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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Pangnirtung)

Chair, Management and Services Board

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(Nattilik)

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Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

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

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(Cambridge Bay)

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Hon. Olayuk Akesuk

(South Baffin)

Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Joe Allen Evyagotailak

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(Iqaluit East)

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(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services

Hon. Paul Okalik

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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, November 8, 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): Members, let us pray.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Premier, Ministers, and Members. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 124 – 2(4): Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy

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

Mr. Speaker, through our new *Nunavut Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy*, we shall strive to address the major challenges of attracting and maintaining a trained, motivated, stable nursing workforce, serving all of Nunavut communities. Because of the scope of the challenges, the Department of Health and Social Services will be working in full partnership with the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College to foster a local nursing workforce as the long-term goal. I am pleased to inform you that the strategy is now complete and officials are moving forward with its staged implementation.

Mr. Speaker, the strategy consists of a number of elements to improve Human Resource practices. We want to ensure that the new nurses receive a full orientation by senior staff and that they have access to ongoing support.

As well, we are exploring options for voluntary rotations in remote communities and increased work schedule flexibility.

Professional development, education, and training of our nursing team is a continuing priority of the department. Mr. Speaker, as we strengthen our nursing workforce, we lessen our dependency on agency nurses.

Mr. Speaker, we are investing in capacity building for the future; we are establishing Relief Nursing Pools in all three regions. We are increasing support for nursing students by initiating long-term strategies focusing on upgrading skills, foundation studies, and mentoring. We shall continue to support tutoring and study time for nursing accreditation. We are also looking into ways of expanding the nursing program at the Arctic College into Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet.

As is the case for all Nunavummiut, housing remains a critical issue. In the particular case of nurses, there is a lack of parity in providing accommodation support among nurses offering similar functions. The Government of Nunavut is currently reviewing its Staff Housing Policy.

The Government of Nunavut fully respects the collective bargaining process. The compensation and benefits package for Nunavut nurses is subject to negotiation with the Nunavut Employees Union and will be resolved through the collective bargaining process.

The strategy calls for a significant investment in creating an effective Health Care System to serve Nunavut. But, without it, social and economic development will falter.

As we gradually reduce our dependency on costly agency nurses and stabilize our own nursing workforce, Mr. Speaker, the strategy I will be tabling tomorrow outlines a number of Action Items that my department will be implementing immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 268 – 2(4): Sanikiluaq Honours the Memory of Fallen RCMP Officer

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tell the House about a ceremony that took place yesterday in Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, almost two thirds of the community of Sanikiluaq joined together at the RCMP station to pay tribute to fallen Officer Douglas Scott.

Mr. Speaker, the whole school was there and a moment of silence was held, and people sang *Amazing Grace*.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Sanikiluaq is saddened at the loss of this brave young man. We join with Kimmirummiut in their time of sorrow. We share in their need for healing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all the members to join me in acknowledging this important moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 269 – 2(4): Grade One Classes in Cambridge Bay

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tell the House about a special group of children who recently visited me in my constituency office.

Mr. Speaker, both grade one classes from the Kullik Illihakvik Elementary School, 30 kids in all, were on a community tour with their teachers to all the offices in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that it was one of the best visits I have had from constituents in my nearly four years as MLA. They asked me a lot of interesting questions that only kids can ask.

Mr. Speaker, when you have a group of five and six year olds in your office you let your mind slip back to simpler days when you were that age and your entire life was ahead of you. I remembered one time when my mom caught me hitch-hiking to my grade one class at Takini Elementary in Whitehorse after I missed my bus. I loved going to school even if I missed the bus that day. School is one of the biggest steps in a kid's life and they should enjoy it.

Mr. Speaker, like me, the grade ones who visited me told me that they love going to school and being among their friends and with their teachers. They told me what they were learning and many even had plans for what they wanted to be when they grow-up.

However, Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you that they didn't mention becoming an MLA.

I thought to myself that it is good to have dreams when you're a kid but they shouldn't grow up too fast. Childhood is for children to enjoy and experience to the fullest.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the life of a politician is not a bed of roses, particularly if you're working hard to help your constituents and your communities. As we've seen during this current sitting it can be a very rough and tumble experience on both sides of the House.

Mr. Speaker, there are the occasional moments when I find myself wondering why anyone would want to be a politician and be thrust into a very public career in one of the least respected professions in Canada, thousands of miles from home, grinding away in Question Period, Committee of the Whole, or the daily standing committee meetings reading legislation word-by-word, clause-by-clause.

Mr. Speaker, on those rare occasions I only have to think about the kids in my community like the grade ones who visited me in my office. We chose this job to help make life better for the people who we represent and to always do the best that we can.

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 again this week.

And Mr. Speaker, in the not-too-distant future one of those grades ones will be standing here just like I am and the reason they will be here is because they want to help the people in the constituency of Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the House, and yourself, for working hard on behalf of all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson, (interpretation ends) and you're very welcome. (interpretation) Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 270 – 2(4): Facing the Challenges of the Future

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on what is likely to be our last sitting day of 2007 to address some issues that face us in the months ahead as we approach the end of the Second Legislative Assembly, as an election is anticipated to be called at some point next fall.

Mr. Speaker, I have always believed that it is important that we not duck the tough choices or avoid making the hard decisions.

At times, we have met this challenge as a Legislative Assembly. Over the years, a number of important motions, bills and other initiatives have been considered by the Legislative Assembly. Ultimately, formal votes on these matters have been taken and decisions have been made.

Not everyone can be expected to be happy with every single decision.

Not all choices are pleasant.

However, we as MLAs were elected and entrusted to make those decisions on behalf of the constituents whom we represent. In turn, Mr. Speaker, we as MLAs have entrusted the Executive Council to manage our affairs responsibly.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is fair to say that no matter how fast you run, the mistakes of the past will eventually catch up to you.

As we have seen this week, Mr. Speaker, if you ignore warnings for too long, the problems simply get worse.

Mr. Speaker, in the remaining months ahead of us, I will continue to take firm and clear positions on the issues before us. I can't guarantee that everyone will agree with me all the time or at all, but you will know where I stand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 271 – 2(4): Nunavut Elders' Gathering to Meet Members of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I rise today first of all, since the sitting session is almost near its end, but I do would like to state that many Iqalummiut and elders are always very receptive when I see them. Therefore, I would like to acknowledge them.

>> *Applause*

When they are very receptive to you it makes you feel more welcome when you're visiting Iqaluit.

I would like thank all the people who are watching for being receptive. I wanted to say that we thank the elders for thanking us because they're saying we're working very hard in the North to make life better for Nunavut, especially for young people and all of Nunavummiut.

On behalf of the elders, because I am always very pleased to hear from the elders, I want you to know that all the elders of Nunavut to know that they don't have a lobbying group, and that there is no entity that is geared towards solely for elders.

Therefore, perhaps we need to consider for the next winter session that we get together with elders, eat with them, and have a celebration with them. If that can occur, I would like to bring an elder with me.

I'm making that statement because some elders are passing away. We might not see them again so we should be proud of them, and also thank all Nunavummiut in our communities and everywhere else. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Ms. Brown.

Member's Statement 272 – 2(4): Birthday Greetings for November 11 Celebrants

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All the things I was going to state have already been stated, so therefore I have nothing else to say. I'm just kidding.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Tagak. I, too, would like to make a supplementary comment because the session is towards its end. November 11 is quite new for Remembrance Day for the people who went to war. November 11 is also a birthday.

While I'm here, I would like to remember all those people, especially my brother, Battias Tootoo. That's going to be his birthday. Also, in Rankin Inlet, a person who always assists me, my friend, Inuaraq Mary-Anne Tattuinee.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge my son, Jake, my youngest son out of all my children. When he was born we were so proud because there was an elderly woman who gave birth, too, in 1967. Perhaps, it was six o'clock in the evening. We gave birth at the same time, my long time friend, Annie Natsiq. She got a daughter. Her name was Leonie.

Every time when November 11 starts to come around, I remember them. Natsiq is also my friend. Leona Mikijuk, her last name used to be Natsiq. We think of all of you. Have a wonderful birthday and many other people who might have their birthday that day.

And, for those people who will be going to the Remembrance Day celebration, we'll also remember those people who went to war for us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Natilik, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Member's Statement 273 – 2(4): Greetings to Constituents of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I want to say greetings to my constituents in Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, especially my mother and elders. I think of you often.

Greetings to you all, smile at you, and hopefully see you very soon. I am getting married in December in Gjoa Haven. Hopefully the people of Taloyoak will be there in attendance.

I think we will be wrapping up this evening. To all the MLAs, my colleagues, I probably won't see you, so I want to extend my greetings to you for the Christmas holidays. I wish everyone to enjoy your break.

To my constituents in Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven, Merry Christmas to you all. I want to extend my greetings to all my colleagues and say Merry Christmas and have a safe holiday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 274 – 2(4): Update on Weather Forecasting

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to update the House on the issues around the weather forecasting.

I would like to thank all of the Nunavummiut, Mr. Speaker, who have emailed and called me with their personal support, as well as providing information on changing climates and weather conditions across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to speak with the Honourable Minister for Federal Environment and Meteorological Services, the Honourable John Baird, via teleconference, to explain why we needed the opportunity for a staffed weather station and why we need forecasting done here in Nunavut, instead of being 2,000 miles away in Edmonton.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, of our conversation and our correspondence with Minister Baird, Minister Baird's department sent the Assistant Deputy Minister for Meteorological Services, Mr. David Grimes, and the Director General of the Business Policy Directors for Meteorological Services, Madam Danielle Lacasse, to Iqaluit to see and hear firsthand our concerns with weather forecasting.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Grimes and Ms. Lacasse were very busy during their stay here in Iqaluit. Meetings were held with local outfitters, hunters, trappers, representatives from NTI, the business community, the City of Iqaluit, shipping interests, as well as community residents. All echoed concerns with the accuracy of weather forecasts and provided information on changes in climate and weather we are experiencing right here right now in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we followed up the assistant deputy minister and the director general's visit with another letter to thank Minister Baird for taking an interest in this issue, and we're waiting now on his response and actions on having Nunavut weather forecast here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Item 3. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Tunnunig, Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 345 – 2(4): Assistance to Locate Graves Down South

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like ask the Minister of Health regarding the headstones.

Mr. Speaker, years ago, many Nunavummiut were sent down south for medical treatment, especially for TB. Many of those Inuit died and were buried down south.

Mr. Speaker, very many of their graves are unmarked. Some families have been fortunate enough to locate the gravesites of their loved ones and have been able to add their names to the headstones.

Mr. Speaker, there are still a number of unmarked graves down south. My question is: has the minister's department ever provided assistance in searching for the graves of family members and how did the department assist them? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry. The light took a while to turn on. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to look into that to see if the Government of Nunavut had, in the past, provided assistance to search for unmarked graves outside the Nunavut Territory, or whether in fact that was done through the Northwest Territories Government at the time and get back to the member on his questions because I'm just not aware of whether we have done that in the past or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure whether to ask the notice. Will the minister then provide public information to the communities when she finds out what the procedures are and how to go about it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will provide that information. I will look and see what we've done in the past, and what we can do and provide that information to the member as well as the Regular Members of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can she also find out if there's any organization in places such as Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba that people can call to inquire about locating graves of their relatives, and if so, will she commit to sharing that information with me so that I may pass that onto my constituents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will provide that information. The same questions were just raised when we were at the Kitikmeot Inuit Association meeting as well for people that have passed away in the Edmonton area from TB and so on, so there is some work around that, and perhaps, for the whole territory what processes are in place and what support can be provided.

I will look into that and provide the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since she will be finding out about a lot of things, hopefully, can she also find out if the department has any financial assistance for Nunavummiut for travelling down south to mark the headstones? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into that as well. Thank you.

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

Question 346 – 2(4): Oversight of Crown Agencies

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the time. My questions are for the Premier.

Yesterday we received some information that could be understood as inconsistency with what the government has been doing. I would like to try and see if we can correct some of these by way of questions today.

In December of last year, the Premier reshuffled his Cabinet. In his official announcement, he stated, and I quote, “By combining responsibility for the Departments of Finance along with Economic Development and Transportation, we will bring greater financial discipline to our operations.”

In light of this week’s Report of the Auditor General, is the Premier satisfied that this has been accomplished, and if not, why not? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my fellow ministers are working this issue. Up to now, their co-operation has borne fruit and are beneficial to our work. The work of the financial officials to pool their resources has been very useful as we try to resolve this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Mr. Speaker, I think the Premier needs to remind himself that he said this was the first time we heard about the problems when the Auditor General’s Report was tabled yesterday.

In light of last September, the government’s annual letters of expectation to Nunavut’s Crown agencies were prepared. These were subsequently tabled in the Legislative Assembly for the public record. My question for the Premier is this: will this year’s letters of expectation be tabled in the Legislative Assembly today before the House adjourns and if not, why not? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I think we’ve heard about some of these problems over the last few years and that’s part of the responses that I’ve been involved with.

I must say that the Auditor General, in her report, was quite clear. If I may quote, “In the context of this report, the government response required the direct involvement of the corporation and the Departments of Economic Development and Transportation and Finance, among others. Therefore, it does not mean a response on behalf of duly elected officials of the Government of Nunavut.”

So the officials were involved but we, as a Cabinet, were not directly involved in giving the final results of the Auditor General. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate some of the information coming in from the government.

Last year’s letter of expectation to the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, dated September 29, 2006, stated, and I quote that from the Cabinet, “You are instructed to table in the Legislative Assembly a plan of action addressing all observations and recommendations of the Auditor General pertaining to the NBCC.” Mr. Speaker, this has not been tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Why was the corporation allowed to defy its letter of expectation?

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I think the minister has outlined, in chronological order, what took place and what the government did over the last year and a half to two years.

So I think my minister has explained quite clearly that these unfortunate events took place over a period of time and as we found out additional activities, we took steps to make sure that whatever happened will not be repeated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 2004 Report of the Auditor General on Nunavut’s finances devoted an entire chapter to problems at the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. The Auditor General found, and I quote, “extraordinary,” problems with the corporation. The government had three years to fix these problems. Why was this not done and who is accountable for the failure? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe that my Minister of Economic Development made sure that there was some accountability that took place. He outlined the actions that we have taken.

So we have done as much as we can up to this point and if there is additional steps that have to be done. We'll get them done. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 347 – 2(4): Records Requested in 2006-07 Information and Privacy Commissioner

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

Mr. Speaker, in a document that was tabled on October 26, the 2006-07 Annual Report of the Office of Information and Privacy Commissioner, I was a little surprised to see a mention of the minister personally in her report, and I'll just read this section.

“In the matter the applicant had requested all letters, memos, faxes and e-mails, to, from, with the applicants name or job description during a stated time period, the request was addressed to Minister Aglukkaq personally. The public body was unable to find any records responsive to the applicants request for information. However, a similar request had been provided to the Department of Health and Social Services and the applicant received responding materials. Some of these materials indicated that Minister Aglukkaq had been involved in email discussions respecting the applicant and the applicant felt that these records should have been discovered in the minister's records. For this reason, she was asked that the Information Privacy Commissioner review the matter.”

So I'm just wondering if the minister could explain how come records that were supposed to be there weren't. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad the member raised that question because when I read that report, too, I was a little bit irked by how that was described. What happened there was what we discovered during this whole process of doing the ATIPP, and when you do the ATIPP, there is a timeline required for you to respond to your files.

At the time that the request was made, I was in Gjoa Haven, in my constituency, working out of my constituency office and accessed my email through the www.nuaccess.gov.ca process. I did about four searches when I was in Gjoa Haven in my constituency office. I don't work out of the government office in those communities. I work out of my constituency office and did the search through that process.

During that search, nothing showed up. What I discovered, and I worked through CGS IT people, I have also worked through the ATIPP Manager at EIA, as well as the

department, and afterwards, tried to discover why when I did the search out of my community that information did not show up.

What we discovered in that process, which is not outlined by the commissioner's report, and she is aware of that because I made sure that her documentation was forwarded to the ATIPP Manager in CGS the problems encountered in the system. What we discovered is that, under the nuaccess tip, when you're in a constituency office, the same demand of commands and functions of the GN email do not work out of those offices, unless you're in the Iqaluit office physically.

So by the time I discovered that the timeline had passed, and when I came back to Iqaluit and I did the search, it did come up out of my office here, but that information requested did not come out of the office under the nuaccess system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 348 – 2(4): Marshalling of Qulliq Energy Corporation Supplies/Materials

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Energy.

We became aware that the materials that were ordered by the Nunavut Housing Corporation had been left behind. My question to the minister: is the Qulliq Energy Corporation in the same situation?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I answered this question already during this session, but I'm not aware of any information that material belonging to the Power Corporation had been left behind, at dockside, or indeed, in the marshalling area for sealift in connection with what has occurred on the Housing file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there were any material left behind, what's going to happen? The Nunavut Housing Corporation has stated that they're going to send the material up by air. If the Power Corporation is in the same situation, would you airlift the material to the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, it is kind of hypothetical, if it were to occur. What I can suggest to you is that the Power Corporation had the plan in place that

we would, in cases where major equipment, and indeed, materials and supplies for the Power Corporation that were essentially needed at a give time and in a given community, then we would have to airlift that in if it had not met the sealift requirements for annual shipping.

That contingency would be in place in that case. Again, it would be based on how essential the material that would be in question, if it was in question, would be having to be brought into the community. So, hopefully, that helps clarify the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have heard that the Nunavut Housing Corporation doesn't know which material is going to which community.

What would happen if you were in the same situation; if you can't figure out which part, or which materials, or supplies are going to which community? What would you do? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If that were the case, and again, I can't speak for another department, or the Minister of Housing can to speak to the housing issues, but what I can say is, if the material were left behind and if there was an essential need, again, for that equipment and material, and if there was no other way of bringing that material to the community, and if that was the case, then we would probably use the airlift capability to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 349 – 2(4): Need for New Dozer in Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Sanikiluaq was expecting to receive a new dozer as part of the department's five-year capital plan. The community's present dozer is getting too old. Can the minister tell me when the community will receive its new dozer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member is referring to a capital item. I can't remember if it's in the capital but I can look into it. I'm not sure which year this dozer was put in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A new dozer for Sanikiluaq was on the department's five-year capital plan for some time. However, it appears to have disappeared. Can the minister assure me that she will review this situation and consult with the municipality on its capital needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reference to the new dozer, and if it was in the five-year capital plan, I will have to tell the member... I could get back to the member today and tell him exactly what the situation is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 350 – 2(4): Director of Devolution and Status of Negotiations

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier, Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I read the media monitor this morning and noted that the Director of the Government of Nunavut's Devolution Division, John Lamb, was filling the role of Executive Assistant for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker as you know, Mr. Lamb has been the Director of the Devolution Division for the last two years. My question for the Premier: can the Premier tell me if Mr. Lamb's departure signals that the Government of Nunavut considers devolution negotiations to be off the table? And if not, would the Premier update me on the status of devolution negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We are still waiting for the federal government to respond to our request to commence negotiations. And from what I understand my Minister of Finance has asked that Mr. Lamb fill in as an interim basis. So it's an interim arrangement for the time being. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that update. I'm glad to hear the devolution negotiations are still going on, although it must be kind of quiet over there if they can allow their director to take their leave of absence to work elsewhere in the government.

Mr. Speaker earlier this year, I asked the Premier if the devolution process would include input from the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to represent all Nunavut communities.

