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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq

(Nattilik)

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

Hon. Levinia Brown

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services

Hon. Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk

(South Baffin)

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

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Joe Allen Evyagotailak

(Kugluktuk)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

Hon. Ed. Picco

(Iqaluit East)

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

David Alagalak

(Arviat)

James Arreak

(Uqummiut)

Deputy Speaker; Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Peter Kattuk

(Hudson Bay)

Steve Mapsalak

(Akulliq)

David Simailak

(Baker Lake)

James Arvaluk

(Tunnunuiq)

Levi Barnabas

(Quttiktuq)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Patterk Netser

(Nanulik)

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Human Resources; Minister of Finance; Chairman, Financial Management Board

Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

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Law Clerk
Susan Cooper

Sergeant-at-Arms
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Peter Kilabuk)(interpretation): I would like to ask Mr. Simailak to say the opening prayer. Mr. Simailak.

>>*Prayer*

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

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 137 – 2(4): Local State of Emergency in Rankin Inlet

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted an opportunity to update the House on the emergency situation ongoing in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet has access to continuous but, right at the present time, limited power. The schools have been open since yesterday and will remain open today. All GN offices have been on rotating half-days as well and will be asked to continue to do so until all of the equipment is working and at proper capacity in the community. Private businesses are operational and are asked to conserve energy where possible.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, the weather is a factor as Rankin Inlet right now is experiencing some blowing snow and blizzard conditions.

As I said in the House yesterday, Mr. Speaker, QEC purchased a new generator for Rankin Inlet. There were, however, unforeseen delays in securing transportation for it as the First Air Hercules went mechanical yesterday in Yellowknife. At this time, we expect that a generator will arrive in Rankin Inlet later this evening or early tomorrow, again weather permitting.

As well, Mr. Speaker, First Air is sending one of their Hercs from La Grande, or LG-2, in Northern Quebec, to Winnipeg to pick up the transformer that is required and to bring

this new generator online, again hopefully in the next 48 hours. Mr. Speaker, this is again dependant on the weather conditions in the community.

Mr. Speaker, once these flights land in Rankin Inlet, we should be able to have the generator online within a few hours and we will be back to a more comfortable level of power. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Finance and CLEY, Minister Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 138 – 2(4): 2008 Arctic Winter Games

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Arctic Winter Games are a high profile circumpolar sport competition for northern and arctic athletes. These games provide an opportunity to strengthen our sport development, to promote the benefits of sport, to build partnerships, and to promote culture and values. The games celebrate sport, social exchange and cultures. They provide an opportunity for our developing athletes to compete in friendly competition while sharing cultural values from northern regions around the world.

The 20th Arctic Winter Games will be celebrated in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, the home of the First Arctic Winter Games. Many past participants will join in this birthday celebration as they cheer on our northern youth sharing in the spirit of the Arctic Winter Games. Five generations of our young people will come together sharing our sports, our culture and friendship.

The Yellowknife Games will provide a great opportunity for approximately 240 athletes and cultural performers from Nunavut to interact with other youth from across the arctic world for a week beginning on March 9.

The focus of the Arctic Winter Games is still the same today as it was in 1970: "to involve as many athletes as possible either in the Games themselves or in team trials and lead-up events and to provide a forum of competition for athletes." Our participant numbers in these lead-up events have steadily risen over the years and include representatives from every single Nunavut community. I see this as a positive step in Nunavut's growth, as these youth will become healthy, productive leaders for Nunavut in the future. The regional and territorial activities leading up to these Games ensure that our youth have the chance to be active and will help lead them to a healthy, productive future.

At this time, I would like to introduce to the House this year's Arctic Winter Games "look" as modelled by athletes that will be representing Nunavut at the Games. Please welcome Joe Kanayuk-Hockey and Chantelle Masson-Badminton.

>>Applause

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): These uniforms are what Team Nunavut will be wearing during the 2008 Arctic Winter Games. I also would like my colleagues to view the pin sets that our participants will be exchanging with the other contingents and spectators at the games.

Colleagues, I ask that you join me in wishing all the participants good luck in their sporting and cultural activities and to thank all the staff and volunteers that help make these events happen across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We will be supporting our sports players. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Minister's Statement 139 – 2(4): Hamlet Anniversaries

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to see the uniforms of our athletes. I welcome everybody here and all the wildlife officers from across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hamlets of Hall Beach, Clyde River and Repulse Bay who will all celebrate their 30th anniversary this year.

Hall Beach celebrates their anniversary on April 1 and both Clyde River and Repulse Bay celebrate theirs on July 1.

Mr. Speaker, local government provides a great degree of independence to our communities and provides opportunities for local solutions and input into how things are run and administered. Many members of this legislature, myself included, had their first start in politics as municipal council members and mayors.

This government has been working hard to empower municipalities giving them much more control over local issues and problem solving.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize our municipalities and the excellent job they do governing local affairs. They are true partners with this government in fulfilling our mutual mandates to continue to improve the lives of our residents. And on behalf of all of us here, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say to the Hamlets of Clyde River, Hall Beach and Repulse Bay, Happy Anniversary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 140 – 2(4): Remembering Willy Laserich (Adlair Aviation)

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to the Gallery, everyone. It's nice to see so many people in here today.

Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Health and Social Services I stand in this House today to pay tribute and to recognize the contributions of a friend, a northern pioneer, an individual who believed in the Kitikmeot region and long-term resident, Mr. Willy Laserich, who recently passed away on November 12, 2007 at the age of 75.

I first met Willy when I was a week old when he flew me to Thom Bay. My first real memory of him and his family was when we lived in Kugaaruk. Like many people in the Kitikmeot I grew up watching him flying and working in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, Willy had been flying in the North for over 40 years, and has made a tremendous contribution to the Kitikmeot, both through his business and personal interests. During his career he flew over 2,000 medivacs within the Kitikmeot region alone, not to mention services he provided in the region such as charters, Search & Rescues on behalf of the government, sports hunts, picking up soapstone for local carvers, explorations and personal community services such as the famous balloon drops in his home town of Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, what stands out to me in the earlier years is when things were not going well, and Mr. Speaker, this makes me proud to be from the Kitikmeot, is that the people in the communities stood behind him and voiced their support for him and supported his efforts to operate an airline business in the region.

I have not seen one person – a businessman – in the region since, who has captured the hearts of us all, to have single-handedly earned the respect and support of so many.

Mr. Speaker, Willy earned our respect and people knew he was just a genuinely kind person. To many people in the region he was like family, he is a friend, he is our hero and he was a real Kitikmeot pioneer. This is how we will forever remember Willy. People always came first to him.

Willy's departure was sudden, but his laughter, his sense of humor and his passion for flying and for life will be greatly missed by us all. I doubt very much that we will come across another businessman like Willy who truly captured the spirit of the Kitikmeot people and who means so much to so many.

Mr. Speaker, once again I would like to send my sincerest condolences to the Laserich family and to thank them on behalf of the Government of Nunavut for their contribution to the Kitikmeot and to thank them, Mr. Speaker, for their ongoing support in the delivery of essential health services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 141 – 2(4): 2008 Laura Gauthier Scholarship Winner (Picco)

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to inform the House that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has awarded the 2008 Laura Gauthier Post-Secondary Scholarship to Joanne Kailek of Taloyoak who is studying for her Human Services Diploma at the Kitikmeot campus of Nunavut Arctic College in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, this year, Joanne's application stood out among many great entries that were received. Mr. Speaker, Ms. Kailek is doing incredibly well in her program, is supporting a family and has a positive and active approach to reaching her goals. In the future, Mr. Speaker, she is looking for a position in advancing community justice, after she has completed her schooling.

Mr. Speaker, Qulliq Energy Corporation has been awarding this \$5,000 scholarship annually in memory of Laura Gauthier, since 2001, the year that Laura died. Mr. Speaker, applicants must submit an essay as well as supporting documents, in the form of official transcripts, letters of recommendation, and a resume. Mr. Speaker, the review committee decides on a recipient based on the following five criteria: academic performance, career goals, role model qualities, and volunteer and leadership contributions.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Joanne, as well as the other students who applied. I would also ask the House to join me in congratulating her and remembering the good work of Laura Gauthier and Laura's contributions to Nunavut, the Power Corporation, and her community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements**Member's Statement 321 – 2(4): Polar Bear Season Open in Sanikiluaq**

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a conference going on in the community of Sanikiluaq, so I would like to welcome the delegates from Nunavik. The Avataq Inuit Cultural Institute is meeting in Sanikiluaq this week and I would like to welcome them to the community of Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, the issue I want to raise is with regard to polar bear management. One of my colleagues has been requesting support with regards to polar bear management. It's been over a week since we've been dealing with polar bear management.

The polar bear harvesting season opened yesterday, and they harvested six polar bears yesterday. Al Gore, I would like him to go see them because there are many polar bears there now and he says that polar bears are stuck on the ice but I tell you the polar bears I know can walk through the ice, they can swim through the ocean, they can go anywhere literally.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that polar bears are not endangered in Nunavut. These individuals who say that polar bears are endangered have never gone to the North, have never seen the polar bears, and they say that they're threatened or at risk. Yesterday, when the polar bear harvesting season opened, they harvested six polar bears in one day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 322 – 2(4): Management of Narwhal Harvesting and Marine Matters

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to again express my concerns regarding responsibility for marine matters.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, I rose in the House in March of last year to address the issue of responsibility for the health of the marine environment.

Mr. Speaker, there is a feeling of frustration in the community of Arviat on the issue of responsibility for marine issues, including the harvesting of narwhal.

Mr. Speaker, although I recognize that the territorial government does not have the primary responsibility for marine issues, this is not always very clear to ordinary Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, the allocation of narwhal tags is an issue of great frustration for the community of Arviat. I recognize that this is the responsibility of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. I recognize that they have established a Narwhal Working Group.

However, I believe that our government and NTI's new Wildlife Secretariat also have a role to play in working together to ensure that communities and HTOs have clear information to assist them in applying for tags.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that all parties will work together to ensure that communities do not feel excluded.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions with regards to this at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 323 – 2(4): 6th Day of Emergency Situation at Rankin Inlet

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to state that just recently this weekend, on Saturday, my colleague for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove and I went to Whale Cove to visit our constituency and to find out what their views are. They are very patient and these individuals were maintenance people who have been working on 30 homes, but I had heard this morning that there are only three homes that need to be fixed, so everything is starting to come back to normal.

I also would like to acknowledge the individuals who have been working on emergencies for six days now and today is the sixth day since they declared a state of emergency. I'm not too sure if they're going to extend the emergency state to tomorrow because the hockey players and the people who are going to play sports have to be deferred.

We are very appreciative that more homes are being fixed but there are quite a few homes that have been frozen. My colleague and I had visited the communities but there was a home that was frozen couple times. I'm sure there are going to be some concerns raised because part of the utilidor system is still freezing and busting up because there was no operational power available daily, so we'll get the details.

I would like to thank the people who have been working in Iqaluit and also the Emergency Coordinator, Mr. Ed Zebedee, went to Rankin Inlet and he was very supportive and helpful, and Mr. Speaker, the people who were affected have been keeping us informed of what has been happening.

Mr. Speaker, I want to raise the issue of airlines not coming in on schedule, so I believe the scheduling of flights has to be resolved.

I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. The military aircraft were made available from Winnipeg, and the parts that we were ordering were very heavy and they could not even be loaded into commercial airplanes but they had to be taken to the airport because they had to dismantle parts of the engines so that they could be sent to the community.

I would like to look into why they didn't get a larger airplane right away and the way they coordinated the airlines and the weather. The weather is getting bad in Rankin Inlet; visibility is less than a quarter of a mile and the weather is getting even worse.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, we know that the community of Rankin Inlet was very patient, especially the elders whom Levinia and I visited, and the Mayor of Rankin Inlet is working very hard, and they continue to take part in emergency meetings.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to express my gratitude for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 324 – 2(4): State of Emergency at Rankin Inlet

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I don't know how your receivers are working but mine is breaking up.

