people with this disease, I am worried that the levels of support and services to deal with this illness are not adequate. If the disease progresses without adequate intervention, it can lead to a number of other long-term health problems. This puts a huge burden on individuals, their families and our health care system.

Mr. Speaker, in November of 2004, the Minister of Health and Social Services tabled a document, the “Nunavut Report on Comparable Health Indicators.” That report shows that more than 6,300 participated in community-based diabetes prevention programs in 2003-04.

Mr. Speaker, with the steady rise in the number of people with diabetes, I fear that our diabetes prevention programs may be too little, too late.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member’s Statement 261 – 2(4): Ittaq Heritage and Research Centre

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today in support of a very worthwhile initiative in the community of Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, the Ittaq Heritage and Research Centre is a community-driven initiative to seek more involvement in research projects that benefit the community not only economically and socially but that meet the community’s needs and interests.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative is driven by a committee of dedicated community members with representation from the hamlet, local service providers and community organizations. Their drive and commitment is a good example of how local empowerment is supposed to work.

Mr. Speaker, the Ittaq Committee see Clyde River as having great potential to attract diverse research interests and develop collaborative research projects involving members of the community. Both researchers and local community members will benefit greatly from this collaboration.

Mr. Speaker, the Ittaq Heritage and Research Centre already has the foundations upon which to base itself. A significant amount of traditional knowledge research has been and continues to be carried out within the community. The Elders Committee is also very active in heritage work.

The connection between upcoming research opportunities and current heritage work form a natural and complementary fit.

Mr. Speaker, the Ittaq Committee’s concept for their centre includes a research centre, a heritage centre, a visitor centre, and a training facility.

Mr. Speaker, to date the Ittaq Committee has been quite successful in its efforts to secure funding and resources. I encourage the Nunavut and federal governments to provide whatever support is necessary to see this initiative through. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. You were very well timed at the end. (interpretation) Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Minister Tapardjuk.

Member's Statement 262 – 2(4): Residential Schools' Impact

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a few months back we heard that the residential school students are going to be getting their payments retroactively, I think there are about 60 people that will be involved.

It's obvious that people that went to the vocational centre in Chesterfield Inlet are the most in numbers. Some of them that were taken away from their homes to school were five years old, and I was also one of them and I was five years old when I was taken from my home community.

It's obvious that they were trying to assimilate them into the western society and their culture was being diminished when they went to these schools and taken from their communities. Our culture is different from the western society. They went through hardship, and when you think about it, it's very hard to take it into your mind when they were being sent out to the communities when they were at a very young age.

Some of them lost their heritage and culture. This was a big problem when they returned to their communities and they also encountered many problems. Some of the students that were abused turned to alcohol because their culture had been lost when they returned to their communities. For this reason, we continue to hear from those that went to the residential schools are not white people so to speak, and they're not Inuit so to speak.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.

For those of us that were taken away from our communities and put in residential schools, we have been taken away from our culture and were introduced another culture. Today we hear that they have lost their culture. Our elders think: why are the Inuit losing their culture? Why is it not working properly in their communities? Sometimes we are discriminated outside of our communities.

For those that sent us out to the residential schools, I want them to hear that we don't blame them for that. Our parents are not to be blamed because they blame themselves for agreeing to send their children to residential schools. I would like to say that our culture and the western society that we entered into in the schools... and many of us encounter many things and problems in our lives.

For those that are going to be getting a payout from the federal government, it's not a payment for the problems that we encountered. Our culture is very valuable and it's not going to help getting the payment.

For my constituents in our communities, I wish the individuals who went to residential schools to have a better future in this time so that they can have a better life. So let's think on these for the future even though we encountered many problems when we were little children.

And, thank you, Mr. Speaker, for those of my colleagues that went to residential school. Let us enter into healing of the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 263 – 2(4): Ban on Sealskins & Its Effect on Inuit

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today, although I have risen in House in the past to talk about sealing, because international countries made us aware of their opposition to the use of sealskins and the hunting of seals.

As Inuit, we utilize the whole seal from the skin to the meat. As I have stated before in the House, and I will say it again, we eat the meat of the seal and we share the seal meat in the communities to feed the people who don't have seal meat. When someone catches a seal in the community, they provide for the people who don't have any seal meat.

Also, the skin is used for clothing for the family. They use the skin during the winter and during any other season of the year. They can use it for clothing and the skin is also used to make money for the families in the communities of Nunavut. There are hardly any economic opportunities in Nunavut, and when a family gets money from the sale of a seal skin they are very proud because they can buy food from the store.

The blubber of the seal has also been used for heat, and it was the only means for heat and the only means to make water. This was used for everything.

Mr. Speaker, the seal is being used properly from the meat to the skin to make money with and for subsistence. Those people who are against seal hunting should know about this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 264 – 2(4): 2007 Regional Kitikmeot Soccer Tournament

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the young athletes in the Kitikmeot region who recently participated in the 2007 Regional Kitikmeot Soccer Tournament. This event was hosted in my community of Kugluktuk from November 2 to 4, 2007.

Mr. Speaker, the youth of Kugluktuk did very well during the tournament. The 14 and under boys team won the silver medal, the 16 and under boys team won the silver medal, and the 14 and under girls team won the gold medal.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the Kugluktuk Grizzlies who encourage the youth to participate in sport, promote competition, team-building and healthy lifestyles. Mr. Speaker, we should have organizations such as this one in every community in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, keeping our youth busy and occupied also contributes to suicide prevention. This tournament was probably the largest gathering of Kitikmeot youth and one of the largest tournaments held in Nunavut.

On behalf of Kugluktumiut, I would like to thank the many volunteers who made this possible, the support of many local organizations, the Hamlet of Kugluktuk, the District Education Authority and the Kugluktuk School Operations.

And lastly, Mr. Speaker, I encourage every youth in Nunavut to participate in any sport events that are available in their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 265 – 2(4): High Cost of Gasoline, Fuel and Power

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today because I don't think it's too soon to be concerned about the increasing costs of living in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, just recently we have seen that the fuel prices are increasing very rapidly. It is \$100 per barrel in Canadian dollars and the Canadian dollar is the strongest dollar. For that reason, I expect prior to the winter coming, perhaps, there will be a huge increase by

approximately 20 percent for the fuel we use at home and we'll see some increase at the gasoline pump.

Mr. Speaker, not only that but the power rates will increase and there will be a fuel rider, for sure, even before the winter sets in, and I'm sure the consumers will have to pay for it.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I think this is at a risky time, especially in the North and in Nunavut. I don't think we would be in too much of a rush if the Minister of Energy could start asking questions to the Nunavummiut, such as how we can keep the fuel prices at a lower cost, especially the heating fuel. We need to find a better way. Perhaps, some homes, especially in the cold winter months, should be using wood heating stoves.

I think the minister should consider all those. If the Minister of Energy could not find any alternatives, perhaps, we should start looking to find out if we can use snow for heating purposes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 266 – 2(4): Charitable Events: MLA Hockey Game & Embrace Life Fundraiser

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise today as we know last week I did a statement on the generosity of Nunavummiut, I would just like to bring to the attention today a couple of charitable events that members took part in this weekend.

The first one is our annual hockey game against the firefighters to raise money for a local charity. It was a great success. I would like to make a special mention of Mr. Picco, who was flying around the ice in a hawk-like fashion. I think he led us with two goals on the night.

>>Applause

I think he was only able to do that because his two line mates; we call our 'power play offensive forward line,' that was centred by himself and winged by his trusty Executive Assistant, Laurie-Anne White, and Siobhan Moss from the third floor of the Legislative Assembly. I would like to commend them on their actions and their hawk-like performance on the ice.

Mr. Speaker, at the end the game, I thank all the members for when the helmet got passed around for donations, all members dug down deep into their pockets and contributed for whatever charity the firefighters will put the money for. So I would like to thank all the members for that.

Also, Mr. Speaker, another event that I mentioned that took place this weekend was the Embrace Life Council fundraising dinner. I had the pleasure of being there that evening with my two colleagues from Iqaluit. I would like to thank the organizers of that event. It was very well run and I look forward to seeing another event like that in the future.

I also want to make a special note that Mr. Picco's good friends, Cecil Severs, Lance Steele, and Ralphy Von Biggles, were lucky recipients of prizes that night in the silent auction and the draws. I would like to ask Mr. Picco if he can extend his congratulations onto those individuals as well and thank everyone for attending. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 267 – 2(4): Communicating About Health

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring forward concerns that have been raised by my constituents about how their health issues are received and addressed.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my constituents seem to be losing faith in our health system. Faith and trust are important aspects of wellness and healing, no matter who we are or where we live.

As there are no longer community representatives of the Regional Health Boards who can hear such concerns and bring them forward, it seems that, as the MLA, that role has fallen to me. While I listen carefully to constituent concerns, I have had limited success in bringing many of them forward. A number of my enquiries to the Department of Health and Social Services regional office remain unanswered even after several months.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents bring their health concerns to me because they feel that they have not been heard or their problems have not been dealt with. Their health issues are their top priority.

Mr. Speaker, I am not a medical professional and I cannot diagnose an illness but I can and do detect a rising level of anxiety as some of my constituents continue to suffer and to worry that something may be missed in the early stages and develop into a serious and life-threatening problem.

Mr. Speaker, there are still many people whose level of medical literacy is low. They deserve to be able to describe their symptoms and concerns in a language they are comfortable with. They deserve to have information relating to their health explained to them clearly, in a language that they understand.

Elders in particular are vulnerable. Many of them have lived through a culture of not complaining or demanding things from those in control of essential services. They too deserve to feel comfortable about seeking help and support from our health system. For example, printed material not only should be available, but it must communicate health information in clear language. Instructions on how to use medications should be printed in an appropriate and accessible manner.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, we must also recognize that these days, access to information, including medical information, is made simpler through technologies such as television and the internet.

Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to continue my statement. Thank you.

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

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

Individuals can research their questions, symptoms, possible diagnoses and treatment online if they have access to a computer. It is important that our medical professionals also recognize that the people they serve are becoming more knowledgeable and aware of medical issues. Health workers should ensure that they take the time to listen and fully discuss issues with their clients.