My question for the Premier: can the Premier tell the House when the Nunavut Association of Municipalities will be consulted for input in the devolution issues that may affect their communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. (interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I stated earlier, if we ever get to negotiations, it would be great. So that's our focus at this point.

So the role of our government is to assume responsibility for mineral development and that's what we're trying to do, just like any part of the country. I'm not focused on who I talked to or what... I want to make progress.

I don't know any part of the country where municipalities govern mineral development. So that's my focus - is to try and get control of those resources so that our territory can run its own affairs.

So when we get there, then we'll consult with parties that will be affected. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's exactly what the Nunavut Association of Municipalities want. They want the consultations. They don't want to be at the table negotiating. They want to prepare for those eventual consultations or ongoing consultations; they don't want to be consulted after the fact.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Association of Municipalities has applied for funding from the Government of Nunavut to assist in the research, issues related to devolution that may affect their communities. In fact, they've applied one and a half years ago for some funds from the Strategic Investment Program. They're still awaiting approval.

My question for the Premier: can the Premier tell the House if there are any other funds available from the Government of Nunavut to assist Nunavut interest groups to research devolution issues that may affect their constituents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. That was your second supplementary. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I said, we're focused on trying to assume responsibilities and focus on that. We do not want to see a duplication left, right, and centre. We're just trying to get to the table. That's our focus.

The last thing I want to see is to splinter as a territory - this group wants this, this other group wants that. We see that somewhere else. I would rather focus on one initiative so that we get what we rightfully deserve as a territory. I don't want ten different groups asking for ten different things even before we get to the table.

We're going to be in a very weak position. So we're just trying to negotiate and have as much strength facing our colleagues in Ottawa. That's my focus at this point. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the government's Healthy Communities Strategy, one of the principles says that all levels of government working together will strengthen Nunavut.

The Nunavut Association of Municipalities, although it's not the senior level government, it's one of the three levels of government. There's a federal government, territorial government, and the municipal government. So I believe in that principle, as a former Mayor and the President of NAM, that we should be working together to strengthen Nunavut.

My question for the Premier: can the Premier commit that the Government of Nunavut will consult with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities on issues that may affect their communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Last I checked, I was elected to govern the affairs of our territory, and hopefully, that will include managing mineral resources in the future and getting royalties for our resources.

So my focus is to get there as a government, like any part of the country. And, if there are matters that affect municipalities, in terms of their services, yes, we will consult and work

with all governments to make sure that any benefits that flow to the territory are maximized.

I think with the limited role that we do have as a government, for example, in Baker Lake, we were able to work with the hamlet and the federal government, and we are seeing enormous benefits flowing to that community. So I would love to see that in future.

I'm sure if any group can look at that, there's great hope when we work together as governments. So I do hope that will continue in the future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. (interpretation) Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Tunnunig, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 351 – 2(4): Ability of Employees Purchasing Canada Savings Bond Through Payroll

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

I believe he is aware that during the NWT days, salaries of the employees used to be deducted for Canada Savings Bonds for those individuals who were interested. But this is not the case with Nunavut. We know people who used to work for the GNWT wish to be able to do that here in Nunavut. I would like to ask the minister if this can be arranged so that they can purchase Canada Savings Bonds. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will certainly check into this and ask my officials to see how we can access that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once he finds out, can he report back to us so we can see what process can take place at the next session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will definitely check into this to see what we can do at our next session. I will give an update to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 352 – 2(4): Missing Documents at the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, we all know the grim news we got with the Auditor General's Report on the activities of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. One of the things that the auditor pointed out is that, in a lot of cases, there was stuff missing. In some cases, applications were not evaluated adequately before being recommended for approval. It also indicates that analysis of profitability and cash flow was either missing, or insufficient. There's lots of missing information there.

Can the minister give us an indication of what he has directed them to do in cases where they have missing documentation for loans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say that complete and accurate financial records have been maintained by the Comptroller of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, who began work with the corporation in April/May of 2006. And also, our department appointed an acting CEO for a number of months. She just finished working there recently.

So all financial records are now current and accurate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since this has come out, I understand that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation has been trying to fill the gaps, close the voids of information and documentation that it has there. In doing that, I understand from some individuals that have loans with them, the corporation has contacted these individuals and asked them if they could, again, provide financial information and things like that that was used in determining the application, and they were told, "... because we lost it. We can't find it."

One of the individuals that I talked to indicated that, "Well, I'm not going to give it to you again. It's my personal business financial information. You lost it already. I'm not going to give it to you again." And, was informed by an official at the Business Credit Corporation, "Well, if you don't give it to us, we're going to call the whole loan," to me that's more of a threatening tactic.

Can the minister assure this House and all those clients out there, that at no fault of theirs, if information has been lost, that they will be in no way threatened or forced into providing further information to the corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will certainly forward that concern to the Board of Directors of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, and have them, as it were, deal with the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given everything that's gone on there in the last year, is the minister indicating that he wasn't aware that these approaches were being used to try and fill the void? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): I have stated as the information was unveiled by our NBCC staff and the formal chairperson were very helpful in setting up that corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I heard that from this individual, I was rather shocked and appalled that they would use those types of tactics to clients that are currently under loans, and are making their payments and they're up to date. Would the minister agree that those types of tactics are unacceptable? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier that I will make sure that they don't use that, and I personally don't want to see that being used by that board, I am talking personally, myself, not wearing my ministerial hat, but my thinking would be exactly the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 353 – 2(4): Review Board of Directors at the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to make myself very clear to the Minister of Economic Development. He stated yesterday that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's loan portfolio has been suspended. The minister could have stated, and I would have thought the directors be suspended. They could have made decisions without the proper backup and records and the requirement for security. The minister also stated that they RCMP have been asked to investigate.

I wonder if you can also do a review of the directors, whether any of them should or should not remain there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The board of directors maybe didn't have adequate information. Back in 2005-06 the board of directors that were on the board at that time are no longer there. The new board of directors is quite new, and that's the case right now, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to thank the minister for clarifying that but I do want to ask another question. The RCMP have been asked to look into the NBCC and I know that the RCMP, once they start investigating that they will not follow your advice. If they find laws have been broken, charges may be laid, whether it is a former employee or a loan recipient.

I wonder if board directors will be informed about their rights and provide them legal counsel. If that's not the case, why not provide them with legal counsel, or does the corporation have legal counsel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It'll be up to the RCMP to do the investigation. At that time, once the investigation has been completed, we will have a better idea of what to do. We'll also have a better idea of what we need to do with NBCC, whether it is the board of directors or the staff that had been employed.

At that time, we'll know after the investigation has been completed. I'm sure that the board members will be able to resolve this. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the record, I know this is a legal issue and I know the minister is specifically not involved in the legal issues of the government, but if the RCMP have already been asked to investigate or look into whether or not any of the laws of the NWT, with respect to loan programs that have been violated or whatnot.

It also raises a very important fundamental question: will the rights of the directors, from Nunavummiut who have really committed to do proper representation work, will they be provided with the proper legal counsel as they should. If not, will the minister ensure that they have their right to be provided with a legal counsel provided by this government as they are being appointed by the government to serve on those boards? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not, at any time, made any suggestions of wrongdoing by the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Board of Directors.

They are all outstanding citizens in Nunavut and their rights will be protected to whatever extent as necessary, and if they require assistance with legal counsel at any point in the future, that's a hypothetical question at the moment as to whether they would need that at all or not, but they will be given all of the assistance that they require. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I think members on this side certainly want to ensure that the individuals' rights are protected. The government has already called upon the RCMP to look into that.

In my opinion, the minister or the government cannot ask the RCMP to go on a fishing expedition without possible evidence, or evidence if any, so therefore, there must be a reason for the government to ask the RCMP to look into that.

Therefore, it's really quite important that legal rights of individuals must be represented. Will the minister commit to this House that he will ensure that the rights of individuals who are members of the NBCC are fairly considered and protected? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All legal rights are fairly protected under the Canadian Constitution. That's the right of every Canadian.

We have not suggested at all at any point that there has been fraud. We asked the Comptroller General and asked the RCMP to do an investigation, as according to the

Auditor General, if laws and regulations had been broken, as we want to make sure that there was no fraud. And, that's why the RCMP was asked. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 354 – 2(4): Negotiations – James Bay Cree

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

Mr. Speaker, the federal government has been negotiating with the Cree. First of all, let me say there's a traditional camp in the Belcher Islands and they had moved to larger communities. They wanted to get together in their traditional camp in those islands. They said they are Nunavut islands but they were not allowed to be gathered in those islands.

I was wondering if the negotiations have been completed, or are they still negotiating. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. (interpretation ends) Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps, it is the James Bay Cree he is asking about. Yes, they are still negotiating now, and they have not completed their negotiations yet, although we take part in those negotiations with the federal government and the James Bay Cree. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Premier know when those negotiations will be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Cree and the federal government are negotiating. We are on the sidelines now, so therefore, I have no idea when they're going to complete their negotiations. I know that they're trying to reach their first initial agreement, but I'm not sure when they'll be completed, so therefore, I cannot respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 355 – 2(4): Miramar Newmont Training Initiatives

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

I've been asking the minister, pushing him, encouraging him, arm twisting, and doing anything to bring him over to Cambridge Bay many times over the last couple of years to encourage his department to work with our region to train people for jobs in the mining industry.

He has indicated his interest. He's met with the mining companies. I recently met with Miramar and Newmont representatives who mentioned they have some training opportunities available.

I would like to ask the minister if he can tell me today if the Miramar and Newmont representatives have contacted him and requested help with training for future employees in their mine? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's been some real exciting news for the residents of the Kitikmeot and specifically for Cambridge Bay that the federal minister now has approved a water license for Doris North to go forward.

I can confirm with the member that in the last 48 hours, we've actually been in contact with the Miramar Mining Company to look at opportunities and potential for training not only Cambridge Bay residents, but indeed, residents from the Kitikmeot and Nunavummiut for some of the possible jobs that may available in the Kitikmeot with the Doris North opportunity, as explained in the recent media and with the water license.

So the answer is yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is indeed good news to hear. I'm glad the department is being proactive in working with the mining companies.

Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association has negotiated an Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement with Miramar for positions at the mine. I wonder if the minister could tell me how his department could work with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and Miramar to ensure that proper training is provided so that these people, when they do go work for the mine, will retain those jobs.

We don't want pick and shovel jobs. We want training that will give them long careers in the mining industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is well recognized not only here in Nunavut but across Canada as one of the strongest negotiators on IIBAs, I think, in Canada, and indeed, the member has negotiated IIBAs and has been a part of that process with the KIA, so I congratulate him on that.

What I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, is that the member is on the same wavelength as the Government of Nunavut. We want to create sustainable jobs within a sustainable economy and get away from the mentality of the pick and shovel jobs. So any type of economic opportunity that brings along technological advances in training, then that's something that we're prepared to do, and that's why we announced the opportunity at placing the Millwright Program in Cambridge Bay.

So we are willing to work as a department on an IIBA, and depending on how that teleconference with our friends from Miramar has gone, we'd be in a better position to see what positions are available and what type of training we can bring forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for those kind words. If I need a public relations man some day, I may call on Minister Picco to help me out.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister, I know it's probably a confidential matter, but can the minister tell me the number of positions that he'll be proposing to create or train under this Miramar proposal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My mom used to always say, "Eddie, if you have nothing good to say about someone, then don't say anything." So I just gave him a compliment and that was a very good compliment, something good to say.

I think we need to have more good things to say in the House. There's a lot of negativity going on in Nunavut right now, we need some positive things. I believe the glass is half full. The glass is half full when we look at the opportunities for training for the Kitikmeot, and specifically in Cambridge Bay in the region.

At this point, we've had a preliminary call from Miramar and our people within the Training Division of the Department of Education, looking at what opportunities are there and then we would move forward aggressively.

I don't have what positions, or occupations, or training positions at this time. Those negotiations have begun. I would be in a position later to update the House and the member on those positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell me if... this can't be a one time training program, we need training programs available, ongoing and continuous. There will be more people requiring training in the mining sector.

Can the minister tell me if this is a part of a long-term training strategy to train people in the Kitikmeot for positions in the mining industry? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. (interpretation ends) I will remind you that that was also your third and final supplementary. (interpretation) Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The future for Nunavut bodes very well when we look at the opportunities across Nunavut, not just in the Kitikmeot. When we see what's happening right now, in Baker Lake, with some of the gold and the uranium opportunities, when we see what's happening with Mary River, and we see what's happening with Doris North.

These are all projects that are going to bring economic opportunities to Nunavut in the long-term. That's when we say talk about long-term. We're talking about long-term training. That's why we talked about putting the Millwright Program in Cambridge Bay so you are actually training people for the long-term.

So the whole process that we're looking at, we want to get away from these old fashion 10-42 jobs where you get 10 weeks of work for 42 weeks of unemployment. We want to look at full time jobs, full time positions and have Inuit and Nunavummiut brought forward in a training program. It's not only progressive but is Nunavut-wide and that's the process that we're involved in.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Miramar people for actually contacting us to see what we can do to help them. That's well appreciated and well welcomed by the department but also by the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 356 – 2(4): Timing of Awareness of Responses in Auditor General Report

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, as well as Finance.

Mr. Speaker, a little earlier my colleague asked the Premier if this year's letters of expectations would be tabled in the Assembly.

Instead of responding to that, Mr. Speaker, the Premier seemed to take the opportunity to humanly deflect responsibility when he read out the paragraph in the Auditor General's Report, where it says, "In the context of this report, the government's response required direct involvement of the corporation and the Departments of Economic Development and Transportation and Finance, among others, therefore, does not mean a response behalf of duly elected officials of the Government of Nunavut."

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and Finance: when did he become aware of those government responses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) We knew they were working with the Auditor General within the government and our staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for stating the obvious, but can he indicate when? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Sorry, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, this investigation was brought to our attention and it was obvious. Our officials and staff from the Departments of Economic Development and Finance are working with the Auditor General on the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know all of this already. I was asking the minister, and I'd still like him to answer, when he became aware of the government responses in the report. Obviously, it was quite some time ago because it has to get printed and get translated before it gets transmitted here. Can the minister respond, please: when was he aware of those responses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said earlier, our staff is working. We're aware ahead of time with the Auditor General. I don't know how she was responding to our staff Mr. Speaker, towards the report.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know why the minister doesn't seem to want to answer my question. It's pretty simple: when did the minister become aware of these government responses? That's my question and I'm still waiting for an answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, our staff was working with the Auditor General. The answers from the federal government and from the Auditor General are written in a report. The officials of the government did not get a response yet. We were already aware of some of the answers from the Auditor General towards the investigation and the Auditor General's Report. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Question Period is now over. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Member for Tunnunig, Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 002 – 2(4): Pond Inlet Arena

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition from my constituents in Pond Inlet. In this petition it says:

Whereas the Government of Nunavut had repeatedly said that the Community Hall Complex would include an arena;

Whereas the people of Mittimatalik were lead to believe that the arena would be built as soon as funding is secured;

Whereas the people of Pond Inlet, especially the youth, are suffering from lack of adequate facilities; and

Whereas the people of Pond Inlet are not participating in the territorial and national competitions due to lack of facilities.

Therefore we, the undersigned vigorously urge the Government of Nunavut to secure funds to continue their assurance in building the arena for Pond Inlet and further that the new arena be built as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, this petition contains 135 signatures, and I look forward to the government's response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of the Committees on the Review of Bills. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report on Bills 006 – 2(4): Bill 13 “Nunavut Energy Efficiency Act”

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am delighted today to make a presentation of the brief report by the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability on its review of Bill 13, the proposed *Nunavut Energy Efficiency Act*.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 13 was introduced earlier this year by the Minister of Energy. The bill was referred to the standing committee for scrutiny following its second reading in the House. The bill proposes to ban the sale of incandescent light bulbs in Nunavut. In order to enforce the Act, the minister would have the power to appoint enforcement inspectors. Violators of the Act who are selling incandescent light bulbs would be punished upon conviction with fines of up to \$5,000.

Mr. Speaker, in scrutinizing any proposed new law, the first and most fundamental question that needs to be asked is whether or not a new law is necessary, reasonable, affordable and practical.

Mr. Speaker, after giving Bill 13 full consideration, the standing committee has concluded that the bill does not meet this test. The minister has not made a clear and convincing case with respect to why Bill 13 should be passed.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee recently invited the minister to appear before the standing committee to discuss Bill 13. During his appearance, the minister indicated that there is a growing trend towards the use of compact fluorescent light bulbs in homes, offices and businesses, when the government has its own energy efficiency plan. People are voluntarily choosing to switch to this form of technology. The government has introduced a program to assist homeowners in partially meeting the cost of purchasing energy efficient appliances.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee subsequently posed a key question to the minister: why does the government need to introduce a law to ban the sale of a specific technology, use the power of the government to impose fines and punishments on violators and establish additional structures to administer the Act if so many people are voluntarily choosing to switch to the use of compact fluorescent light bulbs?

Mr. Speaker, the minister did not provide a persuasive answer to this question.

Mr. Speaker, as members are aware, the Government of Canada has announced plans to phase out the use of inefficient light bulbs. The federal approach will be to introduce new

energy efficiency standards that would allow for any technology to be available to consumers, so long as it met federal energy efficiency standards, rather than banning any one specific technology. This approach has merit and suggests that Bill 13 suffers from redundancy.

Mr. Speaker, I and other members of the standing committee have heard concerns from constituents, especially homeowners, with respect to this bill and the manner in which it limits and restricts their ability to exercise personal choice. These are the people who will have to pay the most to make modifications to their homes.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee recognizes that incentives and disincentives are frequently used by governments to encourage or discourage certain types of consumer behaviour. The so-called “sin taxes” on tobacco and alcohol are an obvious example. However in these cases, people still retain the ability to make personal choices, even though they may pay higher costs.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to state clearly for the public record that the standing committee is fully supportive of meaningful initiatives to address environmental issues. However, the standing committee is concerned that Bill 13 constitutes a distraction from the larger challenges facing us in this area. In addition, the standing committee was of the view that even the title of the bill itself is inappropriately broad, given that it is simply a bill to ban a specific type of bulb.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 13 would allow regulations to be made to permit the sale of certain types of incandescent light bulbs to deal with certain situations, such as outdoor water service lighting. Quite frankly Mr. Speaker, our public servants and ministers have more important things to do with their time than hold meetings and establish sub-committees and working groups to review draft regulations for light bulbs. Our public servants have more important things to do with their time than being appointed as light bulb inspectors and conducting surprise inspections of the local Co-op store.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Speaker, we have seen this week that there are some serious issues facing the government with respect to basic financial management. We need to send a clear message to the government that its attention and efforts should be focused on addressing problems in these areas.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker, the standing committee is unable to support Bill 13, and recommends that it proceed no further in the legislative process and be allowed to fall off the order paper. With that, I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Committee Report on Bills 007 – 2(4): Bill 12 “Emergency Measures Act”

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 12, *Emergency Measures Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development. And that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 12 moved into the Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Do members unanimously agree to have Bill 12 referred to Committee of the Whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 156 – 2(4): Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* Review of Bill 6, Official Languages Act and Bill 7, Inuit Language Protection Act – Transcripts from the Public Hearings October 18 to 19, 2007

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today the unedited transcripts from the public hearings that were held in Iqaluit on Bill 6, the proposed *Official Languages Act*, and Bill 7, the proposed *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Item 13. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Tabled Document 157 – 2(4): FANS – Materials Concerning the Auditor General’s Report

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As noted yesterday in the report of the standing committee, I am pleased to table a package of materials concerning the Report of the

Auditor General on the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 022 – 2(4): Northern Residents Deduction – Notice

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, November 12, 2007, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove, that this House calls upon the Government of Canada to increase the residency portion of the Northern Residents Tax Deduction and ensure that the residency portion be adjusted thereafter on an annual basis to an inflation index that is reflective of the cost of living in Canada's Arctic.