I rise today to state that, first of all, we have to be approachable and receptive as elected people. It's my brother's birthday today, Kiviuq Norman Ford, Jr., have a great day. Yesterday, Martha Hickes, whom I didn't mention yesterday, although I tried to go through the local radio station but couldn't get through, I send my greetings to you today.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. Curley, mentioned it and I thank him for making that statement. Yes, we just visited Rankin Inlet. They still don't have full power in Rankin Inlet but I believe they will have full power some time soon. I saw many people while visiting the community.

As the Minister for Community and Government Services, I sat in emergency meetings along with Mr. Curley. We also had a meeting this morning with the Minister of Energy and also the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Minister Netser, and his staff.

We still have some concerns and we've heard that the weather is getting worse in Rankin Inlet. I hope that all the parts they need to repair their equipment make it over there because sometimes we cannot get into Rankin Inlet due to bad weather.

I want the residents of Rankin Inlet to know that the Government of Nunavut is providing help, and they are also providing help to the local business people too, and also to the private homes that are frozen. Public housing is being maintained by the housing association.

Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

I would like to thank all of the people of Rankin Inlet for being very patient. They understand very well and they also discipline their children to listen.

Mr. Speaker, when I got to that community, during the evening I saw the whole community still dark. The power is not at 100 percent capacity yet. Dishes were piling up and I tried to run the hot water tap but there was no hot water because we tried to listen to the advisory. If possible, this coming weekend, I would like to go visit the community of Rankin Inlet if the weather is good.

I would also like to thank the elders because I was given advice: during the state of emergency, it will be dealt with properly by the ones responsible for them. We do have someone who will be working on that and the elders advised us to be patient and listen carefully.

The majority of the statements that I wanted to make were already made by my colleague and I thank him for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 325 – 2(4): Lack of Mental Health Workers

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about mental health workers. In Nunavut today, we lack mental health workers and they are overworked. I thank the elders and the caregivers in the communities, especially in the smaller communities because they are able to provide help even though our mental health workers are not in our community.

Mr. Speaker, we need to provide assistance and help to our youth, and to resolve their situation before it gets worse. The mental health worker visits the communities that I represent only periodically. One of my constituencies definitely will require a visit from the mental health worker within this week. Not only do they have to provide services to the young people but also to the adults in the community. This issue is very difficult to deal with, especially when you don't have a mental health worker in the communities.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services questions with regards to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 326 – 2(4): Iqaluit Curling Furspiel

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of CLEY mentioned in his Minister's Statement, the 2008 Arctic Winter Games are almost here and I am very pleased to rise today and inform the House of recent excitement on the curling ice here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, as you may be aware, Nunavut is sending two junior curling teams to the upcoming Arctic Winter Games and we wish them every success.

This past weekend, the Iqaluit Curling Club held one of its annual open events, called the "Furspiel."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the hard work that the event's organizers put into the event and I would like to pay tribute to the generosity of the businesses and individuals that helped sponsor the event. These include: First Air, Squeeky Clean, Sikitu Sales, Baffin Gas Bar, the Frobisher Inn, the Nova Inn and Mr. Tim Neily.

Mr. Speaker, some rocks thundered down and some rolled down the ice this past weekend and a good time was had by all participants. I'll go over the results of the Bonspiel this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, the winners of the bonspiel, the A Event, was Saddleberg Rink, consisting of Ed Saddleberg, Beth Gregory, Greg Walsh, and Steve Sharp.

The runner up in the A Event was the Neily Rink, consisting of Tim Neily, Peter Geikie, Denise Hutchings, and Jotanie Davidee.

The winner of the B Event was the Kingdon Rink, consisting of Wade Kingdon, Greg Howard, Greg Kinloch, and Crystal Qaumariaq.

And, Mr. Speaker, the runner up in the B Event that didn't get anything other than being dubbed the runner up for the B Event was my rink, and I would like to thank the curlers that curled with me: Ms. Eva Arreak, Irene Tagoona, and Mr. Ed North, and we all had a great time.

Mr. Speaker, the junior teams that are heading to the Arctic Winter Games include Teresa Tufts, Carrielle Mackey, Sarah Tufts, and Stephanie Matthews for the ladies, and for the young men is George Mackay, Ryan Geikie, Louis Mackay, and Keegan Mackey.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, these junior teams were the big winners in almost everybody's eyes at the bonspiel this weekend. Everyone was very impressed and every opponent that they played was also very worried at the calibre of play that they exhibited and performed over the weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not update the House on the results of the skills competitions. The five finalists in the Skills Competition were Wade Kingdon, Ed Saddleberg, Ed North, Teresa Tufts, and I.

Mr. Speaker, the third place finisher in the Skills Competition was Wade Kingdon, the second place winner in the Skills Competition was Mr. Ed Saddleborg, and Mr. Speaker, the first place was an individual that you know all too well, it's none other than myself, and I can say that luck had a lot to do with it; it pays to go last sometimes.

Mr. Speaker, I can inform the House that I look forward to the opportunity some day to organizing a Legislative Assembly Bonspiel where Members of both sides of the House can throw granite at each other.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Speaker, the Iqaluit Curling Club helps contribute to a healthy community, and I ask all members to join me in wishing good luck to our Arctic Winter Games participants and also thanks to all participants of the Furspiel this weekend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 327 – 2(4): Metal Waste Dump

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House about a serious problem in Cambridge Bay that grows larger by the month.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a problem that is isolated to Cambridge Bay. I suspect that it is the same in every Nunavut community.

Mr. Speaker, our growing problem is the metal waste dump.

The metal waste dump has been in its present location for many decades. Indeed, a visit to the metal waste dump is like a trip down memory lane. You can see vehicles from the early 1960s sticking out from under the carcass of the high school that burned down in 1998.

Mr. Speaker, there are used propane tanks, batteries, washing machines, refrigerators, fuel barrels, tires, computers, and countless other items in the metal waste dump. There could be accumulated petroleum waste products, PCBs, and other dangerous chemicals that pose serious health and environmental issues for the community. Imagine the disaster if the dump caught fire.

Mr. Speaker, years ago the hamlet and the Government of the Northwest Territories' solution to deal with the accumulation in the metal waste dump was to construct a gravel berm wall around the dump so passers-by would not be bothered by the mess from the road.

However, the metal waste is now piled three to four metres above the top of the berm in some areas. The out-of-sight, out-of-mind logic did not address the underlying problem of how to properly dispose of metal waste in Arctic communities.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that we can continue to ignore the metal waste and other items that are accumulating in Cambridge Bay and other Nunavut communities. The problem will continue to grow for future generations and hamlets unless senior levels of governments work with communities to find a satisfactory solution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Government of Nunavut to take this issue seriously and work with hamlets and the Canadian Government to find an adequate solution to disposing of metal waste in Arctic communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 328 – 2(4): Hamlet of Clyde River's 30th Anniversary

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud about an issue that was brought up by the Minister of Community Government and Services. It was in 1978 that we became a hamlet, when I was just a young man and I used to work there.

At this time, I have two daughters who are hamlet councillors, of which I am very proud of. Even though it's hard at times and even though there are times when we need help, I am very pleased that the hamlets have stabilized to date.

On July 1, we will have a celebration in the Hamlet of Clyde River, and again, we urge the government to give full support to their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 329 – 2(4): Iqaluit Speed Skating Athletes

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To be successful at the local, the regional, the territorial, or even at the national level, athletes need, first of all and foremost, good coaching and a lot of practice. Our speed skaters, Mr. Speaker, are a good example.

This past Saturday in Peterborough, Ontario, four skaters from the Iqaluit Speed Skating Club participated in the Eastern Ontario Regional Ability Speed Skating Competition. They were a small team, Mr. Speaker, but they got big results. In a field of approximately 100 skaters, the Nunavut skaters did very well.

Halina Crowley and Aloka Wijesooriya posted personal best times, while Alashua Crowley won a bronze medal, and my young constituent, seven year old Yiliya Clay, brought home the gold.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, the good news doesn't stop there with our speed skaters. Iqaluit's own Sarah Ali, who was a page here last week in the Legislative Assembly, had had her video on Canada's best speed skating story moved into the semi-final nationally on voting online at www.ingspeedskatingchallenge.com.

Mr. Speaker, we look forward to our speed skaters doing very well in the upcoming Arctic Winter Games in Yellowknife. And, Mr. Speaker, I think it's very important to point out that all of these young speed skaters are coached by volunteers; that people have put in a lot of their own time and effort after hours.

In Peterborough, the competition with over 100 skaters from all over Eastern Ontario, acknowledged and said that our speed skaters were probably some of the best trained at the competition. So that's a big applause and a big kudos to our coaches. 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. Mr. Premier

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome everyone here and I would also like to recognize the representatives of Canada.

First, (interpretation ends) Her Excellency Alexandra Volkoff, Ambassador to Sweden. (interpretation) Welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) Her Excellency Jillian Stirk, Ambassador to Norway. (interpretation) Welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) Her Excellency Anna Blauveltdt, Ambassador to Iceland. (interpretation) Welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) Her Excellency Fredericka Gregory, Ambassador to Denmark. (interpretation) Welcome to the Gallery also.

>>Applause

Again, behind me, (interpretation ends) His Excellency Scott Frasier, Ambassador to Finland. (interpretation) Welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

His Excellency Ralph Lysyshyn, Ambassador to Russia. (interpretation) Welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

And again, (interpretation ends) Counsellor for the Consulate in Anchorage, Karen Matthias. (interpretation) Welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

Please feel welcome to our Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to stand up today in the House. (interpretation) I would like to recognize the conservation officers from communities in Nunavut. They are down here for training and meetings for the next two weeks. Thursday will be their last day and they'll start going home on Friday, and we hope that they have a safe journey.

Mr. Speaker, I will recognize the conservation officers and their communities. I'm very pleased that 76 percent are Inuit who are working for environment. I'm sure that we will see this number increase as we have been training our conservation officers for the past three years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the following individuals who are here: Tivi Qiatsuk, Cape Dorset; Andrew Nakashuk, Kimmirut; Bruce Jerry Hainnu, Clyde River; (interpretation ends) Teema Palluq, Arctic Bay; Johnny Nowdlak, Iqaluit; (interpretation) Sakiasie Sowdloopik, Pangnirtung; George Koonoo, Pond Inlet; (interpretation ends) Jeffery Qaunaq, Grise Fiord; Andrew Qaunaq, Hall Beach; Collin Adjun, Kugluktuk; Allan Niptanatiak, Kugluktuk; Gerry Atatahak, Field Officer Trainee, Kugluktuk; Joe Ashevak, Taloyoak; Jacob Keanik, Gjoa Haven; Joani Kringayark, Repulse Bay; Peter Kattegatsiak, Chesterfield Inlet; Raymond Mercer, Rankin Inlet; Johanne Coutu-Autut, Rankin Inlet; Rob Harmer, Cambridge Bay; Kimball Nogier, new officer moving to Sanikiluaq; Tommy Akavak, Kimmirut; David Vetra, Igloolik; Russell Brandon, Igloolik; Alden Williams, Iqaluit; Joel Rose, Baker Lake; and Curtis Didham, Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the Regional Managers of Wildlife and the Director of Wildlife: Seeglook Akeegok, Regional Manger for Baffin; Dan Shewchuk, Regional Manager for Kivalliq; Shane Sather, Acting Regional Manager for Kitikmeot; and Dustin Fredlund, Acting Director of Wildlife. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise today to recognize our visitor to the Gallery. First of all, he has been a leader and I worked with him when we were trying to form the organization; he is Celestino Makpah from Rankin Inlet.

>>Applause

He was a long-term employee with the Northwest Territories and he knows all about power plants. He is here with his wife, whom I'm very proud of and I may be related to her father; Blandina Makpah. Welcome.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, they are my neighbours in Rankin Inlet and they are relatives. A lot of relatives are working for the government. At this time, I would also like to recognize representatives from Canadian North, Tracy Medve, if you could stand up.