Mr. Speaker, there is a saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. If we can focus on improving the ability of both patients and health providers to communicate about health issues, especially in the areas of symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment, surely it would save considerable expense in incorrect diagnosis, inappropriate treatment, unnecessary repeat visits to health centres or medevacs to special facilities outside of our jurisdiction. It may even help to save lives. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. As I was supposed to say earlier, I may not know what you did last summer, nor when you were born but I do know that this is a very special day for you and your wife, celebrating your 26th anniversary. Congratulations.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) Item 3. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions.
Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 301 – 2(4): Follow Guidelines in Regional Trials

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was asked by Mr. Tagak with Question 301 – 2(4): Follow Guidelines in Regional Trials. The question was in regard to the Kivalliq Under 14 Girls Soccer Team players.

In response to the question, Sports Nunavut policies were followed during the Kivalliq Regional Soccer Championships. Sports Nunavut assists territorial sport organizations, in this case, the Nunavut Soccer Association.

In developing their team selection criteria to ensure that fair and acceptable practices were implemented, all coaches are made aware of the team selection criteria prior to the event.

The Nunavut Soccer Association team selection criteria read as follows: at the completion of the tournament, the coach of the winning team will select a roster of eight players and a minimum of two alternates. The selection of the team regional roster and alternates will be made at the coach's discretion.

There are no age restrictions at issue at this case. All participants of the regional championships were eligible to be selected to the regional teams. Parental consent is also required for all participants under the age of 19. This issue seems to be one of the miscommunication of the selection guidelines and I'm sure it can be settled with further communication between the coaches and Sport Nunavut staff.

If clarification is needed in this matter, please contact Sport Nunavut in Baker Lake. I can provide the contact information to the member requesting it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Question 335 – 2(4): The Rise of Diabetes in Nunavut**

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier today I spoke of the growing number of people with diabetes in my constituency. The most recently tabled data on the prevalence of this disease in Nunavut are from the year 2000. Can the minister confirm whether or not the numbers of Nunavummiut diagnosed with diabetes are rising? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Nunavut, in 2002, 1.2 percent of Nunavut's population had type 2 diabetes and in which the national average is 4.8 percent. Overall, the prevalence of diabetes in Nunavut right now is higher in non-Inuit as opposed to Inuit, but over the years, it has been slowly increasing in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize; I just about lost my voice. I apologize again.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that the levels of support and services to treat diabetes at the community level are not adequate. Can the minister provide an update on what specific supports and services should be available at the community level for individuals suffering with diabetes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health is a partner with Nunavut communities, Inuit organizations and Health Canada to deliver the Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative in Nunavut, particularly around type 2 diabetes, and promoting awareness education and information and support to people with type 2 diabetes.

The Department of Health is currently implementing the 2005-10 Nunavut Diabetes Strategy and it includes awareness, prevention, care and treatment, and it enhances our current programs.

Many of the programs are offered through communities. For example, projects range from elder meal programs to land programs, intramural sports, drop-in cooking classes, initiating healthy store projects. At the same time we have the campaign around 'Drop the Pop' and nutrition months, dental health programs, etcetera.

So there are a number of programs that promote healthy living to prevent type 2 diabetes. As well, yesterday and the day before, I tabled two documents: Nutrition in Nunavut: A Framework for Action and our Public Health Strategy; it would also support healthy living which can prevent type 2 diabetes in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 2004 report tabled in this House indicates that a diabetes prevention and maintenance strategy would be developed for Nunavut.

Can the minister update this House on the status of Nunavut's Diabetes Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can elaborate a little bit more from my second response on that.

There are a number of initiatives that we are promoting through our community health centres throughout Nunavut. CHRs have a role in the whole prevention and educating healthy eating and proper diets, and so on. So that is part of our Nunavut Diabetes Strategy and the implementation of it.

Again, healthy lifestyles, exercising, healthy diet, explaining to the general population the impacts of high sugar levels in foods, such as pop, or *Kukuk* and so on. So those are initiatives that we have in our communities in Nunavut.

At the same time, through the strategy, we've also increased the number of positions within the Department of Health to develop programs that are culturally-friendly healthy eating, from country food – *Nattiq, Iqaluk* - that type of information to again explain the importance of healthy eating to prevent type 2 diabetes in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not clear to me that the levels of support and services for people with diabetes are adequate at the community level. What assurances can the minister give me and my constituents that community residents suffering from diabetes will be able to receive the level of support that they need in their community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through our homecare services as well, the department is providing more information to people on a community level on living with type 2 diabetes. At the same time, we are trying to focus on the prevention side of things through our Public Health Strategy, through our CHRs, and so on.

At the community level, the home care services provides support to individuals who are living with type 2 diabetes and educating individuals living with type 2 diabetes at the community level.

So there is support through the CHRs in the prevention side of things. I mentioned earlier that we had increased the positions in the Department of Health to support initiatives

around type 2 diabetes in our territory. The program's focus is on education, prevention, and at the same time, treating people with diabetes.

I guess the good news about this process is that, percentage-wise, Nunavut is very low as opposed to the national average. This is one area that we are lower in terms of the number people with type 2 diabetes, but at the same time, we are noticing that more and more people in Nunavut are obese and that can result in type 2 diabetes. So we have to do more in the prevention side. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 336 – 2(4): Arruja Development Corporation

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the Aarruja Development Corporation was created in 1988 by the residents of Clyde River. In a small community such as ours, it plays an important role in the local economy. Aarruja employs around 20 residents of Clyde River on a full- and part-time basis.

As the minister is aware, the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Aarruja are in a dispute over this year's marshalling contract. Can the minister explain to the House why he has not met with Aarruja to have dialogue and resolve this situation, instead of sending lawyers' letters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation was going to be having a meeting today and I have received a letter requesting my presence at this meeting but I won't be able to go there due to other commitments. My staff will be having a meeting with these individuals to discuss what types of strategies they are going to take on. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. The Aarruja Development Corporation is one of Clyde River's major employers. I am very concerned that the bankruptcy of the corporation will cause many of my constituents to lose their jobs. Is the minister willing to allow this to happen, and if so, why? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The Housing Corporation, especially the government, don't want to put businesses out of business in Nunavut. We don't want to see this happen, so after the meeting, if they come up with something, then I will be more than happy to inform the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Clyde River because we certainly don't want to see people going out of business. Thank you.

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

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

(interpretation ends) I believe that this situation should be resolved by mediation, not confrontation. Will the minister commit to directing his officials to sit down and simply talk with representatives from Aarruja?

(interpretation) He said he will deal with this but we don't want to see any confrontation, if at all possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I have informed my officials to see if they can keep this aside from the legal confrontation. Hopefully, after the meeting today we'll have a better understanding. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. One more simple yes or no question.

Will the minister commit to giving Aarruja a fair chance to bid on future Nunavut Housing Corporation contracts, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The contracts could be open to anybody and we will honour the bids from Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Question 337 – 2(4): Food Inadequacies in Nunavut Households

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

Mr. Speaker, I read with great interest the Nutrition in Nunavut Framework for Action document that was tabled two days ago in this House. I was shocked to read that 49 percent of Nunavut households, based on 2001 statistics, experienced what they call 'food insecurity.' That's defined as not having enough food to eat due to lack of money.

Mr. Speaker, that's seven times the national average.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House if her department is working with or receiving the cooperation of any other Government of Nunavut department to immediately address this serious issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health, as well as this government has worked with the Department of Education to address people that are on income support, for example, the increase in the food allowances for people that are living on income support.

We have also developed the Healthy Food Strategy to try and promote education at the community level the purchase of healthy foods, promoting the Food Mail Program in Nunavut for people to try and access lower costing of food to purchase at the community level.

So we are trying to promote it that way, at the same time, through the program, trying to educate people to buy a loaf of bread versus a microwave burger that would go a lot longer, buying bread, that kind of promotion at the community level through the healthy foods as an example.

It is high. The member is correct, as outlined in the report, which is one of the reasons why we had put in a framework in place to try and promote healthy living, and initiative from the department in keeping people healthy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of our children are going to school hungry everyday. The report states, "If an essential need, such as food, is not met, it's not realistic to expect people to think about pursuing higher levels of learning." And the quote continues on.

My question for the minister: can the minister outline for the House if Health and Social Services has forged partnerships with the Department of Education and all schools in Nunavut to provide and improve school food programs for our hungry students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The initiative, the framework itself that we tabled, is a step in the right direction to try to address a nutritional food framework for our communities in addressing that area of concern.

The concern that we have is poor diets, people going hungry, purchase of foods for families, and so on. Of course, promoting that information would be to not just to the schools but the community as well through our CHRs.

It is an ongoing initiative for the department and in partnership with the Department of Education in educating our young people on healthy living and healthy eating throughout the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that one of the objectives in your report is to build on partnerships with schools and the Department of Education to improve school food programs and nutritional education in schools. So it is very important that we help the kids.

Mr. Speaker, also in your report, it mentions nutritious and dietitian positions throughout the report, and they appear to be very important to fulfilling the framework for action.

One of the objectives is to increase the professional initiative services to Nunavummiut, it says here: "... by developing a timely and effective coordinated recruitment and retention strategy that will result in all nutritionist and dietitian positions being filled by October, 2008."

So my question for the minister: can the minister tell me how realistic that objective is in light of the skyrocketing Government of Nunavut staff housing costs in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our goal, as the member stated, is to try and fill the positions as best as we can. By that time, by next year in October, I will have a better idea as to how we did with that. It is a challenge for us in the North to fill vacant professions such as nursing positions and so on.

So I will be able to provide more information to the members by next year where we stand in that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that we don't have to wait a year to hire the nutritionists and dietitians. They do seem to be quite important for the success of this framework agreement, as the minister tabled in the House the other day.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Department of Health and Social Services' efforts and plans to improve nutrition in Nunavut and to reduce food insecurity for our residents. However, Mr. Speaker, as with any plan, you require people and resources to implement it if you have any hope of achieving success.

My question for the minister: would the minister tell us if she has had the resources to implement the plan, or will she require additional resources in her upcoming main estimates budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I have been reminded by my capable staff that that was your third and final supplementary. (interpretation) Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nutritional Framework that we put out was building on existing resources to promote the initiative.

At the same time, some of the initiatives that we've been promoting the last little while, as it relates to the Public Health Strategy, the first ever in Nunavut to deal with initiatives at the community level, in efforts to keeping people healthy. Part of that is promoting the traditional Inuit diet, as an example, as a healthy choice versus some store bought food.

So there are a number of initiatives we are doing at the community level through our Health Committees in promoting nutritional food programs and education.

So there's work in partnership with various agencies; the Department of Health alone cannot accomplish healthy individuals. It starts from individuals making the choices to be healthy, and we can support and educate as much as we can but again, it's the person's choice to make that lifestyle choice.