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. Peterson. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

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

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

Item 16: Motions

Motion 022 – 2(4): Northern Residents Deduction

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

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has stated that the future of the Canadian Arctic is one of its key strategic priorities and is an issue of importance to the nation as a whole;

AND WHEREAS the cost of living for the residents of the Canadian Arctic, especially Nunavummiut, is higher than in other regions of Canada, which affects the quality of life and well-being of residents;

AND WHEREAS the residency component of the Northern Residents Deduction for Nunavut tax filers has not been increased since it was introduced 1987;

AND WHEREAS the value of this deduction has been significantly eroded by inflation;

AND WHEREAS improvements to the Northern Residents Deduction would establish a more equitable tax structure for northerners;

AND WHEREAS Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut have, on numerous occasions, called for improvements to the Northern Residents Deduction;

AND WHEREAS the three northern territories are united in their support for improvements to the Northern Residents Deduction;

AND WHEREAS the Nunavut Economic Forum has prepared a submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance on the need for improvements to the Northern Residents Deduction;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Directors of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated has passed a formal resolution in support of this submission;

AND WHEREAS the impact of lost tax revenues to the Government of Canada would not be significant when compared to the benefits that would accrue to Canada's Arctic and the nation as a whole;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove, that this House calls upon the Government of Canada to increase the residency portion of the Northern Residents Tax Deduction and ensure that the residency portion be adjusted thereafter on an annual basis to an inflation index that is reflective of the cost of living in Canada's Arctic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The motion is in order. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to say a few words today in support of this very important motion.

Mr. Speaker, as you and other members are aware, I have the honour of representing three of this nation's most remote and isolated communities.

For many years, I spoke out on the need for measures to help my constituents deal with the high cost of living in the High Arctic.

In the 1990s, our deficit situation forced us to cut a number of benefits to our employees, such as VTAs. They are still feeling the effects of these cuts today.

For my constituents, the basic essentials of life are very expensive. As we have seen from the most recent fuel price increase, they are not getting any cheaper.

I am disappointed that the Northern Residents Deduction has not kept pace with inflation over the years.

I believe that this motion is a positive step. It clearly shows that we as MLAs are determined to fight for the needs of our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I will be voting in favour of this motion, and I look forward to it passing with the support of all members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. (interpretation ends) To the motion. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise in support of this motion. However, I think it's shameful that we have to something like this.

Since 1987 this hasn't changed. For years, northerners, not only in Nunavut but all across the North, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, have raised this issue with the federal government.

It seems to always be the case that they refuse to listen. I think they need to wake up and smell the coffee, or come up here and buy a cup of coffee and they'll realize why we need to make these changes.

Hopefully, at some point... so far from what I've seen, the current government in Ottawa has not done a very good job of listening to the North. With the last government; it was the same thing.

Hopefully, with motions like this and determination from all three territories, we will be able to get them to turn around and actually start listening and acknowledging the people of the North, and recognizing the unique circumstances, challenges, and high cost of living that we face that they all take for granted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would also like to thank the individuals who moved the motion. It is very important to the people of the North, especially for the MPs in Ottawa.

Even if you asked a Canadian or an Ontarian how many MPs they have, they probably wouldn't be able to tell you because they have so many. We have one MP and the people from Ottawa think that the Government of Nunavut is paid by through taxpayers.

If you look at transportation, the airlines, the shipping lines, those are the only modes of transportation we have and they are private companies. They are not Crown corporations. (interpretation ends) These are private companies. So (interpretation) if they bring building materials or food, we pay for the transportation costs, and if you put it down as a landed cost, they are very expensive. (interpretation ends) Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford it any longer in Nunavut.

Most Canadians believe they heavily subsidize Nunavut, but unlike Southern Canada whose transportation have federal government or Crown corporation involvement, we don't. Air Canada is subsidized. Railroads are built in southern cities and provinces paid for by government. Road are paid for by government. Our mode of transportation up here by ships is 100 percent private.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Mr. Curley: Even the Coast Guard is asked to build shipping companies if they do a little bit of, if I may use the word, Mr. Layton's words, slush pushers. They build the shipping company at the opposition of this Assembly. We did pass a motion that they should ignore the shipping - that particular tax for Coast Guard fees - but the federal minister did not agree with us.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I mean 100 percent, it's about time Canadians wake up and Ottawa politicians correct this over 20-year problem we have now, by not ever having an adjustment to this tax status.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking for a recorded vote so that people in Ottawa can see the vote. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) To the motion. (interpretation) Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise and acknowledge the hard work of the Nunavut Economic Forum, Mr. Glen Cousins and Joanasie Akumalik from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, who have done a lot of great research in the background on this gross oversight by the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, it is very expensive living in the North for all residents. Even coming to Iqaluit, I go to NorthMart every couple of days and watching the people buying the food ahead of me, for \$100 you don't get much. You see the people at the front door borrowing money, begging for money to buy food.

It's roughly, say, two to three times more costly for all resident of Nunavut to live in Nunavut. There is the high cost of food, the higher rents, we see skyrocketing rents, clothing costs are enormous, and most people can't buy tickets to fly anywhere anymore. We just heard the other day that the cost of fuel is going up 20 percent. Airline travel is going up 20 percent because the cost of fuel is going up. So it's getting extremely expensive to live in the North.

The Northern Residents Deduction came into effect in 1987. That was 20 years ago. I was amazed to learn that over that time, although the Northern Residents Deduction hasn't been increased, it hasn't been changed, inflation has increased over 60 percent across Canada. That just magnifies how much more expensive it is in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, northerners in Nunavut have seen the benefit of the Northern Residents Deduction erode significantly over the last 20 years because of the high inflation, 60 percent or more. The Northern Residents Deduction is not achieving its initial, intended objective. Therefore, it must be rectified to be fair to northern residents. It simply must.

I hope that the intent of this motion is seen and recognized by the Government of Canada, and they undertake an immediate review to improve the Northern Residents Deduction, make it fair to all northerners, and help us to afford to continue to live up here. After all, as we're living up here, there's the issue of northern sovereignty. We're here. Help us out. It's necessary. It's an urgent matter. We can't delay any longer on it.

So I encourage and urge all the Members of the Legislative Assembly to support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Question has been called. There was a call for a recorded vote. For all the members who are for the motion please rise and when I call your name please sit down.

Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Akasuk.

Ms. Aglukkaq.

Mr. Picco.

Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Okalik.

Ms. Brown.

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Netser.

Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Mapsalak.

Thank you. (interpretation ends) For the motion, 17, I declare that the vote is unanimous.

>>*Applause*

The motion is carried. Members, I am pleased to advise you that on behalf of the House, I will convey a copy of this motion to the Federal Minister of Finance for his consideration. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation) For the members, I would like to thank Mr. Peterson. I would like to recognize two individuals who are here, Joanasie Akumalik and Glenn Cousins. Welcome to the Gallery.

>>*Applause*

Item 16. Motions. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

Motion 023 – 2(4): Motion to Refer Bill 13 to Committee of the Whole

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity very quickly, to welcome Mr. Ben Kovic, a long-time northern resident and constituent.

Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding Rule 45(1) but according to Rule 45(2)(g) and Rule 68(2), I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 13, the *Nunavut*

Energy Efficiency Act, be referred to the Committee of the Whole for a full debate by the House on our next sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Picco. Can we have a copy of that motion, please?

Thank you, Members. Minister Picco, can I get you to repeat the Rules that you've referred to in your quote? Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would say, Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding our Rule of the House 45(1) but according to our Rules 45(2)(g) and Rule 68(2). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Members, we'll break for a while so that I can have a few minutes to review that rule. Thank you.

>>*House recessed at 15:22 and resumed at 15:56*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Members, as the minister's motion, as written, is not entirely consistent with his oral presentation, I will need further time to review the relevant provisions that he cited. I will return to the House with a ruling by the end of the sitting day.

We will proceed with the Orders of the Day. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 22 – Engineers and Geoscientists Act – Second Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik, that Bill 22, *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill replaces the *Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists Act* and is intended to modernize its language and improve the system of regulation of professional engineers and geoscientists. This bill recognizes the change of name of the self-governing body to the Northwest Territories Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists, and this association is responsible for the regulation of professional engineers and geoscientists in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 22 is referred to the appropriate standing committee.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, and 18, with 19 being the last one with Mr. Arreak in the Chair. We will now proceed directly to the Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:59 and Committee resumed at 16:05*

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak): I will call the committee meeting to order. I have a message from the Speaker. The message is:

In accordance to the authority provided to the Speaker by Motion 4 – 2(4), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

In the Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bill 12, Bill 14, Bill 15, Bill 16, Bill 17, Bill 18, and Bill 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, as they are sponsored by the Minister of Finance. We will then proceed to the clause-by-clause review of Bills 12 and 18. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Are we in agreement we first deal with Health and Social Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Yes, I do.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Welcome. We were on page H-6 of Health and Social Services. Detail of Capital. Qikiqtaaluk Region. We had Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Yesterday, towards the end of our meeting, I was raising questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services on what standards and criteria they used to put Taloyoak on top when Repulse Bay was already in the five-year capital plan and was taken off the page.

What was the exact reason for why they put Taloyoak Health Centre ahead? She said she would have the answer for me. So I'm wondering if she has an answer for me now. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe Mr. Arvaluk was directing his question to the Minister of CGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, do you wish to respond to the question? Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Yes.

Chairman: Thank you. Please proceed.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information I'm provided with today is that my personal involvement in this capital planning process is through FMB meetings.

For other departments' capital request, that this is when the government makes the recommendation to bring forth the capital budgets, then forward to the standing committee, and then to this House for approval.

The Department of CGS makes recommendations on various stages during the planning. This includes sound advice from our technical staff during technical evaluations, CGS staff in the respective fields, such as planners, engineers, and technical staff also review the capital substantiation sheets and provides recommendations to the Department of Finance and client departments on cash flow, capital cost estimates, schedule, and O&M costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Do you wish to supplement her answer, Minister Aglukkaq?

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the question was: when did the project start? The projects for Repulse Bay and Taloyoak started in 1999, and the records of this legislation of the first government will show those two projects started back in 1999, and some of the members here were members of that first government.

In fact, Taloyoak was scheduled a bit further ahead than Repulse Bay at that time based on the planning from the previous government seven years ago. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nobody seems to want to answer my question but I'm surprised that all of the considerations in the budget between 1999 and 2007 are completely ignored. I think that was a process that has taken place and it showed in the books that Repulse Bay was in the works.

Mr. Chairman, I'm surprised that the CGS Minister's staff, especially senior staff, did not advise their own minister that when the Health Department requested a technical evaluation from CGS to place the Taloyoak Health Centre ahead of Repulse Bay and Arctic Bay, that her senior staff did not advise her that this might not be kosher because technical evaluations and technical assessments did not agree with that in some ways.

I guess my next question and final question, Mr. Chairman, is: can the minister tell me then that the other health centres that were in very poor shape, Taloyoak, Repulse Bay, and Arctic Bay, did you compare them side-by-side to determine your standards and criteria for those three health centres? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health is not in a position to complete technical reviews to decide what project the conditions of each of these facilities are. There are engineers, project officers, electrical inspectors, and people in those fields that do that for us through CGS.

The Department of Health, according to the capital plans that we've had, seek the advice of CGS in doing the technical assessment of any facility before we proceed with the program review part.

Those projects for Taloyoak and Repulse Bay started in 1999. The technical assessments are done. The Functional Programs for Repulse Bay and Taloyoak are done. Repulse Bay, right now, is in the design phase, as well as Taloyoak.

Arctic Bay entered the books in 2004 for technical assessment. The functional part is the area that we're working on right now and we hope to complete by the end of the fiscal year. The technical part is conducted through CGS.

With the Taloyoak and Repulse Bay projects, we're now in phase three and four of those facilities, which is project design and project tender. That's the phase we're at with those two. Whereas with Arctic Bay, we're in the project initiation stage by completing the functional piece in support of the technical assessment that would form the design part, which is the phase three part of any project.

Arctic Bay entered the books five years after the Taloyoak and Repulse Bay projects started in the previous government and it carried onto this government. We continue to work with CGS project staff and the architects that are in the design phase of the two facilities for Repulse Bay and Taloyoak. As for Arctic Bay, we have yet to do our functional piece. So that's where the stages are on those projects.

We have not sat down and set technical reviews of those three projects because they all entered the capital planning process at different stages. Seven years ago we started two facilities. All of the other facilities that we started seven years ago are completed, for example, the hospital here, the health centre in Pond Inlet, the Pangnirtung facility, the Igloolik facility, the Rankin Inlet facility, the Chesterfield Inlet continuing care facility, and the Cambridge Bay facility.

Of all those facilities, two remain outstanding and that's Repulse Bay and Taloyoak. What we're trying to do in this budget is finish those off and that's where those two projects are. They are at phase three of the project planning stage and Arctic Bay is at phase one of the project planning stage, which are the phases that are used by CGS in moving projects along.

I use those terms as defined by the capital planning process where they provide assistance to departments as a central agency for project management. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we are asking questions, we should be resolving some answers but I'm creating more questions as the time goes by and I also think that I'm wrong.

The capital estimates seem to be different because the Taloyoak Health Centre was in the books in 1999 but according to my capital estimates, it has been in the books for renovations. I must have the wrong book, so I'm not going to pressure that anymore.

I'm going to simply ask that when CGS provide the technical advice to compare which projects of similar type should go first, when the Health Department receives it, do they make a final choice? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Evyagotailak): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I will ask Mr. Campbell to answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We've tried to explain to the committee that, as a department, we've assessed the projects that are currently on the capital plan. Last fall, the officials of both CGS and our department met to review some of these projects that are in the capital plan.

We met again in February. At that meeting, there were recommendations from both CGS and our department to recommend that we do a replacement of the facility as a result of the cost implications associated to renovations and additions of the Taloyoak centre. To my assessment, that's prudent planning on the part of our officials making those recommendations to the department.

Where we're at at this point in the stage is a recommendation has been made by officials. The government has approved the recommendations of the officials. We presented it to the standing committee a month ago. We're presenting it to the Committee of the Whole presently to approve those recommendations of the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Arvaluk, your time is up and I have a couple of names on my list. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much. I have a very brief question in regard to this.

First of all, just let me say back in 2004 when we were elected, I was very pleased that we now have this government and that it would be an open and transparent government. I expected it to be like that. That's what I expected. Nunavummiut had expected it to be clear and transparent but now we're starting to see some things coming up from beneath where we can't see.

For that reason, when that occurs, we're not pleased with this department because not just this department but the whole government could be scrutinized. All the members could be viewed as a negative thing. That's what is starting to occur. When we're not transparent and clear, those kinds of things occur, too. I believe in that, so I wanted to say that first.

I was asking questions on December 4, 2006, in regard to Qikiqtarjuaq's health facility, which is the oldest facility in Nunavut. It was built in 1972. Although the minister had responded to me that it was renovated back in 1991, this health facility in Qikiqtarjuaq is 35 years old.

I'm sure there are technical reports but I don't have a copy of them. I have been requesting for that copy but yet, I have not seen it. The minister had responded by saying that some health facilities, once they had completed the older facilities, then they would

look at the Qikiqtarjuaq facility. I still have not seen it in the five-year capital plan even though it's the oldest facility.

The other facilities are 19, 25, or 26 year old facilities. They're newer than our facility and they have been renovated. What about the Qikiqtarjuaq health facility? When will we start seeing the replacement plan for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask Ms. Brown to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut came into effect, of course, in 1999. Our capital assets computerized building system said that there was a renovation done to the health centre in Qikiqtarjuaq in 1991. I do not believe that the technical services brief from 1991 is available to CGS. It is possibly archived in Public Works of pre-Nunavut.

The department has requested that CGS provide technical services, inspections, and reviews of all of the health facilities in Nunavut, as we don't have that many technical services' reports. Whale Cove has just been completed as there was a crew in that area also checking out other departments' buildings.

Certainly, it will be on as a request to have the technical services done of the older buildings so that it will help the department know how to factor community facilities like the health centre in Qikiqtarjuaq, the health centre in Cape Dorset that we also know is having issues, plus identify issues in other health centres that we don't know about.

There are 25 communities and we don't have that many new health centres yet. So it is going to take us some time as a department or as a government, the same as it is for the Department of Education to deal with the requirements for new schools or renovations for schools.

So all we can basically say is that the department and CGS will be looking at the health centre in Qikiqtarjuaq for a technical services review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Brown. The health facility in Qikiqtarjuaq had never been reviewed for technical purposes. Will you be looking into the health facility as soon as possible so that the facility will be replaced in Qikiqtarjuaq? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. Campbell to respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just before I start into answering the question, I was in Qikiqtarjuaq as one of my community trip visits recently and I was pretty impressed with the facility. I know it's an old building but it's well-maintained. My congratulations to the people who are working in that centre of keeping a well-maintained health centre there.

That aside, the commitment I made yesterday in Committee of the Whole was that we will be doing an assessment of all the buildings and facilities that are currently under our management of the department. We will be doing a proper assessment of that. I'm preparing a more realistic capital planning for the next cycle and I think we need to do that.

We will prioritize the buildings based on what's needed to be replaced on urgent basis. So we will be doing that in the next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Campbell. I know there are people in Qikiqtarjuaq who are looking after the building really well. They are looking after it efficiently, but the building doesn't have space for some of the equipment and the medical supplies in the building. The fire department would have to, I think, caution the facility if they have too much stuff in the building.

After you check the building in Qikiqtarjuaq, we would like to see the report on paper, and it should also be placed on the five-year capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you. I agree with the member and I will share that information with the members as we work through the technical assessments and functional reviews of the facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): That's it.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just want to make a point. First of all, when I was asking the minister with respect, during the

formal Question Period the other day, I think I would correctly say that the minister made the point that these five-year plans were important documents or guidelines.

I think the impression to the public was that once you're in the five-year plan, you're in good shape. Is that the position of the government? And, having said that, do I, as a MLA have any role in incorporating anything into this five-year plan? Thank you.

Chairman (Mr. Arreak): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you. I believe he is asking for my opinion on the government's position on that.

In terms of planning capital plans, there's a number of work involved in getting to this stage; community consultations and consultations with various interest groups, DEAs as an example, health committees as an example, and hamlets as an example. Locations of land will involve selections through hamlets. The members have a role in identifying projects, standing committee review of government positions and so on, and this process and in the House.

I don't know if that's what the member is getting at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: What I am getting at is as regular MLAs, we actually have no formal involvement in incorporating five-year plans. This is a ministerial discretion, and the minister and the Cabinet can actually change it whenever they want. Am I correct in that?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I'm sorry but I missed the last part of his question. Can he repeat that?

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. This is a clarification, so my time should remain. In terms of developing five-year plans, I don't have any formal involvement in voting for a five-year plan, so therefore, my role is I can only do the same thing as you ask the CGS Minister, I can provide you with sound advice but that doesn't mean anything.