>>*Applause*

Kelly Kaylo, the Vice-President of Sales and Marketing. Welcome.

>>*Applause*

Also, Lorraine Bonner, Vice-President of Commercial Planning and Cargo.

>>*Applause*

Also, Christie Sinclair, the Director of Northern Business Development.

>>*Applause*

And, I don't think she needs any introduction, Eva Onalik, welcome.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize today the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated President, Paul Kaludjak. I have known him and his wife for quite a long time. Welcome to the Gallery, Paul.

>>*Applause*

Also, Mr. Speaker, just very briefly, for those people who were recognized previously, I've known them all my life, Makpah and his wife. They are not much older me. I'm catching up to you.

>>*Laughter*

I've known them in Chesterfield Inlet, and they were very nice people. They're all very nice people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit East and Apex, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It does give me great pleasure today to introduce to the Gallery, as you just mentioned a resident of Apex and a colleague of mine; about 20 years ago when he was in Resolute Bay, he was an adult educator there and I was the adult educator in Hall Beach, Mr. Jack Hicks. And, with Jack we have two members of a very important team who's doing the suicide trace back study through the auspices of McGill University and they're travelling to the Kivalliq. I would like to introduce with Mr. Hicks, Isabelle Dingemans as well as Dr. Astrid Soechting, who are with Jack doing this important work.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to note that Kelly Kaylo is in the House today watching the Tournament of Hearts on the TV over the last few days, which brings back memories of Kelly representing us at the national scene during the curling bonspiel, the Tournament of Hearts.

So welcome to the Gallery to all of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome to the Gallery. I would like to welcome the viewers. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 406 – 2(4): Suicide Prevention Implementation Plan

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier, the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, in June 2007, and I think this Friday it will be eight months ago, the government released its Suicide Intervention and Prevention Strategy which called for the establishment of a GN office for suicide intervention.

Can the minister provide an update on his department's office for suicide intervention on whether it is open, fully staffed, and where it is located? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) At this time, our officials are working together and preparing a document to present to Cabinet hopefully in the next little while. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the minister will recall that when his new Suicide Prevention Strategy was announced, some frustration was expressed by other Nunavut organizations that had not been consulted or informed about this latest initiative.

Can the minister explain what steps have been to establish working relationships between the different organizations working on suicide prevention in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It doesn't matter what we do sometimes; sometimes whatever we do, somebody finds a way to criticize it.

So we're trying to find a way to make sure that we have an effective bureaucracy that can respond in a positive way. So we're not looking to pick fights or anything; we're trying to find ways to work together. So that's been our focus and that's why it's taking a little longer than what we would like to see immediately. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. An enlightened message coming from the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, in October of 2007, my colleague from Cambridge Bay addressed the importance of community organizations, frontline workers, as well as youth, elders' and women's groups on how to deal with suicide issues at a local level.

Can the minister provide an update on what has been done to date to communicate with community groups on the Suicide Intervention and Prevention Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I said, we're preparing a document for Cabinet at this time, so it would be premature for me to discuss all of the particulars at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government's Suicide Intervention and Prevention Strategy is available on their website, and the strategy lists six main objectives and sets timelines for the implementation.

Can the minister confirm that there is actually an implementation plan for the strategy, and if so, when will he commit to tabling a copy here in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I said, we're working on it. We're going to get it to Cabinet and then we will release it at that time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 407 – 2(4): Problems with Proposed Education Act

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago next month, I had the honour of presenting a report to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories titled *Learning, Tradition and Change*. This comprehensive report was prepared by the Special Committee on Education that I co-chaired. It contained many valuable recommendations for education reform.

Mr. Speaker, a quarter of a century has now passed and we are still trying to establish an education system that truly meets our needs.

My first question for the minister is this: when he drafted Bill 21, did he really think that the public and the Members of this House would not notice that his proposed legislation actually keeps all real decision making powers in the hands of the minister, rather than devolving them to locally elected authorities – yes or no? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. The new *Education Act*, Bill 21, for the first time ever, puts more responsibility to our local District Education Authorities in the areas of policy development, as well as the administration for principals and school activities. There is also the commitment in the Act to set up a

DEA Coalition, fund the DEA Coalition, give them administrative, give them logistic, and give them financial support to be able to bring forward policy issues around education, local controls, curriculum resources and so on.

So the answer to the member is a resounding yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I read it from the front to the end and I omitted to go read that section. Maybe I don't understand it anymore.

For that reason, I would like to tell the minister that it's important to be candid with Members of this House about the government's own position. Can the minister answer a simple question: if his bill is so perfect, then why are so many organizations, such as NTI and the DEA Coalition, and individuals not pleased with Bill 21?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We could debate the bill right here and right now if the member would like. Question Period is usually to ask specific questions on the bill. If the member chooses not to like the bill, then so be it.

The response that we've had from letters, faxes, emails, phone calls; last Friday we had the deputy minister participate in a radio phone-in show, and again, overwhelmingly, people are, I would say right now, 90 percent behind the bill. It will put over \$14 million of new money into education in Nunavut.

There are two concerns with the regional Inuit organizations and NTI. First and foremost, they would like for us to bring back regional education boards because they suggest it gives more control to the community. We do not agree with that. We're saying give more control where education should be and that's at local control with the local DEA. Give the DEA more control. A stronger DEA means stronger education.

Where would having one member from Rankin Inlet, one member from Whale Cove, one member from Baker Lake on a regional board give Whale Cove or Rankin Inlet more power on education for that region? Wouldn't it be better to take the resources, the infrastructure, financial resources and give it to the local DEA?

So under this legislation, Mr. Speaker, the legislation is what we would call permissible. The DEA has an opportunity to write the minister and say, "Minister, we would like to do all of the hiring." So I would suggest to you that I would write back to the local DEA if it was Whale Cove or Rankin Inlet, and say, "Okay, do you have the HR resources in place to do it and the administrative, the logistic, and the financial resources to take on what you want? If you do, then the legislation would allow that." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the DEAs throughout Nunavut have read the *Education Act* but they still have to question why DEAs should be responsible for schools under the new *Education Act* because they certainly have read the same document and concluded just as I do: they have not been given new powers as the minister says he has. They couldn't even hire a janitor for all it's worth.

Mr. Speaker, I have actually read every page and every clause of Bill 21, and I am deeply disappointed at what has been presented. Although DEAs have been assigned new responsibilities, the final authority in the legislation is to approve their decisions remains with the minister. Can he give me one specific example of how Bill 21 will result in the minister relinquishing any of his current powers and giving true decision making authority to locally elected DEAs? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is raising good questions and I want to be able to articulate and give him good answers, but I know we're confronted by timelines in the House answering questions and we've got to keep our answers short.

So let me say this very quickly to answer the members' question; under the new Act, we are proposing that DEAs have control over the budgets, the programs, the language of instruction, and cultural activities in the school. We're proposing that they take over the school calendar, staff hiring in conjunction, of course, with the manager, who would be the principal, and policies; that's student conducts, storm closures, all of those responsibilities.

What we are suggesting is that the check and balance of any Act has to be a check and balance. So let the DEA in Apex decide that they would like to introduce Japanese as a second language, for example, and they want to move moneys towards that field because they're in Apex and they have their local education authority and they can do that, who is able to come back in and say maybe you shouldn't use your resources for Japanese, maybe it should be for Inuktitut.

There has to be a check and balance in any legislation. In this case the minister would have to check and balance. In this case, it would be me; it could be you in the next term, or anyone in this House, or any person who is elected. You have to be able to provide a check and a balance; that's what the legislation does.

I have met with every DEA across Nunavut, I have met with the DEA Association, I have met with every school principle and there are Members in this House that have actually gone out and done work on consultations, including Mr. Arvaluk here, I can tell you that the resounding feeling of Nunavummiut is one of positivity towards this Act.

There are the two concerns – the DEA powers, we just talked about that, and bringing back regional boards, which we do not see as being needful because of the explanations we've just given.

So, hopefully, that helps answer the member's question in the little timeframe we're allowed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I read every page and every clause of the Act, and I do not see any decentralized authority being devolved into DEAs whatsoever; not a clause. It's most centralized authority and I have always stated to the minister that there's only one school board in Nunavut and that is with the minister. Our locals will not be able to do anything because members of their staff are not part of the Public Service Union.

Mr. Speaker, five years ago, I watched at the government's first attempt to introduce a new *Education Act* went down in flames. It appears to me that we are heading in the same direction. Will the minister commit now to withdraw Bill 21 and go back to the drawing board until he can bring forward a bill that is satisfactory with the Nunavummiut and actually give some powers and authority to run programs that the minister says he is giving them? It should be clear in the Act. Why not? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Questions in the House are not supposed to lead to debate, so I'm supposed to be answering questions asked of me. So I can say, Mr. Speaker, I know Mr. Curley has said now three times he's read the Act, page-to-page, and Mr. Speaker, this minister has had announced the bill and had an opportunity probably to read each page more than once too, and I have. As the member knows, like most members here, I think I take my job seriously and I read it.

What we're trying to do in the new *Education Act*, Mr. Speaker, and his question was, "Will the minister withdraw the Act?" No, the minister will not withdraw the Act. The member would like me to take \$14 million from education; we're not going to do that. This Act would put \$14 million more into education and I have proposed, Mr. Speaker, next week, to actually do a workshop with all Members in the House to go through the Act, and maybe at that time, the members would have an opportunity to ask some detailed questions on the bill itself.

This is a good bill for Nunavummiut, and I can tell you from meeting with principals across Nunavut and so on, they are excited about this bill. It's not perfect, Mr. Speaker, but I think we're 95 percent there, and I would look for members like the member, if you have a serious concern or a suggestion on the Act, then bring that forward in writing because you have that opportunity.

The standing committee has the bill right now and they can take that back out to the public and they can suggest amendments to the minister and the minister would entertain those suggestions, Mr. Speaker. That's our process. I will not withdraw the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Members, I will remind you right now, regardless of how heartfelt some issues may be that you discuss in this House, there is a process for Question Period/Answer Period, and we will stick to those guidelines.

The other issues that you have to deal with everyday are time pressing issues but I know that you guys know where those pressing issues ought to be, not during Question Period, please.

Question Period. (interpretation) Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Question 408 – 2(4): QEC Contingency Plans

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

Mr. Speaker, on November 30, 2004, the minister indicated in a response to a Written Question asked by a Member of this House, and I quote, "QEC has prepared emergency plans for all 25 communities that address contingencies in the event of major interruptions of power for extended periods of time."

My question for the minister: will the minister commit to tabling updated copies of these plans in the House, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my colleagues I apologize if my answers were taking too long earlier. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Quick learner.

>>*Laughter*

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll use the minister's time to ask this question.

Mr. Speaker, during our last sitting in the fall of 2007, the Legislative Assembly passed Bill 12, the new *Emergency Measures Act*. I'm the co-chair of the standing committee that scrutinized the bill. As the minister will recall, during the committee's report to the

House on this bill, we noted for the public record, and I quote, “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.”

My question for the minister: can the minister indicate to me, in detail, what discussions QEC officials have had with the emergency management staff in the Department of Community and Government Services on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I note that the member said “detail,” and I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, the best detail I can give is this: over the last several days, as part of the Emergency Working Group, the Power Corporation, as an example, in Rankin Inlet, were being coordinated on a daily basis for briefings with the EMO, the Minister for CGS, myself as Minister of Power, and the senior executive. That is ongoing and continues with the development of an Emergency Measures Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. It certainly appears that QEC officials are on top of the situation and the hamlet is involved, which is good. I hope that it wasn't a learn-by-experience type of situation.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell the House whether QEC has sufficient capital funds to ensure that generators in communities are regularly replaced when necessary, and if the QEC lacks funds, will it seek to raise power rates or will the Government of Nunavut provide direct funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, the capital plan for the Power Corporation, as a corporate entity, is voted on first and foremost by the Board of Governors and then it comes to the minister for sign off.