So the programs that we're trying to promote are to support that, and to promote it and to educate healthy living and healthy eating at the community level in partnership with various agencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 338 – 2(4): New School for Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this session I was pleased to support the minister's capital budget for the Department of Education. One of the items in the 2008-09 Capital Estimates was for the new school in Sanikiluaq.

Can the minister clarify for this House and for my constituents, as they have been expecting this news for a long time, what the next step will be for this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's support of the capital budget for the Department of Education.

As we discussed last week in the House when we discussed the Department of Education's capital budget, we looked at the project for Sanikiluaq and I'm pleased to say to the House that the new school is moving forward in the community of Sanikiluaq.

We have the technical drawings ready now for the school and they're almost at the point of being tender-ready. We would hope to be able to tender that project in the new fiscal year. So that means that the project would be moving forward, and indeed, based on our current capital plan, the project will be on time and ready for construction in the community of Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. We have heard of many projects being delayed and even deferred because of tender bids coming in too high and over budget. Can the minister clarify for me what steps will be taken to ensure that the Sanikiluaq New School Project will not be delayed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Everything that we see right now for the school in Sanikiluaq indicates that the money that we have allocated within the current capital framework budget will be appropriate, and indeed, will be able to do the project.

Again, it's very difficult to say, with any certainty, what that amount will be until we actually get the tender document out in the new fiscal year. So I would be able to update the member at that time on what the capital allocation will look like.

If there is a need for extra dollars, depending on the amount of that project, then that's something that we can come back through the process of the House to be able to facilitate it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this session, I spoke of a group of our students who are learning skills and providing a service to the community by building houses, like Minister Akesuk mentioned in his Minister's Statement. I should mention that because these students are out on the job during part of the day, this also helps to reduce crowding at the school.

Can the minister update this House on what efforts will be made to provide local training and employment opportunities during the construction of the new school in Sanikiluaq? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister for Education, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've been very pleased with the cooperation we've had from Mr. Jamieson and Lizzie Kavik, the principals at the school in Sanikiluaq.

Indeed, the member and I had an opportunity with the Premier to go to Sanikiluaq, and yourself, and visit the school, and saw the construction of the new daycare centre there. Now, we've heard about the good news on the program with the school, with the women working on the school, so that's good.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to the staff in the Department of Education, and where there is an opportunity for employment opportunities through a training program and so on, then that's something that would be well welcomed by the department.

And indeed, Mr. Speaker, as we move forward with the completion of the tender documents for the new fiscal year, that component of on-the-job training is something that we'll be working into the project schedule. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 339 – 2(4): No Actions Taken on Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Concerns a Year Ago

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier, who is the Chair of our Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Economic Development announced some pretty drastic measures in relation to the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

My question to the Premier: as the minister indicated yesterday that this government found out a year ago about the seriousness of some of these issues, I would like to ask the Premier why this government didn't take any action, or didn't take the steps prior to it being made public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I think my minister was quite clear that we took steps from last year to this year. So it was incremental steps with more information being provided to us as a government.

So, the steps that we took were the final ones after looking at the report provided by the Auditor General. So I think the steps had to be made in order to address the concerns outlined by the Auditor General. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker...

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand what the minister said yesterday that they knew about these issues a year ago and steps were taken, as the minister indicated yesterday. I could only assume that the government, as a whole, was made aware of these issues and steps, and again, not until after the report was made public that these drastic measures were taken.

Again, I would like to ask why this government waited until it became a public document, why did it wait until after that. I could only assume that they were well aware of the contents of the report much earlier than that, then why did this government wait until after it became public to take these steps? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I did not see the report from the Auditor General until it was tabled by the House. So I'm not going to prejudge the findings of the Auditor General. So to assume that we saw it is a misnomer. So we acted on the basis of the findings of the Auditor General. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some very concerning comments made by the Premier there that this government hadn't seen this report until it was tabled. The report itself contains the government's responses.

Was the Premier indicating that any of this information in this report, including the government responses, is information that was withheld from Cabinet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Our officials do work with the Auditor General, but as Cabinet, we did not see the report until it was tabled. So our officials worked with the Auditor General up to that point. We were never provided with the Auditor General's Report until it was tabled in this House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe this is an indication of more problems within this government: the fact that we have an issue as substantial as this and the Cabinet is surprised by it just as much as we are.

Maybe I would like to ask the Premier to explain how something like this, as substantial as this, it is embarrassing for the government and for all of us, could have escaped being brought to the attention of this government and of the Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I think we took steps as we found out about them, and I want to assure the member that we don't prejudge findings of the Auditor General, we act on them. So I think the minister was quite clear in the steps that we have taken over the last year or year and a half.

As we found more information, we acted. So it's not just yesterday that we acted on trying to do something about this institution. So I want to assure the member that we'll do whatever is necessary to respond to the issues raised by the Auditor General. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 340 – 2(4): Audit of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're not dealing with an isolated issue here. These problems have been known for a while.

My questions, Mr. Speaker, are directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation as well, concerning the audit of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

The Auditor General's Report states and I quote, "We do not have our usual degree of assurance with regard to the completeness of the record of events, nor were we able to conclude whether or not fraudulent acts had taken place."

Yesterday, the minister informed the House, and I quote, "... the Comptroller General of Nunavut has referred matters of financial records and controls to the RCMP for consideration."

Mr. Speaker, when the federal sponsorship scandal occurred, the Auditor General's Report ultimately led to arrests and prison sentences because theft and fraud took place.

Can the minister indicate to the House whether the government has evidence that theft or fraud has taken place at the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That matter has been referred to the RCMP. The Auditor General's Report indicated that laws and regulations had been broken. So that's why we referred the matter to the RCMP to see exactly what was going on; whether there was fraud, or not; whether there was theft or not, etcetera. All of that has been referred to the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate to the House how much public money may have gone missing or have been misappropriated? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We won't know that until after the RCMP's investigation. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Mr. Speaker, I'll give you a chance to settle down. Mr. Speaker, it's incredible. The RCMP is not a manager, nor do they normally just go on to see if they can find any fish like that particularly. These are management issues.

My second supplementary is: can the minister confirm that former employees or board members of the corporation are under suspicion, and if they are, does the government know where they can be located? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the matter has been referred to the RCMP. This question about whether we know where the board members and that are, we know where the board members are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that the members of the public, as well as the people who were involved, surely must know their rights as well. So it's important that the government has evidence and not just suspicion.

Mr. Speaker, when does the minister expect the RCMP to begin and conclude its investigation? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The matter has been referred to the RCMP. We are yet to have a response from the RCMP, so I don't have that information at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 341 – 2(4): Update on Monitoring of Medications

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Peterson for bringing up the concerns of many people during the opening.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a number of my constituents have come to me with concerns about the medications that are being prescribed for them. Can the minister update this House on what systems are in place to monitor medications that are being given to patients and what is being done to make sure that the patients understand what they are for and what to expect? (interpretation) 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. When a patient goes to the health centre and sees a nurse or a doctor, the doctors or nurses would treat the patient, and based on the person's illness, would then prescribe medication.

Through that process, the nurses or the doctors would explain what that medication is for. At the same time, if they require translators, there are interpreter/translators at every health centre that also are responsible for translating that information to that patient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the time when the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* were doing a hearing for language, we heard in the media that our elders go shopping at the store for the pharmacy, they don't know what they're buying.

(interpretation ends) Some my constituents which are elders have noticed that the inhalers that they received are defective. Can the minister advise this House on systems that are in place to ensure the quality of medical supplies that are purchased by her department?

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. Medical equipments or supplies that are purchased are purchased through our director of pharmacies, and we have a supplier that provides us with products that are needed in our health centres.

When the inhaler, as an example, is given to the patient at the health centre and it's defective, then the nurse should be notified and a new one that works would be given to that patient. The systems are in place that we purchase and ensure that the products that we do receive are in good condition and, in fact, are what we ordered and so on.

If there are concerns with inhalers and/or they are broken, then the practitioners at the community level should be notified immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year, there was a national announcement on the re-call of cold medicines for children. This announcement caused a lot of concern among the parents in my constituency.

Can the minister update this House on what kind of public information campaigns are organized by the Department of Health and Social Services to help inform people of these kinds of situations? 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. The Department of Health purchases medication that's approved at the national level. There is a listing of medication that is approved through an organization that would ensure that proper testing and so on is done on a medication before it's ready for distribution or sales through the stores.

Through legislation, we have that same process in place in the territory. In cases where there's a re-call, the director of pharmacy would check to make sure that that product is not on our approved listing to our formulary for medication.

So if that is the case, then the director of pharmacy would then contact every health centre and make sure that that product is removed from distribution through the regional centres and/or the health centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 342 – 2(4): Qualification of Umingmaktok as Community Status

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

Mr. Speaker, when the minister attended the Kitikmeot Inuit Association AGM a few weeks ago, one of the delegates from Bay Chimo asked her for help to get funding for his community. The minister mentioned that they had to be a community to get help.

The Government of Nunavut have used them as an outpost camp, despite the fact that they have houses, a fuel tank farm, a school, a Hunters and Trappers Organization building, and an airstrip.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House how Bay Chimo can qualify for community funding from her department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This subject, I agree, it was brought up in the KIA meeting. As I had stated that I would look further into this item, because it does need more researching. The Community and Government Services already deliver fuel there and other programs. I'm not sure how it's going to be met at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The community does need help. Mr. Speaker, in the Government of the Northwest Territories days there was dedicated funding for unorganized communities to help Bay Chimo and Bathurst Inlet.

It's interesting that in those days they were referred to as communities but now, under the Government of Nunavut, they're called outpost camps. In the Kitikmeot we still think of

them as communities and they have an equal voice at the Kitikmeot Inuit Association annual general meetings and they have a board representative.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell me if there's any funding within her department or the Government of Nunavut to help unorganized communities meet their needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be very candid in this area because there are many outpost camps throughout Nunavut and if we start funding those two, as the member mentioned, then we have to look at the other areas, too. There are quite a lot of them and this government is unable to provide those funds. It's too much and too huge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, under the Government of the Northwest Territories days, they were referred to as unorganized communities. I'm not sure how they suddenly became known as outpost camps.

In the Kitikmeot they are not known as outpost camps; they're known as communities. Despite the fact that they don't fall into some special category and the Government of Nunavut rules them ineligible for funding, they are communities and we support them as communities.

So my question for the minister: can the minister tell the House what level of assistance the two communities of Bay Chimo and Bathurst Inlet currently receive from all of the departments of the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we would really like to help those outpost camps but when there are so many outpost camps we have to view them equally and provide proper services, rather than just supporting one or two.