Having said that, I don't get to vote on those five-year plans, am I correct in that, Madam Minister?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of these capital plans started long before we were elected. In 1999, the capital plans that were presented here in the

House included Taloyoak and Repulse Bay, so was I involved? No. Was MLA Mapsalak involved? No.

So it depends on what stage those projects entered the five-year plan. So in this stage, from our term, of course, we're involved in this discussion through standing committee and through the House debates. But some of these decisions were made before by the previous government and previous legislators that carried onto this government.

So just for clarity, I say that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Your answer is yes, I don't get to vote in the five-year plan. I think I'm correct in saying that.

So Mr. Chairman, for the record, I think it's really quite important that MLAs don't have a formal role in actually voting, but we do get to vote on capital plans. Once we voted on this capital plan, as you've asked us to do, how important is this piece of document that you want us to approve? What does the approval of this committee mean once we say, "Yes, you can have all this money you want," in terms of this \$8 million or so. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of his comments, that was not my answer. So, for the record, that was not what I said. What I said was that some of these projects started before you were elected, before I was elected, by this House. So at that time, the members around the table voted on those projects.

Every single capital estimate and every single bill that goes before this House is voted by members. That's the process and that's the Rules of the House. So I'm not sure why you're saying that you don't have a role, or you don't have a vote, because you do have a vote, and of course, that's up to you in terms of how you want to vote.

So I can't tell you how you should vote but these are the debates that would allow you to make an informed decision for your constituents and so on. Those are the Rules that we follow in debating in this House, and I think the member is quite aware of those rules in voting. We just stood here and had a recorded vote on a motion.

So I'm not sure why I need to explain the House Rules to the member when it comes to voting in the House on bills. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I thank the minister for her attempt to try and advise me of how and whatnot. I really don't need her advice and whatnot because I'm quite able to do that.

I just want to say one point. I'm trying to differentiate between the five-year process, which is a ministerial discretion in Cabinet, and the actual expenditures that are normally tabled in this House, which we are doing right now. I think these are really quite important.

The Government House Leader recommended, before we were elected, that the Repulse Bay project was important for the upcoming fiscal year, for 2003-04 to be exact, I think. We can even move a little bit further, 2002-03.

So he had all of the, I assume, technical advice that he wanted for the assessment of the Repulse Bay project. If so, he allocated \$440,000 at that time for the design and planning. The minister has that information. Where is that money now, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Ms. Brown to explain the money that was set aside for the Taloyoak and Repulse Bay projects. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the early capital planning instructions from the government in 2000, 2003, 2004 and so on, the government gave each department a target for each of the years in the capital plan and the department could not go over that target no matter how many projects it wanted to put in that year.

Then there was a supplementary fund which each department could request to the government to be allocated to projects. The bottom line is this wasn't exactly as efficient as we are doing now, which is the new funding from the government which is you plan each project from the base up.

Having said that, in a five-year capital plan, the only money... our department may show certain monies for say three or four years of the five-year capital plan, however, the government only votes on the first year of the capital plan. So the government is now voting and, for sure, approving the funds in 2008-09 capital plan.

As I understand it, the funds in the remaining five years are approval for planning purposes. They are not approvals of guarantee of money and that's why, in subsequent years of the capital plan, the amounts vary and they maybe deferred a year depending on what the department finds as a priority, or what the government tells us is a priority in terms of whether to apply for funds or not.

In terms of, I use the example, in the terms of the direction from the government and planning for the 2008-09 and five-year capital plan, was to not put any new projects in the first three years of the capital plan because of the expectations that current projects will be over budget given the climate of construction and the cost of labour in the

country, and as has been witnessed in Nunavut for the past three years, where projects have exceeded budgets, even though fairly sound estimates had been previously made about budgets.

I'm not sure if I have answered the question. I answered it as I understood the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. That may be helpful to some departmental officials, but to those of us that are asked to approve allocations, no, it's not helpful.

This government is not isolated from the previous Assembly, or any other absence of the government of the First Assembly. In 2002-03, it was appropriated and approved by the House that \$445,000 for health care replacement for Repulse Bay was voted on and approved by the Assembly. My simple question was: where is that money now? Where did it go? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going through the 2003-04 capital estimates, the item that was up for approval for Repulse Bay was \$75,000.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Ms. Brown where that money went and what it was used for.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$75,000 went towards the Functional Program development of the health centre of Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: I'm asking all of the officials, Mr. Chairman, not to be shy. I said I'm looking at a five-year plan, and a document that was provided and voted in the House in 2002-03, a year before the amount you just indicated was approved, \$445,000 was approved for Repulse Bay.

That would have been a major design and planning estimate, and that was voted in the House. Where has that money gone to? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought he had mentioned 2003-04. I will have Ms. Brown, again, explain where that money went. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have to go back and check my records.

I recall that some money from this project was required by another community project. I would have to go back to our records in terms of what requests were made to FMB, or if it was in the department's right to re-allocate money according to the amounts in the FAM.

Chairman: Thank you. Are you done, Ms. Brown?

Ms. Brown: Yes, thank you. I said I would have to go back and look at the records. It's been some years ago now, and I know, in the earlier stages, some money was transferred between communities to support projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. The replacement for the health care facility for Repulse Bay was well underway. The major amount, as presented by one of earlier Minister of Health, he had a major amount approved, and the subsequent use of that smaller amount to continue the design phase and so on.

This year would have been a major construction phase if the plan was implemented, and the total would have been \$6,595,000, including the original \$445,000 to date. So my question was: where did these amounts of dollars go to and who made the decision?

Now, this is a new question: which minister gave the direction to the department not to proceed with the five-year plan that was originally agreed to by the First Assembly for Repulse Bay?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have to refer to that to the Minister of Health in the first government, Minister Picco. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As per our regulations of the Legislative Assembly adopted and passed on April 1, 1999, and following the parliamentary traditions of all Westminster forms of government, including this one, a minister is not to be asked or referred to on the portfolio previously held. You can't question the minister on a portfolio previously held.

What I can say though to this, in effect, is this, Mr. Chairman: that when you're looking at capital budgets for different types of projects and five-year plans, projects come in and out of capital plans all the time, based on the dollar values that you have available to

build a certain or given project. And, this is what occurred on this file: you look at a project that began as a renovation, then you start coming up with only an X number of dollars available, and then so you finish off the project in Rankin Inlet. You might need more money for the project in Arviat, did you do the project in Pangnirtung, and so on.

So when you look at the project by project specific, I know and the members all know that Ms. Brown is here, as an example, and looks at all the projects within the capital. And, I can tell you that you're not going to go to a person like Ms. Brown with that type of senior service in the government and tell her to pick and choose, or cherry pick a project. That's not what occurred on the file.

What has occurred here on the file is that projects were prorated and prioritized based on technical reports that had come forward and the change of scope... a project can change, it happens all the time on projects, and they come in and out of the project of the five-year capital plan.

A five-year capital plan approved by this Assembly will have no weight in the next Assembly when you have 15 new members elected. They can change the capital plan themselves at that time. The member knows that.

So, hopefully, that helps clarify for the member the issue around the five-year capital plan and the project specification of a certain project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. The five-year plan is actually blind if it doesn't take into account this minister or that minister's term - it's going to expire here, so they may have a problem. The five-year plan itself is an ongoing document.

Once the Assembly approves an amount, it stays on until the minister of the day cancels it. So the five-year process does carry on. So Government House Leader says that he had a plan in 2002 that the Repulse Bay replacement was going to be in the future years and would have up to \$6 million additional, so he spread the amount through the five-year plan. That's the way I understand it. It's blind. It doesn't care about who the minister is.

So having said that, I want to ask the minister: why did you cancel the Repulse Bay replacement health care centre since you took over? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't cancel a project. The Repulse Bay project is in the design phase. We have an architect hired doing the design for Repulse Bay. It's not cancelled.

The project has been in the books for seven years and, since I took over, I have been pushing the department to complete the commitments of 1999. I have said that I don't

know how many times the last five days in this House. To finish off the commitments made to Repulse Bay and Taloyoak, we are trying to finish off the projects, and that's where we are at. We are at phase three of the process for Repulse Bay.

If you look to the back of the book, the plan here for Repulse Bay, it's not cancelled. It's in the books. We are using an architect to use the same design for Taloyoak to cut costs, and, again, we are looking at using the same design for Taloyoak and Repulse Bay for Arctic Bay.

We have to finish the functional part for Arctic Bay. We hope to have that done by the end of the fiscal year. They are similar in community size and similar services are provided, so we are looking at the design to be modified and so on for Arctic Bay, Repulse Bay, and Taloyoak. We are looking at the same architect to come up with the design to cut the costs. That's where that's at.

Repulse Bay is not cancelled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. The five-year plan, like I use the word, "is blind," it doesn't take into regard who the minister is.

The Repulse Bay project has been changed from a five-year construction and a major construction, the final year would have been this year if it was implemented but someone changed it. Some minister signed off a document through FMB and said, "We're going to change our priorities." Someone, it could have been you, Madam Minister. Now, it's been delayed from the original 2002-03 fiscal year, it's now seven years late.

So someone moved that capital planning process from the original five years; this year would have been the final year; for the amount stipulated in the amount of \$6.5 million. It would have been the final year. Where did these dollars go? Who recommended that this plan change, and if so, don't be shy if it's you? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member will recall Full Caucus had a meeting in Arviat. We had a meeting in Arviat in 2004, shortly after we were all elected, at which time we all decided at that meeting that we would construct continuing care facilities.

In 2004, I was Minister of Finance at that time. We all decided two continuing care facilities would proceed and that we would start the construction for those two continuing care facilities in the following summer. So we had to speed up the process.

So from what I understand from Ms. Brown, the two projects for Taloyoak and Repulse were put on hold at that time to accommodate those new priorities set by Full Caucus in Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, that argument or case may be useful, but we did not deal with expenditures or cancel them.

I recall that these regional centres were important; these health facilities. We never discussed which project should be deferred as a result of these new important facilities. That's not the point.

Five-year plans are normally at the discretion of this Assembly, not some consultation process being carried out by the Premier or anything. That isn't how this Assembly works.

The five-year planning process is normally, as a guide, respected by Members of this House and when there are major changes to it, we want to know why. An explanation has never been... I don't believe that it's that difficult. So therefore, we're trying to find out exactly where these dollars were re-allocated. And, if I was the minister I don't think I would be shy about it. We just want facts. Facts shouldn't be that hard to get because, obviously, they are normally recommended to the House for approval.

Surely, the minister or his officials could explain why defer the project when, in fact, all of the CGS technical studies and sound advice, like one of the officials used that word, were already provided to proceed with the projec. So that's my point.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. I think that's more of a comment than a question, but I will give the minister a chance to respond. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those types of questions would have been more appropriate when those capital plans were being discussed in 2004-05. In 2007, I'm having to respond to questions of what took place in 2004-05 and 2005-06 in the year 2008-09.

I tried to explain, again, the pressures this government was under in constructing the hospital here, in Rankin Inlet, in Cambridge Bay, and if you look back again to the 2003 capital plan, there were only two items that were not done and that was: Taloyoak and Repulse Bay. All of the other projects in Pond, Pangnirtung, Igloodik, Iqaluit, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay were done. So what we're trying to do is move forward to finish that.

Yesterday we spoke about the capacity issues internally. We did not have the capacity to manage all of those projects. We have one capital planner and manager, and that's Ms.

Brown. The Government of Nunavut, in terms of its own project manager capacity, was an issue as well, and so some of the projects were put on hold.

We could not entertain any new projects with a \$64 million facility going up here, a \$16 million facility in Rankin and so on, and so on. They had put pressure on our system at that time. Continuing care facilities took priority. So there's only so much we can do with limited dollars and staff to manage projects.

Again, the plan here before us today is to try and get the projects done that we had committed to for Repulse Bay and Taloyoak, approved, and to deal with the aging facilities, all of the facilities, not just health centres but other facilities, such as Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset, and Qikiqtarjuaq. And, to do technical assessments on those buildings to start focusing our resources in addressing aging facilities now that we have all of the new major projects out of the way; the hospitals and so on. So that's the focus the department is going forward.

Mr. Campbell here mentioned that we want to go forward and do technical assessments so that we have that information before us to start addressing aging facilities, not just health centres but other facilities within the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. H-6. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to clarify something. The minister keeps saying, she said a number of times over the last few days that she is trying to complete a project that was approved in 1999 from the First Assembly.

The project that she's talking about, and that we're looking at right now, is the health centre replacement project. The project that was on the books since 1999 that she keeps referring to was health centre residential renovations.

I'll read the background of the existing conditions. "The nursing residence is attached to the health centre and it's comprised of three large suites. They are of insufficient design. There is critical shortage of housing in Taloyoak. The Kitikmeot Health and Social Services region wants to renovate them into smaller units, to modernize them, and increase the numbers."

That's a totally different project than a health centre replacement, and so I fail to understand why the minister keeps referring to this project that has been on the books that they have been trying to finish since 1999, when it's a totally different project than what was on the books in 1999. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I will have Ms. Brown go through that process again and explain the substantiation sheet from 1999, when this whole process started, to where we are at

today with that, from the time it was put on hold and five years later, where we picked up again. So Ms. Brown, if you can go through that again. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 1999, the Department of Health did not inherit any five-year capital plans from the Government of the Northwest Territories. There was a small blurb about finishing off some furniture for the Gjoa Haven Health Centre. We were starting from absolute scratch.

I was not the capital planner then but I was asked to help put together the department's first capital plan. There was hardly anybody in CGS and there was hardly anybody in the whole Government of Nunavut, to be quite honest.

The bottom line is that I contacted each Executive Director of the Department of Health in the regions. I contacted the regional directors or project managers, where they existed, for the Department of; it was then; Public Works and Services. We got the best idea of what kind of project should we even look at given that we had a total of about one month to put the first capital plan together.

In Taloyoak, it came up that they would like to have some more residential units on top of the health centre. This was 1999. It was put in the capital plan as a request, and subsequently, when we got CGS, the fire marshal, and some of those other people to investigate that, it was not possible to do that because of the requirements of safely exiting the building from the second floor.

When we subsequently went to standing committee indicating that this project was not going to be doable, we were instructed, at that time, to re-look at the health centre in Taloyoak to see what further needs that they had. This spearheaded into the technical assessment, which then, once we've got that spearheaded into the following year, the Functional Program review by visits to the community, by visits to the hamlet, by looking at the population projections and all of that, and that's where, in that 2003 document, that the renovation and addition of the health centre started to be in the capital plans.

After the award of the architectural and engineering contract by CGS, all of the impacts that the minister talked about started to happen. The three regional health facilities required a lot of time. The project was then put on hold in terms of further looking at anything to do with renovations and additions.

When we were getting at least the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot health centres on the way, then the requirement to fast track community continuing care centres came in as a requirement. Like the minister said, we found out in the fall and the requirement was to try to start building something the next year, which was impossible but at least we got the design underway. Between CGS and the Department of Health, they put teams together to work on these things.

The bottom line is, again, Taloyoak as well as Repulse Bay went on a waiting list. What happened is each year the design money for Repulse Bay and Taloyoak carried forward in the capital plan.

To fund the continuing care centres, the department was instructed to put them in the capital plan. So the department re-prioritized and asked for funds for the construction of the continuing care centres, and then, in the capital plan, it still showed, for Taloyoak and Repulse Bay, that they were pushed back in the plan. That's the chronology as I know it. The bottom line is that the government said that there was only so much money. The continuing care centres came first.

Now, when we are at the stage this past year of looking at the renovation and the addition for Taloyoak, looking at the schematic designs produced by the architect, and doing some cost estimates by independent quantity surveyors, it became non cost effective with the changes of code, with the health and safety issues, with infection control, and construction.

CGS and the Department of Health decided the best way would be a standalone building. That is why, in the substantiation sheet that was presented to FMB, the standing committee, and now, COW, the project is not a renovation and addition.

The recommendations that CGS and the Department of Health came forward to, and that has been put forward in the Department of Health's plans, is it's not a residential renovation and it is not the renovation and addition. It is a new health centre for the community of Taloyoak. This goes back to 1999.

Projects change throughout their lifetime. That's the best I can do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Tootoo, I think you got a bit more than you asked for.

>>*Laughter*

Please try to keep your questions and answers to the point. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to raise a point. I got exactly what I wanted. It's not a renovation project, it's a new project. That's what I've been saying. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm also a little confused or concerned about what has been talked about in this committee in the last five days.

When you look at the books or the plans, everybody is saying that it was a renovation, and then it became a new building or a new facility. I'm talking about what the other members have been talking about.

I heard somebody say that they are pleased with what they see in Qikiqtarjuaq and they are pleased with the renovations that they have been doing to that facility. So they are putting up a new building because they are not pleased with it. Is that what it means? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Aglukkaq

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to explain. In terms of the Functional Program, they are still the same. The need for a number of patient rooms, dental rooms, examining rooms, storage rooms; all of that is still the same. What has changed is the different ways to get to B from A.

What we were advised is that based on the increasing costs of construction, the changes in building codes, the health and safety, the new code that came out with infection control, to renovate the facility over five years, would cause concerns on infection control in the delivery of health care services in that facility.

We couldn't renovate for five years and continue to provide health care services in that building within the codes. The health and safety of patients, the protection of not spreading infection, and to renovate a building for five years was deemed to be more expensive than to construct a new facility. The cost was going higher and higher.

So it was determined with CGS staff and Health that it would be cheaper, and at the same time it would address the infection control and it would not increase the risk of jeopardizing the delivery of health care services to build new. That was the recommendation put forth.

I found out about this when I was at a hamlet meeting in Taloyoak back in April-May. I was told by the hamlet council that the architects were recommending a new building. I didn't know anything about it until then, at which time I followed up to find out.

So, based on that, the recommendation from the technical team is to put forward a new building to meet the infection control standards and the cost of construction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. We're still on page H-6. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am thankful for the reminder, but I have concerns with what I heard around the table in the committee. Also, I heard the minister saying that they're following the plans that were created in 1999 but it looks like we're not. It's been changed over the years.

I had a question earlier today to the Minister of CGS because our dozer disappeared from the five-year plan. Also, I want to say that all of the facilities in Sanikiluaq are also older than the 20 year old facilities that we're talking about. Our facility is 24 years old. It's old now and it's not even in the capital plan.

We can witness that it's falling apart and that you had to spend unexpected funding last year because it's falling apart. When will we see the facility put in the capital plan? Can we see it soon? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. We had to deal with Sanikiluaq and we borrowed money from the Taloyoak facility to address the emergency repairs in Sanikiluaq which put another delay into that process.

The department committed to do a review of all its health facilities and its long-term facilities through the technical team. We want to put technical assessments on all of our aging facilities and to do the planning for construction. That was a question, again, Mr. Arreak had raised as well.

So we made that commitment and we would like to do that within this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that include my constituency? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Yes, it does. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, I want more clarification because it's probably not the first time some of the projects that were within the five-year-plan and made your approval have been voted on.

I believe it's quite significant when the Assembly votes for a significant amount like \$400,000. That's not a small amount. It is not at the discretion of regional planners to cancel a project unless it has approval from the minister, or FMB for all that matter.

So am I correct in saying that the minister could ultimately change any five-year plan even after we had voted a certain amount of dollars? As is the case with this plan that you just answered, you can ultimately change it without asking the Assembly for a vote on it. Am I correct?