If there is a need for extra funds, the Power Corporation has the opportunity to come to the government if needed. It can also go to the private market place to borrow money to finance a capital plan if needed, and any type of cost to the Power Corporation, at some point, could be included on a GRA but that is not anticipated at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. As the minister knows, Cambridge Bay is no stranger to disaster. We lost our high school to fire some years ago, and that was a nightmare for us then. A nightmare for us in our community would be the total destruction of our power plant.

My question for the minister: will the minister commit to directing QEC senior officials to meet with the hamlet council and brief them personally on the contingency plans for Cambridge Bay, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would suggest that if the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay would like a briefing, then all they have to do is invite the Power Corporation staff and I'm sure that we would be able to facilitate that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Question 409 – 2(4): Management of Narwhal Harvesting and Marine Matters

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my Member's Statement, the management and regulation of harvesting in Nunavut can be very complex, especially when the issue is marine mammals.

I recognize that the GN does not allocate tags for narwhals, but can the minister indicate to me how his department works with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and NTI's new Inuit Wildlife Secretariat to ensure that communities and HTOs are clearly aware of the process to apply for narwhal tags? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are not really involved with the marine mammals. We will be able to get clarification as to what's happening with the DFO. Our staff and officials probably hear of these concerns and the NWMB as well. They are informed of any issues related to wildlife and particularly on marine mammals. The government, more or less, listens to the concerns of the people but we need to get more clarification and work more closely with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are a part of the Nunavut Land Claims.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement provides for the establishment of a Nunavut Marine Council. However, there have been disputes over which level of government is responsible for funding it. Can the minister update the House today on the status of this issue and indicate what involvement the GN plans to have with this group? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Government also appoints people to the NWMB. To date, we have been working on this issue, and also, we consult with each other to make sure that all of the information is provided and also to discuss our partnership with the management of wildlife.

The federal government has the jurisdiction over marine mammals and they also nominate an individual to the NWMB. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) In 2004, the federal Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada designated the narwhal as being a species of “special concern.” However, it is not endangered. Is the minister aware of whether the status of the narwhal has changed since then? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date, in my briefing notes, I have no idea what’s been happening with it, but I will ask my officials what the status is with the narwhal and whether they’re under special concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems like nobody seems to know us anymore. We are from Nunavut and the Nunavut beneficiaries also move to another community, especially when they are elders, they move.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a system of community-based management is supposed to govern the harvesting of narwhal. From his department's perspective, is this system working well? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister of Environment, Minister Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you. When the federal government works closely with the communities and the NWMB, these issues move very successfully. The federal government also has seats on NWMB and is involved with its affairs. When the communities are closely involved, the community-based management is successful in the communities.

Wildlife is managed mostly by community-based management, rather than the quota system, and this works well. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Question 410 – 2(4): Remediation of Old Power Plant at Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's finally my turn. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Energy.

We now have a new power plant in Baker Lake. I'm very pleased but the power outages are frequent. The old power plant is still up and it's not being used for quite some time. I would like to hear what kind of plans they have, or whether they will be making a replacement for that old power plant. Thank you.

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

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

Just very quickly, there is a remediation plan in place for the old plant site in Baker Lake. There are also some issues in Baker Lake where the former Northwest Territories Power Corporation, and indeed, the old NCPC, the Northern Canada Power Commission, there were some fuel leakages over time in the community. There are some issues environmentally with that issue and those are also being addressed.

So I can say and affirm to the member that there are remediation plans in place and ongoing, which would include the old plant site itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the issue of oil leakage which had seeped down, they say that the seepage is reaching the ocean and the lake. Just last summer, they just started cleaning up that area. Have you heard the status of the remediation of that old site? What's the status of it now? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. There has been a serious situation regarding the leaching of oil from above, and when I say above, I mean at the higher inclines of the community of Baker Lake toward the actual Baker Lake itself.

This has been known for quite sometime. There has been work going on between the Power Corporation in conjunction with the hamlet, as well as the Department of Environment, to look at how we can mitigate and remediate that site and end that leaching into or towards Baker Lake itself. Again, that process is ongoing and work will continue this summer.

As well, we need to be able to involve the federal government because we believe there's some liability from the Northern Canada Power Commission when the NTPC wasn't in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue that you just raised, the higher level site where the oil is leaching and it's seeping all the way down to Baker Lake, what about the site where the oil tanks were, when will they start cleaning up the site? If he can tell us that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we're talking about the issue of remediation in Baker Lake with the oil leakage, the oil leakage is not solely from where the plant was. There have been some historic leaks in the community itself and that's what we're trying to ascertain in the remediation, but it also has to go to who would be paying for that if we can identify where those leaks were.

We do know that there is some issue with the old plant from the Northern Canada Power Commission, but we also know that there were historic leaks of oil with storage tanks and so on in Baker and we believe that is the majority of what we're seeing leaching through the soil in the region. That remediation work will be continuing this summer and we have been in constant contact with the hamlet to update them, and that will continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He did not respond to the first question and I will be asking my question in English.

(interpretation ends) Is the minister aware of when the demolition of the old power plant is scheduled for? Would that work start this summer so we can get it out of the way? Is he aware of when that demolition will be? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was my understanding that we would be looking at work around remediation of that site and that plant this coming summer, and that would be the summer of 2008. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 411 – 2(4): Polar Bear Surveys in Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

Yesterday, I asked questions to the minister about the status of polar bear surveys in Sanikiluaq. The minister informed me that the Ontario Government has conducted a population survey and that there are plans to start a new survey in the Belcher Islands.

Can the minister indicate to me today when he expects to receive the final report from the Ontario Government and can he clarify whether the Ontario Government survey included an *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* component? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date, I don't know when they will be providing us their final report. Also, once we get their final report, we'll have a better idea of whether they have incorporated *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the minister told me that he wants to start a survey that will include the Belcher Islands. Can the minister clarify when this survey will begin and indicate how the local HTO in Sanikiluaq will be involved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When our government starting taking on the responsibility of polar bear management, we said we would also include the communities during the surveys of polar bears.

We stated that the HTOs and the members of the communities would be involved with how they should be doing their surveys and when the best time would be to do the surveys. So we will be requesting support of the communities prior to the surveys and we will also involve the communities prior to the surveys being conducted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. The business plan for the minister's department indicates that the government is working to "finalize polar bear co-management agreements with other jurisdictions." Can the minister update the House today on the status of discussions with the Governments of Ontario and Quebec? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. To date, we are still having discussions with those governments prior to the finalization of polar bear co-management agreements, especially for the communities that are going to be impacted. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate to me today when the Sanikiluaq HTO will be informed whether or not it can receive an increase in the number of polar bears that it can harvest? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be working with the HTOs as I stated before. We will have to wait until the three-year survey research has been completed to see whether or not they will increase the polar bear quota. Therefore, I cannot respond to you whether or not they will increase or decrease. Thank you.

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

Question 412 – 2(4): Mental Health Workers and Psychiatrists

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following what I stated in my Member's Statement, I wanted to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services questions. How many mental health workers are there in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information before me, but what I can say is that mental health services are provided through psychiatric nurses with psychiatrists that are visiting, as well as mental health workers. The exact distribution of those PYs within the Nunavut communities, I would have to get back to the member on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I know, there are very few mental health workers. We have regional offices; there are some who are responsible for the High Arctic communities and some who are responsible for Baffin Centre and Baffin South. There is also the Keewatin and the Kitikmeot. How many times do these psychiatric teams visit the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The complete breakdown of those visiting psychiatrists, I have to get that information to the member. The specialists do come in to various regions – to Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, as well as the Baffin. The majority of those travel schedules are determined based on client needs and whether, in fact, there are patients in those communities that require that specialist to arrive and to visit. So that's for the specialist part.

In some communities, there are resident psychiatric nurses, such as in Grise Fiord, there's a nurse in charge with a very strong psychiatric background and provides that service. In other communities, that's also available.

In terms of the breakdown by community, I would have to get back to the member as I stated earlier in my response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that there are some mental health workers in the communities but they have a lot of responsibilities dealing with the people who are sick, and so on. In the community of Grise Fiord, there is a requirement to have a mental health worker go up there to do some assessment work. Is it possible for the mental health worker to go up to Grise Fiord this week? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have mentioned this earlier in my response that the resident nurse in charge also has a very strong background in... she's a psychiatric nurse. From what I understand based on information that I received from that office, they would be sending additional support to assist her in the community this week. At the same time, the specialist will be arriving March 3 to the community to also provide further support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 413 – 2(4): Addressing Housing Issues

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a brief question to the Minister of Housing Corporation. There are a lot of things that we have to be thankful to the minister for, especially with the state of local emergency in Rankin Inlet.

I want to start my preamble by saying we, as members, often ask when the ministers would hold community meetings with local businesses and organizations. We would also like to welcome an individual who wrote a letter to me from the Local Housing Authority. At this time, they are doing the project management of the units that are being repaired in Rankin Inlet but they didn't get any additional monies.

Last week at the meeting, before the state of local emergency, the chairman told me that he had wrote me a letter, but he was told by the Housing Corporation not to write letters to me as the MLA. This appears to interfere with his charter of rights. Is it possible for the minister to tell the people from Housing Corporation that there is a need for communications as it might create a problem? Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you very much for that question. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, if we don't receive any correspondence from our constituents, we won't be able to do our work or represent our communities properly. I will look into the issue definitely and get back to the member. Thank you.

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

Question 414 – 2(4): Double Answer on Study of Polar Bears

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. Maybe just to remind him that I made a statement yesterday about the teleconference we had with Hunters and Trappers Organization in Sanikiluaq. We were told that Mr. Akesuk and I were responsible for polar bears. You stated that when the study is completed in 2008, the government would decide whether there would be a decrease or an increase in the polar bear quota.

You stated earlier on that after three years, you would decide whether there was going to be a decrease or an increase in the polar bear quota. So what does that mean? The study has been completed and you stated earlier on that you would decide then, and then just a few minutes ago, you said three years. So which is it that you're going to be using? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. To remind the members, please do not be pointing fingers and use the word "you," but instead use the word "minister." Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Ontario Government was the ones who were doing that but they weren't able to go down to the Belcher Islands as they were focusing their study more in Ontario.

We wanted to include the communities in the course of the study and we will also include the Foxe Basin and the Hudson Bay areas. At that time, we will decide whether there is going to be a decrease or an increase in the polar bear quota. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry, but I vividly recall the time the minister stated that he would make a decision to decrease or increase the quota after the study is completed. Is it possible for the minister to go down to Sanikiluaq to talk to the local Hunters and Trappers Organization? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I can't go there, I will be writing them a letter to make sure they get the information. We want to work closely with the community of Sanikiluaq and we'll make sure we do give the community an update. Thank you.

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

Question 415 – 2(4): Update on Nakasuk School Closure

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the question to the Premier, but I guess I'll direct my question to the Minister responsible for Education.

I know, and the minister is well aware too, that during the last little while the Nakasuk School has been closed. I'm just wondering if he could give me and the listening public here an update as to where things are at with Nakasuk School here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take this opportunity, first of all, to thank the staff and students, and indeed, parents for understanding and working with us through this difficult time.

I can say that next week, the school should be complete by next Friday and the school should open the following Monday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, as the minister indicated, would like to commend the DEA and all of the staff, and the parents, for the patience that they've had and being able to continue classes in various locations throughout the city here.

I know when the school was initially closed, Mr. Speaker, it was because of an odour, and I'm just wondering if the minister could update us. I understand it was because of some water damage but could he give us a full update, other than the water damage or mould that was found there, if there were any other concerns that arose during the clean-up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. There was not just one problem at the school; there were several that came about in the course of several weeks.

What occurred basically was there was some water leakage and backup of sewage lines. This resulted in odour in the school. The Workers' Compensation Board was called in to test the air quality and they closed the school under the Workers' Compensation Board rules, and then we had to go in and remediate the situation.

On top of that, I believe it was during Christmas, there was a tap left on in the school and the water ran throughout the school and down underneath the building in the crawlspace.