When we start providing support for one or two communities, the other outpost camps will want to get help. So I can look into what kind of services or programs there are for those two communities, but I know that there's fuel delivery for those two communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bay Chimo, I say it's a bit more than an outpost camp. It has a school there that goes up to grade three, it has a Hunters and Trappers Organization, it has a store and a health centre, it has an airstrip, and it has a tank farm. To me, that seems like it's more than an outpost camp.

Nevertheless, people are moving because of the lack of services being provided to him. I don't believe that people should have to move from their communities or their homes because the government provides them with diminished level of programs and services. However, Mr. Speaker, that's the case.

Can the minister tell the House how the Government of Nunavut helps people move from their communities if they choose and assist them to find adequate housing elsewhere with the resources allocated to help them move? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his questions and for providing that information.

I am unable to address those concerns as they are the responsibilities of other ministers. So if there's a school, it's the responsibility of the Minister of Education, and in regard to health, the Minister of Health and Social Services would have that responsibility. In regard to fuel tanks, the fuel is delivered by our department.

It is evident that they lack other services or programs. We're not going to try and tell everybody what to do because it's up to people where they want to live or reside, but we try to provide services such as fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 343 – 2(4): Reports on Sealift Activities

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

Before I ask my question, I just want to say I had a great lunch today with Brian and the customers down at the Grind & Brew, and I thank them for that. I know he watches these proceedings here quite diligently.

Mr. Speaker, last year, in response to questions I raised to the minister, the minister took it upon herself to table in the Assembly a report on the sealift season for last year. I know the annual re-supply sealift season for this year is just finishing, or not quite finished in some areas.

I would like to ask the minister if she would be willing to provide a report for this year's sealift season that would include a summary of activities, the incidents, any breakdowns, or complaints of damaged goods and things like that, by region for the Members of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year my department did table a report. For this summer's sealift, they were delayed by a week in some of the communities and one ship was late for three weeks because some of the communities had ice along the shipping routes and the ice did not go away for quite some time.

For the year 2007 season, we found out that there were more materials going to the communities than previously expected, and it seems like it's the first time this has occurred with a lot of materials being shipped to the communities.

With regards to his question, I can table the report so that all the members can see it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I know that this year, I think, was the record year for stuff that was shipped throughout the territory. I think that's an indication that, in some ways, things are going well up here.

My question to follow up on what the minister... in that report, because she also included, and I know that there were some issues with housing materials left behind, but if the minister could provide in that review or report, if there are any other cargo that have been left behind or is undelivered by carrier and by region. Could she include that in the report as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just this past summer and fall, the ships tried to do their jobs properly, and if there were any materials left behind, they will be reported. I expect the report to be full. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know, as a result of having that report tabled last year and I think having a report this year, the only way that things get better is, for instance, if we look at what happened and review it. I think that's a good thing. There have been improvements made over last year.

As you review things, you learn from your mistakes or things that happened. I also know, Mr. Speaker; it's not always just looking for the things that went wrong. There are some good news stories in there as well.

The minister indicated the volumes going to the North this year were much higher than other years, and I would assume that there are Inuit employment numbers and things like that may be good news stories as well. Would she include those in the report as well?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, we look for improving services to Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) NTCL and NSSI has visited all communities and met contractual obligations. NSSI and NEAS, those two ships, they visited all communities and met all their contractual obligations.

(interpretation) As I stated earlier, they have been doing an excellent job and they did all they could to provide the services that were required. One of the companies acquired an additional ship which made an improvement to the services that were provided to the Keewatin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 344 – 2(4): Audit of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation concerning the audit of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

Yesterday, the minister informed the House that he has directed that the corporation's lending activities be temporarily suspended.

While I recognize that a brief pause may be necessary to get the NBCC in order, it is absolutely essential that this suspension not be indefinite or used as an excuse to stop providing services altogether.

I would like to ask the minister to clarify whether this suspension means a period of one week, or one month, or a year. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry, I have a sore throat and I have a very manly voice this afternoon.

>>*Laughter*

In following the NBCC laws, there is a requirement to have seven members sitting on the board, but this week, there have been some resignations and we will have to appoint additional board members. The suspension will be lifted next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): The minister's announcement of yesterday indicated that "clients of the corporation will not be affected by these measures and the impact on the business community in terms of access to capital will be short-term." Can he clarify exactly what he means by "short-term"? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated that, this coming week, NBCC will be back in order. They will be lending out loans and the board will be back to meetings. The suspension will be lifted by next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister, and we have been told already, could the minister commit to me that he will direct his officials to meet with the regional chamber of commerce to explain the situation and answer their questions? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a very excellent question. I will be writing a letter to their regional chamber of commerce to give them a full explanation of the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Question Period is now over. I apologize. 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. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Committee Report 002 – 2(4): Report on the Review of the 2007 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students (FANS) Program

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability's report on its review of the 2007 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students Program.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the Auditor General's Report on the FANS Program was tabled in the House on June 6, 2007. The standing committee held its hearings on the report on June 13 and 14 of this year. As is the practice of the standing committee, the standing committee hearings were open to the public and media to observe. In the interest of maximum public transparency, the transcripts from the standing committee's hearings were subsequently posted to the Legislative Assembly's website in both Inuktitut and English.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's 2006 Annual Report to the Legislative Assembly made important observations concerning the need for education and training programs to develop our future accountants and financial management professionals. The standing committee viewed her report on the FANS Program as being timely.

The report on the FANS Program constituted the Auditor General's first stand-alone report to our Legislative Assembly that provides a performance audit of a specific GN program.

The standing committee was pleased to have had the opportunity to scrutinize the Auditor General's findings and recommendations concerning this important program. The standing committee looks forward to holding public hearings on the reports of the Auditor General on her office's performance audits of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Department of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's 2007 Report on the FANS Program contained thirteen specific recommendations for improvements to the management of the program. These recommendations addressed the following areas:

- Program governance;
- Assessment of applications and issuing of benefits;
- Financial and management controls;
- Information and management systems;
- Management of student loans; and
- Measurement, reporting and use of program results.

The standing committee was pleased to note that the Department of Education agreed with all of the Auditor General's recommendations. No surprise.

Mr. Speaker, every report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly has been referred to a standing committee for review. Witnesses from appropriate GN departments have been invited to appear in public before the committee to account for the government's responses to the Auditor General's recommendations and the concerns of MLAs.

The quality of the government's responses has varied considerably over the years, as has its performance in taking action to address the recommendations of both the Auditor General and the standing committee. As a result, the standing committee, in its 2006 report to the Legislative Assembly, began the practice of providing a detailed status report on the government's actions in response to outstanding issues. This practice will continue.

Mr. Speaker, members of the standing committee were pleased with the Department of Education's willingness to acknowledge the need for improvements to the administration of the FANS Program and to present a detailed action plan to address the issues raised in the Auditor General's Report.

At the appropriate time, I will be formally tabling copies of the materials provided by the department at the request of the standing committee, including follow-up information that members received in August of this year. I would also add that the standing committee has taken careful note of the Minister of Education's Statement to the House of October 29, 2007, on progress achieved by the department in addressing the recommendations contained in the performance audit.

Mr. Speaker, a number of themes and priorities for future action have emerged during the standing committee's review of the issues raised in the Auditor General's Report. The standing committee recommends that the department address the following areas:

- The importance of ensuring that the department works to ensure that benefits under the FANS Program are provided to students in a timely manner. While the standing committee recognizes that students have a responsibility to ensure that they submit their applications in accordance with established deadlines, members continue to hear concerns from students and other stakeholders with respect to late payments and problems with travel arrangements, especially for students attending post-secondary institutions outside of the territory. The department should regularly survey its clients on their satisfaction with the program.
- The importance of periodically reviewing the eligibility criteria for receiving FANS and the benefits provided under the program. For example, it remains unclear whether students enrolling in the GN's Cultural School will be eligible to receive FANS benefits. The issue of benefits for students enrolled in Adult Basic Education programs also remains a concern, as is the issue of benefits for students enrolling in the GN's Trades School. The department must report the results of its review, including cost implications, to the Legislative Assembly in a clear and candid manner.

- The importance of examining the feasibility of establishing separate funding programs for students enrolled in courses of study that grant professional accreditation in such areas as nursing, education, engineering and accountancy.
- The importance of preparing and tabling an annual report in the Legislative Assembly on the administration of the FANS Program that includes meaningful performance measures of how well the program is achieving its objectives.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted earlier, the standing committee held its hearings on the Auditor General's Report in June of 2007. The standing committee recommends that the minister table a comprehensive update on his department's progress in implementing the recommendations in the Auditor General's Report and the recommendations of the standing committee in this report during the 2008 spring sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 91(5), the standing committee formally requests that the government present a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

With that, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. (interpretation ends) Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report on Bills 005 – 2(4): Bill 18 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Related Statutes

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Related Statutes*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability, and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 18 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Do members unanimously agree to allow Bill 18 to proceed directly into Committee of the Whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 147 – 2(4): A Hudson Bay Summit: A Concept Paper

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of a concept paper titled “A Hudson Bay Summit”. This paper was prepared by the Nunavut Hudson Bay Interagency Working Group.

The purpose of the summit is to bring people together to get a better understanding of the Hudson Bay marine ecosystem, the challenges facing it and the social and economic consequences of change.

I urge my fellow members to review this document and support the program it proposes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 148 – 2(4): Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal Annual Report March 31, 2007

Tabled Document 149 – 2(4): Ministerial Meeting Report – Western Premiers Conference, October 30, 2007 from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Tabled Document 150 – 2(4): Ministerial Meeting Report – Council of Federation Annual Meeting, October 30, 2007 from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table the following documents: Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal Annual Report as of March 31, 2007; Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministerial Report on the Western Premiers Conference of July 4 to 6, 2007; Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers’ Report on the Council of Federation Annual Meeting, August 8 to August 10, 2007. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Can we have those documents brought forward to the table please?

Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Tabled Document 151 – 2(4): Client Travel Policy and Client Travel Handbook
(Health and Social Services)**

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my Minister's Statement, I am tabling the recently completed Client Travel Policy, along with the flyers by each region.