Chairman (Mr. Evyagotailak): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A minister alone can't do that. You know that. Any changes to this goes to Cabinet, or through FMB, or supplementary bills, there are processes within FAM and so on, and I can't do that by myself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Yes, I fully understand that. My understanding is that the funds that were originally allocated for Repulse Bay appear to have disappeared from the face of the Earth. They cannot be accounted for. There is no approval for recommending what year and where they went. These were simple questions that I asked.

Shouldn't there be an investigation into these funds as to where they went because they appear to have disappeared. Where was the amount of \$6.5 million, as originally planned, allocated?

The minister said we had health centres here; regional centres here. Surely, some minister recommended because the FMB alone will not approve anything unless it is recommended with substantial argument from the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

So I'm asking the minister: how did they get to be changed? Why would the minister want to recommend to FMB if she has to change it without consulting this House? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To explain the process, each fiscal year we approve projects, such as the 2008-09 capital in November. The fiscal year from last year ends March 31.

So any capital projects approved last November, if it's going to be carried into the new fiscal year, is carried over through the supplementary appropriation process. If you approved money in last year's main estimates, that fiscal year ends March 31.

So the Minister of Finance will be tabling sup bills from capital projects that need to be transferred into another fiscal year and we do that through the supplementary appropriation bill.

What's before you today is new money for capital for this year. It's not last year's money, it's this year's. And, that money then can be spent and if we don't spend it by March 31, the same process applies to supplementary appropriation bills and you then transfer that money to the New Year. Just like in the hospital here, we transferred money

from fiscal year to fiscal year for the last seven years to finish the hospital here. That same process applies in this case. We approved funding from Repulse Bay last year and the years before that, and it goes through that process; it's carried over.

What's before us here is new money that had not been previously been approved, and if we don't spend that by March 31 next year, then we go through that same process again. I don't know if that answers the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$8,646,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Kitikmeot Region. Mr. Barnabas.

Committee Motion 009 – 2(4): Bill 16 – Delete \$200,000 from Taloyoak Health Centre Project # 500239

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a motion on the floor. I move that that \$200,000 in proposed funding for the Taloyoak Health Centre Replacement, Project # 500239, be deleted from the 2008-09 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. We are just passing the motion around. So just wait a couple of minutes.

Thank you, Members. Do all the members have a copy of the motion? Thank you. The motion is in order.

Before we proceed with debate on the motion, I have a few comments to make as to procedures. Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for the total time of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first. The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply which closes the debate. To the motion. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is evident now, with the different responses coming and looking at the things we have seen this week, the funds are allocated to one thing and then re-allocated to something else. We're getting confused with the responses that we're getting from the minister and her officials. For that reason, I have made this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. To the motion. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the last several days now we have been looking at the Department of Health and Social Services' Capital. I believe in the last 90 minutes that a very good explanation and a chronological sequence of events has been

brought forward, not only by the minister but, indeed, by Ms. Brown, was above reproach here in this House and Mr. Campbell.

I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the concern here is that there has been some manipulation of the project within the community for political partisanship, and if that seems to be the case and if that's the indication, then that is incorrect for the record.

I would ask that members vote with us to defeat the motion. We need to move forward with the project for the Taloyoak Health Centre replacement in Taloyoak so that we can have a better health care facility in the community for the residents.

\$200,000 is one tenth of one percent of the total budget for the Department of Health and Social Services. All of it is planning money. It's not to swing hammers or anything right now in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Picco. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the minister trying to say that he and his colleagues have the best planned capital projects for the health care facilities for Nunavut, but the Government House Leader failed, as well as the Minister of Health and Social Services failed to explain and respond to the question I repeatedly asked: why should I support this capital plan?

There is zero. My constituents and I are not blind. We can read. There are no dollars, not one penny allocated for the Kivalliq region. The Government House Leader just said this is a great plan. And, the Government House Leader could be misleading this Assembly if he uses the argument that this is the best plan for Nunavut. It is not. It has zero dollars for the Kivalliq region and the minister, to say that deleting the item, which would propose an alternative plan to try and make the budget equitable and fair for Nunavut, is not what they want.

Your vote will mean that Kivalliq is not important, and I fail to see why the government would all of a sudden wake up and feel that they now have the best plan. They have been given a chance. We have advised you to treat Nunavummiut fairly, equitably, and represent Nunavummiut across the board without favouring one region or the other. That's not happening right now, Mr. Chairman.

So I'll vote in favour of the motion. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the motion. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been waiting patiently for five days to get to the Kitikmeot region. I thought we had been talking about the Kitikmeot region, but we've been talking about the Qikiqtaaluk region for five nights.

Three seconds into the Kitikmeot region, we've got a motion to delete the Taloyoak for \$200,000. Mr. Chairman, I'm not 100 percent convinced myself, after listening for five or six days, or even the last three weeks, on all government departments, not just Health and Social Services, we've got the capital plan for 2008-09 for all government departments. I'm not 100 percent convinced, in my mind, after listening to all questions that the capital planning process didn't proceed according Government of Nunavut capital planning process.

CGS, Community and Government Services, has a project delivery guide that has the step-by-step process. They work for the departments; the departments are called client departments. So CGS has their officials, architects, engineers and others in there that provide specialized services to the departments in preparation of departmental capital plans and specific projects.

We've been beating up on Ms. Brown and the Department of Health. She is just one person, a single capital planner but Community and Government Services has probably 10 or 15 people in there and they help all government departments.

The evidence, in my mind, then is that this process is very complicated and very technically difficult, and then when we're dealing with multiple fiscal years, we've got a small pot of money, we are shuffling monies around, nothing happens in a straight line, I don't believe.

I remember when I was with the municipalities, I used to lobby for help for the municipalities, and the ministers at the time were moving money from one capital project to another because they had unexpected emergencies.

The federal government would charge some mayor in some town somewhere a \$100,000 fine and one year in jail if they didn't fix up their water or sewer lagoon, so it was an emergency. So the government had to react and move money from one project to another, and that's a fact of life. That's reality and that's how we had to keep these things in mind.

For us as MLA, and me as an MLA, I'm not privy to every detail in the government's planning process, nor do I want to be. And, that's not my job to be a detective, be a lawyer, be an architect, or be an engineer. My job is to ask questions and be satisfied in my mind that the government followed the process, if not exactly to the T, as close as they can because nothing is perfect in life. With 100 percent, we're expecting too much.

I believe there are two departments involved in capital planning. In this case, it's Community and Government Services and Health. Last week it was Community and Government Services and another department or two. So CGS provides facility planning and project management to client departments

And, if I don't have confidence at this point after three weeks that Community and Government Services followed the process to help Health and Social Services to get their projects to this stage, then how can I have confidence in all the projects we've just

approved in the last three weeks that were done according to the rules and procedures, specifications and plans. We would have to go back and re-open it, and we could nit-pick for days on every project. I'm convinced we could. I know, as MLAs, we try to do the best for our regions.

I want to ask some questions on the Kitikmeot region because I don't see the Kitikmeot Medical Boarding Home. I have some questions there. I hope I get that opportunity when this vote is over.

So, Mr. Chairman, with those comments, I will tell my colleagues that I will not support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. To the motion. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For me, it's not a matter because there's nothing in Kivalliq, or it should be here, or should be there. I think over the last few days we started off with questions posed to witness during the Committee of the Whole of Community and Government Services on how capital projects are determined.

If you look back through the substantiation sheets here, it appears, for whatever reason, the Minister of Education seems to think it's for, if there's a feeling out there that for what he said the reasons why this is happening. It doesn't matter what reason it's happening for, but to me, it's apparent that the standards and criteria that are used to prioritize projects in the department or any department by this government, weren't followed.

The minister herself said over and over again that it's based on need. She couldn't even provide accurate information on the age of the facilities. She said that they were 23 years old and 20 years old. Repulse Bay is 26 years old, not 23 years old. Arctic Bay is 24 years old, not 23 years old. The only ones she got right was the Taloyoak centre. And, that's right from their substantiation sheets that they provided us in here.

If decisions were made based on misinformation like that and it became evident that the standards and criteria for whatever reason weren't followed, then it gives the perception of unfairness out there for whomever. As a Member of the Assembly, I always believe in things being done fairly. I've said that over and over for years. We have a standards and criteria there for everybody to be followed, and then if those are followed, then you don't have problems. When they're not followed, people lose confidence.

From the responses I got and other responses that other members got, I think it's evident that those standards and criteria weren't followed in prioritizing these projects.

We have a six year older facility and a four year older facility that get deferred at the direction of FMB, not the direction of the House. FMB asked the Cabinet Ministers, not the members on this side of the House. We've got no say in that. The department's

capital plan is brought forward by the minister to the Financial Management Board for approval.

Also, the fact that the department gets advice, suggestions, and recommendations from the Department of Community and Government Services, but at the end of the day, it's the department that makes the decisions as to which one it prioritizes, or which projects they're prioritizing, not Community and Government Services. It's easier to point the finger somewhere else. It's always easier to do that.

Just from this, I can't support this because I believe from what I've heard that due process wasn't followed, that the standards and criteria that the government is supposed to follow in prioritizing projects didn't happen here. And, for that reason, I'll be supporting the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. To the motion. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, have a very hard time to be convinced that there was hard evidence to make a switcheroo with Repulse Bay and Taloyoak in the five-year capital plan. That has not been explained very well.

It's difficult for me to determine properly, for example, if Taloyoak design stage, like Repulse Bay was like that, and the Department of Health decided to build one in Repulse Bay first, instead of Taloyoak, are we still going to have the same problem?

I cannot be convinced that there was hard evidence to switch those two five-year capital plans. Therefore, I will be voting in favour of the motion. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. To the motion. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we were listening to the questions being answered back and forth for a few days, what I said the other day, I just want to remind everybody that 1999 was the year it had been deferred, and now, it has been deferred again for the capital plans.

I've never seen any funds allocated for the health centre in Repulse Bay. From the year 1999, there are no new projects. There have been delays after delays every year. The Second Legislative Assembly has not changed. They kept saying that they're going to bring new funding from the capital estimates every year, and then they decrease the amount. This is the case today.

The health centre in Repulse Bay is put in for 2010-11. I don't know if it's going to go ahead again. Although they say that they are going to go ahead with it, it changes the next year. Although it has been approved by the Legislative Assembly, they decrease the amount even before the year is over, or is not put in the project.

If you are going to continue to take away some of the projects in the five-year capital plan, and we keep expecting for them to go ahead; what Mr. Curley said earlier for the Kivalliq region, for next year they have zero dollars from Health and Social Services; I don't know if we're going to get anything in the years to come. For that reason, I'm going to vote in favour of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we've been discussing this for five days and saying the same thing, I think, over and over, and having to recap from what happened in 1999 and previous government decisions, it's been very frustrating for me to try and get this process through.

As the Minister of Health and Social Services, I put projects before this House by project basis only, and if not, it's because it's by communities. It's not on that basis. I'm not happy that that is implied by my colleagues in this House that the reason why Taloyoak is ahead of Repulse Bay is because of me. There was no switch in Taloyoak over Repulse Bay.

Both Taloyoak and Repulse Bay entered the books in 1999. I don't make this stuff up. It's right before you, it's debated in the House, and it's still in the books. Unfortunately, Taloyoak and Repulse Bay capital projects were put on hold to accommodate all of the new facilities; Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, the \$64 million project in Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, Igloolik, and Pangnirtung. They were put on hold to accommodate those facilities.

I'm just as frustrated as the Member from Repulse Bay. I share his concern and the initiatives that we had put forth as a department was to finish what we started in 1999. Things change in five years, in seven years, so we change with time; standards change, health inspectors' reports change. Just because we made a decision in 1999 and all of these things change we're going to just sit on it? No. We evolve with time, we change with time.

If there's a fire in the Rankin Inlet Health Facility, we have to respond, which we just did in Cambridge Bay. Right now, if we were to face that, we would have to evolve and address that. We had a situation in Sanikiluaq, so we borrowed more money from Taloyoak for Sanikiluaq. We did a number of those.

We borrowed money to fix the facility in Kugluktuk, we borrowed money to fix the Health and Social Services Office in Igloolik, and right now, we're using minor capital to renovate the old health facility in Rankin Inlet that burnt down. So to accommodate for that, we had to move out of there to an unfinished facility to deliver services. We changed, well, because we made a decision and it's not done, we don't move? We had to respond.

Right now, we're renovating the Rankin Inlet facility so that we can develop a community wellness centre out of that facility. There is a capital project going on in that community right now. In the Kivalliq, it's Repulse Bay, and it's in the design stage.

The member knows very well that every single year, new money is approved. Projects that don't require new money are not before you and money is allocated based on need, based on technical assessments, and that the experts are from CGS.

We don't have the capacity in the Department of Health to do electrical inspections to decide on what a boiler it should be, what size boiler it should be, plumbing, structural stuff; we don't have that capacity, nor do we in this House.

We are not technicians, engineers, or electricians in this House to be making decisions on that basis. We rely on the experts of CGS staff to do that. I rely on their expertise to put forth recommendations to my department and I act on that. I'm not an expert, I'm not a plumber, I'm not an engineer; I'm none of that and neither are you.

That's how we're making decisions today and trying to move forward in this House. We're making technical assessments...

Chairman: There's Point of Order. To the Point of Order. Mr. Curley

Point of Order

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, my Point of Order is really quite clear. Any member speaking should be speaking to the Chair and I have been specifically referred to as you.

I'm not sure the Rules allow her to specifically point at any member when speaking on a point. So I believe you should use your discretion to advise the minister that she should be addressing you instead. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Please refer to members. Do not use words such as "you." The Speaker cautioned you on this matter on November 1. There was a Point of Order. Please proceed, Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification. I guess, in closing, what I will say is that the department works very hard to meet the priorities of this government and we've completed major projects for the last two years. Rosemary, our capital planner, has a tough job of trying to balance all of that and I think she has done a wonderful job.

We have brand new facilities in all three regions in various communities and all that to date has happened following due process.

All of the facilities you see in Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung, Igloolik, here, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, Arviat, and Cambridge Bay; that was all done using the same process

we are following today. And, that's in partnership with Community and Government Services technical team. So nothing has changed in that way. So I have every confidence in their recommendations on every project. We don't have the expertise, nor the capacity in Health.

The due process was followed for every project. It's unfortunate that there are so many delays for those two projects. I know people in Naujaat are frustrated. I know people in Taloyoak are frustrated. They have waited a long time for their new facilities and today we are trying to cancel one of them.

Where is the fairness in that distribution of projects based on needs by region, based on needs and technical assessments from CGS? So the process was followed by the department to date, and I want to commend the staff as well as CGS for that support and without their support, we wouldn't be here today.

In terms of what's in the regions, we try to allocate the funding based on the funding we have and the targets we have been given. It's not necessarily divided by three by three regions. It doesn't work that way. We don't divide by three regions.

The Kivalliq this year, as an example, has doubled in capital projects, not necessarily with health, other departments, as an example, new jail, new residential college residents, a trades school...

Chairman: To the motion, please. There is a Point of Order. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: The Point of Order is that the record clearly shows, Mr. Chairman, that the minister is not correct when dealing with the CGS capital funds as an argument. That should not be the case.

The record is really quite clear that the capital estimates allocated through CGS, Kivalliq amounts are only 19 percent, 28 percent for Kitikmeot, and 39 percent for the Baffin region. So the minister is completely out of order in trying to give you the impression, Mr. Chairman, that we are getting our share of capital funds.

So I would appreciate that you rule her out of order in referencing CGS capital items. Thank you.

Chairman: To the Point of Order. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is incorrect in his facts. The capital projects for the Keewatin region for fiscal year 2008-09 shows that 2008-09, there's \$21 million being allocated to that region which is an increase of 21 percent from prior year's. That's what I was making reference to just for the clarification.

In closing, I want to say, again, due process was followed by the staff in this project, and that's all. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. On October 26, the Speaker delivered a ruling. Such applies to the Point of Order just raised here. There's a difference of opinions. There have been vigorous questions and responses. Disagreements between members over how to interpret information are to be expected and permitted as long as members do not allege that other members are being untruthful.

I find there is no Point of Order. Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq, are you finished with your comments?

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess, in closing, I will not be supporting this motion to delete a project for the Kitikmeot region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I listened to the debate around the table and the comments that I had made previously.

We stated that we wanted to have an open and accountable government, and to work on behalf of the people of Nunavut. We wanted to be an open government. We were told that we are still following the 1999 decisions. We were also told that the five-year capital plan doesn't apply and that we shouldn't be working on them. I don't know which way to decide.

I also heard about people pointing fingers at other departments like Community and Government Services for example. We are looking at the capital projects for Health and Social Services for this year and we're looking at their proposed capital estimates. We hear that we don't have in-house technical people. Maybe we should be saying, "This is what we do in our department," instead of saying, "I'm not doing this and that." We are elected to do this type of work.

When the elected representatives in the communities look at the five-year capital plan, they are becoming more and more concerned because they don't believe it anymore. They don't believe that the proposed projects in the five-year capital plan are going to become a reality and they don't have the confidence anymore. I think it's up to the government to make sure that the five-year capital plan is applied. The people out there look at the five-year capital plan and don't believe in it.

In closing, I will be supporting the motion. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even though we're getting hungry, we still have to work.

(interpretation ends) Just for clarification, Mr. Chairman, on page H-6, where we've been for the last five or six days on the portion that was passed, (interpretation) the Nunavut Headquarters Region, we keep hearing that there's nothing for Keewatin, but it states, in Nunavut, it's in the Headquarters Region, Nunavut Various.

There is an indication that there is nothing for Keewatin. Of the \$1 million that was approved by this House, up to \$300,000 is for use in the health centres in the Keewatin if renovations are needed.

If I misunderstood, maybe the Clerk or somebody can clarify if Keewatin is included under Nunavut Various. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I'm sorry, Minister Netser, you cannot question during the debate on the motion. Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't going to say anything but all we are hearing is about regions. We all represent Nunavut. If we keep saying that we have different regions, it's getting tiring. We're supposed to represent the whole of Nunavut. It's starting to sound like a broken record.

We should be aiming at trying to complete projects and go along. I wasn't going to say anything but that's all I hear from both sides; people saying regions, regions, so I don't want to hear it again. We should look at the communities that require the most help.

We brought this out by working together and to try to utilize the funding that we have when there are so many projects that we have to do. That's what we were doing. We were not keeping anything from or in favour of others. We were trying to allocate funds based on needs. We hear that it is not up-to-date yet and we'll definitely look at those areas maybe within a year or in the future in the plans.

I just wanted to bring that out. I wasn't going to say anything originally but I'm getting so tired of people saying from region, region, region, and I don't want to hear that again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way I understood this motion is that this \$200,000 was for the Taloyoak Health Centre; and from what I've heard over the last five days and seeing that capital plan for Taloyoak was renovated, renovated, and renovated.

So this motion is saying let's take off \$200,000 and put it somewhere else, or for another community who needs a better facility. So, Mr. Chairman, I encourage all members to support this motion. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. To the motion. Mr. Barnabas, you have the last reply. Go ahead.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really care which way it goes. I understand that we approve funding. Our constituents want us to vote wisely for that funding.

I felt confident that Arctic Bay was in the five-year capital plan and it is no longer in there. How can I trust the government, especially when they keep deferring Repulse Bay? There is \$820,000, which is for the Contingency Fund.

For that reason, I urge all the ministers and all the members to support the motion so we can have an open government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. All those in favour, please raise your hand. All those opposed, please raise your hand. The motion is defeated.