Mould formed and then that also had to be rectified and remedied. Over 20,000 square feet of carpet, as an example, Mr. Speaker, also had to be replaced. Hopefully that clarified some of the issues that have occurred at the school.

Again, the good news is that all of the work should be finished by next Friday and the school should open the following Monday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just wondering if the minister could inform me and the public who have heard that there were issues with asbestos at the school, if he could indicate that there are any issues dealing with asbestos during the closure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Asbestos used to be used in many houses, public buildings, and commercial buildings right up until the early 70s, until it was learned that it was a carcinogenic material, meaning it could cause cancer. In older buildings, at times you can find asbestos.

In this case, Mr. Speaker, I haven't been aware where asbestos was an issue with the school closing and so on. Anytime that asbestos is found and it would be a concern, for example, for human health, then under regulations and so on, it would have to be removed. This is not what caused the situation at Nakasuk School; the situation at Nakasuk School was an issue with mould and some odours from backed up sewage lines and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to clarify for the minister; I never said that asbestos was the cause for the closure. I'm just wondering if any issues arose as a result of asbestos, or if asbestos was found in there during the clean-up of the school, and if it was found, hopefully, the minister can assure everybody that it was dealt with appropriately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I want to say, and again, I thank the member for giving me the opportunity, I want to make sure that the parents, teachers, and staff at the Nakasuk School can be assured that at the end of this remediation process, that the school has, number one, complied with Workers' Compensation Board rules, of providing that check and balance in the school to make sure and ensure that all of the

remediation for the school has been taken care of. If that is not the case, Mr. Speaker, then the school will not open. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 416 – 2(4): Reimbursement of Medical Expenses

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

Mr. Speaker, last week, I raised the issue of medical patients seeking reimbursement of expenses. I have a constituent who incurred expenses last year to attend a medical appointment in Yellowknife. When she arrived, she learned that she didn't have a medical appointment because it hadn't been made. It's been nine months since she applied for reimbursement from the Non-Insured Health Benefits and she's still waiting for payment.

My question for the minister: how long should my constituent normally have to wait for the paperwork to go through before receiving reimbursement for her medical expenses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we made the medical travel arrangements and so on, reimbursements for travel and so on would be covered by our department.

If a person went on their own and went down to Yellowknife, sought medical treatment and kept their receipts and so on, then that would be processed through the review process. A couple factors would have to be determined; firstly, is it covered under Non-Insured Health Benefits, or is it elective; then that process would have to be followed.

If the person is a current employee of the government, there's also the insurance program that the constituent can file their claims to.

Not knowing about the exact file the member referred to, I just explained the process that can be followed by any person that is seeking to be reimbursed for medical costs or medication that they may have purchased that may be covered under that insurance program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I am assured by my constituent that she was supposed to attend the medical appointment in Yellowknife that was made by the health centre in Cambridge Bay, she was referred there

and there was no appointment, so she's incurred expenses. She's followed all of the practices and policies to put her paperwork in and is still waiting. She's actually been in communication with the people in Rankin Inlet but nothing's happening.

My question for the minister: whom can my constituent appeal to if she doesn't receive a reply or reimbursement for medical expenses after eight or nine months of waiting?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the member would provide the name to me, I will follow-up with my staff and find out where the hold-up is. Again, any person that incurs expenses for Non-Insured Health Benefits, when they're travelling on their own, can keep their receipts and file their application process that way.

We administer out of Rankin Inlet but we also deal with the federal government, which is the non-insured part of the process. There's also the extended piece, the Extended Health Care Benefit Policy that we also administer on behalf of the federal government, then there's also the GN insurance program.

It falls into different categories, so the best way to resolve this issue is to have the member provide the name to me and I will follow-up with my staff in Rankin Inlet as to the status of that file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister and I will follow-up with it.

Mr. Speaker, my constituent's situation raised an interesting dilemma. She actually incurred significant expenses for two trips; one for the trip that she made the initial time and found out that the appointment wasn't made, and then she went on the second trip a month later and incurred expenses for a second trip. So she's shouldering the costs for two trips that she is seeking reimbursement for. She will eventually be reimbursed, I'm sure, but in my mind, there's an unnecessary expense of public funds for one trip that shouldn't have occurred because there was no appointment.

My question for the minister: what is the exact process for arranging appointments for Nunavummiut at the Stanton Hospital in Yellowknife and for making arrangements for the corresponding travel and accommodations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Non-Insured Health Benefits Program that we administer means that a person normally is not covered by any other insurance program.

The person at the community level would be referred by a nurse to a specialist, say in Yellowknife; the travel office would organize the travel; the person would be picked-up at the airport by the boarding home staff; they would stay at the boarding home and be provided meals and per diems.

When you go into your health appointment, just through your healthcare card, there's a number there that also tells you that the billings will go directly to non-insured health programs. This one seems to be outside of that process.

Any medical travel we organize under the Non-Insured Health Benefits, we incur all of the costs. So if a person is a government employee, for instance, we would still make the appointment in Yellowknife and so on. If they're beneficiaries and they fall under the non-insured health programs, then that would also be covered under that.

This seems to be outside those two insurance programs for incurring travel and hotel, and so on, which we normally cover, so the best way to resolve the situation is for the member to give me the name of the person, dates, and receipts of the travel, and I will follow-up with my staff as to why this person is not reimbursed and provide an explanation back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister again. I will follow-up with her. I'm sure there's a perfectly rational and logical explanation for what happened, but it could be happening in many other cases across Nunavut.

My question for the minister: what system does Health and Social Services have in place to ensure that a patient doesn't travel to Yellowknife or Edmonton without an appointment being arranged beforehand, so that when they arrive, there is an appointment if they travel and they can see the doctor or the specialist? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: The system that we have in place in booking appointments is that, first of all, the individual would be seen at the health centre at the community level. If the person requires specialist treatment, or is being medivaced, or requires a specialist, that appointment is made through the health centre with the appropriate service provider in the centres of Yellowknife or Edmonton.

Once those appointments are confirmed within the department, the Travel Officer within the Department of Health organizes the travel, advises the boarding homes, and those arrangements are made.

Once they're at the boarding home, the boarding home staff takes the patient to the appointment and back, and when they're all done, they get back to the airport and travel back home.

That is normally the process that we follow in organizing travel. So the visiting specialist will also then provide the reports to the community that they have seen the patients and so on. So those are the systems we have in place within the department to organize travel for our patients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Members, Question Period is now over. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Finance and CLEY, Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 182 – 2(4): Towards A Representative Public Service Stats as of June 30, 2007

Tabled Document 183 – 2(4): Towards A Representative Public Service Stats as of September 30, 2007

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the Inuit Employment Statistics for the period ending June 30, 2007, and the other one ending September 30, 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Please bring the documents forward.

Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 15: Notices of Motions

Motion 026 – 2(4): Extension of Review Period for Bills 6 & 7 – Notice

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give that on Thursday, February 28, 2008, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Uqqummiut, that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bill 6 and Bill 7 back to the House be extended by a further 120 days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Motion 027 – 2(4): Acceptance of the Report of the Integrity Commissioner
Regarding David Simailak – Notice**

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice, like my colleague, that on Thursday, February 28, 2008, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik, that the report and recommendations of the Integrity Commissioner be accepted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 16: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act – Notice

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Thursday, February 28, 2008, that Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act*, be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 23, 24, and 25. Before we proceed to Committee of the Whole with Mr. Arreak as Chairman, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:36 and Committee resumed at 16:03*

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Arreak): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 23, 24, and 25. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Mr. Chairman, we would like to commence with the review of Bill 23 and the Main Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services, and if time permits, Executive and Governmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Are we in agreement we continue with the Main Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 23 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2008-2009 –
Consideration in Committee – Health & Social Services**

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Yes, I do. Thank you.

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 in.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Alex Campbell, the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, and to my right is Raj Downe, the Assistant Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation ends) We're on page H-5. Branch Summary of Health and Social Services. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials. On page H-5, it's obvious now since the minister and I had to deal with a matter that the minister is trying to assist our social worker in Resolute Bay. This has been an ongoing issue for the children that are apprehended by social services and sent out of the community. The elders and the grandparents of the children were not even informed or asked if the children could be taken out of the community.

In your business plan on page H-11, it states that "approximately 298 children are in care both within and outside of Nunavut as of September 2007." My question is: how do you deal with children who have been apprehended by social services in the communities in your department? Are you using Inuit culture and traditional ways as a foundation in dealing with these issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going back to the business plan in terms of where he referenced the numbers. If the member is speaking to the children that are apprehended under the child welfare legislation, the child welfare legislation is administered by our social workers in the communities.

Based on the assessments of each scenario and situation, sometimes children are apprehended and placed in foster care in the communities or outside the communities, but again, that's based on each case and each assessment of the social worker under the child welfare legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just recently, perhaps within two weeks, there was a news release that the federal government was concerned that there were two Innu foster parents that the children are taken from who had originally been apprehended. Apparently, in that community, most of the children are just walking on the streets. I forgot the name of the community but it's a community that had to be moved to another location.

Is the Nunavut Government following the policies and regulations of the federal government through social services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not clear on what the federal government legislation that the member is referring to. Could he clarify? Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Davis Inlet, it was in the newspaper regarding children. The federal government is not sure how to deal with the fact that there are too many foster children walking the streets. It was also on the CBC National News.

How do you deal with these concerns in respect to the traditional ways and social values of the Inuit? Are you following policies and regulations of the federal government or do you follow the Inuit societal values when you have to apprehend children from their parents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not familiar with the First Nations responsibilities or the federal government's responsibilities to First Nations as it relates to Davis Inlet. I can speak to the legislation that we have in Nunavut, which is the child welfare legislation that's currently in place in Nunavut that we administer and work under Social Services.

In the cases where we apprehend children, one of the policies is that we try and place the children that are apprehended with immediate and extended families before we place them in other families or outside the community in keeping with the Inuit family values. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the smaller communities that I represent, just recently there was a concern and the issue was facing us in which the social worker in one of the communities had to apprehend a child from the parents. How do you deal with that? What are the procedures to be followed? You have to protect the social worker when they're apprehending the child in the smaller communities, so how do you assist them when they have to undertake such a procedure? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The social workers in every community work alongside with the RCMP, alongside with the health centre staff and visiting specialists as required by the work that they perform. At the same time, they have a regional supervisor who is also there. So there are people that social workers work with in each community, along with the Health Committees in each community.

In terms of support, the staff member would seek their support depending on the cases that they're also working on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is in regard to the same subject. Before we go onto another subject, I just want to add a comment to some of the issues Mr. Barnabas referred to. Did I understand that you said that the child welfare legislation is the old legislation of the NWT and we have been using that since Nunavut adopted the existing legislation in 1999, or have we made our own legislation in Nunavut? I do not know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, in 1999 we inherited all legislation that was in place from the Northwest Territories to the Government of Nunavut and one of those was the child welfare legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan, H-11 Social Services, H-5 in the budget, it states that "approximately 298 children are in care

both within and outside of Nunavut as of September 2007.” Maybe I’ll ask you a question first. It states that they were in and outside of Nunavut, so how many children out of the 298 were placed outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. H-11 in the business plan speaks to Health Information and Critical Issues. I’m not sure which section the member is referring to because mine doesn’t seem to match what he is describing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I don’t think you have the same copy as the one we have here, minister, so you will be provided with a copy. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your 2008-09 business plan, volume 1, H-11, in the middle of (interpretation ends) Social Services, second paragraph. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to the member; it was on H-10 in my book. The question is related, again just to clarify, of the 298, how many are in Nunavut and how many are out. Is that correct, Mr. Arvaluk?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. If you direct a question through me as the Chair, then it will be okay. Mr. Arvaluk, the question’s directed to you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, how many are outside of Nunavut and how many are inside Nunavut but not in their home community? Some Nunavummiut children are sent to other communities, like some people are sent from Pond Inlet to Pangnirtung, etcetera. Can she give me a breakdown of where these children are in proportion? Thank you very much.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don’t have that breakdown with me in terms of where those individuals are placed by territory, by community, or outside the territory, but I will provide the information, and if my staff are listening upstairs, to try and get that during today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Following up Mr. Barnabas’ question then, the federal legislation allows the federal government in the Innu community to do what they did with these children. Now, under what we inherited from the Northwest Territories,

after April 1, 1999, we allow children to be shipped not only outside of their community but she also mentioned, outside of Nunavut.