I also want to thank the Members of the House for their continued contribution to the development, as well as my colleagues and the hard work of staff, and consulted with many Nunavummiut in the development of this policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 152 – 2(4): Procurement Activity Report for Fiscal Year 2006/07
– Government of Nunavut**

**Tabled Document 153 – 2(4): Contract Activity Report for Fiscal Year 2006-07 –
Government of Nunavut**

**Tabled Document 154 – 2(4): Lease Activity Report for Fiscal Year 2006-07 –
Government of Nunavut**

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following documents: CGS Procurement Activity Report; and the other one which I'm also proud of, Mr. Speaker, tabling, (interpretation ends) CGS Contract Activity Report for the Fiscal Year 2006-07. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And the last one, I'm pleased to table the following document: CG&S Lease Activity Report for the Fiscal Year 2006-07. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Can we have those documents brought forth to the table, please?

Thank you. Item 13. Tabling Documents. Minister Tapardjuk.

Tabled Document 155 – 2(4): Public Service Annual Report 2006-07

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: the Public Service Annual Report for 2006-07. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 021 – 2(4): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, November 9, 2007, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until February 19, 2008.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are we on the First Reading of Bills?

Speaker (interpretation): My apologies. We're on Item 16. Motions. Mr. Premier, do you have a motion?

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): My apologies. I'll wait until we go to First Reading of Bills.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 16. Motions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As promised and this is the appropriate time, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 16: Motions

Motion 021 – 2(4): Extended Adjournment

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the very Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until February 19, 2008.

Further, at any time prior to February 19, 2008, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and the Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 22 – Engineers & Geoscientists Act – First Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies for my earlier mistake.

(interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 22, *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*, be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. The motion is in order. All those for the motion. Opposed. Bill 22 has had first reading.

(interpretation) Item 17. (interpretation ends) First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Item 18. (interpretation ends) Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 with Mr. Arreak in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:40 and Committee resumed at 16:16*

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 16, and continue with the review of the Capital Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services, followed by the Bills 14, 15, 17, and Bill 19. If time permits, we will do a clause-by-clause review of Bill 18. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Does the committee agree we first deal with Bill 16 with Health and Social Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman: Thank you.

Chairman's Caution

Chairman: Before we proceed, I wish to remind all members of the Speaker's correspondence to us of October 19, 2007, concerning the procedures for reviewing capital estimates in the Committee of the Whole.

I remind members that we are reviewing the Capital Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services. While the Chair will permit some reasonable latitude, members' questions should focus on the proposed capital items that are before the House.

That's just a reminder. Ms. Aglukkaq, do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Yes, I do.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Minister, please introduce your witnesses for the record.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Alex Campbell, the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, and to my right is Ms. Rosemary Brown, the Manager of Capital Projects for Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Please turn to H-6 in your 2008-09 Capital Estimates. H-6. Health and Social Services. Detail of Capital. Directorate. Qikiqtaaluk Region. I have Mr. Mapsalak on my list.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I notice Kivalliq is not there but I have a concern with Kivalliq.

In her opening remarks, the minister talked about the new hospitals in Nunavut and mentioned that she would just go with that. For example, the Naujaat/Repulse Bay Health Centre, the plan for the health centre in Naujaat, Taloyoak, and Arctic Bay, she mentioned that they will go ahead with the plan or the design for Repulse Bay. Is that design completed for Repulse Bay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The design is not yet completed, but it's in the works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated that Repulse Bay and Taloyoak have been in the plan starting from 2002 for new health centres.

I have asked numerous questions since I became a member in 2004 and I keep asking questions about the proposed health centre in Repulse Bay every time we dealt with estimates.

Every year we saw that it was delayed every time it came up on the capital estimates. It's like that annually even up to now. We were hopeful and we expect now that it will become a reality in Repulse Bay and the people are happy.

Before that year, it has been deferred up until 2011. It's doubtful if it will physically be erected. Can the minister reassure me when the health centre will be built in Repulse Bay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I share the member's concerns in regard to the project that had been started back in 2003. Of the capital projects that I had listed from 2003-04 capital estimates, there are two that are not complete, Taloyoak and Repulse Bay. The rest in Pond Inlet, Igloolik, Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay were all done except for those two.

In my statement I had also mentioned that the pressures of the decision of the Full Caucus in Arviat to construct two continuing care facilities was the pressure that we were under to try and meet the 2003 commitments and the two facilities.

Right now, Repulse Bay is on a design stage. The contract has been awarded to the architect and the architect is in the works in designing that and we're hoping to use the same model for the other facilities as well.

If you look to the back of the capital estimates for 2008-09, there's budget allocated for Repulse Bay in that. Hopefully, by 2008-09, the design will be done and that we will be able to go forward allocating funding for the capital project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just use this as an example for Repulse Bay, the community itself hasn't had anything new since 1999. There was a replacement because of the fire. I know this doesn't have anything to do with Health and Social Services but I'm just using it as an example, we haven't seen any new infrastructure other than housing.

Can the minister explain to me why we still haven't seen any funding this year even though we were promised that it was a high priority? Repulse Bay has been without additional funding of any kind since the Northwest Territories days.

I wonder if the minister would be able to find some money this year so that they can go ahead with the health centre in Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I share the member's concern in regard to those projects. It's been a long time and I share the same concerns for the projects in Taloyoak and Arctic Bay.

So if there is an opportunity to examine, or if there is an opportunity to advance through funding in the New Year, I would certainly try to commit to trying to advance those, and I have instructed my staff to make those three communities a priority.

The pressures that we're under are the two continuing care facilities and some of the unplanned incidences that have cost us more pressure within the department with the capital projects that we have, such as the Sanikiluaq Health Centre situation.

So if there is an opportunity in the New Year, I would certainly commit to putting those forward as a priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell the members how old those facilities are? She mentioned the ones in Taloyoak, Repulse Bay, and Arctic Bay. Does the minister know how old those facilities are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The facilities are 23, 22, and 21 in terms of years that they've been in existence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of those, she mentioned the age of the facilities. Can she tell me which communities or which health centres correspond with the numbers she just mentioned? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Arctic Bay is 23, Repulse Bay is 22, and Taloyoak is 20. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Evyagotailak): Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the information she gave me. I can't understand that because when the facilities get so old, it seems like the older facilities should be replaced first. That was just a comment so I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I believe the member had made just a comment, but again, there is a technical assessment done for each facility before they go forward for any capital projects.

I'll use another example. The facility in Cape Dorset is 26 years old and there are other examples of older facilities out there within the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know back in 2005-06, in the capital plan, there was \$15,000 previously authorized for the Arctic Bay Health Centre. I'm just wondering if the minister can indicate if that money has been spent to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding for Arctic Bay for \$15,000 was for the Functional Program. That money has not been spent because we're not done the Functional Program for Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate when that Functional Program or whatever review was started and when they expect to have it completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We hope to have the Functional Program review completed, hopefully, at the end of this fiscal year. It's been delayed. We just did not have the capacity internally to do all of the projects in light of the other capital projects within the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, according to the substantiation sheet for the Taloyoak Health Centre Replacement Project this year, it indicates that there has been \$835,000 previously authorized in prior years. Can the minister indicate if that money has been spent yet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have Ms. Brown walk through that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of the money for the planning and design of the Taloyoak Health Centre has been carried forward to 2007-08. There's \$820,000 currently in the 2007-08 budget for the Taloyoak Health Centre. So it shows in prior years but it has been carried forward to continue the work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering, if there's already \$820,000 sitting there, why do they need another \$200,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We expected to have the design finished last fiscal year until we ran into problems with cost by doing the renovation and addition.

Had we finished the design last year, this \$200,000 was for the architect to do the code review to make sure the existing design complied with current building codes and also that the products that had been selected, like flooring, or different colours or whatever, were still available for the manufacturer.

Part of that \$200,000 would also cover the cost of printing the tender specifications and it would also go towards the tender in the newspaper and various places. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe Ms. Brown's mic was off but I think her last words were, "... it's a contingency." I'm just wondering if she can confirm that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Ms. Brown.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, what I meant is contingency. If there had been some work that had to be re-done, in terms of building code or selection of products, that work would be done by the architect, but the costs are also to cover the production of the tender documentation and the advertising. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering, Ms. Brown indicated for the code requirements, would that be for the new facility or the existing facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be to look at the existing design, whether it had been a renovation/addition or a new facility. Building codes change every five years at different cycles and we wanted to make sure that the proposed building met all of the up-to-date requirements for buildings. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Brown for that clarification. I'm just a little confused. She indicated for the existing design for the renovation or the addition

but this project here is for a completely new building, so maybe if I could just get some clarification there. Is it the code requirements for the existing building with an addition, or is it co-compliance for this new building that hasn't been designed yet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Pass to Ms. Brown, please.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With all of the review that we have done in terms of working with the architect and the design, CGS and ourselves have spent a lot of time on looking at this project.

It's the recommendation of CGS that there be a standalone new building due to the cost implications becoming close to a new standalone facility, plus also it will void any disruption of the delivery of the Health and Social Services to the community of Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm still not sure if it's for the existing facility with addition, or is it for the new facility that she talked about, those code requirements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: What the substantiation sheet that the department has put forward is for a new facility based on the reviews we've done with the architect and on the recommendation for CGS. So this is for the new building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I note and I'll go through it. Since 2001-02 and prior to that, there was \$50,000 approved towards this project. But since then, not including this year's capital, we've approved \$1,772,000 for this project. Again, it just shows \$835,000 here and Ms. Brown indicated that there was \$820,000 in carryovers for that project.

So there is some money missing. The numbers just don't add up because that would indicate that we spent \$952,000, and the total on that, there's about \$117,000 that's not accounted for the carryover, and between the carryover and what's been approved.

So I'm just wondering if I can get an explanation on what that money was spent on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Ms. Brown to walk through what transpired there since 2003 with these projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown, go ahead.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the years other projects required some funds, the Igloolik Health Centre being one, and most recently, the emergency repairs to the Sanikiluaq Health Centre via FMB submission funds were taken from this project and a new current project for Sanikiluaq was created.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I noted in the minister's opening comments she indicated that the replacement of the Arctic Bay Health Centre was in the department's past five-year capital plan but has been deferred to future years at the direction of the Financial Management Board.

I'm just wondering if I could ask the minister to clarify that comment, explaining why the Financial Management Board gave her direction to defer that project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, the underlying reason would be limited funds to move forward on that, as well as the Functional Program had not yet been completed for the Arctic Bay facility.

Having said that, the Functional Program would form the basis of the architectural design and Ms. Brown is working with the architects to use the same model for Repulse Bay and Taloyoak as a model to be used and modified for Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would it be correct in saying that the FMB gave direction to defer that project because no money had been spent on that particular project to date and that it would be treated as a new project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I'll ask Ms. Brown to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown, go ahead.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Due to the cost escalations over the past few years in existing projects, the government has had to either defer projects or find funds through FMB approval to fund what we already have on the books.