>> *Applause*

Kitikmeot Region. Total Kitikmeot Region. Mr. Barnabas.

Committee Motion 010 – 2(4): Bill 16 – Repulse Bay Health Centre Replacement Be Moved Forward

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you. I have another motion.

(interpretation ends) I move that this committee recommend that the Repulse Bay Health Centre Replacement Project be moved forward in the department's five-year capital plan to begin construction in 2009-10, in recognition of the fact that although the five-year capital plan contained in the Government of Nunavut's 2003-04 capital estimates indicated that the project would be completed in 2007-08, it has consistently been delayed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour, raise your hand. Those opposed, please raise your hand. Those abstained, please raise your hand. The motion is carried. Mr. Barnabas.

Committee Motion 011 – 2(4): Bill 16 – Arctic Bay Health Centre Replacement Be Moved Forward

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another motion on the floor. I move that this committee recommend that the Arctic Bay Health Centre Replacement Project be moved forward in the Government of Nunavut's five-year capital plan, in recognition of the unacceptable fact that while the Legislative Assembly voted to approve \$15,000 for the start of this important project in the 2005-06 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services, it has been subject to a number of delays and has now dropped off the five-year plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Do all members have a copy of the motion? The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand. Thank you. All those opposed, raise your hand. All those abstaining, please raise your hand. The motion is carried. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister going to go to her...

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Thanks for reminding us.

Chairman (Mr. Arreak): Okay, we'll continue. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess we're saving the best for last for the capital plan this year. I welcome the minister and her officials officially to the COW. My question is on the Kitikmeot region.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to get an explanation from the minister on exactly what the status is of the Kitikmeot Medical Boarding Home that was a project that was planned to start construction in Cambridge Bay this year. I see from the five-year capital plan, it's been pushed out to the year 2011-12; if the minister could explain that to me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Kitikmeot Boarding Home tender of construction closed for May and the budget or the proposed project bid was higher than the project budget. And at this point in time, it has been deferred in that project until they can identify additional funding.

Having said that, the department recently put forth its proposals and future plans for boarding homes to Health Canada. As stated in the past, boarding home operations and costs are covered, normally through that process as well.

So we're hoping that we would be able to acquire some funding for all the boarding homes in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you will recall the, 'Closer to Home' Strategy, where we're supposed to build regional health facilities and part of the process was boarding homes. Currently, the patients from the Kitikmeot have to fly to Yellowknife or fly to Edmonton for treatment.

Now, because that facility isn't fully operational, I understand that the patients, when they do come to Cambridge Bay, they have to be billeted or put up in hotels. I'm not sure that all patients are capable of being treated or looked after properly in a billeted home or a hotel.

So I'm wondering if the minister could explain to me, until that boarding home is constructed, how patients who come into Cambridge Bay will receive the proper care and attention if they're staying in a billeted home or a hotel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we move towards expanding services for our facilities in the regions, in time, we also push to have the boarding homes established to provide that service to residents that have to travel to the regional centres for treatment. If there is no boarding home, the patients would have to stay in hotels and/or be billeted until such time we're able to catch up with construction of boarding homes.

Having said that, there has been some additional work that has been required for the Cambridge Bay facility due to the fire, and we needed to find extra money, about \$2.2 million to fix up the regional health facility, which has delayed some movement on services that we're trying to provide in that region down the road.

So we're still working towards trying to get the boarding homes in place. Health Canada has been consulted and they have reviewed our plans for boarding homes across the territory and our future needs. They have that information to go forward.

So until such time those facilities are constructed and we start the services for regional medical services, patients will have to stay in hotels and/or boarding with other people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The facility in Cambridge Bay that the Department of Health and Social Services is considering to renovate is an older building. It's an older hostel; it was for the kids who came in from the Bathurst Inlet and Bay Chimo. It's a two-storey facility.

But, in listening to the comments from my colleagues in the last couple of weeks and in particular, the last few days, about renovating projects versus constructing new projects, it occurred to me that, perhaps, it should be taken into consideration that we may require a new facility as opposed to renovating this facility.

I'm wondering if the Department of Community and Government Services has looked into that potential there and is advising the Department of Health and Social Services that it may be better to construct a new facility rather than renovate the facility.

The reason I asked that question, Mr. Chairman, over the last couple of fiscal years prior to this bid, there were delays because Community and Government Services had to make changes to the plans to accommodate an elevator and some other building codes. So I'm

just getting a little bit worried now, that as we go forward, perhaps, that building is not going to be suitable and that's going to push that entire project back even further in the capital plan.

I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the minister or her officials can explain the process they're using to ensure that the Kitikmeot Medical Boarding Home is a project that will be getting built and will be suitable for the purposes intended. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. We don't have a quorum right now, so we'll take a short break. Coffee has been served in the Nanuq and Tuktu rooms.

>>Committee recessed at 18:22 and resumed at 19:05

Chairman: I'll call the committee meeting back to order. I believe Mr. Peterson asked a question and now, the minister had time to think it over. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask the deputy minister to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As the minister has indicated, we do have a proposal that we've been discussing with Health Canada regarding the boarding home requirements for Nunavut.

We do have, in our proposal for them, an indication that we'll be looking at a number of communities for boarding home requirements. One of them is Cambridge Bay. Right now, the preliminary indications we've got from our staff is the planned expansion for Cambridge Bay for a 20 to 25-bed facility at some point in time.

We are trying to negotiate an arrangement with Health Canada to allow for us to either have somebody put in the bid for both the facility, as well as the O&M of the boarding home in the Kitikmeot.

Those discussions are still preceding and we will continue to retain the funds that are identified in the capital plan for the Kitikmeot in the meantime. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Campbell for that answer. I'm a little concerned, the project was to go ahead this year in the current fiscal year, 2007-08, and we pushed it out to 2011-12. That's four fiscal years. Is there any particular reason why you pushed it back four fiscal years for the construction work to begin? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Ms. Brown to answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the department put an FMB submission into the government to use the \$1,003,000 that was scheduled for the Kitikmeot Boarding Home in 2007-08 to offset the deficits and the construction budgets for the Gjoa Haven and Igloolik continuing care centres, the government came back with the direction to put it in those years of the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Ms. Brown for that clarification. Could the minister just provide a bit more clarification on why the FMB just arbitrarily pushed it back four years? Why not just one year, or two years? How did they come up with a number like four years? Did you not question them on that?

It is an important project for the Kitikmeot and to just arbitrarily push it back four years doesn't really make much sense. We'll probably be waiting three years for the project to go ahead. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you. Two things: the funding, what we're trying to do with the completion of the boarding home proposals that we put forward to Health Canada is to have Health Canada cover off the costs of all the boarding homes in Nunavut.

We put forth a proposal in September on a Nunavut-wide boarding home study that we had done in terms of, for example, the Ottawa Boarding Home will be proceeding from a 55-bed to a 75-bed facility, and that will be covered off through rate negotiations we had gone forward to Health Canada with. At the same time we had to put forth our plan in terms of need.

So any new facility for boarding homes would be that process. Our hope is that for the boarding homes, now that the needs assessment process is done and put forth to Health Canada, that we will be able to recover the funding for those projects under the Health Canada program that covers all of the boarding homes in Nunavut. I believe that covers that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Can the minister explain to me just so I'm clear in my mind; there's a three-pronged effort in Cambridge Bay. You have the health facility which you try and get 100 percent operational, then you have the boarding, and then you have a need for doctors and nurses.

Now, the lack of a Kitikmeot Boarding Home, is that going to affect the achievement of a 100 percent operational effectiveness at your regional hospital in Cambridge Bay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, the delivery of health care services with boarding homes should not coincide with the delivery.

We have plan B for accommodations for our patients through the established hotel and at the same time through private billeting. So in that process, depending on where we're at, if it is constructed, or renovated, and/or not, we will continue to use hotels to accommodate patients that would require accommodations.

At the same time, we are putting forward implementation plans for the three facilities. I hope to have that information finalized within the next few months to share with my colleagues in terms of the timelines of each of those three facilities and what will come into place in terms of service by a number of PYs to that timeline of when those will come into play.

So, hopefully, by that time, we will have a better idea in terms of timelines or dates on the overall picture of services, infrastructure, housing, and staff needs for each facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell me what the name of that federal program is where you are going to apply for funding for boarding homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Boarding homes are covered through the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister explain to me how confident they are that they can obtain funds from that program for the Kitikmeot Medical Boarding Home? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Health Canada and the Department of Health and Social Services have been working over a year to put forth a comprehensive Nunavut-wide plan.

We had a meeting with them in September and we're pretty confident that we will agree to the increased needs of boarding home services in Nunavut. For instance, the one in Ottawa, we're looking at the construction of that shortly to expand from a 55-bed to I think it's a 72-bed or a 75-bed facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, in your substantiation sheet you said that the one bid came in at \$1,750,000, approximately, and your budget was for \$1.1 million. And, you're proposing four years from now to build it for \$2.1 million. You're already \$600,000 or \$700,000 over the budget estimate.

How reasonable is the \$2.1 million estimate four years from now, especially with the escalating construction costs in the Kitikmeot region? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most likely, the costs will go up as we deal with increases in construction costs across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. The deputy minister indicated that you will keep the money in the budget for that project already. This facility is right across the street from my constituency office in Cambridge Bay.

In the summer of 2006, after the annual sealift, I saw the forklifts quite busy over there. They were bringing over the materials from the barge, and they're stacked right behind me at the proposed boarding home. Maybe you can just clarify for me. Are you going to leave those materials there for four years? Is there going to be a security area? I'm not sure how you're planning to proceed from here.

Are you just going to leave everything on the books for four years and that's it? You spent some money already, so how are you going to take that into account? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll start off and pass that question to Ms. Brown.

I think the member is aware that we had to delay the project last year, I believe. The elevator that was supposed to be installed for the facility missed the boat, like literally missed the boat, so we could not proceed with the renovation because that was the renovation's major piece. So we had some challenges like that. We had purchased the equipment material for the facility before we went out for the construction piece.

I'll just have Ms. Brown finish off that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've had discussions with the CGS project people in Cambridge Bay. Some of the materials that were brought in for the boarding home will be used for the repairs of the Kitikmeot Health Centre with the fire. That material will be replaced and as I understand, it's secured in sea cans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Ms. Brown for that information. I wanted to ask this question about the Yellowknife boarding home. I raised that during Question Period a couple of weeks ago.

I was wondering if the minister could give me an update on the process they're going through to replace the Lena Pedersen Board Home in Yellowknife so that it's a modern facility that will accommodate patients from the Kitikmeot in the City of Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The RFP for the Yellowknife boarding home is out, as well as for the facility itself and for the operations. There are two separate RFPs that are out.

In terms of the capacity for the Yellowknife Lena Pedersen Boarding Home, as part of the overall comprehensive needs based assessment, the change is to go from a 40-bed facility to a 52-bed facility based on trends, as well as needs of patients for that.

So the RFP is out. I don't know when that process closes but that would be the first step in trying to deal with the situation in Yellowknife, as we are with Ottawa, and then we will be moving forward with the ones here for Iqaluit and the other facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Could the minister clarify, did you say that you're RFP is calling for a 52-bed facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be correct. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Just so I can assure my constituents back in my Cambridge Bay riding, who come to me quite often about that facility, you're not going to extend the lease on that facility, you're going to go to an entirely new facility for patients from the Kitikmeot. Is that what I'm hearing you say? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The RFP process itself will determine that there will be no decision as to which way we will go, but we are hoping that there will be bidders for that that will be able to examine what's before us in terms of trying to address the capacity issues for a boarding home in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell me, the funding that you're seeking for the medical boarding home in Cambridge Bay from Health Canada, is that the same source of funds that you'll be seeking for a facility in Yellowknife? Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All boarding homes are covered through Health Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The boarding home in Cambridge Bay, you've got it on the capital plan for four years from now. I know the lease on that facility in Yellowknife is expiring next year.

So assuming that the funding takes three to four years to obtain, how confident are you that you can get funding from Health Canada in time to have a facility in place in Yellowknife when the current lease expires on that facility that's there now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The RFP process calls for an interim arrangement, as well as up to 18 months short-term contract, as well as a 20-year lease arrangement. That's the way we are proceeding with those RFPs right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell me where the RFPs were advertised? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe in our two northern papers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister clarify when the closing dates are on those two RFPs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know that but I will pull the ad and provide that to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the RFPs close, can the minister explain the process that the department will take to evaluate the two RFPs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have the deputy go through the internal process of reviewing RFPs. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We have a Technical Working Committee comprised of CGS, our department, as well as somebody from the Department of Finance who will be asked to sit on a committee to review the proposals once the deadline has come and gone.

They'll be assessing those proposals that are coming into government and they'll be making recommendations to the successful contractor that would be considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson. Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister and your staff, welcome to the Committee of the Whole. During the Arviat retreat, there was a commitment to build four new continuous care facilities over the term of this Assembly.

Currently, there are two such facilities in the Baffin region. One is here in Iqaluit, southern part of the Baffin, and one is being built in the north part of the Baffin region, which is Igloodik that's been built recently. There are also two facilities in the Keewatin region. One is south in the Kivalliq region, which is Arviat, and the other one is in the north of Kivalliq, which is Chesterfield Inlet. One facility is being built in the Kitikmeot region, also in Gjoa Haven, which is the east part of the Kitikmeot.

During the beginning of our term, I had brought up a resolution that was made by elders from my home community to this House stating that the elders from the Kitikmeot wanted one in their home community. That was the largest group of elders that were living in the community.

It would make good sense for the second Kitikmeot facility to be built in western Kitikmeot. My question for the minister is: how will the location of the next continuous care facility be determined? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member is correct in that we had made commitments to plan to try and address four facilities. I think everyone the table here knows that it's difficult to meet all of the capital project priority needs. We just dealt with Arctic Bay, Taloyoak, Repulse Bay, and Qikiqtarjuaq and so on.

So those projects have been deferred and most likely will not be constructed in this term of this government. No decisions have been made in terms of future locations will be of any new continuing care facilities at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. If the next facility is to be built in Nunavut; I'm not sure when it will be, like you mentioned it will probably not

be during the time we're here, but maybe next term, maybe the next government will be setting up the places where to build the continuous care facilities; what criteria will be used to decide which community will get this facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there was to be a facility or not, the criteria that was used was based on a number of factors. In deciding for the other ones was based on the number of people that were currently in residential care of some sort. Out-of-territory was one major factor in trying to build two facilities, and again, that was to try and address the issue around care closer to home.

We have over 200 residents of Nunavut in various facilities across southern Canada and in Nunavut, so I imagine that would be a criterion. At the same time, if there were to be additional facilities, then that would be the government of the day's decision to see if it's a priority or not.

So it's kind of hypothetical in responding to this question in that I don't know what the new government will see as a priority in deciding whether there will be continuing care facilities, or what category they will focus in, whether it be adults, children, and so on. So I can only assume what those may be.

So it's kind of an inappropriate question to ask I think at this point. It's difficult to answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. H-6. Kitikmeot Region. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, I was curious when the minister was making some statements earlier today that Kivalliq has done a lot better now that they're getting their share of the capital.

I have not seen any documents that truly reflect a 21 percent increase. I don't know if she means overall, including other departments, or not. But in terms of health for next year, I would like to be quite specific. What percentage of the capital estimates planned for 2008-09 are allocated for the Kivalliq region?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The capital estimates for 2008-09 are in front of him. There's a general capital category for minor renovations and so on that can be spent anywhere. Right now, last year's budget approval is being used to renovate the Rankin Inlet old health centre. That money is being used to renovate that facility as an example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I was curious with respect to the Kitikmeot project. How did the two communities that are allocated significant amounts; for at least the next couple of years, from 2008 through to 2012, in excess of \$12 million; how did the two communities eventually find their way to this five-year process? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, we just went through that whole process in the last two hours. I don't know how much more I can explain the process followed.

In the last two hours we talked about the process. The facilities for continuing care were decisions in 2004 by all the members around this House in Arviat. The Taloyoak project started in 1999.

We went through this already, Mr. Chairman. I don't know how much more I can explain that. We had our votes already on these files. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. It was made quite clear by other members from this side that the project, in terms of the replacement, initially it was renovation. Renovation right through up to \$800,000 in prior years had been sent, and now, we see \$12 million for future years and \$200,000 this year.

My question really is: how did the two communities that are really quite close together be categorized? And, say these are real fair for all Nunavut communities, is what some of the Cabinet Ministers were saying to me.

I have always said my constituents can read. They're not blind. They can read. How did these two, I don't want to use the word "riding," but these two communities actually get to be the only two communities allocated with millions of dollars. Will the other communities like Arctic Bay and Repulse Bay be allocated similar...

Repulse Bay is significantly larger than Taloyoak and yet, the allocation tells me there were future spending years for replacement of a health centre of \$6.5 million. Why such a big difference between the two projects? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, Mr. Chairman, we went through this already. I already answered these questions over and over again.

We follow the process. We work with CGS. We go through the process. I don't know how many times I have to say the same thing over and over around how we got here for these projects. I don't know how else I can rephrase how I've answered that question for the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I'll help the minister, Mr. Chairman. Are these two projects mainly from one riding? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The two projects are from the Kitikmeot region. One of them was in the books from 1999. Don't you imply that they're in the books because they're in my riding; don't imply that. Because in 1999 there were...

Chairman: A Point of Order has been called. Mr. Tootoo.

Point of Order

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Point of Order I would like to make is the minister is implying motive. All the member did was ask the question if they're in a riding, in a specific riding that is. There was no implication or anything.

The minister is implying that there are ulterior motives for that question being asked. All the member did was ask that question. All she had to do was answer yes or no and not start making allegations against any member. So I would ask that that be ruled on, and if there is a Point of Order, that she retract her comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. To the Point of Order. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Point of Order is open to debate. It's not just the person who raised the Point of Order. Other people can speak to it. That's our Rules.

In this case, I believe that there is a point well taken by the minister in that when the member suggests what riding the projects are in. Everyone in the House knows every other person's riding and what communities are represented.

I believe the minister is correct when she suggests that there is a suggestion. Whether said, or spoken, or unspoken, then that's the implication that there is a bias from the minister because it's the riding that she represents. We all know which ridings people represent here.

The point by Mr. Tootoo is a bit facetious really, when you suggest that that wasn't what was suggested. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Order, please. There is a Point of Order. The minister is required to withdraw her comments. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: For the record, the two communities the members are saying are in my riding. That's a fact. I'm not trying to hide that. The question he raised to me was: are they in the same riding? Yes, they are in the same riding, in my riding. That's a fact. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I asked you to withdraw your comments. That's your right. Withdraw your comments to Mr. Curley. Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I withdraw my comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Page H-6. Kitikmeot Region. H-6. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. My further question was: will this kind of health facility that is being worked on for Taloyoak be kind of a template now? Will it be similar to other communities eventually if they get some money from my very kind friends from the other side?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, all along for the last four days we have been saying that we were going to use the Repulse Bay and Taloyoak building designs possibly for Arctic Bay, modified by community.

We are trying to use the same model to cut costs, and depending on the community size, population, program needs and so on, the idea would be to try and use the same design to cut costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I think the original plans were quite credible. I know they contained CGS assessments of an evaluation assessment through previous other ministers, otherwise they would not have been allocated \$400,000 in 2002-03 unless some assessments were carried out.