My question is: when will she be introducing a Nunavut-made legislation so that the consideration for Nunavummiut children, who, in most cases, are unilingual Inuktitut speaking people, can be or would be kept in Nunavut under new legislation made by Nunavummiut? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The legislation that we work under for social services is the child welfare legislation and that's in place effective April 1, 1999. We have been working under that since that was introduced prior to division and since division.

I have also spoken in this legislature, I believe last June, stating that it is an area that we want to update in Nunavut, to review the child welfare legislation in Nunavut and to start the preliminary reviews of the current legislation to *Nunavutize* it, and so on. The challenge is to try to get that legislation through before our next general election. I don't believe it will happen in the term of this government.

We are internally trying to prepare ourselves for that task of the consultation that will be required to update the legislation leading up to the new government that will be in place to deal with *Nunavutizing* that legislation as discussed in the previous sitting. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the same paragraph just slightly below that, I tried to read it in Inuktitut. In the real last sentence on that middle paragraph about 298 children, it says, "As a result, the department must be strategic in leveraging technology and employing new models of service delivery whenever possible in order to ensure program sustainability." Before I ask the next question, can she explain to me what that means in English? Thank you very much.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way I understand that is putting procedures into the delivery of the programs under Social Services and where appropriate to also establish systems to allow us to better case manage the number of patients that we have under child welfare legislation and tracking and wherever possible, to improve efficiency of reporting and to improve the efficiency of case management and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask similarly but slightly differently so that I could go back to this particular paragraph, quickly though. How many social workers in proportion are Arctic College trained, locally hired, working in those communities who are sending children to other communities when they have their own extended families in their own community who can look after them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, the social workers in every community determine whether a child will be apprehended or not based on the client, the child. Based on that, the social worker will then do the home visits required under legislation to determine who the child can be fostered with. There's a process that's followed in identifying who the child will be fostered by in that procedure. The practice is to try and encourage the families to take in the child, immediate families, to take in the child. Those procedures are in place.

In proportion, you're saying to me and asking me: how many of those social workers do that? I would have to go to each community and to find out the breakdown of the 298 as questioned earlier. How many of those children that are in foster care are with extended families or in the community and out-of-territory is information that I don't have right now before me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to have that information because I think it's critically important that those social workers come from that same community who knows all of these extended families whom the person can make a reference to. When you don't know, then you have a tendency to seek another family elsewhere outside of their community who are usually taking in the custody of these children.

When the child is in danger of not only having his or her mother tongue language but also that he is in an alien community, as far as the child is concerned, and it could have a detrimental effect that is already happening with his own parents, I think very strong consideration should be given to ensure that these children are given to the extended family whenever possible, especially the small ones.

My next question, Mr. Chairman, is: do you have a plan in place to start training quite aggressively for training social service workers from Nunavut like you are doing with teachers and nursing training programs, that kind of thing? Can you update me on how far you have gone with that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For a number of years now, the Department of Education has been delivering the Human Services Program in Cambridge Bay, and that program has been ongoing and is still continuing to be delivered in Cambridge Bay by training people to be social workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Health and Social Services preamble, or introduction, or inside of her statements, I did not really hear anything about including the mission that she has in the introduction of her business plan in reference to child welfare, *“To promote, protect and enhance the health and well-being of all Nunavummiut, incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit at all levels of service delivery and design.”*

If that means the Child Welfare Program using local social workers who know the community, who know the extended family, like you are doing in Cambridge Bay right now, will be extended to Qikiqtani and Kivalliq so that this mission will actually do what it says? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The mission speaks very broadly to the number of different programs that are delivered by Health and Social Services, and one of those pieces is the training of social workers in our communities for the social service delivery.

Currently, about half of the social workers in Nunavut are Inuit that are working in the communities. So there are some results from the training program that is being offered through Nunavut Arctic College in Cambridge Bay. It's a Diploma Program and there are graduates from that program that work within the Department of Health and Social Services in various communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These social workers that you hire locally, about 50 percent, are also in the government housing, they're employed by the government with full benefits, not like the income support workers. Some of these income support workers are contracted through the hamlets, but then, not the social workers. Is that correct, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of our workers live in government housing, some live in private housing, and some live in social housing, and that's all I can say. They work for the government in most cases.

In community empowerment, we do have social services in Cape Dorset that's managed through the hamlet as an example. There are a few of those communities that manage the social services, but for the most part, social workers are public servants of and work for the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): I didn't expect that. I want to ask questions along the same lines, but one thing that I did not get clarification on is on page H-5 in the main estimates and also on H-11 in your business plan.

(interpretation ends) The second paragraph on Social Services notes (interpretation) that "the number of children in protective care has also continued to rise." I know that it's evident that there are more mothers having children and sometimes they cannot take care of their own children, especially when they are single parents. When the women are single parents, their children have to be placed in protective care.

In the main estimates under the Contract Services, looking at the 2008-09 main estimates, it is smaller than the 2007-08 main estimates. I think this line item is used for protective services and for the caring of children and foster children that are required due to criminal negligence. It seems like 2008-09 should have more funding than the previous year, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that, under Contract Services on H-5, the slight reduction is a result of the restructuring of the department. I believe that portion is transferred to the section under Treatment. It was transferred to the different division of the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This causes me concern. For many years now, I have experienced this from the NWT days to the time when the Government of Nunavut was created. It was always a priority issue. When the parents couldn't take care of their children, the children have to be apprehended and placed in foster homes, not in a giant foster care facility but in a home. They have to be placed in protective care with a foster parent.

Children are apprehended either due to their lack of parenting skills or for various other reasons. This has been occurring for quite a while, but I have noticed that nothing is ever done to correct the situation where parents lose their children, whether that parent is a young parent, an older parent, or otherwise.

The children are then taken into care and they are supposed to eventually be returned to the parent in the future. However, nothing is done to teach the parents themselves and it

seems that there is no corrective action, whether it's through parenting workshops or by being involved in the process. They are completely taken out of the picture and if I were to say it in English, "they are free," completely free and no longer concerned about their child. They are not forced to take lessons or even advice as to how to correct their situation, especially as it relates to taking care of their child.

I wonder why the issue of training parents who have lost their children is not included with in the main estimates. I believe funding for this line item is going to increase because I believe that the number of children in protective care is increasing. The parents are given freedom when their children are apprehended, so I believe that there should be training or a follow-up program for the parents.

I was wondering if the minister has considered those issues. I believe that we need to deal with the parents. Otherwise, it is going to cost too much money for the government if we don't do anything about this gap in child welfare legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I'll pass it on to Alex, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just to be brief with the response, the department is, as I said yesterday, we will be doing an analysis on some of our Social Service programs that we do have, including the foster parents process and the type of supports that we do provide on both sides – the parents and the foster parents of the children.

We will be looking at our programs to develop more supportive mechanisms in there to be more IQ compliant and to be more responsive to the needs of the community. That's certainly one of our priorities as a department as we move forward.

As a department, we're developing business cases on some of these critical issues that you have mentioned, Mr. Member, and the department is listening and taking note of some of these recommendations that members are providing to the department to make sure these are captured and included in our priorities for 2008-09. So I can reassure the member that the issue that he is raising, that we will certainly follow-up on those as a department.

The other thing I wanted to mention was this is a mandated requirement for the department providing foster care and adoptions and all of those processes. We will certainly not slam the door on any of these critical requirements as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's a family care program under your department, for example, if a child is apprehended by social services, sometimes we hear individuals who bring their children to social services, and then the mother leaves without waiting for anything else. The foster parents are called by phone and then they take in the children. It's something that's foreign to the Inuit culture.

There are very capable people who don't have anymore children but they are capable of taking care of someone's child or children. I think it would be best if you have a list of people and I think it would be even less expensive if they go to the individual's home and help out with the children. I think that would cut down on expenses.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we're given suggestions by the people out there. I think that if we leave the structure as is, the money that's expended will just keep increasing every year. We also hear of children that are sent to the other communities and the individuals are not trained in parenting or skill building. I think there should be more done and give those individuals parenting skills.

There's no question there. I just wanted to make those comments. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Did you get that Madam Minister? Thank you. She said yes. Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I thank the minister for making an appearance before the committee. I have a question in regard to some of the issues. There are quite a lot of responsibilities under social services, foster parenting, and foster care and it is quite a heavy burden to bear.

I would like to ask the minister about the policies and rules in regard to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. I believe that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* guidelines for social services or family services are quite heavy responsibilities. Could the minister tell us how Inuit societal values are used when these matters are being dealt with, especially under these four main areas under H-5? Could the minister tell us what kind of IQ is used in delivering the services listed in the four main areas? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going through the five areas - Child Protection, Adoption Services, Guardianship Services, Adult Support Services and Family Violence Services - how have we incorporated *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* or initiatives to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into those areas? I'll try and give some examples of some of the areas that we try and address.

Adoption Services, we practice Inuit custom adoption in applying *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*.

Under Child Protection Services, we try and place children with family practicing *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and the Inuit family values, as well as in Guardianship Services.

Under Family Violence Services, the Government of Nunavut has undertaken initiatives to address violence against women and family violence in a comprehensive review of services, and so on, with the symposium that was organized with the 74 recommendations addressing violence against women and children in Nunavut, and those recommendations came from Inuit of Nunavut to address family violence, as an example, in Nunavut.

Adult Support Services; adults that require assistance and support, based on declarations of individuals who require assistance, is provided through Social Services as well.

So those are some examples of some of the practices that we have in those areas. Frontline staff could probably provide more information in those in more detail than I can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: I think it's very important because IQ can be very complicated and many of us look at IQ as a lifelong learning kind of experience, other than the two syllables or whatever.

Can the minister commit to at least providing, if they are written down into policy direction, would it be possible to receive some of the actual publications, if any, with respect to delivery of IQ into any of the five areas that the Social Services handle? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll commit to providing that. I also think that the government had tabled the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* initiatives by department in this term of the government as well. So there is a report produced by the government by department on what initiatives have been undertaken by programs to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* into the delivery of programs. So I'll pull that as well, and update it if necessary, and provide it to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have a question with respect to adoption and placing children into southern provinces. Is there a regular requirement, to have the children that are placed outside of Nunavut, to actually have ongoing reports? Also, is there any requirement to report to the regional parents, if any, or relatives, and if so, could the minister explain to the committee, please? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member made reference to adoption. Perhaps, he can clarify; is he talking about foster children outside the care?

Once adoptions are finalized and complete, we have no involvement in that. So I think the member is referring to foster children, but if he can just clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. It has to do with placing kids into foster homes within southern Canada? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, there are regular foster children family visitations from various social workers whether in the community, or in the regions, and/or outside the territory where children are placed. There is a requirement for that.

How periodic that is done, reporting it, I would have to get that information of whether it's on a weekly basis or monthly basis. I'm not clear on that but there is a requirement for the social workers to request a review of foster children placements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I think it's very important because there has been sort of an absence of reporting of foster homes from south to the north and I believe that we need to try and improve that particular kind of placement of kids. We know exactly what's going on because I know many of the families have no way of contacting them because it's very complicated for them.

So my second question is: why would we continue to place foster children into homes that are beyond our borders? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just before I answer that question, I just got the information on the earlier question from Mr. Arvaluk.

Of the 296 that are in placement, 37 children are out-of-territory and those children are placed in care that require some specialized treatment as well that is not available in Nunavut. As well, 48 children are placed outside of their home communities, so 111 foster children are placed within their communities presently.

Why are they placed outside the territory? Sometimes we have to place children outside the territory because we don't have the facilities to care for children in foster care and I'll use one example. In the children's group home here, we have about I think ten children from the territory living in foster care in our group home facility. Some of the children that require more treatment are also in care of that nature as well. So that's one of the reasons they are placed outside the territory.

