



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**4th Session**

**2nd Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 47**

**Thursday, February 28, 2008**

**Pages 3048 – 3118**

**Iqaluit**

**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)

### *Officers*

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk  
Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant  
Stephen Innuksuk

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](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)**

## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	3048
Ministers' Statements .....	3048
Members' Statements .....	3049
Returns to Oral Questions .....	3056
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	3057
Oral Questions.....	3057
Replies to Budget Address .....	3077
Revert to Item 14: Tabling of Documents.....	3080
Motions.....	3081
First Reading of Bills .....	3088
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	3088
Point of Order.....	3114
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	3116
Orders of the Day .....	3116

**A.**

**Daily References**

Thursday, February 28, 2008..... 3048

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

146 – 2(4): Inuinnaqtun Language Certificate Program (Picco) ..... 3048

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

339 – 2(4): Up Here – The Magazine of Canada's Enterprising North (Peterson) ..... 3049

340 – 2(4): Support for Sarah Ali (Tootoo)..... 3050

341 – 2(4): Caribou within Municipality of Baker Lake (Simailak) ..... 3051

342 – 2(4): Sovereignty in the High Arctic (Arvaluk) ..... 3052

343 – 2(4): The Need for an Elders' Facility in Kugluktuk (Evyagotailak)..... 3054

344 – 2(4): Diversion of Rivers for Hydro-electric Purposes (Kattuk) ..... 3054

345 – 2(4): Need for Docking Facilities at Grise Fiord & Resolute Bay (Barnabas)..... 3055

**D.**

**Returns to Oral Questions**

Return to Oral Question 393 – 2(4): Pension Adjustment Announcement (Tapardjuk) ..... 3056

**E.**

**Oral Questions**

428 – 2(4): Travel Arrangements for Minor Patients (Tootoo)..... 3057

429 – 2(4): NAC's Provision of Support Services to Single Parents (Peterson)..... 3059

430 – 2(4): Medical Travel Destinations for Kugluktuk Residents (Evyagotailak) ..... 3062

431 – 2(4): Update on Rankin Inlet Medical Boarding Home (Simailak) .....	3064
432 – 2(4): Nunavut Housing Corporation Contracting Practices (Curley).....	3066
433 – 2(4): Medical Travel Contract Including Sanikiluaq (Kattuk) .....	3068
434 – 2(4): \$200,000 Approved for Arctic Bay Road (Barnabas) .....	3069
435 – 2(4): Support for Literacy Programs (Peterson) .....	3070
436 – 2(4): Security Measures at Old Residence in Iqaluit (Tootoo).....	3072
437 – 2(4): Update on Employees’ Canada Savings Bonds (Arvaluk) .....	3075
438 – 2(4): Sole Source Contract – Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay (Barnabas) .....	3075

**F.**

**Replies to Budget Address**

Reply to Budget Address 001 – 2(4): Mr. Tagak Curley .....	3077
--	------

**G.**

**Tabling of Documents**

185 – 2(4): Letter from Sarah Ali Requesting Support for ING Speed Skating Challenge Video (Tootoo) .....	3080
186 – 2(4): Seniors Facility for Kugluktuk – Motion from Elders Meeting February 12, 2008 (Evyagotailak).....	3080

**H.**

**Motions**

026 – 2(4): Extension of Review Period for Bills 6 and 7 (Mapsalak) .....	3081
027 – 2(4): Acceptance of the Report of the Integrity Commissioner to the Legislative Assembly Regarding Mr. David Simailak, MLA (Tootoo).....	3082

**I.**

**Bills**

Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act – First Reading ..... 3088

Bill 23 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2008-2009 – Consideration in  
Committee – Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs ..... 3088

**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Thursday, February 28, 2008**

**Members Present:**

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

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Peter Kilabuk)(interpretation): Good afternoon. I would like to ask Mr. Curley to say the opening prayer. Mr. Curley.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Good afternoon, Mr. Premier, Ministers, and Members. Before we go to the Orders of the Day, I would like to recognize an elder from my constituency. My late uncle who was also a Member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Ipeelee Kilabuk's wife turned 78 years old today. We wish her happy birthday from Pangnirtung. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education and Energy, Minister Picco.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 146 – 2(4): Inuinnaqtun Language Certificate Program**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House about a new program that's underway in the Kitikmeot region to enhance the Inuinnaqtun language revitalization.

An Inuinnaqtun Aboriginal Language Certificate Program is currently underway in Kugluktuk. Mr. Speaker, this will evidently increase the number of skilled Inuinnaqtun immersion teachers. This certificate program is run through the Nunavut Arctic College, in partnership with the Department of Education's Kitikmeot School Operations and Kugluktuk's Tahiuqtiit Society.

Mr. Speaker, 16 students ranging from age 22 to 74 are enrolled in the program. The focus is on learning orally, which, as you know, Mr. Speaker, is the fundamentals of the Inuit language. The program is also using a new teaching strategy which includes spoken language models that are rooted in action and demonstration.

Mr. Speaker, graduates of the program will help foster Inuinnaqtun in the Kitikmeot and provide contributions to renew the language. This program is one of the examples of the learning and sharing successes here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the program has generated a lot of interest and optimism for the future of Inuinnaqtun. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the tireless efforts of all involved with this worthwhile effort and wish them continued success. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. If there are no more, the individual I wished happy birthday to is Aittainnaq Nelly Kilabuk.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Before we proceed, I would like you to be aware that the Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak, will not be with us today because he is not well.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 339 – 2(4): Up Here – The Magazine of Canada's Enterprising North**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you and members are aware, I formerly worked for the Kitikmeot Corporation, whose mandate includes fostering economic growth for the benefit of our region. Over the years, we traveled to national and international events, conferences and embassies to promote the message that Nunavut is "Open for Business."

Mr. Speaker, promoting Nunavut and the North is something we must all do. We can't wait for business or tourists to come to us, we have to reach out to them and tell them what the North has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleasantly surprised yesterday when I read the complimentary February premiere issue of "*Up Here Business – The Magazine of Canada's Enterprising North.*"

Mr. Speaker, the feature article was entitled *The Three Arctic Tigers*, and focused on Canada's three northern territories. Our own Premier Okalik was front-and-centre on the magazine cover with his colleagues from the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. They were marching down a "yellow brick" road. I have a copy of it here. You can see a nice caricature of the Premier on the "yellow brick" road looking for the "Emerald City," I think.

>> *Laughter*



Mr. Speaker, I found the magazine to be extremely well-laid out, containing well-written articles that were relevant and interesting. The first annual “state of the economies” review was succinct and informative.

Mr. Speaker, within a few minutes a reader would quickly learn what makes the economies of the North click and recognize what investments from Ottawa need to be provided. A complimentary copy of the magazine should be sent to every Ottawa politician.

Mr. Speaker, of particular interest to me were the articles about Tahera Diamond Corporation’s financial woes; the Auditor General’s report about the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation; and the overly complicated NWT regulatory system. It was apparent to me that the magazine will publish business articles about the North’s negatives alongside the many positives.