The Department of Finance is concerned that, perhaps, we will not be able to pay for what the government has already committed to as priorities.

Because Arctic Bay did not have funds spent against it, yes, was one of the reasons that it was deferred, as I understand it, by the FMB. This is not unique to the Department of Health. Other departments had been deferred. It is up to the Department of Health, in its next capital plan, to work on getting that project back in the capital plan.

By approaching the design of new health centres by repeat design, we can actually, when we are working on the design for the new Repulse Bay Health Centre and the new Taloyoak Health Centre, be able to use that design for the similar size community of Arctic Bay.

So actually, we will be getting ahead of ourselves. The money the department would then require in the capital plan to modify the design for Arctic Bay would be money to look at the site that is chosen by the hamlet and the lands people, and make sure that the foundation for that building is appropriate for Arctic Bay.

So because it is not on the books, it does not mean our department has forgotten it. But yes to answer Mr. Tootoo's question, one of the reasons was because it has not had any money spent in the last capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another thing I want to point out is that earlier the minister indicated that Repulse Bay was 23 years old, the Arctic Bay was 23 years old, and the Taloyoak Health Centre was 20 years old.

According to the substantiation sheets that the department provided, Repulse Bay is actually 26 years old, Arctic Bay is actually 24 years old, and the minister was correct in the fact that the Taloyoak Health Centre is 20 years old.

Based on this information and the fact that the minister indicated in her opening comments, the age and condition of buildings determine the priority to be given for its upgrading and/or replacement, I would like to just ask the minister how they prioritize those projects if, in fact, those other facilities are four and six years older than the one that's moving ahead this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From my listing, I have Arctic Bay as 23 and Repulse Bay is 23, Cape Dorset is 26 years old. It's just in terms of the age of

the facilities. With that, I will have Rosemary respond to the steps involved in... unless you want to. I will get Mr. Campbell to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There are a number of health centres that are still in dire need of repairs or replacement, or whatever we do as a government.

One of the challenges as the minister and the program officer have been trying to relate to the committee is that we do have a number of challenges in the department that we have to address right now, continuing centres is one of them. We keep repeating that message.

The government sets a target on an annual basis for our capital and each department is allocated a certain amount of capital for their department. We, as a government, and the departments are trying to live within that allocation as a government so that we can stretch our capital dollars a little further.

The department will be undertaking a comprehensive review of all the buildings that we have, that we have to manage and administer in the department, including the treatment facilities and all of the buildings under the department. We will do that assessment in the next capital planning cycle. We hope to have that completed so that we have a better assessment of what buildings need to be replaced.

Currently, we are working with the three facilities that go in the books, so one of them is not in the books right now. Our priority is to try and bring all three into the process if we can by trying to use one standard design for the three buildings to try and move those projects up. So that's where the department is coming from and we're trying to do things that are practical in moving some of these capital projects forward.

As the minister indicated there's Cape Dorset who's in dire state, in dire need as well for replacement of their building. So there are challenges like that that we will be planning to be more strategic in how we present in the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just based on the standards and criteria that are supposed to be used in prioritizing projects, I had a quick look and I'm not a technical expert but it seems like the Arctic Bay Health Centre is in pretty rough shape. Their boilers are on their last legs and they have some severe foundation issues around the building.

What specific recommendations did the department use in putting the Taloyoak project ahead of two older projects? I haven't even seen the technical standards report for the Repulse Bay one but it's six years older than the Taloyoak one, while the Arctic Bay one

is four years older. So what specific criteria did they use in prioritizing the projects in that particular order? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll start off and then I'll get Rosemary to explain the process.

The technical reports that are completed are completed by the project officers of CGS and the department works with those technical reports, and the recommendations come from CGS technical people that inspect facilities for electrical, plumbing, and structural. I'm not an expert in that, nor is the department.

So we rely on the inspection reports of the technical staff and projects officers from CGS to evaluate the conditions of each unit, and I don't believe there is a set criteria but rather building codes, electrical codes, and structural codes. I'm kind of guessing but the minister responsible can probably explain the process a bit more than I can.

From the program side of things, when we say we're going to do a functional review, the functional review relates to the kind of programs we will be delivering out of those facilities - dental, homecare, nurses, and a number of other pieces. That then is used along the side of the technical report by the architects in designing.

Perhaps, Ms. Brown could elaborate a little bit more on those three facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In addition to the documents and the studies that the minister has mentioned, we also look at population projections for the community or the region, we look at what kind of economic development is going on, and we have discussions with the hamlets and Health Committees, and we try to project needs.

After the technical assessment and doing some of these discussions, if we are able to successfully put a project in the capital plan and be accepted by the FMB and the legislature, it usually takes a project four or five years, actually, to develop through the Functional Program, the design, the two years of construction, and warranty.

So with Taloyoak and Repulse Bay, they did start a number of years ago. The pressure from the continuing care and the regional facilities pushed things back. Right now, we have a high cost of construction in Nunavut, but there are a number of prioritized things done.

In terms of Taloyoak, the region and the hamlet requested a technical assessment of the community in 2000 and CGS carried that out. Subsequently, it was successfully put in the capital plan. In 2004, again, the community and the health administration requested a

technical assessment of Arctic Bay and that was completed in 2004. That's the process. One may be older than another but it depends on when it becomes put forward for evaluation.

Now, to be proactive, we want, over the next year, to get CGS to look at all of the health buildings, not only health centres but group homes, so that we will have a big plan. We won't be able to get everything in the five-year plan.

We will have information from Technical Services but also population projections and all of these other documents that would be taken into consideration, not just one document, in terms of helping the department to put forward a capital plan to the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, this project goes back a number of years and it's confusing.

It initially started off as a health centre residential renovations, and funds were required for renovations and code upgrades. In following years, the design for building code upgrades, renovations, and additions are currently underway, and the design contract was awarded for drawings for code upgrades and renovations to the current health facility. Everything that has been approved for this project to date has been for renovations and now, we're looking at a replacement project.

The minister indicated that the reason Arctic Bay didn't go forward was because no funds had been expended on it.

We heard from officials from Community and Government Services in Committee of the Whole that a substantial change in scope of work of the project would be considered a new project. Looking at everything we approved in the past has been replacement, code upgrades, and renovations, and nothing at all to do with a replacement.

So based on that criteria, this should have been considered a replacement project, instead it has been considered a new project and zero dollars have been spent on that. How could this have gone from a renovation code upgrade project to a replacement project when all of the money that has been approved in the past for it has been for renovations? So maybe if I can just get an explanation as to why this one hasn't been treated as a new project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask Alex to start off and then have Rosemary finish off that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just from a general perspective, when capital projects are being considered in a capital plan, there are times when the scope of work or the intention of that proposal changes on recommendations that we get from technical and advice that we're getting from our experts in the area.

What we're proposing right now as a department is that the scope of its work changed from a replacement because of the fact that some of the costs associated to renovating this building as well as doing an addition would cost equivalent to or even more, I haven't seen the cost myself, than replacing a new building.

So our officials, including our department and CGS, are making recommendations to the department that we consider the replacement of the health facility in Taloyoak. We are in the middle, as the minister said just a couple days ago, of going through that process of getting that approved through the Committee of the Whole, as well as the Legislative Assembly. That's where we're at with this process right now.

For most management of projects, that's a normal thing to do. The standards and criteria, the instructions that we get from the people that know the field, we take that into consideration, address recommendations, and try to move forward in our capital planning.

The other thing I should mention is that this project, some monies, as Rosemary said, that have been redirected to other urgent priorities that have come up unplanned, and review if there's money to allocate for those projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Tootoo, do you have additional questions?

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Campbell.

Chairman: Okay, I will allow you to continue for an additional ten minutes, but after that, I will go to the next member on my list. Go ahead, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate Mr. Campbell's response where, once they've looked into it, it became more feasible to build a new building rather than renovate and put on an addition. Whereas the officials of Community and Government Services clearly indicated in Committee of the Whole, when they were here, that substantial change of scope like that should be considered a new project.

The old project was renovate, renovate, and renovate, and now, this is a completely different scope of work from renovations to a brand new facility. I'm not arguing the need but if we hear explanations of where it seems like standards and criteria aren't being applied evenly across the board on that, like in this case, if it's supposed to be considered a new project because of the substantial state change of the scope of work that it hasn't.

I would just like to question why hasn't it been considered a new project when, in fact, no money has been expended on it, which is the same reason why Arctic Bay was deferred.

It just doesn't seem like the same standards and criteria are being applied evenly across the board, so maybe if I could get an explanation for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Ms. Brown to explain that process. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown, go ahead.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The very first capital plan where Taloyoak showed up in was very early in the life of this government, and indeed, it was to look at the possibility of renovating the residential units to make more of them because there is a shortage of housing in Taloyoak. That was not possible.

In further discussing with the hamlet and the health of the area, we requested the Technical Services to look at the building because standing committee, at that time, directed the department to re-look at that health centre in Taloyoak.

Along with the completion of the Technical Services document in 2003, a Functional Program, indeed, was completed by CGS and the Department of Health. At that time, the project was identified in that Functional Program as a renovation of the facility plus an addition because what the scope of work of that Functional Program was to provide a building, whether it's a renovation and an addition. At that time, the thought was to provide a building that would house all of the Health and Social programs and services that were operational or were anticipated to be operational, like home care, in Taloyoak.

From the point of view of the department and I would say CGS, the scope of work is really the Functional Program, which is to provide a structure that will provide the program and service delivery that is required by the community of Taloyoak.

In conjunction with the Department of CGS and the architect, it has now become, with the escalation of the costs of construction and anticipated needs, to construct the building according to code but also taking infection control measures. It is the recommendation of the consulting firm and CGS to recommending that it be a standalone building and not a renovation and addition.

The current design that we had for Taloyoak, and there has been some early stage designs put forward, would require probably about a five-phase addition, it could be in some cases to two phases, but it's somewhere between two and five phases, which would be highly disruptive for the operations in the community.

With the requirements now, for infection control standards and guidelines during construction of the health care facility or any renovation, are quite stringent now, and again, this would drive up the cost of construction and delays in the project.

So the long and the short is that CGS does not consider going through a renovation/addition to a new standalone building to be a change in the scope of work with regards to this Taloyoak project. In fact, they're supportive of this.

To get back to Mr. Tootoo's question, yes, there has been money spent against it both for the Functional Program, the hire of an architect, and the early stages of sketches and design. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just saw that there seems to be a contradiction of what should be looked at as a new project. There's one message from some officials and someone else telling us something else, but it seems, in my mind, that it should be a completely different project. A new facility from renovations or an addition should be considered a new project.