And yet, the recommendations from, I'm not sure which department, recommended that the total expenditure would have a range of around \$6 million, including the \$400,000.

If you're telling me that you're now using a similar template for Repulse Bay and Taloyoak, it doesn't appear to be because what's being proposed for future spending for Taloyoak still hopes to receive \$12.5 million. So why is there a significant difference between the two? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: The big major difference would be the cost of shipping and the cost of construction in the two regions, two big differences.

We have the highest shipping rates in Nunavut in the Kitikmeot region. We have one shipping company in the Kitikmeot region, as opposed to other regions that have two or more. That's one of the major differences in costs and inflation; the cost of fuel or oil increases the cost of material. Every year we're at over \$100 a barrel now. What impacts will that have next year? I can only guess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Yes, I would appreciate it if the minister would table the cost estimates for shipping and so on because from my experience a few years ago, the ratio that we used for estimating was 30 percent of costs of construction was for transportation. They may have increased slightly five percent or 10 percent, but I'm not convinced that this is the main reason.

So if the minister would table some information as to why the original plans in the last five years have dramatically, more than 50 percent, increased for one community, as opposed to the one with a significantly larger population that was originally allocated, at least in the costs, for instance, of \$6.5 million for Repulse Bay.

So it will be important that the minister backup that information because we must deal with the facts rather than just estimates. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fact is we can't predict next year's costs based on oil prices. That's a fact. So we can only make the best estimates on a number of things.

Just to clarify, the projects for Repulse Bay and Taloyoak, the current estimates that we put forward based on designs overall were forecasting the same amount of over \$12 million for those two facilities.

As we go forward in our tender calls and so on, we'll have a better idea on how much it will cost to construct those facilities. But based on the budgeting estimates process, we have the same amount, \$12,760,000, for Repulse Bay and estimated \$12,750,000 for Taloyoak as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Could the minister provide additional information on, if not now but at least forward that information to the committee, exactly what square footage is being planned for Taloyoak, Repulse Bay, and Arctic Bay? I think it would be important. Then, we would be able to understand a bit how the costs ratio actually works because

my information that I have from the technical people is that it costs about \$350 per square foot for technical buildings, at least for construction projections from the government.

So it would be important if you would provide us with that information, give us some information, that would help us navigate through these future years. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you. Yes, I'll commit to that.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to follow-up a bit on questions my colleague from Cambridge Bay raised about boarding homes. The minister indicated that they're moving forward with a Request for Proposal for a new facility in Yellowknife.

We all know that the Larga Home in Ottawa is overflowing at the seams. It's totally inadequate. It's the same with the one here in Iqaluit, as the minister indicated, too.

I know when questions were asked about that earlier, it was my understanding that we were told that the department wasn't going to move forward on boarding homes until they concluded their negotiations with Health Canada because they wanted to get Health Canada to pay for them. So if that's the case, why are they moving forward with asking for a new facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year or the year before that, I had also stated to the House that we were proceeding with a new facility in Ottawa from a 54-bed facility to a 80-bed facility, and that's to address the overcrowding in Ottawa and we are moving forward on that.

Currently, these facilities are covered by Health Canada. The daily rates and the operations are covered, and we are going forward with a new facility concept through an RFP. Once the RFPs are received for the one in Yellowknife, decisions will be made on the basis of what's being submitted.

So until that process is done, we will be say new, or old, or expand, or whatever. We don't have that data yet. What we're trying to do is get that information to make an informed decision of what's the best option we have to go with based on the daily rate that Health Canada currently provides us to operate those facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then will we be seeing an RFP come out for an adequate facility here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you. I would like to move forward on the facility here in Iqaluit. The information that also went to Health Canada, just for the record, and for the clarification of the members, is we had to put a comprehensive plan on our needs in terms of future needs as well.

For example, the current capacity of the Iqaluit facility is 38. For the expansion, we will be looking at approximately a 90-bed facility now that we have that expanded service at the hospital, it will have more of an impact on that. So we want to move forward on that in the next year or so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to that happening. I'm sure the Minister of Education does, too, because I think he always has lots of people boarding at his place because there's no room at the facilities and he says it takes him a long time to get paid.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask and not to dwell on something, but I just want to get some clarification on the Taloyoak Health Centre. Part of why I had my concerns with the project is if we go back, as I think the minister indicated, I think the 2001-02 substantiation sheet shows that there are, in prior year's, \$50,000 spent, and in that year, there was \$350,000, for a total of \$400,000 in the substantiation sheet for that project.

The next year, it wasn't even on there in the 2002-03 year. In 2003-04 year, it showed prior year's, \$350,000, where it should have been \$400,000, then \$670,000 for 2003-04, when you go to the 2004-05 year, as prior year's, \$1,020,000, and then \$73,000 for 2004-05. In 2005-06 year, it goes back to down to prior year's, only \$968,000 with \$287,000 in the 2005-06 year, then in 2006-07, it says \$1,255,000 in prior year's, \$352,000 for the 2006-07 year. In the 2007-08, as prior year's, it is only \$952,000, but nothing else in 2007-08, and then this year's, as it is, \$835,000 in prior year's.

That's part of my concern with this whole thing throughout is the numbers just don't add up. That's part of my concern and to me, it doesn't matter where it is but the numbers don't add up. That's a part of my concern with this project.

So maybe if I can get an explanation from the minister because when I look this year's substantiation sheet of prior year's \$835,000, and I know you've got \$820,000 in approved capital carryovers for that project, there's a whole bunch of money missing. It's not accurate because according to all of the other substantiation sheets, there was more

money than that in prior years spent on that project. I'm just wondering if I can get a clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I will ask Ms. Brown to walk through from 1999, when it entered the books, to today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This project, like the one on Repulse Bay, has been on the books for a long time.

An Hon. Member: Too long.

Ms. Brown: Too long, yes, I agree.

>>*Laughter*

Ms. Brown: Parts of the funds were borrowed to offset emergencies or things in other communities. For instance now, last year the department sought FMB approval and we transferred \$266,000 from the Taloyoak project to Sanikiluaq for the repairs. In the past, from the Repulse Bay project, we were short \$90,000 to fix Kugluktuk's Health Centre's boilers.

One year, in the Kivalliq region, Social Services in Rankin Inlet, the department was given a three-month notice by the co-op that they had to move because the co-op was being torn down and renovated. CGS was able to find some space but the government, again, had to come up with \$95,000, I think it was actually a little higher than that, \$95,000 to do tenant improvements so that the social workers in Rankin Inlet had a home.

This is a problem in a way with the substantiation sheets because, yes, we want to be transparent in showing what the government approved for a project but sometimes that money was used to offset emergencies in other projects. So do you show it, or do you not show it?

Any funds that remained in that project, we're speaking in particular Taloyoak, was carried forward for that project. So there have been no renovations at the Taloyoak Health Centre, there's been, at the Functional Program, some planning done and some work by the architect.

When it goes into prior year's, it looks like it's already spent but the majority of that \$835,000 that you see there was actually in the 2007-08 capital budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that out of the \$835,000 that they have in there for prior years, I believe there's \$820,000 that's been approved in capital carryovers. Like I said if you go back to the other years, like even the 2006-07, in prior year's, there's \$1,255,000 in prior year funding approved for that project. As Ms. Brown indicated, there was one case of \$266,000 that was transferred somewhere else.

I hope you understand my confusion there because it looks like there have been a lot more money approved for that, actually, overall for this project that's been approved since 1999 has been \$1,772,000 that's been approved for that and \$820,000 of that has been carried over. So that leaves \$952,000, I think, yes, \$952,000, if I'm doing my math right, that looks like it's spent already on this project.

So I'm just wondering if I could get... I hope that helps you appreciate the confusion and the frustration we're having saying, this is what we've approved over the years, \$1.7 million, there's \$820,000 in carryovers, so that leaves \$952,000 that's been spent on what? The numbers just don't add up and that's part of my concern with this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can understand the member's concern, it is confusing. We're going back to seven years of history here, so it's difficult to go back and chronologically go through each and every time an incident or whatever happens, and what amount was moved for a project.

So what I can do for the member and the House is go through both Repulse Bay and Taloyoak, and from 1998 to 1999's planning process, walk through that whole process and in writing for the members because I'm confused.

I'm being asked to explain stuff from the first government as well and that's difficult to do. So if the member wishes, I can provide that information for both Repulse Bay and Taloyoak to address some of the details of his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that, and I'm sorry, Ms. Brown, because I know you're the one who is going to have to probably be doing it.

>> *Laughter*

That would be, because like I said it looks like, if you go by this what's been approved and what's been carried over, it looks like there's close a million dollars that's been spent already. That's how it looks by the numbers.

So I really look forward to seeing an explanation if money was transferred out, when and where, or how much just so that at the end of the day, with all of the numbers, everything should balance out, if it doesn't, there are concerns. I guess that's part of my concern with this project now, because the way the numbers flow through the whole thing, it just doesn't balance out. So I appreciate getting that from the minister.

The other concern I have and I raised it earlier, too, is the fact that substantiation sheets indicate, when they're talking about the numbers in there, that they're estimating for the overall cost of the project indicated the Class C estimate and the reliability is questionable.

What happens if it comes in over double? So we don't run into the same kind of situation in a year or two that we ran into here over the last few days, how can there be a way where, if this seems to be the case, we're not making informed decisions; we're making a guess on this. Like I said the other day, it's almost like we're approving a blank cheque and being told that right there that these numbers aren't reliable, or the reliability is questionable; the numbers.

So what happens if it comes in more than that and how is that going to be dealt with?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the steps that are involved in projects, Phase I, Project initiation; Phase II, Project planning; under Phase III is for project design; through the steps that CGS follows. This just highlights the steps under that category.

Once the detailed planning is complete, a project brief is approved by the client, then the next step is to do an architect/engineer firm to start design and that's done through an RFP. CGS goes through the process of evaluating that. The design stage is broken down to various stages: preliminary design, conceptual design, contract documents and so on.

In there it states, "Class C to Class A costs are obtained as the design progresses and is complete and ready for tender." So that's part of the steps that are involved.

I don't know what Class C means. I don't know from the technical perspective, but based on these processes, before the tender is initiated, the Class C to Class A costs are obtained for designs. I believe those are estimates if I'm correct. Ms. Brown can correct me on that. That is, I believe, to go for approval for tender and so on.

Perhaps, Ms. Brown can explain a bit more to that detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I believe Mr. Tootoo had one more question. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question and again, it's part of my concern with this. I understand that we're looking at right now \$200,000 for design and you already have \$815,000 carried over in design.

So it's saying that the design is going to cost us over a million dollars, especially as the minister indicated earlier, there was a design that was being done for Repulse Bay, and they took it from there and they were going to use it in Taloyoak. I believe there's a whole bunch of money in there for the Repulse Bay design, too.

All together there's about \$847,000 if you count what they have in for 2009-10. So I'm just wondering if I can get an explanation of how much it's going to cost us, you know it's about \$2 million to get these designs done. Why do they need another \$200,000 when they have \$820,000 in there for design already? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you. Again, I'll have Ms. Brown go through that process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During 2007-08, we had hoped to have the final design done of the Taloyoak Health Centre. That's not the case because we want to not go the addition/renovation route and go with an upgraded design that's fundamentally from Repulse Bay.

At the time when we put this \$200,000 in a couple of years ago, we thought the design would be finished earlier and what we wanted to make sure is we did not want to proceed with the tendered specification documents in terms of finalizing them with the architect until there had been a code review of the year 2008-09 in case any building codes had changed that would effect the designs.

Building codes generally change every five years and they're on their own schedule. I just know that as I have been informed by CGS. So we were hedging our best bets. We were making sure that we were going out in terms of what we're requiring with construction based on the current building codes.

As well, initially, the architect would have been selecting flooring material, paint, other products or whatever. These types of products, as we ran into with the Qikiqtani General Hospital, where the flooring, all of a sudden, by the time it was picked, was not available, then we had to spend quite a bit of time finding something that matched the rest of the building. Then it was a matter of printing the tender specification documents and advertising those associated costs.

Chairman: Thank you. Kitikmeot Region. Total Kitikmeot Region. I gave you, Mr. Tootoo, the privilege of going over. One final question, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Is it going to cost us over \$1 million for the design for that facility? I just want to know that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I'll get Ms. Brown to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Depending on what size the Taloyoak Health Centre comes to be, there's a certain amount that usually goes with design fees.

Because we are going to go with a repeat design for modification for Repulse Bay and Taloyoak, I can't put a dollar value on that. That will be with CGS in terms of being able to negotiate those fees and what the architect's fees are that are charged for certain sized buildings.

Our best estimate, we should be able to get them done within that, hopefully, very much less, the leftover money then would go towards construction. It's not going to be wasted money. It will go towards whether it's the Repulse Bay or Taloyoak project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Kitikmeot Region. Total Kitikmeot Region. \$4,727,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Tangible Assets. \$14,373,000. (interpretation) Do you agree? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I remain unhappy. I have lost confidence in the minister. I will express my unhappiness by way of a motion when we return on February 19, 2008. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. We will wait for that day. Total Tangible Assets. \$14,373,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page H-4. Health and Social Services. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$14,373,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Department of Health and Social Services is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. That's not too bad, it only took five days. Minister you have last words. Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank my staff for being here as well as Nick in the audience and Rosemary for re-scheduling her travel three times to sit through the committee. So I want to thank her for her time here. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Ms. Brown. Thank you, Mr. Campbell.

Page VIII the 2008-09 Capital Estimates, please. Page VIII. Turn to page VIII in your Capital Estimates. Distribution of Budget. Summary of Capital Expenditures. Total Capital. \$98,330,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Bill 16 in your white legislation binders. Bill 16, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Go to Schedule on page 2. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Clause 3, please note that appropriation may be made in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* for the purpose and in the amounts set out in the Schedule, that's the one that we are trying to pass. Let's keep that and let's use that clause for the next budget. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Scheduled on page 2. Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2009. Vote 2. Capital. Capital Appropriation. \$98,330,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Appropriation. \$98,330,000 (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Clause 4 on page 1. Clause 4. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Bill as a whole. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 16 can immediately be placed on the order paper of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. So Bill 16 is done.

On your Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008*. I would like to ask Minister Simailak, for the Department of Finance, to make his opening remarks. Minister Simailak.

**Bill 14 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008 –
Consideration in Committee**

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With your permission, I would like to speak to all three supplementary bills at the same time, 14, 15, and 17. Thank you.

Chairman: Yes, proceed, Mr. Minister.

**Bill 15 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2,
2007-2008 – Consideration in Committee**

**Bill 17 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 4,
2006-2007 – Consideration in Committee**

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. It is a pleasure to be here to speak to Supplementary Appropriation Bills 14, 15 and 17.

Bill 14, Mr. Chairman, appropriates supplementary capital monies in 2007-08 in the amount of \$1,198,000 for the following:

- Internal reallocation of Grants and Contributions for Vote 2 (Capital) to Vote 1 (O&M) for Heritage Centres and Recreation Facilities;

- Repairs to the Kitikmeot Regional Health Centre due to fire damages; and
- An adjustment to the Qikiqtani General Hospital project for a 2006-07 carryover amount.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 15 appropriates supplementary operations and maintenance monies in 2007-08 in the amount of \$5,472,000. This supplementary appropriation will provide funding for such items as the following:

- Internal reallocation of Grants and Contributions for Vote 2 (Capital) to Vote 1 (O&M) for Heritage Centres and Recreation Facilities;
- Nunavut Community Skills Information System;
- Interdepartmental budget reallocation to reflect recentralization of employees to the Department of Finance; and
- Pre-trades training.

Bill 17, Mr. Chairman, appropriates supplementary operations and maintenance monies in 2006-07 in the amount of \$1,007,000.

This supplementary appropriation is required to provide funding of \$1,007,000 for the Department of Health and Social Services' overexpenditures for the 2006-07 fiscal year.

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

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

Hon. David Simailak: Yes, I do. Thank you.

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 in.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) With me today is Mr. Peter Ma, (interpretation ends) Deputy Minister of the Department of Finance.

And, if I may, Mr. Chairman, Roy Green, our Director of Expenditure Management and Projects, had been here also, unfortunately, his mother passed away last Friday so he's down at home with his extended family, and on behalf of members, I would like to express our condolences to Mr. Green and his extended family. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Do members have any general comments? There being none, I will go to *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008*. On page 4. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Capital. Not previously authorized. Directorate. -\$2,718,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Directorate. -\$2,718,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. -\$2,718,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 5. Health and Social Services. Capital. Directorate. Special Warrants. \$2,200,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Not previously authorized. -\$680,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Directorate. Special Warrants. \$2,200,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Not previously authorized. -\$680,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Special Warrants. \$2,200,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Not previously authorized. -\$680,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page 2 in the Schedule. Page 2. Schedule 1. Capital Appropriations. -\$1,198,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Bill 14, again, in your white legislation binder. Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008*. Clause 1. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Supplementary Appropriation. Clause 3. Go to page 3. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2008. Vote 2 Capital. Total Capital. -\$1,198,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. -\$1,198,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Are you agreed to Bill 14 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do you agree pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 14 can be immediately placed in the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Bill 15, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008*. On page 4. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Operations and Maintenance. Directorate. Not previously authorized. -\$361,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Directorate. Not previously authorized. -\$361,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not previously authorized. -\$361,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 5. Finance. Operations and Maintenance. Policy and Planning. Not previously authorized. \$361,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Policy and Planning. Not previously authorized. \$361,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Comptrollership. Not previously authorized. \$1,360,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Comptrollership. Not previously authorized. \$1,360,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department. \$1,721,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 6. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Operations and Maintenance. Culture and Heritage. Not previously authorized. \$987,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Culture and Heritage. Not previously authorized. \$987,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Community Programs. Not previously authorized. \$668,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Community Programs. Not previously authorized. \$668,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sport Nunavut. Not previously authorized. \$1,063,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Sport Nunavut. Not previously authorized. \$1,063,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an increase in O&M supplementary for Health. Oh, sorry. I thought it was total government, no? Okay, I'll wait. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 6 of Bill 15. Sport Nunavut. Total Sport Nunavut. Not previously authorized. \$1,063,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not previously authorized. \$2,718,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 7. Education. Operations and Maintenance. Adult Education and Post-secondary Services. Special Warrants. \$400,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Adult Education and Post-secondary Services. Special Warrants. \$400,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Special Warrants. \$400,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 8. Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Directorate. Not previously authorized. -\$1,360,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Directorate. Not previously authorized. -\$1,360,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Not previously authorized. -\$1,360,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 9. Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Not previously authorized. \$385,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Capital Planning and Technical Services. Not previously authorized. \$385,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department. Not previously authorized. \$385,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 10. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Not previously authorized. \$1,969,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. Not previously authorized. \$1,969,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. Not previously authorized. \$1,969,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, you said to provide funding of \$159,000 for the establishment of a vice-president position. Does that include housing, relocation and all of that, or is that just straight salary for the vice-president? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: I'm told that would include both salary and benefits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the minister, as there was no backup information during the briefing that we had with the Regular Caucus on that position, I'm wondering, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation exactly where this position is going to be located.

Will the minister provide further information of at least the roles and responsibilities of that position to all of the committee members of the standing committee, as well as this committee, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That position will be here in Iqaluit. Under the delivery strategy involving multi-departments and industry efforts in training, apprenticeship, (inaudible) business development, intensified new construction, and community based delivery methods. That will also be involving the communities, hamlets, local housing organizations, territorial Inuit organizations, and other housing stakeholders in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The position, if it includes all of the other benefits, it would appear to be a role in my estimates. When we look at the CGS technical position, I think there was a more clear allocation of \$385,000, which includes housing, benefits and everything else, and so on.