Mr. Speaker, one of the very positive articles was a story about Mr. Sean Ivens, President and CEO of Medic North in Yellowknife. I met Mr. Ivens last year and was very impressed by his vision for his business. In the article he mentions that he has some “potential solutions to health-care staffing throughout the North.” I hope that someone from HSS contacts him soon.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to join me in congratulating the publisher, editor and staff of *Up Here Business* for their foresight and initiative in creating this important business magazine. I believe that the North will be well-served by *Up Here Business* as they get the message out via articles and photographs that the North is “*Open for Business.*”

Mr. Speaker, I would also like the House to join me in thanking the advertisers for supporting the premiere issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members’ Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Member’s Statement 340 – 2(4): Support for Sarah Ali**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish today to talk about something that my colleague from Iqaluit East mentioned a couple of days ago when he spoke about the wonderful success of the Iqaluit Speed Skaters. One of those speed skaters, a constituent of mine, Sarah Ali, has created a video about her love for the sport of speed skating. Currently her video is one of the top four finalists in the National ING Speed Skating Challenge to be chosen as Canada's Best Speed Skating Story.

Mr. Speaker, later today I will be tabling a letter from Sarah that describes what this challenge means to her and how you, and all other Nunavummiut, can support her by voting for her video.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of sport in the lives of Nunavummiut, both young and old, cannot be underestimated. Participation in activities such as speed skating, figure skating, hockey, curling, soccer, swimming - name any sport you like - is not just about making healthy lifestyle choices but can be the key to open up doors to many varied opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, when youth like Sarah take on a challenge such as the ING Speed Skating Challenge, she makes all of Nunavut proud. If her video is chosen as the winner, it will be shown at the ING Oval Finale in Calgary this spring.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to log on to the speed skating website and vote for Sarah's video, and wish her the best of luck. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

#### **Member's Statement 341 – 2(4): Caribou within Municipality of Baker Lake**

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin speaking, I would like to acknowledge my mother, father, my aunt Lucy, and my in-law. I say hello to you and I love you all.

Mr. Speaker, back then when we went out hunting for caribou in the Baker Lake area, in the wintertime, when it's very cold out and you have to sleep out on the land at times while hunting when you're very far, it was very difficult and at times dangerous when it's too cold.

For many years now, the caribou have come very close to the community of Baker Lake. I can say to you that last year and this year, we see caribou just beside our houses and also near where our dogs are tied. They are very close to the community, right around the boundaries of Baker Lake.

They are very close now for the people that never hunted caribou before. We see caribou eating out on the land and just lazing around. They've been very close to our community every day and they are drinking from the sewage lagoon and from the reservoir.

We are wondering if the caribou will be edible for the people of Baker Lake. If they are drinking from the sewage lagoon, it could be dangerous and unhealthy for the caribou because they are too close to the community, and we have to take precautions.

We are hearing continually that the planes cannot land because the caribou are on the airstrip. Trucks have to stop to allow the caribou to pass by. There is a situation right now in our community.

I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members.

It is getting dangerous at the airstrip in the wintertime when the planes are trying to land, and I'm asking the Department of Environment and the Housing Corporation to look into the situation to see how we can better rectify the problems with the caribou nearby in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Members' Statements. Member for Tunnunig, Mr. Arvaluk.

### **Member's Statement 342 – 2(4): Sovereignty in the High Arctic**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, I would like to say that I am wearing a jacket that was made by my sister Rhoda and my fiancé Lisa. Thank you to both of you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of sovereignty in the High Arctic.

As all Members of the House are aware, the history of the High Arctic is complex. In many ways, it is tragic.

Mr. Speaker, today Inuit are well aware of the experience of the High Arctic exiles in the 20th century. The legacy of relocation lingers with us today, especially in the communities that I and a number of my colleagues represent.

However, I do not believe that this part of Canadian history is generally well-known in the rest of the country. Mr. Speaker, I suspect that if you were to ask 100 people in Toronto about the history of the High Arctic, you would be lucky if even one or two of them knew where to begin or to even find us on the map.

Mr. Speaker, the process of nation-building continues. This week's federal budget reflects a growing awareness of the importance of the North for the future of our nation.

However, at a time when our national claim over such territory as the Northwest Passage is being questioned by other countries, much more must be done to strengthen the human dimension of sovereignty.

Mr. Speaker, satellite surveillance and unmanned aerial drones are not enough. We also need federal infrastructure investments that will help to create the economic growth that will support the human presence in the High Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, the construction of modern small craft harbours and the expansion of community infrastructure will benefit not only Pond Inlet, but Canada as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I am personally ready to meet with representatives of the federal government at any time and in any place to address the needs of Pond Inlet and the High Arctic.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, your time has run out. You may ask for unanimous consent to conclude your statement. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My two minutes ran out as I was thanking my sister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our communities are ready to help meet the challenges of Arctic sovereignty in the 21st century, this means including the people of the High Arctic in building the infrastructure, self independence, and planning for their own future.

It is my hope that Ottawa will join us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 343 – 2(4): The Need for an Elders' Facility in Kugluktuk**

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, I am wearing all black because an elder passed away in Kugluktuk on Tuesday, and we think of the families in our prayers.

Mr. Speaker, once again I rise in this House to express the need for an elders' care facility in the community of Kugluktuk.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have been lobbying the government on this issue since I began my term in this Assembly. I have spoken on this issue in the House a number of times. I have asked questions. I have submitted documents such as the proposal from the Kugluktuk Elders' Committee.

Later today I shall be tabling a motion from the Kugluktuk Elders' Committee on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I recently met with the Kugluktuk Elders' Committee to discuss the ongoing need for a 24-hour care facility. The committee discussed a number of needs for the facility. For example, it should have between 10 and 20 beds. Country food should be available at all times. Elders in the facility should have the opportunity to interact with the younger generations of the community as well as with other elders.

Mr. Speaker, having an elders' facility within the community of Kugluktuk is important to our culture and to our wellbeing.

Mr. Speaker, our Elders' Committee has twice made a motion on this issue. Later today I will be tabling a copy of the most recent motion along with the signatures of the Kugluktuk elders who supported it.

I strongly urge the government to give full consideration to establishing a 24-hour elders' care facility in the community of Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 344 – 2(4): Diversion of Rivers for Hydro-electric Purposes**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the environment around the Hudson Bay area. We are concerned about the effects the damming has had on the rivers and we have made statements on more than one occasion about this issue and there was an agreement signed with the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq and the government.

Mr. Speaker, we are concerned about the merging of two rivers in our area. It is going to have a drastic effect on the ocean. Just recently, the water was spilling over onto the ice and flooding it.

The reason why they're merging those two rivers is so they can supply power to the southern provinces. With *Inuit Qaujimagatugangit*, we know that the sea ice doesn't flood over until spring.

We are concerned about the merging of these two rivers because it has had a drastic effect on the sea ice. There is a big difference between ice and lake ice. We're concerned about the Quebec Government when they're saying it has no effect at all on any other jurisdiction, including my area, but that is not the case.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it's up to the government to listen to us. The sea provides food. We get food from the ocean bed and we also hunt marine mammals for our livelihood and for our food. As that is the case, the only place that the marine mammals can live is in the ocean.