Aside from that, the minister, I know according to the substantiation sheet that the department provided, the design for the Repulse Bay replacement health centre will be repeated for Taloyoak as a cost saving measure. Do you have an idea of how much is going to be saved as a result of this initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Ms. Brown respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In discussions with CGS, because the designs are not advanced to that point, or CGS does not have the new fee quotes from the architect, I can't give you dollars and cents.

What CGS has advised us is that, in principle, when you do a repeat design, you would probably save potentially 50 percent of the cost. However, the architect would look at, for the repeat design, a percentage of the cost for the royalty of his design.

I have had some preliminary information from the Department of Community and Government Services how this works. Because I'm a Health and Social Services person, I would think it's more appropriate for the Department of Community and Government Services to rely on their officials to answer that question about the costs and savings. I would defer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't need the exact numbers, what Ms. Brown gave is good enough. I'm just wondering, has the design already been done for the Taloyoak Health Centre, and if so, when was it done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Brown advises me that preliminary designs have been done for the Taloyoak Health Centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can they indicate when they were done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: She says two years ago. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I'm kind of puzzled; we have never approved any money for a new facility in Taloyoak. I was just wondering where the department got the authority to spend money on a design for a new facility when all of the money that has been approved has been approved for renovations and an addition, not a new facility. I see that as a major concern.

Also, Mr. Chairman, in the substantiation sheet for the Taloyoak Health Centre, it indicates and I'll read right from it, "the design fees and construction to repeat the design of the Repulse Bay Health Centre will be repeated with the addition of examination rooms to meet the needs of Taloyoak."

The department's own substantiation sheet indicates that the Repulse Bay design is done and that was what was going to be used in Taloyoak. That either indicates that there's something wrong here, the Repulse Bay one should have been ahead of the Taloyoak one but for some reason it hasn't.

There is conflicting information here on this, so maybe if I could get the minister or her officials to explain that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Ms. Brown explain that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Around 2004-05, the Taloyoak project was still a renovation and addition. There were early designs done at that point in time. It was put on hold because of the requirement to do very quick work, when it comes to programming, design or whatever, to meet the direction of the government to get going on the continuing care centres. At the same time, the design for Repulse Bay, same architect but a different contract, the design of the Repulse Bay for a new health centre was underway.

Both designs were put on hold because of these requirements. When they were started to be resurrected in the spring/summer of 2006, the design for Repulse Bay was proceeding. It was not finished and it's still fairly early. The sketches for Taloyoak were revisited in light of the massive increase of construction costs for both labour and materials, the requirements during section control that our government became available for code changes to do health and safety.

In the fall of 2006, Repulse Bay was kind of slowed down again until we looked at what should we be doing as a department in terms of these health centres so that we could advance them both. In the substantiation sheet, when it was written, we were, at that point in time, still looking at the possibility of having a design for Repulse Bay be the same design for Taloyoak. We did a review of both functional programs.

Because the Functional Program for Repulse Bay had been written quite early, I think in 2001, we realized, as a department, that the code changes for health and safety, that also that Repulse Bay was getting a mental health person with, perhaps, an additional nurse.

The program identifications for Repulse Bay were a little out of date and we were making a decision within the department, at about the time we were rating the substantiation sheet, that the existing design that we had for Repulse Bay, that there would have to be more examination rooms and a mental health added.

What we wanted to do then was have the same Functional Program for both communities, and this would also be for Arctic Bay, that will suit the two communities that are currently in the capital plan, and also a third, Arctic Bay, or a similar size community that may eventually get into the capital plan.

So the Repulse Bay, the way it is written, it has not been finalized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I know, this House and the Legislative Assembly has approved funding for what seemed like a renovation project and that money has been spent on a different project. So there are concerns on that and also the fact that the substantiation sheets that we're given for this year's capital aren't accurate.

My question then; as Ms. Brown indicated, when these substantiation sheets were done, things have changed since then. I'm just wondering if she can give us an indication of when the substantiation sheets that we have for this year's capital were prepared. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I will have Ms. Brown respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown, go ahead.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The title on this substantiation sheet is "replaced health centre."

In terms of the Department of Health and Social Services submission in this capital plan, it was brought to FMB in June as a replaced health centre, acknowledging that in the previous submissions, it had been renovation and addition. It was presented to the standing committee as a replaced health centre, rather than a renovation and addition.

The department is coming forward now with the changes that we have become aware of in this past year and presenting the name change in the project to indicate our best recommendations put forward to the government for approval based on our collaborative work with the Department of Community and Government Services.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Brown for that response. So if I was to read this correctly, in June, when this went to the Financial Management Board or the Cabinet, as Ms. Brown indicated, the department still anticipated doing the Repulse Bay Health Centre design before the Taloyoak one. So maybe, since June, how did that change?

According to the substantiation sheet, it has the Repulse Bay one coming out ahead and using that design for Taloyoak. So that would indicate that that was the priority in which those projects were going to go ahead and how has that changed since June? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back in 2002, both projects were supposed to be happening at the same time but with all that has gone on, many things have changed and they were delayed for six years.

So I will have Ms. Brown, who has been with us for a long time, to, again, explain what transpired with those two files. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown, go ahead.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Way back when we started out early in this government, both Repulse Bay and Taloyoak were sort of neck in neck in terms of being in the capital plan.

What Deputy Minister Campbell alluded to before, in those days of planning, the department was given certain targets and the submission had to fit those targets. Because of the other pressures on the capital plan, the regional health facilities and the way it started in the very first term, Taloyoak was identified a little bit ahead of Repulse Bay.

The way the funding is in the past few years of the capital plan, the community health centre project in Taloyoak would start the year before in terms of major construction and in terms of the health centre in Repulse Bay. It's a matter of we can't find the first year of construction money for the two health centres in the same year. By saying that the plan for Repulse Bay would become the plan Taloyoak, basically means we would abandon the five-year sketches that we have for Taloyoak.

We would ask the architect to use where we are at so far with Repulse Bay, enhance it a bit in terms of the extra rooms that are required for the extra staff people and programs have now been identified, and this modified, would still be called the Taloyoak Health Centre Project and the Repulse Bay Health Centre Project even though the designs would be the same but actually, Taloyoak would go out to tender the year before. We wouldn't be starting from scratch in terms of design, we would use the base designs for Repulse Bay.

It may be a bit confusing but it has been very difficult to try to advance both projects given the limited money we have, and to properly provide the communities with a building that will be appropriate for the programs and services the department wants to deliver. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fail to understand that the standards and criteria that the government is supposed to use in determining its prioritizing of departments, as the minister indicated, that they use in prioritizing capital projects.

How could a 20 year old facility move ahead of a 26 year old facility, other than the perception is that it was an FMB decision and the member for the 26 year old community doesn't sit on the FMB. It just leaves it as a very concerning perception out there for that.

I don't understand, based on the standards and criteria that we're supposed to use in prioritizing projects, that they could do that. Maybe if I could just ask how. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I will have Rosemary explain the process that's followed by the government in going from a technical review to a functional review, community reviews and population reviews; all that stuff as well.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Go ahead, Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have to go back in terms of looking at the chronology of when all of this happened.

Taloyoak was put forward in terms of its technical assessment with the request from the community and the region to look at that health facility. That was done in 2002-03. At that point in time, the government was new, certainly, I was new. And, at that point in time, the community of Arctic Bay or other health centres were not put forth by their regions or within the department as a priority.

When we became aware around 2004 that there were concerns coming out of the region from both Health and CGS, we asked the Department of Community and Government Services to carry out a technical assessment by CGS to determine what we needed to plan for in terms of that community health centre. At that point in time, we said the recommendation was to plan for the replacement of the Arctic Bay Health Centre, same as when Resolute Bay came up.

If you look at the chronology, this was the life of the first government that these decisions were made then.

We're a little bit slow in getting things done. In terms of the priorities of the government as well, there have been three regional health facilities and two continuing care centres. This has put not only a financial impact on the government; it has put a human personnel strain within the Department of Community and Government Services and within the Department of Health to get all of these things done. Some things had to get put on hold. There's only so much manpower and so on.

If I go back to the decision on prioritizing Taloyoak, Repulse Bay was made in the life of the First Session and Arctic Bay came sort of on the books in 2004-05. The pressure in dealing with the three regional facilities and subsequently, the continuing care facilities was enormous. I think the government has done very well to do these amounts of buildings but something had to be put on hold. In that case, the decision was made that it had to be the community; the two then plus the third smaller health centres.

If there had been manpower or more money, it's quite possible. We're looking at what happened in the past and we can't fix that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can understand that for the Arctic Bay one but the Repulse Bay one, it's kind of hard to understand that rationale. It doesn't make sense.

Mr. Chairman, another concern that I have and I alluded to with other departments is the accuracy of the capital budget. Are we just putting projects on the books to have them on the books, and then once the numbers and tenders come in, they're way over budget, and then decisions are made for which ones get moved ahead and which ones can't because we can't afford it.

I think that we need to be able to make decisions based on accurate information. If you look, again, at the substantiation sheet for the Taloyoak project it says, "The costs are based on Class C estimates." It says, "The reliability is questionable."

Right now, we're making a decision to go ahead with a project, putting \$200,000 in there for design when there's already been \$800,000 for the design on it, and saying it's going to cost \$13 million. Once that design is done, let's say it comes back \$26 million, it could. We don't know that and we need to be able to make informed decisions.

Once it's approved, then it's on the books for the five-year plan, and the tenders come in, this Assembly doesn't have a say in which ones move ahead. The minister indicated that FMB makes the decision, which is why Repulse Bay fell off the books, which is why Arctic Bay fell off the books and got further pushed back. It's quite obvious that the Members of this Assembly don't all have a say in what gets moved ahead here.

If I question and even if we approve that, we're basically approving a blank cheque. I'm a little leery in doing that myself because basically that's what we're doing. We have seen other projects. I think the highest one that's come in that I've seen is actually the school in Gjoa Haven that I think was budgeted around \$13 million to \$15 million and then it came in almost doubled.

If you look at that, this is at \$13 million and it comes in doubled, the Repulse Bay project is budgeted for a little bit less than that, a little bit less than the Taloyoak one. That means when the tenders come in at double the amount, which one is going to go ahead? We have no say in that.