I would like to ask the minister: are you satisfied this is exactly what it is, or will you be coming up with an additional approach for this guy? You're not going to attract that amount of quality for that position, in my view, if you and I wonder why you would want

that position located in headquarters when you have a headquarters located in Arviat.
Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, the position will be here as it has responsibility in ensuring that the projects we are working on are continuing. That position is important because we have to make sure the houses are being built properly and we also have to make sure that the training we offer is adequate. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, my question is this: the Housing Corporation appears to be quite top heavy. You have a minister. I don't know what you do full-time. You have a president, which, in my view... I will also ask him in the winter session whether or not he is really occupied full-time.

You have regional staff in the three regions that supposedly are responsible for carry out all the projects because they do differ in terms of the traffic and transportation routes and so on. So I'm wondering whether or not you're really going to be getting value for the money.

Would you not be better served if you were to break up that figure and move the regional position in order ensure that materials are tracked and so on? One position in headquarters is not going to work because you're really establishing a top-heavy corporation, when, in fact, I believe you should sort out the roles and responsibilities because we're not sure now that the corporation actually performs to the best for Nunavummiut by having quite a top-heavy individual pretty much sharing the same responsibilities.

So would you agree to undertake a more thorough review of your corporation and have that information at least discussed through this committee in the winter session? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will. Thanks.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Page 10 of Bill 15. Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. Not previously authorized. \$1,969,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page 2 of Schedule 1. Page 2. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$5,472,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to Bill 15 in your legislation binders. Bill 15, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008*. Clause 1. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page 3 of the bill. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2008. Vote 1. Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,472,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$5,472,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page 1. Clause 4. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 7. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Is the committee agreed to Bill 15 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do you agree pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 15 can immediately be placed on the order paper of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2006-2007*. Page 4. Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have been quite vocal about this in the last year, especially when the PYs from the hospital here in Iqaluit were transferred to Pangnirtung. Most of the MLAs from Baffin have concerns about rising costs associated with this relocation of PYs from the general hospital here to Pangnirtung.

I think there is a significant expenditure incurred when the patients have not made their flight schedules home due to the employees office in Pangnirtung had closed down at a certain point in the evening, I think I was told around six o'clock and, of course, on the weekends.

That person has to wait for the weekend or another extra day, depending on how frequently the air schedule flies into those communities in the Baffin region. I'm also told that there are significant daily expenditures at the Tammaartarvik, when you stay at the Tammaartarvik, unnecessarily because the office is not right here in the hospital.

I also argued that this was not a regional position. This is not a decentralized actual move from the hospital employee to Pangnirtung. I think the government has to note, especially the Department of Health to note, that these PYs contribute quite significantly, I don't have the numbers, and the Department of Health doesn't want to review, or at least find out what extra costs associated with missing the flights to home due to the office not being right here in the hospital.

There may be a significant increase for people going to hospitals to deal with the new equipment in the new hospital, so it is quite imperative that this must be reviewed. The location of the travel for patients, PYs, must be in the hospital for practical purposes and for practical reasons, nothing else, because the ministers are living in Iqaluit. Why? There are practical reasons. They have to sign a whole lot of papers everyday and discuss with a number of people who are in the headquarters.

The necessity and practicality of these PYs must be in Iqaluit. This is going to continue to escalate if it's separate from the hospital staff because they have hospital staff. If it continues to be in Pangnirtung, or anywhere else, it doesn't matter; it could be Cape Dorset, it could be Pond Inlet; it's no help to patients who go over to the hospital here in Iqaluit.

I would urge the government; I'm not asking a question by the way, I would urge the government to reconsider to see if they can make a significant reduction in those over-budgets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We're on page 4. Bill 17. Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Treatment. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the record, I believe it was for the 2006-07 year, that we were told that finally all government departments were going to be in the black. I believe that was after year end, and then we found out after that the Department of Health was going to be over budgeted. Is that what this amount is covering for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct, yes. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pretty sure that was after year end, when we were told that everyone's going to be in the black. I'm just wondering if the Minister of Finance can give us an indication of why it took so long for the Department of Health to realize that they were going to be over expended. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's basically the accruals from all of that takes a while to get through the system. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, we were told that year end or after year end that everyone was going to be in the black. When did you find out when they were finalized, how much longer after that did you guys realize that they were going to be over by \$1,007,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you. We have been trying to get all books closed off by the end of June. With this over expenditure, we did not find out until the month of October. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, is the minister indicating that they didn't realize how much they were going to be over until six months after year end, is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct, yes. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Page 4. Treatment. Not previously authorized. \$1,007,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Treatment. Not previously authorized. \$1,007,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department. \$1,007,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 2 of the bill. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$1,007,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: To Bill 17 in your legislation binder. Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2006-2007*. Clause 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 2. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2007. Vote 1. Operations and Maintenance. Total Operation and Maintenance. \$1,007,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$1,007,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page 1. Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed to Bill 17 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 17 can immediately be placed on the order paper of the day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Bill 19. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Finance to make his opening remarks. Minister Simailak.

Bill 19 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to speak to Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2*.

This bill is designed to update our *Income Tax Act* to ensure that it is in keeping to the recent changes made to the *Income Tax Act* (Canada). It is our objective to effectively and efficiently administer the tax system for Nunavut to ensure that it is fair, socially progressive, fiscally prudent and economically competitive compared to other jurisdictions within Canada.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavummiut have been taking advantage of these positive tax changes initiated by the Government of Canada since the time that they were introduced. As is the

case in all jurisdictions, we must now update our Nunavut *Income Tax Act* to reflect the new taxation measures.

This bill will address three areas that need to be updated.

The first item to be updated is the medical expenses tax credit. Changes to the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) for this credit were made for the 2004 and 2005 taxation years. Prior to 2004, individuals who had medical expenses for dependents that made more than the basic amount had their medical credits reduced. In 2004, the system was changed to allow for the medical expenses for other dependants, other than dependant children under 18 years of age, to be claimed in the same way as for the individuals. The only difference was the imposition of a \$5,000 ceiling per other dependant. In 2005, the cap on medical expenses for other dependents was raised to \$10,000. Our legislation needs to be updated to reflect the new rules even though the changes in the rates and eligibility have been incorporated in the Nunavut Income Tax and Benefit Return since 2004.

The second item to be updated, Mr. Chairman, is the dividend tax credit. The federal government has increased the gross-up of dividends for large corporations to 45 percent and changed its dividend tax credit to 19 percent. Our legislation needs to be updated to reflect the new rules. This change will provide a 6.2 percent dividend tax credit for large corporations. The existing four percent dividend tax credit for smaller corporations whose dividends are grossed-up by only 25 percent will remain unchanged. This change was effective for the 2006 taxation year and has been reflected in the Nunavut Income Tax and Benefit Return since 2006.

The third item to be updated are the tax brackets. The tax brackets used to calculate the personal income taxes for Nunavummiut have been amended in the past to reflect changes in the federal tax brackets. Normally, the tax brackets are increased by an annual indexing provision in the *Income Tax Act* that is done automatically. However, since the tax brackets for 2004 were increased beyond the annual indexing amount through the Federal Budget, it is necessary for greater clarity to explicitly state the tax brackets for 2005 and 2006 to show that the annual indexing continues to work as expected with the new brackets.

I would be pleased to answer any questions from members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Do you have any other witnesses that you'd like to bring to the table, Minister?

Hon. David Simailak: Yes, I do. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort... (interpretation ends) Oh, you already have him.

>>*Laughter*

Minister, please introduce your witness again. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The witness is Peter Ma, Deputy Minister of the Department of Finance. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations have opening comments? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. I think that Mr. Ma is swifter than we thought.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability has carefully scrutinized Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2*.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that the purpose of Bill 19 is to amend the territorial *Income Tax Act* to reflect changes in the federal *Income Tax Act* relating to tax brackets, tax credits for medical expenses, and deductions from taxable dividends. These changes will benefit Nunavummiut and the standing committee supports them.

Mr. Chairman, during his appearance before the standing committee, members encouraged the minister and his officials to carefully monitor changes in the Federal Tax legislation that impact Nunavummiut and to introduce appropriate legislation as required.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 19 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Are there any general comments? There being none. Bill 19, in your white legislation binders. Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2*. Clause 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to Bill 19 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Is the committee agreed that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 19 can immediately be placed on Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak and Mr. Ma. Do you have closing remarks? Mr. Minister.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I would like to thank my officials, Peter Ma, and other officials who have helped me when we were preparing this.

I would also like to say, Mr. Chairman, I would like to welcome all the individuals in the Gallery. My younger son is here, Craig, from Baker Lake, and I'm very proud of him because he's a member of the hamlet council and the committee is also here. They brought back the community hall, it was just used for a bingo hall, and now, the young people are using it again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly Gallery.

(interpretation ends) We are dealing with Bill 12. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown., to make her opening remarks. Minister Brown.

Bill 12 – Emergency Measures Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes, I have opening remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Please proceed.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The *Emergency Measures Act* is the result of extensive consultation with the communities through their representatives on the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators and Regional Mayors' Meetings. We would also like to thank the standing committee for their valuable comments and suggestions that have resulted in a better document being brought forward.

The Act is part of an ongoing commitment by the Department of Community and Government Services to update and modernize legislation under our portfolio. The passing of a modern *Emergency Measures Act* will assist our government in meeting the complex challenges in emergency management of incidents such as 9-11 and may I suggest climate change, which may result in more extreme weather conditions that affect our communities.

Mr. Chairman, every day we hear of some type of emergency happening throughout Canada and around the world. With this legislation, Nunavut will be in a better position to respond to emergencies in Nunavut. We are not isolated from world events because of our remoteness; in fact, climate change may soon place us on the front lines dealing with natural disasters affecting our citizens. Our remoteness requires all Nunavummiut to take an active role in being prepared, and also requires that the government has a comprehensive *Emergency Management Act*.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman and colleagues, for this opportunity to present the proposed changes in this bill before the House. I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: 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.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): On my left is Ed Zebedee, our Director for Protection Services from Community and Government Services, and also Thomas Druyan, working as Legal Counsel. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Yes, I do. (interpretation) Can I go ahead? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development has carefully scrutinized Bill 12, the proposed new *Emergency Measures Act*.

The standing committee is in support of the principle of Bill 12, which is to replace the *Civil Emergency Measures Act*, a statute which was inherited upon division in 1999. Mr. Chairman, Bill 12 establishes the framework for preventing, preparing for and responding to emergencies in the territory.

Mr. Chairman, members enjoyed a productive dialogue with the minister during her appearance before the standing committee and through exchanges of correspondence on issues of concern.

The standing committee worked with the minister to develop a number of amendments to the bill. These include:

- Amendments to ensure that the notice of a declaration or termination of a state of emergency will be published in the *Nunavut Gazette*, the territory's official publication of record;
- An amendment to remove a provision with respect to municipalities incurring a debt to the territorial government in circumstances where it incurs costs in preparing an emergency management program on behalf of a municipality; and
- An amendment to more clearly define the circumstances in which the costs incurred in the course of a search and rescue operation may be reimbursed.

Mr. Chairman, during its scrutiny of Bill 12, the standing committee raised a number of operational and implementation issues with the minister. These included:

- The importance of providing draft regulations made under the Act to the standing committee for its review and comment;
- Mr. Chairman, the importance of ensuring that the annual reports prepared by the minister on the operation of the Act and subsequently tabled in the Legislative Assembly include a comprehensive range of information for the benefit of elected MLAs and the public;

- The importance of developing a new policy to replace the former Disaster Assistance Policy, which expired in 2001. This policy enabled the territorial government to provide financial assistance to community governments, small businesses or residents who suffered damage as a result of a disaster;
- The importance of ensuring that the provisions in the Act which provide for fines or incarceration for contraventions are used only in the most extreme of circumstances;
- The importance of developing and tabling in the Legislative Assembly the GN's Territorial Pandemic Plan; and
- The importance of developing detailed contingency plans to deal with the destruction of power generation facilities, especially in the larger communities with higher demand for power and more complex infrastructure requirements.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 12 to all members. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Are there any general comments? There being none, go to Bill 12 in your Legislation binder. Bill 12, *Emergency Measures Act*. Reprint. Clause 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 16?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 17?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 18?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 19?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 20?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 22?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 23?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 24?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 25?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 26?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 27?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 28?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 29?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 30?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 31?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 32?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 33?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 34?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 35?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 36?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 37?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 38?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 39?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 40?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 41?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to Bill 12 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Are you agreed pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 12 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) If you have any closing comments, you may do so, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Members, my staff, and also those in the Gallery. Someone's been working really hard typing all this up and I would like to thank them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Druyan and Mr. Zebidee.

We'll now go to another bill. Bill 18. I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for EIA to make his opening remarks. Minister Okalik.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to be here today to discuss with the Committee of the Whole proposed amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and other consequential amendments to other legislation.

On December 31, 2007 subsection 4(2) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* will come into force. Subsection 4(2) will make the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, ATIPP for short, prevail over any other Act where there is an inconsistency or conflict, unless another Act expressly provides that it will prevail over the *ATIPP Act*.

In anticipation of the coming into effect of subsection 4(2), a review of all territorial statutes was carried out for the purpose of identifying potential conflicts between the *ATIPP Act* and other territorial Acts. Where potential conflicts have been identified under the *ATIPP Act* and other legislation, the Acts and specific provisions were reviewed to determine whether an amendment is required to provide which Act will prevail.

I would be pleased to review with the committee the proposed amendments and to answer any questions that my colleagues may have. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. (interpretation ends) Do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table? Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Certainly.

Chairman (interpretation): My goodness.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

(interpretation ends) Minister, please introduce your witnesses for the record.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me are, as you know, on my left is my Deputy Minister and our Secretary to Cabinet, David Omilgoitok, and to my right is our Manager of Access to Information and Privacy, Marilyn Scott. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to Committee of the Whole. (interpretation ends) Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations have opening comments? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I would like to welcome the minister's officials to the witness table.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability has carefully scrutinized Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Related Statutes*.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that the purpose of Bill 18 is to address the coming into force on December 31, 2007, of subsection 4(2) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The standing committee was pleased to see the government move forward with this initiative, given that a number of extensions to this deadline were approved during the First Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 18 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Are there any general comments? There being none, go to Bill 18 in your Legislation binder. Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Related Statutes*. Reprint. Clause 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to Bill 18 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 18 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Okalik, Ms. Scott, and Mr. Omilgoitok. Minister do you have any closing remarks?

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Hooray! Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We have quorum. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move that we report progress.

Chairman: Order, please. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now report progress to the Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Members. I have returned to my seat. Members, going back to Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Arreak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19, and would like to report that Bills 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 are immediately ready for third reading.

>>Applause

And, that two committee motions were adopted. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Member for Nattilik, Ms. Aglukkaq. The motion is in order. All in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Speaker's Ruling

Before we go back to the Orders of the Day, members, earlier today, the Minister of Energy moved a motion to move Bill 13 into Committee of the Whole.

I have reviewed the relevant Rules, including Rules 45(2)(g), 68(2), and, although not referred to by the minister, Rule 91(3)(b).

As members will recall, standing committees have, in both the First and Second Assemblies, recommended that bills not proceed any further and be permitted to fall off the order paper.

In all of these cases, no attempt was made to have the bills proceed further, and the Bills subsequently died at prorogation.

This is the first time in our short history as a legislature that the government has made efforts to have a bill proceed, notwithstanding the recommendation of a standing committee.

Our Rules do not clearly provide the exact process to be followed in circumstances such as this. I would invite the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges to consider undertaking a review of this issue.

Briefly stated, the issue is not whether the minister can move a motion to order a bill into Committee of the Whole. It is clear that he can do this. The issue is whether notice is required for such a motion.

The general rule is that all motions require 48 hours notice. However, our Rules do provide for specific exceptions to this general rule. These exceptions are explicitly described in the Rules.

Rule 68(2) provides that the sponsor of a Bill may, without notice, move that a bill be ordered into the Committee of the Whole in circumstances where 120 days have passed since the bill received second reading and no motion to extend the period for review has been passed by the House.

I would note that this new provision in our Rules was introduced in 2005. In reviewing the Report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges that was delivered in the House on May 2, 2005, I note that it stated:

“At present the rules are ambiguous with respect to how to advance the bill to the next stage of the legislative process in the event that the standing committee does not report back within the 120-day period.”

Rule 68(2) was clearly intended to address the concern of what to do in the event of a committee’s failure to report. The rule does not clearly contemplate the circumstances before us today where the committee has reported back to the House and made a clear recommendation to the House that the bill not proceed further.

I have given careful consideration to this matter and in the absence of clear direction in the Rules I have made a decision which favours procedural fairness.

The purpose of providing notice is to ensure that all members have adequate time to consider the matter before the House and decide issues on their merits.

I find that notice must be given for the motion.

As noted earlier, the procedure to be followed in these matters is not clear and I do not fault the minister for not following the procedure that I have prescribed.

The minister will have the opportunity to provide notice of his motion when the session resumes in February. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister for Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 12 – Emergency Measures Act – Third Reading

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baker Lake, that Bill 12, *Emergency Measures Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried Bill 12 has had its third reading.

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

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

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

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

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

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

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

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

Bill 16 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009 – Third Reading

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South/Whale Cove, that Bill 16, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. Thank you. Bill 16 has had third reading.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 19 has had its third reading.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for South Baffin, that Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Related Statutes*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. The motion is in order. (interpretation) All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 18 has had its third reading.

Before we proceed with the Orders of the Day, Mr. Clerk, please ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is ready to enter the Chambers to give assent to bills.

Assent to Bills

Bill 04 – Workers’ Compensation Act – Assent

Bill 12 – Emergency Measures Act – Assent

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

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

Bill 16 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009 – Assent

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

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

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

Commissioner Hanson (interpretation): Members of the Legislative Assembly, please be seated.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I hereby assent to the following bills:

- Bill 4, *Workers' Compensation Act*
- Bill 12, *Emergency Measures Act*
- Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008*
- Bill 15, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2007-2008*
- Bill 16, *Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009*
- Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2006-2007*
- Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Related Statutes*
- Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2*

The coming long weekend marks Remembrance Day. I would like to ask all members to join me in acknowledging the bravery and sacrifices of both our veterans and those who are presently serving this nation in our Armed Forces and particularly on Remembrance Day.

I am also pleased to take this opportunity to extend to all members my warmest wishes for the upcoming holiday season.

As you conclude your work here and prepare to your families and communities, I wish you all a safe journey. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Commissioner and Members.

Members, before we adjourn, I would like to thank our pages who are from Inuksuk High School, they have helped us a great deal. Crystal Ropel, thank you.

>>Applause

Samantha Giroux, thank you.

>>*Applause*

Manu Maatiusi, thank you.

>>*Applause*

I would like to thank our Sergeant-at-Arms, Simanek Kilabuk, who worked tirelessly during the session, thank you.

>>*Applause*

And our interpreters, we thank you very much.

>>*Applause*

And, all our staff in the House, thank you.

>>*Applause*

I hope you will have a very safe journey when you go back to your communities and during the holidays have a good rest and be kind to others who are less fortunate and to the elders. Thank you.

At this time, the Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that all meetings for tomorrow are cancelled.

>>*Laughter*

Orders of the Day for February 19:

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

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

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 21:51*