Mr. Speaker, what I'm trying to say is that the Quebec Government is not listening to the concerns of the people from the Hudson Bay area. They have stated that they are going to look into the issue but nothing has been done to date by the Quebec Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Members' Statements. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

#### **Member's Statement 345 – 2(4): Need for Docking Facilities at Grise Fiord & Resolute Bay**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. I send my regards to my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the docks that are required in our communities. Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord need docking facilities. When I go there in the fall, it's usually when there are high winds. The people of Grise Fiord don't have a safe harbour where they can keep put in their boats. Boats are extremely expensive as the cost of transportation is extremely expensive.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has a lot of rules and we'll have to review this very carefully if we're going to be building any docking facilities or safe harbours around those communities.

In the communities that I represent, if you look at the small craft harbour, my communities were totally excluded because they don't have a fishing license. Even though that's the case, it is a definite need to build those docking facilities or safe harbours in Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord.

Mr. Speaker, whether a community is small or large, they have to be treated equally and be given the same advantages. With the cost of living in our communities, the elders have a need to eat traditional foods, and since that's the case, we need proper facilities and proper infrastructure for the items that they use for hunting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Item 3. Members' Statements. If there is nothing else, Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Finance and CLEY, Mr. Tapardjuk.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to Oral Question 393 – 2(4): Pension Adjustment Announcement**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question was asked by Mr. Hunter Tootoo, MLA for Iqaluit Centre. I have a Return to Oral Question 393 – 2(4) in regard to pension adjustments and I would like to have it entered into the record as read, Mr. Speaker.

##### **Question:**

I asked the minister to correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe that this was implemented for the 2006 year by the federal government. If that was the case, why did they wait two years before the Government of Nunavut implemented that benefit as well for Nunavummiut?

##### **Response:**

The Government of Nunavut, through Bill 19, has made a number of amendments to mirror changes in the federal *Income Tax Act* in November 2007.

The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability stated in his opening comments to the Committee of the Whole on the review of Bill 19, "Mr. Chairman, during his appearance before the standing committee, members encouraged the minister and his officials to carefully monitor changes in the federal tax

legislation that impact Nunavummiut, and to introduce appropriate legislation as required.”

Due to a change in responsibilities within the Department of Finance, some federal tax amendments that required changes to Nunavut’s *Income Tax Act* were not dealt with in a timely manner.

As noted by the previous Minister of Finance, the Government of Nunavut is continually monitoring changes to Nunavut’s *Income Tax Act* at the appropriate time.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Thank you. I apologize; we will identify the minister’s response and have it entered in the *Hansard*.

Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

#### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am extremely pleased, Mr. Speaker, that my wife arrived yesterday and will be here for a while. She will be here but we will be going back to Baker Lake tomorrow. My wife Jean Simailak who is also the minister in our community, she is also a Member of the Health Committee in Baker Lake under the umbrella of the hamlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. If there are no more, Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

##### **Question 428 – 2(4): Travel Arrangements for Minor Patients**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, and I’m sure this is probably one that she could do in her sleep as questions about it have been raised time and time again, and it’s dealing with the arrangements being made for patients going out on medical travel.

Mr. Speaker, my question I would like to ask the minister is: if a minor patient going out with an adult escort was leaving Iqaluit to attend appointments in Ottawa, where would those arrangements be made for their travel and how would that all be processed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When travel arrangements are being made for patients, first of all, the patient is referred by a doctor or nurse from Iqaluit to a specialist down in Ottawa, and then those arrangements are made once the confirmation of appointment is made through the travel office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated the travel office; I'm just wondering if there's one here at the hospital or at the office in Pangnirtung. I'm just wondering if she could answer this as well: once their appointments are complete, what kinds of arrangements are made and who makes the arrangements for them to return back to Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated many times in the House here, when the referral is made out of the hospital here that the hospital travel office makes the travel arrangements down to Ottawa.

For anyone coming from the North Island to Iqaluit, that was handled through Pangnirtung, and when the appointments are completed in Ottawa, usually, if they're not staying at the Larga, the confirmation arrangements are made through the travel office that organized it originally. If you're staying at Ottawa Larga, then, through the referral office there, the confirmations are made from the boarding home with the airlines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for clarifying that. How do they confirm if once the appointments are finished? What kinds of mechanisms are in place to ensure that the appointments are done and return travel arrangements are made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you're staying at the boarding home in Ottawa, OSNI out of Ottawa, which is the organization that deals with all the appointments with the doctors and so on, are advised that the patient completed has their appointment and that there's no further appointment, and OSNI deals directly with the physicians and so on to organize that. So once that confirmation is made, OSNI notifies the boarding home that deals with the airlines.

In the case of an employee, for instance, if they're travelling and they receive a notice from the doctor that their appointments are completed, then they notify the travel office

here, and then that arrangement is made out of here to come back as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the minister for that response. In the case, as she had indicated, if someone is not staying at the boarding home and she indicated that the onus is on them to contact to get travel arrangements to return home, are all of the patients and escorts that are leaving, that are not staying in the boarding homes, provided with information that it is up to them, that they are required to contact the office, I guess it would be here in Iqaluit, to arrange the return travel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every referral, every travel is never the same as the last one. For instance, if you're staying at a hotel, you're an employee, and your appointment is tomorrow, you go to your appointment and there are no further appointments booked, you go on the next flight and we base the travel based on that.

If you're travelling and you're in Ottawa, and you have an appointment, then you have to be admitted to the hospital, then once that process is complete, that they get a notification of discharge that is sent to the hospital here, and that's when the travel is made. But, it is up to the individual that's there to do notify the travel office. For instance, the government employees stay in hotels when they travel for medical, versus the people that are not part of the Government of Nunavut's employees are staying at the boarding home.

So through that arrangement, notification is made with the travel office here to organize that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 429 – 2(4): NAC's Provision of Support Services to Single Parents**

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

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Arctic College has campuses across Nunavut and many out of town single parents who are enrolled in programs at the college are bringing their children with them during the school year. This actually requires child care provider services for their children while they attend classes.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister: can the minister tell the House how Nunavut Arctic College student services assists single parents to find and arrange suitable,

qualified and licensed child care providers for their children when they attend school?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unlike the student body that we see in many universities and colleges down south, the majority of our students, when they attend Nunavut Arctic College, usually have children and dependents.

Two years ago, Mr. Speaker, the government announced, through the Department of Education, that when we build any new school, and indeed, if we do any new Nunavut Arctic College accommodations or residence, we would put an actual daycare in that building. That's happening right now, for example, in Rankin Inlet.

When a student is enrolled in a college and comes from out of town, for example, they're going to Rankin Inlet, or for example in this case, Iqaluit, there is a daycare on site. First and foremost, we allocate spaces for students of the college. Student services at the college campus itself also help facilitate child care or daycare needs. 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 the answer. Mr. Speaker, there is considerable stress on students who attend Nunavut Arctic College programs, more so on single parents who have the competing pressures of caring for their children when they come to, let's say, Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell the House what counselling services the Nunavut Arctic College provides to single parents to help them succeed in class while they have the competing pressures of caring for their children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the major campuses of the college, where we have students that would come from outside of that given community, we have on staff counsellors who are able to support, and indeed, assist our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. Mr. Speaker, raising children is challenging, particularly when they're sick or when the parent doesn't have a reliable child care provider. Students' attendance in class will be affected while they care for their children if the children are sick or if their child care provider is unreliable.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House if Nunavut Arctic College accounts for sick children and child care provider issues when determining whether to send a disciplinary or a suspension letter to students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the member has been doing a very good job as an advocate for students that come out of the Kitikmeot, and in particular from Cambridge Bay. I had an opportunity to work with him on several occasions, and indeed, I think we helped personally out of our office one of the students help find child and daycare.