I think we need to be provided with accurate information so that we can make informed decisions. If we go ahead with this, we're not making an informed decision. We're just giving the government a blank cheque to go and do what it wants, and it can prioritize what it wants after that. I have some serious reservations about doing that.

I don't think it's responsible for me, as a member that's watching out for public dollars, of doing that, and saying, "Yeah, go ahead and spend whatever you want." We are budgeting \$13 million and it's going to come in at \$26 million. So what would it take for the department to come back with more accurate figures on what this project will actually cost? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the challenges that we face in trying to advance projects, the member is correct that in the western part of Nunavut the construction project is a challenge for us. We see it in our transportation costs and we see it in a number of ways.

The boom in the west of Canada has a huge impact to what we're trying to do in the Kitikmeot as an example. You mentioned the renovation in the Gjoa Haven school. That is an issue and we recognize that.

Having said that, in terms of projects, going back to when these two projects started back in 2002-03, the department has been successful in getting a lot of the projects in the \$55 million budget, at the time, that was approved to finish off the Igloolik as an example and the hospital here, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay. Those projects, I think, with the exception of Pangnirtung, they are pretty much complete.

With the exception of these two projects in 2004, Ms. Brown mentioned that with the priorities from Full Caucus to construct two more continuing facilities, it has put a lot of pressure on the department to meet the outline of approved projects in 2003.

We are trying to continue to advance those now that the hospitals are out of the way. The continuing care facilities are in development now. We're trying to move the two aging facilities. Ms. Brown mentioned earlier, with all of the new hospitals and continuing care facilities, some of these aging facilities were put on hold. The direction that Ms. Brown is trying to address here now is to finish off the two aging facilities that we talk about, as well as Arctic Bay to try and start dealing with that.

My deputy also mentioned that the department will be conducting a review of all the facilities, not just the health centres but also other long-term care facilities within the territory. We need to do the technical assessments on all of those facilities in order to plan in addressing our aging facilities.

In the last few years, much of the focus has been to construct the hospitals, the continuing care, and that has put a lot of pressure on us, as a department, not only in the financial sense but we just did not have the capabilities to respond to every need in the communities.

So the direction now is to finish off the commitment in the previous government and the commitments that have been made and the work that has been started in trying to address some of those as indicated by Ms. Brown.

At the same time, Minister Brown had also announced in the House, the additional staff that would assist departments in better projection of costs associated with construction, we can only go forward in budgeting information on the technical advice we get from CGS project officers in projecting some of these construction costs for our facilities.

So we do try the best that we can in projecting what it will cost to construct these facilities. It's difficult to determine whether we will be accurate or not, or what the trend will be in the market and how the bids will come through. Based on information we have, we do try to put forward the best estimates that we do have in partnership with CGS, who are project managers of all of our facilities within the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk, I'm sorry but we made a mistake. We had you down that you asked questions the other day, but now, we realize that you provided the opening comments. We are sorry. Mr. Arvaluk, go ahead.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The apology is accepted. I just want to get clarification on two points. One is the deputy minister, I heard him say that they work with CGS and CGS recommends which projects should go ahead. From the technical point of view, is that a correct assessment? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Campbell answer that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What generally happens, as I said earlier, was that we identify these projects. We rely on CGS to provide the technical support on identifying these projects to the department. The normal process is that they recommend to the department on some of these projects that we should be undertaking. That's all I said. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then I should ask the Minister of CGS: what was the rationale behind placing Taloyoak ahead of, for example, Repulse Bay, Arctic Bay, or Cape Dorset? What technical evaluation or assessment was applied and what rationale was behind that in the decision? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Brown. Sorry, my mistake. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I will have Ms. Brown, our Capital Manager, answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must say, again, it's a matter of chronology or timing that Taloyoak and then Repulse Bay were brought forward both for technical assessments and for review within the department between 2000-02. These are kind of when they got on the book.

The issues around the health centre in Arctic Bay were not raised to the department, and then the department asked CGS Technical Services to do that in 2004. The projects got into the capital plan in different years as the projects were identified to both CGS and the Department of Health. It was not a matter of choosing by looking at all three at one point in time and then putting them in the capital plan.

Technical evaluations, the size of the community, the current ability to deliver programs - all of those come into play. Technical assessment is one of them. All three communities need buildings that are capable of delivering the Health and Social Services program.

It is now the view of the department as well as CGS that all three communities need a new health centre. It's just a matter of being able to get the funding in the department in an approved capital plan that we will be able to pay for them, go forward, complete the design and put out the construction contracts, buy the new furniture, and that is what we put in all three to move forward within our capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm having a very difficult time trying to differentiate between the technical assessments of the Department of CGS, I asked the Department of CGS, but the Health Department chose to answer on behalf of the CGS.

To get away from... I'm having a very difficult time turning away from what seems to be a lottery system. For example, the three communities needing very badly, they are put in the basket and pick one. Taloyoak was picked.

The minister was good enough to provide us the technical assessment sheets and we were able to compare the conditions of those three different health centres, and we had a discussion amongst ourselves. They have to understand how you were able to say Taloyoak is in the worst condition of all of these health centres from these technical assessments.

When we looked at it again, we thought Arctic Bay was in a much worse condition than Taloyoak. So that's why I asked the Minister of CGS: what rationale did you come up with in advising the Health Department that Taloyoak needed it more than Arctic Bay right now? The second question I had was on the substantiation sheet that the cause of this phase construction, of course, is high. That's why we put the Taloyoak construction into two sections, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

However, with the same breadth in all these pages, they are still phased-in constructions in other areas of the government program. How is it not like that with other constructions

for arenas and the community halls, etcetera, because they are phased-in, but Taloyoak is not?

I think that was talked about the other day, so I'm not going to get into that, but I'm still trying to ask the Minister of CGS: what rationale did you use to advise the Health Department to proceed with Taloyoak over the others? A simple answer could be because ... (interpretation) that's it. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Arvaluk, are you asking Minister Brown? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I am. There were some questions from Mr. Tootoo, Mr. Curley, and Mr. Mapsalak on those areas to the Minister of Health. They keep saying that they work with CGS to come up with the decision to budget for Taloyoak Health Centre over Arctic Bay, Repulse Bay, and Cape Dorset, and when we looked at the assessment papers the other day, we couldn't find how Taloyoak was chosen first.

I'm asking the Minister of Community and Government Services, they evaluate those proposals from different departments from the technical assessments: what rationale did you use to recommend to the Department of Health that Taloyoak should be first? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department does not do technical assessments, so the member is correct that the Department of Community and Government Services provides us that service and Minister Brown should respond to that.

However, before we go into that, on the substantiation sheet, the member made reference to phased-in. They're not phased-in. In terms of the dollar figures that are in that substantiation sheet, those are annual cash flows that are identified in terms of fiscal years - how the fiscal year should be managed versus the phased. So I just wanted to clarify that

The member is correct. Technical assessments are done through CGS and the matter should be referred to the minister responsible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Does Minister Brown wish to response to the member's question?

Hon. Levinia Brown: Yes.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Minister Brown, go ahead.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you. I thought I heard my name or my department mentioned a few times, but anyway, I'll try to respond to the question.

The technical evaluations in Arctic Bay and Taloyoak have been done. I did ask some questions about Repulse Bay, but I don't have that information with me.

(interpretation ends) I have the reports for Arctic Bay and Taloyoak. Both of these reports provide technical information in order to justify and develop the scope of work for minor or major capital improvement and/or capital replacement of facilities.

CGS carries out the detailed technical evaluation of buildings at the request of client departments. The client department is responsible for determining cash flow and the capital estimates for their departmental capital substantiation requests. CGS reviews the capital substantiation sheets and provides recommendations to the Department of Finance and client departments on cash flow, capital, cost estimates, schedules, and O & M.

Health and Social Services requested that CGS explore with FSC, that's an architectural and engineering contractor, the option of a standalone facility, a repeat design of Repulse Bay Health Centre, which may be more cost effective and wouldn't cause any disruptions to normal health care delivery during construction.

The standalone option has been reviewed and recommended to Health and Social Services. The project is currently on hold until Health and Social Services advise on how to proceed. Dependent on funding approval and direction from Health and Social Services, design of either option would be completed and tendered in fiscal year 2008-09, and be constructed in fiscal year 2009-10 and 2010-11.

At current status, the Department of Health and Social Services is to provide official written direction to CGS on whether to continue with an addition and renovations to existing health centres, or proceed with new standalone health centres.

And, to answer Mr. Arvaluk's question, I believe the technical evaluation both for Arctic Bay and Taloyoak were done at the same time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask the same minister; you simply accepted the recommendation of the Health Department, that they made the technical assessment or at least an evaluation of your technical assessment, and found out that Arctic Bay, Taloyoak, and Repulse Bay are in need of those health centres very badly.

However bad the condition the buildings are in Taloyoak and Arctic Bay you advised the Health Department to proceed with the younger health centre, several years younger, to pursue it with the new capital plan.

My question was very simple: what rationale did you use to come up with that recommendation to the Health Department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Would the minister like to answer that question? Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the question, they do their own evaluation and I just follow the ... (interpretation ends) I can only rely on the information that I receive.

The rationale that the technical people used, I'm not sure. I would have to go back and ask them why they did that. I can't speak for them. I'm only relying on the information that I have on my desk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps, the minister can provide to this House, from her own department, not from the influence of the Department of Health, the rationale behind that decision.

I appreciate the minister's answer and I worry about these things. Do you know why I worry about it? Because there may be other capital projects that are reviewed by CGS and simply follow the recommendation or the proposal from client departments. And, depending on the mood of the FMB, they may even be approved.

This is a scary thought because there is no substantiation sheet for Arctic Bay, Repulse Bay, and Cape Dorset. There's none because they're not funded. So there is no way for this Legislative Assembly, who is reviewing the capital items, to compare. There's nothing to compare.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister of Health then: from your own point of view, how do you then, without bias, from the technical standpoint on technical assessments, open book, chose one community over the other when in fact the technical assessments are equal or Arctic Bay's older? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I lost track of time, Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we report progress.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Going back to Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) 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 this Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Environment, Mr. Netser.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 04 – Workers’ Compensation Act – Third Reading

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for South Baffin, that Bill 4, *Workers’ Compensation Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 4 has had third reading.

>>Applause

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 for a meeting tomorrow at eleven o’clock of the Standing Committee on Health and Education in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders for the Day for November 8:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers’ Statements
3. Members’ Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions

7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 22
19. Consideration for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 14
 - Bill 15
 - Bill 16
 - Bill 17
 - Bill 18
 - Bill 19
20. Report of 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 tomorrow at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:06*