The other reason being that we don't have foster parents in the communities; we don't have volunteer foster parents. So we have to then go outside the community, and so on, and sometimes that means outside the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I would need more information on exactly why there would not be any volunteers in the community. What evidence is there that there are actually no foster care volunteers in communities? How do you actually measure that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: There are volunteers. People volunteer to be foster parents; we can't force them. So we can advertise it and people come to us to express interest in being foster parents and then we go through the process of the security clearance, and so on, before placing children in their care. That's the process that's in place right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Yes, I understand that you can advertise them but do you actually have a standard guideline that actually says, "You are compelled to do the following," and if so, it would be good to see the actual standard. And, that's because I am sure there's a short cut directly to this outside the territories and probably team up with either social service agencies in southern Canada.

So I would like the minister to be more specific when placing a child, for instance, outside of the community and outside of Nunavut territory exactly what the procedure is. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a foster home handbook and guidelines that we have. We have a process in assessing, if the member wants that information, I would be willing to provide that information.

In most extreme situations is when you place children outside the territory. The ultimate goal here is to place and to have the family and the child reunited, but there are also challenges we face in trying to care for the child. So we do make the best efforts to place

the child in the home community first and foremost, and then take the necessary steps based on what's available in the community and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Yes, I appreciate it. I think it would be useful to have that information.

I think there has to be more concerted or ongoing effort made to educate the communities, because so often, the social services are not Inuit and don't know the family relationship in the communities which are quite extended. They need to be taught regularly that there are placements required. It shouldn't be just: something pops up and you contact one advisor, who is somebody who may not know. It's a full-time job and it should be done with tremendous, I think, much more effort. We would appreciate that if that were to happen.

I have another question with respect to... I know it will sound general but it's a major problem in Nunavut now. In view of the fact that a significantly larger amount of child support funds are going into communities from the federal government, I don't know much about the Nunavut side; Child Tax Credits and all of these kinds of stuff, and so on; many of the kids are now financing habits of their parents that may be into substance abuse. Is there any way the government or Social Services can plan something to either educate the communities so that there can be an improvement to that?

I know it's a complicated issue but what is the, if any, attempt by the government to ensure that the funds go towards the welfare of the children, instead of being used for any other? Is it possible, or do we just say, "That's beyond our control," that the people who live in that kind of life will continue? I know it sounds general but it's also a major problem right now. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very broad comment in what role the social services play in ensuring parents spend their money to their children. I don't have an answer for that question. One would assume that parents would want to ensure that they spend their money for their family and so on. It's a difficult question to answer and I don't have an answer to that question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: I think the welfare of our children is the responsibility of the public government. I also believe that the government could educate the general public about the importance of providing the best, decent welfare to our children.

Surely, the minister can find a way to continue this development, that to just say, "It's beyond our ability," is really abdicating responsibility in my view. I know it is complex,

but I also truly believe that effort leads to something positive. We can team up with partners in communities with community groups.

I wonder if the minister would be prepared to plan a strategy that would ensure that the funds that are intended to protect our children do go towards them. I believe you would best do that by teaming up with IQ specialists in each community. Could you undertake to do that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just thinking about the member's comments and questions, what I can say is that under our Public Health Strategy, the Public Health Strategy focuses on one of the areas which is children and well-being, but children, in developing programs and services, are seen as priorities by communities through the work of the Health Committees.

Perhaps, that type of question can be best addressed through the work that we're doing with NTI and the communities in developing wellness plans in the communities - *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq/Aanniaqtailiniq* initiatives at the community level - and how we can tackle the issue that he has raised in partnership with the communities. The solutions also have to come from the communities. So perhaps, that's the best place to start the discussions around that subject that the member has raised. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question; I'm just wondering if the minister or her officials have with them how many... actually, she mentioned earlier about half of the social workers in Nunavut were beneficiaries and that.

What's the total number of social workers that the department has, I won't say working for them, but how many social worker positions are there within the Department of Health and Social Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you. 51. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate how many of those 51 positions are indeterminately filled at this time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: 33. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the minister have a breakdown by region of the vacancy rate for social workers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Not at the moment, thank you, but I will provide that at the next question and we will have that information while I'm addressing another question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering; I know there are 33 positions, I believe she has indicated, that are filled; are they all filled by indeterminate positions or are some of those positions filled by casuals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to go through the list here and count the positions that are filled. The number that I've provided, from what I understand based on the information I have here, are indeterminate staff that are in those positions now, but I need to verify that information with Alex. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll look forward to getting that verified and find out if there are any that are just there as casuals.

I guess 18 out of 51, again, I would like to see what the reasoning is, but has the department, over the years, had a difficult time? I know there have always been one or two Members here in the House since 1999 that have raised issues the inability to get social workers in their communities. Has there been, or is the minister or her officials aware of what kind of a turnover rate that the department has had with social workers across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What was the last part of the question? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: The turnover rate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information with me and it was, I think, requested yesterday, so again, I'll commit to trying to get that information to the member as soon as I can have it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister or her officials be willing to go on the record saying that they do have a hard time recruiting and retaining social workers across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once we go through and review the turnover rate information and I have that data, I will be able to speak to that question with information before me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I just wonder why; the question was asked on nurses and stuff like that, they would know, "Yes, we're having a hard time," but I think that's one of the problems with Social Services is that it seems to be the forgotten child in the Department of Health and Social Services.

I have been contacted by employees in Social Services that that's exactly how they feel; they feel that they're totally undervalued and unappreciated because every time issues come forward. I understand health is an important issue as well but it's always just the Department of Health and not the Department of Health and Social Services, and Health seems to take the forefront of the attention from the department. Those individuals working in the Social Services area feel kind of neglected.

I guess given that, I may be leading to some of the turnover rate and the vacancies that are there, I certainly was glad to hear the minister indicate that about half of the 33 social workers that they have working out there are locally trained social workers. I think that will, over time, as more social workers are pumped out of the education system, I think it will help alleviate some of that problem and fill some of those vacancies, but again, they have to be so that they don't feel undervalued and ignored if they want to keep them there.

My next question to the minister is: has there been anything done by the department to look at recruiting and retaining social workers throughout the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Alex respond to that again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The issue of social services, as I indicated yesterday; there are a couple of things that we're doing as a department.

The first thing we have done is we have readjusted and reorganized the department to put more of an emphasis on some of our standards and criteria, and to create an ADM for Programs and Standards. This is leading up to some agreements with the member that social services was one of the programs that was part of the overall health component and the emphasis on social services wasn't as great from the department's perspective.

So in reorganizing the department, we have elevated the social services component now reporting directly to the ADM of Standards and Programs. The primary reason for that is to make sure that Social Services gets the equal attention that it deserves in the department.

So far, as the second part of the question, whether we will be developing a similar strategy like we do with the Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy for social workers, yesterday, I did indicate that that's going to be one of our priorities that we would be dealing with for the main estimates for next year. So that is a priority for the department.

We will be doing an assessment on the social worker and the social services area, and providing a strategy around that as well. We will be looking at things of the number of social workers we do have in the territory and the number of social workers we could have in each community tiered at some level.

So those are the kinds of things that the department will be looking at and developing a business case, as I say, through the main estimates next fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's great to hear that. If I'm hearing those kinds of comments from social workers out there, then maybe you need to get that message out there to the social workers so that they hear it as well.

I understand Mr. Campbell's response is the restructuring to try and put more emphasis on that, but have they done anything to inform and let those social workers out there across the territory know that and to help them feel less alienated in the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to add to what Alex had mentioned, in the previous main estimates and business plans, you'll note that we had no reference to social services in the past; it was combined with a division that had a whole mixture of so many things that it was difficult to capture initiatives under Social Services, under Mental Health, and so on.

Through the reorganization, the work in terms of the social service people, they concentrated more effort and energy around Social Services' functions and so on. Having said that, I'm going to transfer the question to Alex in regard to how we communicated with our social workers around promoting this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I thank the member for the question. We do have a process in place in the department now to have a communication process from the senior management group related to some of the initiatives that we're doing as a department.

One of the things that I did in December was initiated a report; a summary of what the department has been doing over the past, at that time it was over the past four months. It was updating all of the staff of the department as to where we're at with the reorganization and explain the different programs and explaining the different mandates of each of the branches that have been created.

So the information is slowly getting out there, and we're going to be doing a bit more proactive communication for social workers and getting them involved in the strategy that we will be developing for the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly encourage the department to do that because I think, next to nurses, and in a lot of cases, who are dealing with trauma and things, social workers probably face one of the toughest working environments out there when you're dealing with abuse of all kinds. They could be facing substance abuse, sexual abuse, and all kinds of things that they're potentially dealing with.

So I think that if you tie that in and you look at, as we all know, our suicide rates are so high up here, I can just imagine the ones that are getting through, I think that we need more work and more support in that area to try and help curb the numbers that we're seeing in our suicide rate throughout the territory. I think additional services in the social service area and the mental health area, a little later on, could be targeted with strategic investments by the government in trying to help address that issue across the territory.

I guess my next question, Mr. Chairman, in the business plan, they indicate that, "For the last five years, the number of children in protective care has also continued to rise..." Is

the department projecting that that number will increase over the next year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would hope not, that it would increase, but we have to respond to cases, so it's kind of hard to tell whether it will or not. That's all I can say at this point in time to answer the member's question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think some of the things that the minister outlined in some of her earlier responses in dealing with this issue is things are going to take some time whether we like it or not and those are the kinds of things we can't change overnight.

Given that, the last five years where the numbers have gone up for children in protective care; I'm just wondering why they reduced the budget amount in Child Protection Services by \$500,000 over last year's amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I addressed that question earlier, but Ms. Downe can elaborate a bit more.

From what I understand, that had been as a result of the restructuring that Alex and Raj spoke to yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Downe, I'm sorry. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering, it says here, "Ensures the safety and well-being of children by providing protection services; which may include investigations, interventions and residential services that are provided by child protection workers under the *Child and Family Services Act*."

That's a pretty specific area or a branch within the department. If they look at it, I'm just wondering how they could have taken something out of there and re-profiled it into another area. Can I get an explanation on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I'll have Raj answer that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ms. Downe.

Ms. Downe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, this is part of the restructuring. Before that, there were other expenses that were included in there. When we tried to identify and have all the social programs highlighted as a branch, we removed other things that were, for example, mental health or other kinds of treatment expenses that were all kind of mixed together. We have tried to identify and separate that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that clarification. Another question that I have in that area is: when a child is taken into custody, say, in the event where you have a family that is separated and one parent has custody of the child, according to the courts, and then that child is put into protective care or put into a foster home, would it be appropriate for that child to be staying with the parent that doesn't have custody? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member made reference to a court decision. Can you repeat your question? I'm not sure what the question is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the case where you have a broken family, where the two parents are no longer living together, and one parent has been awarded custody by the courts of the children of that relationship, and for whatever reason, one of the children is put into a foster home, my question was: would it be appropriate for that child to be staying with the parent that doesn't have custody or that hadn't been awarded custody by the courts?

That was my question and I hope that clarifies it. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a difficult question to answer in that we would have to be aware of what the court rulings were and we would have to be aware under what situation the other arrangements were all made.

So in terms of trying to address that scenario, it's a difficult one without actual files. I don't want to say one thing or another without all of the other pieces that are considered in making those decisions, whether it is through the courts or through determining the placement of foster children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would hope, if the department is putting someone into a foster home, that they would know the background of that particular case. I would imagine and guess that that kind of background information is part of any case file that they're building on any child that they're looking at putting into foster care.