Each case, Mr. Speaker, is judged on its own merits and that process is in place on disciplinary letters or what have you. So that process is in place, it's actually quite clear, there are different steps in that process. So hopefully that helps clarify the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. And, yes, he has been of great assistance to me with some of the students who I represent when they attend school outside of Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Arctic College has an appeal committee that hears appeals from students who have been dismissed from a Nunavut Arctic College program. I'm not 100 percent sure that they hear all of the evidence when they're considering an appeal.

My question for the minister: can the minister explain to the House how the appeal committee ensures that all mitigating factors in a student's dismissal are carefully considered when they're deciding to uphold or overrule a dismissal from the Nunavut Arctic College? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we look at issues around the dismissal of a student, that's usually the final result of a whole process that occurs.

The first step in that process, indeed, is for the student to have individual meetings with instructors and campus staff. If the problem can't be rectified and there are other issues going on, then at some point, there would be a formal response in writing to that student, then if the student has been suspended, the student has the right of appeal, an appeals board is formed at the college, and then that appeal goes forward.

So there is a whole process, it's not something that happens because of an incident or what have you, there is a whole process outlined. Students are kept informed of that process, and indeed, play a major role in being available for the appeals process as well as the disciplinary action that's being taken whether it's a verbal or a written appeal and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 430 – 2(4): Medical Travel Destinations for Kugluktuk Residents**

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month a number of my constituents travelled from Kugluktuk to receive dental care. I would like to assure the minister that there were no complaints whatsoever on the level of service received or on the travel and boarding arrangements. However, my question for the minister is: why would these patients be sent to Churchill, Manitoba, for dental services? That is a very long way away from home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's nice that there were no complaints for a change.

The whole issue around the waiting list relating to dental has been one that we have been trying to address for the last four years. The member will recall that in the Kitikmeot, I believe we had two or three charters. The charter was from the Kitikmeot to Iqaluit with I think 30-something people on each flight. That was to address the whole issue around the waiting list of the number of people that required dental care.

In the Kitikmeot region, for instance, Yellowknife and Hay River are the closest points. What we have tried to do is to address and reduce the waiting list, look to Iqaluit and other areas that provide services to the Government of Nunavut for people in Nunavut that require that treatment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. One of the biggest costs for this government is in the area of medical travel. To travel from Kugluktuk to Churchill, Manitoba, is very long and very expensive. Can the minister explain why such

an expensive option was chosen to fly those dental patients all the way to Churchill from Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's no secret how much money we spend on medical travel; it was the topic of discussion yesterday.

We have a choice: either not address it or address it. The whole issue is we have to send patients out to get the treatment they need and not sending them out is not an option. If a person requires dental care or medical care, the reality in Nunavut is we have to send them out. We can either charter, or send them by scheduled airfare, or medevac them out. That's the nature of the business in Nunavut when it comes to treating sick people.

We have contracts in place in Ottawa, here, Winnipeg, Churchill, and Yellowknife for a number of services and one of them is dental. So what we're trying to do within the Department of Health is trying to address the waiting list of people that require treatment, such as dental, and using our existing contracts and looking outside Yellowknife when we have to respond to the patients' needs.

So putting money aside, you have to weigh the balance: do we treat the person or not? And, not treating a patient is not an option in my opinion. We have to respond when a person requires treatment in Nunavut. One of the ways we're trying to address that is to cut costs by chartering a number of people and chartering them back as soon as the treatment is done.

So that's the procedure that's in place in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Studies have shown that it is much more cost effective to send a specialist or dental professional into a community to provide services instead of sending patients and their escorts out of the territory to see specialists or dental professionals. Can the minister explain why dental professionals were not contracted to visit Kugluktuk to provide these services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Studies have also shown that prevention is the best medicine. The initiative that we're trying to do is prevent tooth decay through our prevention program through Public Health and so on.

In terms of why a specialist was not sent, in cases where it requires a surgical procedure, we have to send them to the facility that provides that service. The Kugluktuk Health Centre Dental Office is not set up to do surgical work. So we have to charter people out or send them to an area like Hay River or here that performs that service within a hospital setting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

**Question 431 – 2(4): Update on Rankin Inlet Medical Boarding Home**

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

When the brand new hospital in Rankin Inlet opened, people in the Kivalliq region were very happy and even went to see the opening ceremony. Since the opening ceremony, it has not been fully functioning at its full capacity.

We have heard from many patients from Baker Lake that they leave at eight o'clock in the morning and they're supposed to make it back that same evening. When they go to Rankin Inlet, they're told that there's no place for them to board and they don't even know where they're going to stay during the day while they stay in Rankin Inlet.

Do you have a place where the patients can wait when there is no boarding home in Rankin Inlet? What plans do you have to place patients while they're waiting in Rankin Inlet prior to the boarding home being built? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of what arrangements are in place for people that travel to Rankin Inlet for the day for a doctor's appointment and to travel back in the evening.

As to what happens after the appointment and before the flight, whether we have arrangements for the patient to be in a place where they wait for their flight, I'm not aware of any arrangements that have been made in those instances. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have heard in the Kivalliq region that they will be establishing a room at the hospital in Rankin Inlet so that it could be used for outpatients where they can rest and wait. It's evident that when you're physically ill that that's the only time when you go to the hospital to see a doctor. When you're feeling physically ill and there's no place for you to rest, it is very uncomfortable.

So therefore, could the minister tell me if they had already established the room for the patients to wait? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The implementation plan for the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and the hospital here has just been finalized and it's a three-year implementation plan.

In that plan we have outlined at which year what procedures would be provided in each of those centres; what does it need in terms of staff required to address those procedures and extending facilities that may be required to support that service.

As it is right now, we're at the early stages of that process. For patients that require overnight stays in either Cambridge Bay or Rankin Inlet, presently, the arrangements are made through commercial establishments in the community as we do not have long-term boarding home arrangements in those communities.

Right now, as it is in this stage of the implementation plan, it's too early to say when that will be established. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that the patients are usually left with a hotel to stay at. I'm talking about the patients that have to stay in Rankin Inlet just for a day. Although they may have relatives in Rankin Inlet, when the relatives are at work, they have no place to go during the day while they're waiting to see a doctor. So that's what I'm talking about; there is no transportation provided for them and there is no place for them to go have meals.

In Winnipeg and Churchill, there is a driver to drive them. Perhaps, we should see if they could go to Churchill instead. Do you have staff employed already in Rankin Inlet to help the patients and assist the patients that are going to Rankin Inlet just for a day for services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my earlier response, I said I was not aware; I will look into that. I just got a note that there had been something arranged but I'm not familiar or aware of any arrangement made so patients can wait for their flight in a facility arranged by health. So I will look into that and I will report back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, can the minister indicate to me when the Baker Lake residents can stay at the boarding home in Rankin Inlet? I don't know how you will be naming that boarding home, but when will that boarding home be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have committed to that and I will not communicate with Baker Lake alone but with all of the communities in the Kivalliq what arrangements are made, and as soon as I have that information, I'll get it to the members. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 432 – 2(4): Nunavut Housing Corporation Contracting Practices**

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I read the article not long ago on the local *Nunatsiaq News* on February 8, 2008, with the following headline: "Ex-clown Juggles Shipping Logistics." Mr. Speaker, I wish our Nunavut citizens have a choice to play or work like this clown. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the minister announced that the NHC has entered into a contract with an Ontario-based company for the marshalling and delivering of housing materials.

Can the minister clearly outline for the House today the process by which the NHC issued its new marshalling contract and explain exactly why this Ontario company and former clown was chosen? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He had the best costume.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, my apologies. Mr. Speaker, the tender was out for the marshalling contract for Nunavut Housing \$200 million Trust Fund and there was an evaluation done by our

staff and the best proponent was picked in that, and in this case, it was the Illamar Marshalling Incorporated out of Chesterville, Ontario. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavummiut are very serious about trying to get into a contract or entering into contracting arrangements to serve a number of services the government offers but I don't think they have to stoop that low to be successful in getting a contract by acting as a clown.

Mr. Speaker, I noted that the Minister's Statement was very, very careful to avoid the subject of jobs. According to one news report, Illamar Marshalling is expected to employ between 70 and 90 people. Can the minister indicate to this House how many of these jobs will actually go to Inuit? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As for Inuit being hired at this marshalling area, I do not have the figures but they committed to hiring Inuit people from Ottawa and we will monitor the situation. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the NNI Policy applies to the contracting activities of all of our Crown corporations and agencies, as they are part of the contracting regulations and the management of policies. Can the minister indicate to the House today whether the NHC considered awarding the marshalling contract to an Inuit-owned company, and if not, why not? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We base the awarding of the contract on the best possible scenario for the benefit of Nunavummiut and that's how we base our awarding of the contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Mr. Speaker, I believe that they were other bidders that had an Inuit-owned component when they actually bid for the tenders that were issued last fall.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that our economy will not grow in the long-term unless we make efforts now to build capacity. What plans does the minister have to work with Nunavut

companies so that they can take on the responsibility of providing major services which are crucial to the NHC? 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. (interpretation ends) With the Nunavut Housing Trust Fund, we employ up to 60 percent local Inuit on this project and we will continue to make sure that Inuit are involved.

With this project, we are very proud that we are going to produce up to 40 journeymen when the program is over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

#### **Question 433 – 2(4): Medical Travel Contract Including Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services concerning the contract that has been awarded and the three airlines have contracts up to now. Is Sanikiluaq included in the contract portfolio? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The contract that we're dealing with for medical travel is for the entire territory of Nunavut and it includes Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell me which airlines have been contracted for Sanikiluaq for services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are just about to finish the paperwork and once we finish working together, we will be submitting it to the House. We're still working on it and we want to produce a report that is in full context. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Premier be able to give us a report while we are still in session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll try and get it done while we are still in session because it affects everyone in the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 434 – 2(4): \$200,000 Approved for Arctic Bay Road**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Last year we approved \$200,000 for the highway to Nanisivik. They were following the *Financial Administration Act* when they wrote a letter that I received stating that the \$200,000 was transferred to the Iqaluit Airport for retrofits. Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister: was the \$200,000 tendered out after we approved it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes we allow transfers within our finances. That \$200,000 was a purse and there's also a policy stating that if it's over \$500,000, then it would have to be approved and I'm sure that was visible during that time and I can ask my employees to give me some clarification. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was not brought up at the House and it was not even requested to my knowledge that it was transferred. Why is that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes we transfer when there is a lack of funding for other projects and when there is not enough funding for other projects, we look for it and then we would return it back to the pocket. I will get some clarification and I will get back to the member as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 435 – 2(4): Support for Literacy Programs**

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the national Council of Ministers of Education met in Toronto. I noted that the announcement from this meeting indicated that a National Forum on improving Canada's literacy rates will be held simultaneously in cities across Canada from April 14 to 15 of this year.

My question for the minister: can the minister indicate to the House today what events his department will be sponsoring here in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Canadian Ministers of Education Council, or CMAC, which Nunavut is a member of, we're quite excited about the opportunity for literacy and bringing literacy to the forefront in the New Year. Yes, Nunavut is playing a great role in this indeed.

This morning, Mr. Speaker, I actually taped a video message that would be played during the National PAN Literacy Forum. The focus for us is going to be in Arviat, we are hosting this PAN Literacy Forum, and indeed, we're going to have Susan Aglukark do a keynote address from Arviat during the forum. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information and I look forward to seeing how it all turns out.

Mr. Speaker, we know that Nunavut suffers from some of the lowest literacy rates in Canada. This is the reality. Strong literacy skills are necessary for employment in the modern economy. Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut, I believe that our residents must have strong literacy skills in both the Inuit language and English. The Department of Education's Business Plan indicates that the budget for literacy programs will increase only slightly from \$375,000 in 2007-08 to \$450,000 in 2008-09. My question for the minister: can the minister tell us how this funding will be used? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm in agreement with the member when it comes to issues around literacy. We know that the federal government arbitrarily cut money to literacy programs two years ago in their federal budget, and at that time, Mr. Speaker, the Members of the House joined with me in stating our concern with that.

The Government of Nunavut stepped up to the plate, and last year, we actually appointed for the first time ever in Nunavut a Literacy Coordinator which that position was filled in August of 2007, and that person is working through a whole range of different processes for adult literacy and literacy programs across Nunavut to coordinate or work with the GN and different GN departments, Arctic College, as well as NGOs throughout Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, some of the things we're doing, including the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy that we put in place, partly funded through our literacy money, some of the funding for literacy also goes in the community-based projects and programs. Again, through the literacy coordinator, that's continuing in this fiscal year. 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 update. Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Literacy Council does excellent work in Nunavut. The council's head office is located in my community of Cambridge Bay.

As the minister indicated, there were budget cuts last year by the federal government. I was shocked, Mr. Speaker, when they announced cuts to literacy when they took office. I was hopeful this week that they would reinstate some of the funds, but of course, they didn't do that and that doesn't give us much hope for the future and that government.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House today what support his department currently provides to the Nunavut Literacy Council and indicate how he has assisted the council to make up for lost federal funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I want to thank the member for raising the issue around literacy, and indeed, the funding for literacy.

We have been very supportive of the office in Cambridge Bay. I want to take this opportunity to say that the director in Cambridge Bay has done an excellent job. When those cuts were announced, as an example, we went out, she contacted different organizations throughout Nunavut, and indeed, businesses to help support and make up that shortfall. We were able to come forward with some extra dollars also at that time.

I spoke with I believe it was First Air at the time and we were able to get an arrangement from their President's Banquet where money was donated to the Literacy Council through that type of advocacy.

I just want to say that that's how we supported the Literacy Council and the office in Cambridge Bay, whether through financial, logistic, as well as administrative support to that office. 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 answer. It's indeed very gratifying that there are people around Canada that support literacy issues in Nunavut even if the federal government doesn't.