What measures are in place to monitor children that are put into foster care to ensure compliance, and I guess for a lack of a better word, for ensuring that things like that aren't happening and that things are being done properly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, the social workers follow a set of guidelines, first of all, to determine whether individuals are suitable foster parent. There's a whole process that's followed to determine that and then there's a process of making assessments on whether a child will be in foster care; that whole process is established. Once that's in place, the case workers then monitor the children in foster care with the foster parents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one last question in that area; if it was brought to the attention of a social worker or someone working for the Department of Social Services that a child that was in a foster home was staying with a parent that didn't have custody and not with the parent that had custody who said, "I can't; for whatever reason, my child needs to go into foster care." If something like that was reported to the department, would that be something that would be followed up and looked into? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One would assume that would be one of those scenarios that we would follow-up in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a technical concern or question but I might have personal question on Social Services.

My colleague Barnabas was concerned about a child being taken away from the parents. If I was a grandfather of that child and the social services in the community, or a social worker, never let me know and I found out that my grandchild was taken away from my son or daughter, then I'm hurt; I'm emotionally hurt. I say that because I think I was a child when the government started the schools in the communities. I was one of those who were taken away from home, and I know how my parents felt when I was taken away from home and I know how my parents felt when we were just taken away.

So I think my question is: does the department somehow advise the social worker that everybody in the family has to be told that the child will be taken away from the home or from the community? Is there any way that your social workers are told to do this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first priority is to deal with the safety of the child. That's the absolute first priority of the social workers in apprehending children. In worse case scenarios, sometimes children have to be apprehended for their own safety. Once those processes are in place, the immediate family of that child would be informed, one would assume, to notify them of the next steps that are being taken the case worker. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the department thought about using the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* method to run the Child Protection Services? Have they thought to us IQ in that situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of communicating the decisions of the case worker, once the decision is made, the family is advised of the decision as to whether the child will be apprehended or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague was concerned about how they can be taken away without telling the grandparents. When you say the family has been advised, does that mean everyone in the family? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I understand of the process, the immediate family of that child is advised of when the child is apprehended. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think everybody has to be advised. If I'm the grandfather, I'm the one who is most hurt in the family. So I think the department has to revise the policy or make it work for everybody in the family. It's just a comment, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. You are agreed to. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan on page H-3, under *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, it states that the Health Committees of Council “identify community concerns and issues regarding health and social services program delivery.” When the Health Committees of Council meet in the communities, do they include a nurse and a social worker during their meetings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that H-3 of the business plan or the main estimates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, the business plan. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Simailak. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. The terms of reference for the Health Committees was approved through hamlets. And actually through the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, they have approved the terms of reference and how they function. In most cases in the communities, the CHRs as well as the head nurse participates in those Health Committee meetings.

What we’re trying to do is ensure that they’re all active in the communities. In the past, some committees functioned well and some didn’t function well, but through the work with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, we have been able to agree to the terms of reference as to how these Health Committees would function and what support role the Department of Health would play in assisting the committees with their priorities.

At the same time, the new terms of reference for the Health Committees ties into the work of the Public Health Strategy and priorities that we are going to be working with Health Committees on wellness plans. So, the idea is to have our staff support those committees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, it states that they would “identify community concerns and issues regarding health and social services program delivery.” When the Health Committees meet at the local level to deal with concerns, do the social workers participate in their meetings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been working with the Health Committees over the past two years to integrate and work to fix up the operations. They meet with Health and Social Services and some of the staff also meet with the committees.

On the other hand, sometimes the committees don't operate as well. However, since the mayors have approved of this initiative, it would be good to proceed in that manner. So in that regard, we try to have both the health and social services' committees work together in terms of the health concerns of communities, the community wellness issues which we are trying to resolve, and in terms of the Public Health Strategy.

If we are going to create new initiatives, Inuit from the smaller communities have to be assisted, so we should be asking them which areas that they wish to delve into and what the concerns of the community are. Due to that, we are trying to work with *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* as to how we can better deal with these issues. We have to meet with the communities to resolve these questions. That is what we are trying to do with the health and social services' committees in our communities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's known as the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Coordinator for the Department of Health and Social Services. Does this *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Coordinator work with the Health Committees at the local level or do they work mainly in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): The *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Coordinator is indeed based here in Iqaluit. Thank you.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me rephrase the question. Does this individual work with the Health Committees or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The IQ Coordinator for the department works out at the headquarters. The Health Committee support staff is at the community level with our health centre staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regards to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, does the minister hear of concerns from the public after the

committee has had a meeting? Does the minister hear the concerns regarding the IQ coordinator under her department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, the IQ Coordinator works out of headquarters with the various divisions on the review of programs, policies, and so on, and at the same time, addresses some complaints.

Whether he receives information directly from the Health Committees or via the executive director, I can clarify some of that information for the member. I'm not sure if it's one on one contact or through the regional offices, and so on, that supports the Health Committees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I'm asking this question is I would like to see more *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* being used within the government and we would like to see how much of a priority is placed on it by the government.

I wanted to know if this coordinator works closely with the communities, the hamlets, and the Health Committees, and so on, or with the regions or the communities. What kind of rules or applications are you looking at with regards to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): For example, I will try to respond to that question as to how the IQ coordinator assists the Department of Health. The *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Coordinator is based here in Iqaluit at headquarters and he assists our staff quite a bit when they are reviewing departmental programs, as an example, with respect to midwifery legislation. So the example here is: (interpretation ends) how can we incorporate Inuit knowledge into the midwifery legislation for Nunavut? So he would work to provide assistance and guidance to legislators on those initiatives.

Another area relates to policy change around elders, that elders in Nunavut travelling should have escorts and that's a policy change effective April 1 that we are incorporating into our policies as an example.

So the idea is that the coordinator would provide guidance and support to the various divisions of the department and provide advice as well, and work with *Tuttarviit*, which is the Interdepartmental IQ Coordinator and Committee that works with the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*, which has representatives of elders for advice on various initiatives of the department.

If we have new legislation on, say, child welfare, we would work with him, IQ *Katimajit*, and along with the consultation we would require to try and incorporate *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* in that way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): In the same business plan, on page H-11, under Social Services, it states that there are “approximately 50 social services workers who are located in communities.” We heard yesterday that it’s 51 now.

It also states that, (interpretation ends) “They assist individuals by helping them develop their own skills.” (interpretation) Could the minister elaborate how they work with the social services workers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the Department of Health, we provide training to our social workers. Before they can function as social workers, every social worker in the community has to be appointed under the child welfare legislation as an example. Prior to doing that, the orientation takes place, but they have to be trained and certified to be appointed.

I’m not sure what exact term is used but there is training that’s involved that’s a requirement under legislation for every social worker at the community level before they can carry out their functions as social workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Maybe I’ll ask in English. (interpretation ends) Can the minister give us an indication of how these 51 social workers assist individuals by helping them develop their own skills? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I’ll have Alex respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We do, as a department, try to encourage our staff and the people that we do serve to provide support and training to individuals in the department. We also have established procedures and guidelines in training/orientation manuals that we do provide for staff and we do also provide for agents of government to make sure that they understand what our processes are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are those manuals, etcetera, that you mentioned there to assist to train the social workers, or were they individuals that this sentence seems to be referring to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you. I think there are two areas here. First of all, training of our own staff and the second area would be to provide some orientation and training as well. For instance, under Social Services is foster parents; the training and orienting foster parents on their roles and responsibilities as outlined in the guidelines that we produce for foster parents as a handbook. That's one example.

There are also Health Committees that are there that also have a role in explaining what their functions are to the Health Committees so that Health Committees also understand the role of social workers at the community level. So that kind of role is to support the development of others in the work that they also do to help them in carrying out the work that they do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few individual questions under that program but it's very difficult for us to use an example. I think Mr. Kattuk wants to use an example, Mr. Simailak wants to use some examples, and I want to use some examples because it's evidence, that it has actually happened in the communities.

And, when we're asking the minister, we want to use an example so that she will understand what we're talking about, but it's very difficult because... yes, it's very difficult. However, Mr. Chairman, I will not use examples but I hope the minister will understand that I'm using actual evidence without actually naming anyone.

For example, you said that the IQ Coordinator assesses your policy directives or mission statements. If the IQ Coordinator feels that your directive from the Directorate is not IQ compliant, can he or she stop the process of your directive? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I'll have the deputy minister respond to the process internally on the review of policy development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I view the IQ Coordinator's position as quite critical in the department. When we are developing

some of these programs and some of these policies and guidelines that we're developing in the department, the primary role of the IQ Coordinator is to review the documents that are being developed to provide his or her IQ perspective into the exercise. It's to a point, whereas the deputy minister, I do take that advice seriously.

At times, we do halt the process to make sure the point that's being made by the IQ Coordinator is being addressed by the department. We do provide a lot of consultation processes in our developing of the documents in the department.

Just to answer the member specifically, there are times that I put some of these processes on hold to make sure that the IQ perspective is being explained to us by the IQ Coordinator because I, myself, am not an expert on IQ. I'm still learning, like one of the members said. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Me, too, I am still learning about IQ. I probably will learn about IQ until I die. It's, like Mr. Curley says, a long process.

I'm very leery about not so much with Social Services but some other departments too. Let's use Social Services for convenience sake, that we are using the old NWT legislation on Social Services. Yet, we are declaring that we are IQ compliant in those programs, but yet, still comply with the legislation at the same time. I know it sounds a bit confusing. That's why I asked the question: when are we going to have our own legislation so that we could have all the IQ compliance as much as we can under this program.

Mr. Chairman, under the Social Services that you have on H-5 in the main estimates, that you have Contract Services of, I know it's smaller than last year but still, \$15,974,000 just on contracts. Can the minister tell me what these contracts involve? Is that sending the kids down south to be looked after if they cannot be looked after at home?

Can she tell me a little bit more, using examples if she can, why the \$15,974,000 is being budgeted for on contracts only? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That line item relates to costs for residential care and the operations of group homes within and outside the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask as Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Chairman, yes, Mr. Arvaluk is my name.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, can the minister clarify what kind of residential centre and homecare she is talking about? Can she use an example where? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. An example would be the children's group home here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: I only have two more questions. Is child neglecting by parents a criminal offence, or a summary, and if so, how many of the parents of these 298 children are in jail and for how long? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know how many of those are incarcerated. I would have to get back to the member on that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. She did not answer me; if the child neglect to the point of social services taking them away from the parents is a criminal offence or if it's an offence under the law. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Under the child welfare legislation, it would be and that's why the children are apprehended. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Then if she doesn't know right now how many of these parents are in jail, can she at least provide me how many of them have been taken to court and how many of them have been successfully dealt with by the justice system?

I think we should not be one-sided with our problems with society just because they are ignorant. I think we have to be very careful that we treat everybody the same when it comes to the law of the land.

Mr. Chairman, the second question I have is when you have a group home, is that similar to day care centre type of facility for smaller children? I guess what I'm interested in is if we're going to have professionals working with these children maybe up to the age of, I don't know, six, that if they would be placed in a day care centre type of facility after they have been taken away from their parents, in some central place in the community,

even in a school, on a 24-hour service by three or four people, wouldn't that be more cost effective and better for the child that's been taken away from the parent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The group homes that we referred to are the homes of these children that are apprehended and are in care, for example, the children that cannot be cared at home because they're severely disabled. One example is the Naja Isabella Home in Chesterfield Inlet. That would be one example but it's normally in those circumstances, if it relates some form of physical or mental disability of a child, where we have them in our care full-time, 24/7. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So there is no such facility similar to that of daycare centres that are apparently very successful in some communities and that the children feel that they are with their peers and then learning a more normal child play with their peers. I ask her: would she consider reviewing for the purpose of finding out if that would be more acceptable if and when she is drafting her homemade legislation for Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will certainly review his suggestion and recommendation when we get to that process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We are on (interpretation ends) page H-5. Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Social Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$29,112,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page H-6. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Public Health. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know members have another function to attend, so I would like to recognize the clock and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Campbell and Ms. Downe. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 22... I'm sorry. My numbers must have an extra item. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Uqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 23 and the Main Estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder for tomorrow morning, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Health and Education at nine o'clock in the morning in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for February 27:

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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 23
 - Bill 24
 - Bill 25
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before we leave the House, I would like to remind you to attend your invitation tonight. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, February 27, at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:00*