Mr. Speaker, parents and the public have the right to know how well our school system is doing in teaching literacy skills to our children. Can the minister indicate to the House what kinds of standardized literacy tests are given in schools and will he commit to ensuring that the department does not suppress the results of these important evaluations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, the member asked about the literacy coordinator, and one of the major roles of the Literacy Coordinator for Nunavut is her task is ensuring the standardization of our curriculum and testing of the Adult Basic Education Program that we have in place.

At the same time, the literacy coordinator is setting up a Literacy Framework for Nunavut, and that's to meet the goals of the Nunavut Learning Strategy that we tabled in the House and also what's been agreed to through CMEC, which is the Canadian Ministers of Education Council on Education. That was agreed to at our February 2007 meeting when the issue of literacy was raised. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 436 – 2(4): Security Measures at Old Residence in Iqaluit**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Education and the Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that Iqaluit is the home of the main campus and they also have a single residence down at what they call the "Old Res" here.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister: what kind of security measures do they have in place to ensure the safety of the students that are staying down at that residence? 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. What we used to refer to as Ukiivik, or the Old Student Residence, accommodates single students, and indeed, accommodate students that may come in for short-term course work and so on from across Nunavut to Iqaluit. The Ukiivik Residence at the part where the students are also consists of classrooms, so from nine to five, there are classrooms, instructors, teachers, and students moving about; there's a cafeteria there.

After hours, I think specifically with what the member is talking about, there is a security desk in the foyer of that residence which is staffed for security reasons and also for support to the students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the minister knows all too well that in that residence, there are separate areas for female students and separate areas for male students. What measures are in place to ensure the safety in the female part of the residence, the floors that are for females to prevent... in some cases, I know there have been reports of intoxicated male residents roaming around in the female residence. What steps are taken to ensure that that doesn't happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Previously, when the residence was a student accommodation for the high school students, there was a very strict segregation of the female and the male students. Right now, when we're talking about the residence, they aren't actually adult students, and when we say adults, they can range in age from 18 to 70.

There are, like I said, measures taken by the staff at the college to ensure that if people are inebriated, if we have people who are drunk and they're bothering other students, then that's dealt with through the auspices of the college; we do have a disciplinary policy in place.

I'm not aware of, Mr. Speaker, where there have been incidents raised recently in the last few days or few weeks. In the past, there have been some issues where students have gone back to the residence where they're staying that have been inebriated, and indeed, have been dealt with because of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Say, for example, if there were some allegations of a sexual assault by someone that was staying in the residence to another person that was staying in the residence, what measures would be taken by the department?

Although I know, again, you're presumed innocent until found guilty, but that could cause a lot of anxiety to students staying in the residence if that individual involved was still within that residence. Could the minister outline, in a case like that, what kind of steps would they take to try and ensure the safety and comfort of the students at the residence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a process in place that all of the students are aware of when they take residence at the Ukiivik concerning if they had violent behaviour and other types of issues. In this case, what the member is talking about, people who would go to the residence who were drunk, who would be interfering or causing some issues, then those processes and those steps are outlined.

If, for example, something that occurred where the RCMP were involved, and the RCMP would be involved and they would take care of those legalities, for example, if there was an assault or something. In the cases where somebody is coming back to the residence and they have been drinking and they cause noise or problems, interfering or bothering other students, then there is a process and the policies in place.

It is quite well spelled out by the college for those students, and in that case, then the students could be subject to disciplinary measures by the college, and indeed, including suspension and expulsion from the residence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Like I said in my earlier comment, one is presumed innocent until found guilty. In cases like that where there are charges, is there any protocol in place to relocate an individual in question? In cases like that, is there some type of mechanism or protocol that they have to cover that off? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you put in place guidelines and rules, and everyone knows those rules and guidelines, and I go back to the residence as an example, and I'm drunk and I cause problems for other people, and we expel you, then you know the rules. You're an adult student and the college doesn't then try to access or find other accommodations for you. You've put yourself in that situation.

When we say suspension, that usually means you're suspended privileges at the residents and you may have suspended privileges for a couple of weeks while an investigation is going on.

If there are charges being laid by the RCMP, then that is a different case because if there are charges laid by the RCMP, then something serious may have occurred. In that case, Mr. Speaker, then a different protocol would be in place for the termination of the student's accommodations at the residence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 437 – 2(4): Update on Employees' Canada Savings Bonds**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance.

After receiving a letter dated October 19, 2007, I asked a question regarding the Canada Savings Bonds and if those could be applied to government employees. That used to be the case when we were still under the Government of the Northwest Territories. At the time of division, that wasn't divvied up between the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Territories. This matter was going to be looked into but nothing has been done to date. Could you give us an update today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Human Resources and Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a copy of the correspondence dated October 19, 2007, so at this time, I will have to take the question as notice. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk, the minister will get back to your question. I'm sorry, Mr. Arvaluk. Oral Questions. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

#### **Question 438 – 2(4): Sole Source Contract – Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, last year I tabled a set of photographs depicting the condition of the school. Yesterday, I posed questions to the Minister of Education with regards to the very same school. But, Mr. Speaker, Kudlik Construction was sole sourced to renovate the school and it will cost approximately \$2 million to renovate. Why is that the case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is representing three communities, so I would like him to identify which school he's referring to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas, please rephrase your question.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am referring to the Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay. As I stated earlier, I tabled pictures and I posed some questions to the Minister of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Thank you for rephrasing your question. Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to respond to that question and it's better for me when their preamble is quite long because I get a chance to find the appropriate response.

>>*Laughter*

I have a hard time finding the information. In regard to the school in Arctic Bay, we hired some consultants to find out exactly how much renovation is required and it had a price tag of \$950,000 to renovate the windows and the doors and so on.

I don't think I'll be able to respond to your question in regard to sole sourcing Kudlik Construction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will want to get a response to that and I would like the minister to provide me with that information if she cannot respond to me today. The government is going to be using a lot of money and we did get materials in Arctic Bay, like windows and so on. The private companies in Arctic Bay weren't even asked to see if they had the materials, when, in fact, they did. Why is that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't realize that. I will look into the matter and I would like to thank the member for bringing that up. I will look into the issue and get back to the member within the next few days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is this for Oral Questions? I want to confirm that I had my hand up earlier. I thought you had me on the list, so I want to confirm that before I go on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): I apologize, Member for Iqaluit Centre. Because it's the end of Question Period, I didn't see anybody with their hand raised, so you will have to ask your colleagues if you could go ahead with your question. You may do so if you wanted to ask a question, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** No, that's okay.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Member for Rankin North, Mr. Curley.

### **Item 10: Replies to Budget Address**

#### **Reply to Budget Address 001 – 2(4): Mr. Tagak Curley**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be the last day for that, so I would like to make a comment on the situation in Nunavut and the challenges that we face on a daily basis. Again, these are unique challenges that we face that do not exist in the other jurisdictions.

The budget doesn't really deal with any issues or challenges that we face up here and we can't quite figure out how the Government of Nunavut, and this is especially for the Minister of Finance, we can end up with a surplus when our cost of living is extremely high when you look at the rest of the nation. We have the highest costs for food. For example, it's very hard for some people to make ends meet with the costs of food, transportation, housing, and the daily essentials.

Mr. Speaker, I can say that the NTI made a comment and Monica Ell stated that a family in Arviat, after all expenses, they go into a deficit of \$168 per month. How can the Government of Nunavut end up with a surplus when the people of Nunavut are going into a deficit situation just trying to make ends meet for essentials of living?

Mr. Speaker, we would like to understand how the government can have a surplus when some communities are given huge projects. For example, we have the wildlife officers who are operating without any money and the housing associations are building houses through the Project Management Fund when they don't have a project manager.

The situation in Nunavut, Mr. Speaker, is: should I pay for my house or should I pay for my food? We all need shelter and we all need food. That must change.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our communities have the greatest infrastructure deficit of any community in Canada. Our communities lack roads, boats, wharfs, and most have inadequate and outdated airports. Yet, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing in the budget to address the infrastructure deficit in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the budget may have a surplus but our communities have little to live with the reality of infrastructure deficit everyday.

Mr. Speaker, this budget does nothing to deal with the cycle of escalating costs that confront our communities.

Mr. Speaker, we need to deal with this as a top priority and seriously. Our communities completely lack the basic transportation infrastructure that most communities in the south take for granted.

Mr. Speaker, our transportation costs, mainly air transportation up here, as well as the marine transportation, and consequently, the costs of everything that come into and out of our communities are only compounded by the fact that our communities lack just basic transportation infrastructure.

In plain terms, Mr. Speaker, the lack of infrastructure capacity in our communities increases our costs and reduces the services available to us. Less capacity equals more costs and fewer services.

Mr. Speaker, the costs that we end up paying is a reduced opportunity for economic development. The budget does not provide anything for these costs.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, the Premier signed an Infrastructure Agreement with the federal government from the Building Canada Fund. Nunavut is going to receive about \$185 million over the next seven years. This is good money, Mr. Speaker, because any money from Ottawa is good money, but in real terms, Mr. Speaker, it is not that beneficial for Nunavut and I'll tell you why.

Under the Building Canada Fund, every territory and province is going to receive \$25 million per year for seven years. From this perspective, Nunavut received just a little more than a million a year extra. This is really not enough, Mr. Speaker. Not enough even to begin to address the infrastructure deficit in our communities.

What makes it more disappointing, Mr. Speaker, is that these monies will not be used for ports. The communities, most of them, even headquarters, lack any marine ports in Nunavut. There is something wrong here, Mr. Speaker. We need more from Ottawa and our communities deserve more from Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, when our leaders go to Ottawa, we need them to do more than play golf. We need them to deliver for our communities in Nunavut. We have to break the cycle of escalating costs that begins with dealing with our fundamental under-capacity in infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, our communities in Nunavut want the same benefits and opportunities, the capacity that Canada offers, provides for, and makes available in its southern regions, to be made available here in our local communities for the benefit of our peoples across Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, the budget presented by the Finance Minister does not deliver on that and for our people.

Last week when the Senators were here visiting Iqaluit studying poverty, a representative from NTI, Monica Ell, told the Senators, “Nunavut is not poor. Our land is rich. Our people are strong. Our communities just need the basic tools that Canada makes available to its communities in Southern Canada.” Mr. Speaker, Monica Ell is absolutely right. Nunavut is not poor. Our people are strong. All we need are the tools that include good government. For our sustainable economic development, we need good government.

Mr. Speaker, looking back at recent developments in GN, our communities are not getting a good government; we are not getting good leadership. We need leadership that brings people together. We need leadership that brings our communities together. Most of all, we need leadership that partners with our communities, Mr. Speaker. This budget doesn't deliver.

Mr. Speaker, my community, for instance, is waiting for road transportation and requires a decent docking facility. This is not to mention the seven communities that continue to wait for the small craft harbours funding from Ottawa. We're still living in the dark ages when marine transportation, loading, and cargo come in every summer. Nunavut is approximately one fifth of Canada's land mass and we have around two thirds of Canada's total coastline, and yet, we do not have any ports or policies to build decent ports in Nunavut. It's a shame, Mr. Speaker.

At least, according to the budget tabled in our Legislature, we are running a surplus. Imagine: our communities need significant investment to get the tools they need to generate jobs in tourism, fishing, hunting, harvesting, and transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to underline this: we need the infrastructure badly. We are still waiting. Our government has to make this a priority.

Mr. Speaker, we need a vision and leadership at the territorial level and we need leadership to bring this message to Ottawa, to work with Ottawa to deliver on this for our communities.

Mr. Speaker, this includes a vision and commitment to deliver on a plan that will finally connect and bring our communities together. Our communities need major significant investments across all modes of transportation, including air, rail, and roads.

What is required, Mr. Speaker, is more than just \$26 million a year for the next seven years under the Building Canada Fund. Let Nunavummiut remember that this is \$33 billion that Canada provides for communities across Canada. Nunavut requires billions of dollars in federal investment in basic infrastructure, and in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, tens of billions of dollars, in fact, are required beginning today, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. 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. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I was just a little slow sticking my hand up, but I would like to ask for unanimous consent to go back to Tabling of Documents. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. The member is asking for unanimous consent to go back to Item 14. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Revert to Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 185 – 2(4): Letter from Sarah Ali Requesting Support for ING Speed Skating Challenge Video**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a letter from Sarah Ali describing what the ING Speed Skating Challenge means to her and how you, and all other Nunavummiut, can support her by voting for her video online and all of the directions are on there.

Mr. Speaker, once again I encourage all of you to log on to the speed skating website and vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Please bring the documents up so that when we're in our hotel rooms we can look through them.

Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

#### **Tabled Document 186 – 2(4): Seniors Facility for Kugluktuk – Motion from Elders Meeting February 12, 2008**

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague, I had my earphone off.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a copy of a motion made by the Kugluktuk Elders Committee regarding the urgent need for a 24-Hour care facility for the elders in Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, this is the second such motion put forward by the Elders Committee. As you will see, I am also attaching the signatures of those who voted on this motion.

I urge the government to give this motion full consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation) Thank you. Tabling of Documents. If there are no more, Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

### **Item 17: Motions**

#### **Motion 026 – 2(4): Extension of Review Period for Bills 6 and 7**

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

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

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

AND WHEREAS Rule 66(1) provides that bills referred to a Standing Committee shall not be proceeded with until the Assembly receives the report from the Committee or 120 calendar days pass from the day the bill was given second reading;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly approved motion 20 – 2(4) on October 30, 2007, to grant a 120-day extension to the Standing Committee's review period;

AND WHEREAS the Standing Committee is committed to fulfilling its responsibility to review these bills with care;

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



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17. Motions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Motion 027 – 2(4): Acceptance of the Report of the Integrity Commissioner to the Legislative Assembly Regarding Mr. David Simailak, MLA**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly has tabled the Report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut regarding the conduct of Mr. David Simailak, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Baker Lake;

AND WHEREAS the *Integrity Act* requires that the Legislative Assembly shall consider a report laid before the House within 10 sitting days after its tabling, and shall respond to the report before the end of the session in which the report is laid before it;

AND WHEREAS the Integrity Commissioner has made certain recommendations;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly may either accept or reject all of the Integrity Commissioner's recommendations;

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. The motion is in order. To the motion. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

My apologies, Mr. Tootoo. Before we proceed, I wish to remind members of the following: any member will have the opportunity speak once for no more than 20 minutes. The mover will speak to the motion first and the seconder will be next. The mover of the motion will have the opportunity for the last reply. To the motion. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the mover of this motion, I wish to offer some comments for the public record today.

I would like to begin by thanking the Member for Nattilik for having seconded this motion. The matter in question is one that must be dealt with by the Legislative Assembly as a whole, and it is my hope that today's vote on the motion will be unanimous.

Mr. Speaker, when the Members of the Legislative Assembly passed the *Integrity Act* in 2001, we had high hopes that our statute would be amongst the strongest of its kind in the nation. Seven years later, I continue to believe that we have a good piece of legislation.

When we developed and passed the *Integrity Act* that I believe was done in Cambridge Bay under the midnight sun, one of our concerns was to achieve a goal of ensuring that elected officials do not use their positions for personal gain while not throwing up unnecessary disincentives to people who are active in the business community from either running for public office and bringing their ideas, experience, and energy to the floor of this House.

Mr. Speaker, transparency is the key and I believe that the Integrity Commissioner's Report to the Legislative Assembly on this matter provides clear observations with respect to this dimension of the situation. I also believe that the report's recommendations are clear and appropriate as they relate to this specific matter, which is why I have moved this motion before the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by again commenting that transparency is essential. I continue to believe that we need a system to formally register and regulate the activity of paid lobbyists. This is an issue that the Integrity Commissioner commented on in his most recent annual report to the Legislative Assembly as was the issue of the development of conflict of interest guidelines for senior officials.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I'll conclude my comments by saying that at the appropriate time, I'll be asking for a recorded vote on this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Members. To the motion. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the seconder to the motion, I would like to make a few comments to the motion and it's more in general to the whole transparency and disclosure issue.

First, I agree with the recommendations in the report and this is an unfortunate occurrence with high consequences and implications, as seen unfolding in the last few months.

Mr. Speaker, today I want to speak about transparency and the intent of the *Integrity Act*. As I understand it, I believe it's a good Act and the report that was tabled by the Speaker, by yourself, Mr. Speaker, it states that openness is the fundamental feature of the legislation.

I truly believe in that statement and disclosure is the essential means by which potential conflict between private and public interests can be identified and be avoided, and every Member in this House is accountable for that full disclosure and his or her objectivity and impartiality can be fairly judged. When we talked about fairly judged ... we say by whom, by people in this House and by people of Nunavut. Again, the very people who elected us and put us in these jobs; we have a responsibility to the public to hold our jobs in the highest regards.

As an MLA, and as MLAs in this House, we disclose our salary on an annual basis, we disclose any gifts that we receive beyond a certain amount from any private sector, we also disclose our debts, we also disclose who our spouse is, their employment, their business interests and so on; my children, or your children, your spouse; we have to disclose that as part of the legislation and it's all about openness and transparency and accountability. But, not only that, Mr. Speaker, within the government, we also have policies in place for our senior staff. Our senior staff also are required to disclose their personal and private interests. Why do we do that? We do that to ensure that we protect the public interest.

So, again, I'm in full agreement that these are measures that are in place to ensure that when we make our decisions, when we deliberate, and when we debate that we are making the best decisions for Nunavummiut with the best information before us for them.

I believe that it's long overdue in Nunavut to take this transparency a step further. I believe that other organizations outside this legislature, outside 19 members, have to be extended. And, I say that because there are other elected officials out there who make decisions for me and for all of you.

I am a beneficiary of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Inuit organizations, I believe, should be disclosing their salaries, their benefits, their perks, their spouses' business interests and so on. I think, as a beneficiary, I have a right to know if the people I elected are making decisions for me, or people that are appointed are making decisions for the best interest for myself and people of Nunavut.

I have heard in the past, the saying from my leaders, "We're not government, so we don't need to disclose whether our spouse is listed as an interest in a company. I don't need to disclose that because we're not government." I have been told that personally. Guess what? It's my money. It's our money and we have the right to know that.

>>*Applause*

And, I believe, as well, that our elected officials in the Inuit organizations and the IPG senior staff have to also disclose their personal interests. They make decisions on our behalf, they influence decisions in their senior jobs, and I have a right to know that; people in Nunavut have a right to know that.

The disclosure, as I said, should extend beyond this House, and as it is right now, any Nunavummiut can walk into this building, go upstairs and go through our disclosure statements. It's public, it's transparent, and I believe that every beneficiary should have that right as well. I think they have a right to go and hold their other leaders accountable.

I believe that privilege exercised to hold us accountable has to be extended to the beneficiaries of Nunavut. After all, it's about being honest, being open, and being accountable to the people of Nunavut. And, today those are comments that I wanted to

make around the transparency issue, and again, it's an unfortunate incident that occurred here and it's a difficult one we have to deal with as mentioned by my colleague who moved the motion.

I want to again just state that I'm in support of the recommendations in the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. To the motion. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues for their comments. Mr. Speaker, ministers and MLAs are elected to represent their constituents and ridings with dignity and honour, and I firmly believe in that. We're expected to be role models to our constituents and all Nunavummiut who they can trust and respect without question.

Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut, the jurisdiction is small, there's no question about that. It's a big geographic area but there are only 31,000 of us here, so everybody seems to know what everyone else is doing. You hear it on the radio, you hear it in the airports, you hear it in town in the coffee shops, as a politician, you can't escape the microscope and it's on you everyday, and that doesn't just include MLAs and ministers, it includes all politicians.

Mr. Speaker, it's incumbent upon all elected leaders in Nunavut to recognize this when they perform their duties, whether it's for the government, or this Legislative Assembly, or other organizations in Nunavut. We're not elected to help ourselves personally, or our business interests, or those of our friends and relatives.

Mr. Speaker, I often hear and I have heard this for as long as I've been around, it seems like, we often hear the people comment that politicians are only in the elected offices to help themselves. In fact, they always call politicians crooks. It's one of the things we hear when they do the surveys, we're ranked down there as seven percent of the Canadian population that think we're crooks; we're down there with the murderers and thieves. That's how bad it is.

To this end, Mr. Speaker, it's incumbent on all elected officials to act in ways that ensure that public confidence in their offices is beyond reproach. In the little things you do, the big things you do, the things you don't do, everybody will, in Nunavut anyway, everybody will know what you're doing so they can tell how you're performing.

Mr. Speaker, we are elected to represent our constituents to the best of our abilities and we're not perfect. We're not experts in everything but there is a lot of common sense in what we can apply everyday of our lives; we know the difference between right and wrong, and those are easy questions to answer.

Mr. Speaker, I believe if we work hard, we'll represent Nunavut well and the public confidence will never ever be in doubt.

Mr. Speaker, I will be in support of my colleague's motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. To the motion. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to explain that I will not be voting to this motion. I also would like to state that I will want to make a response tomorrow morning. I am in support of all the motions. I would like all members to vote in favour of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. To the motion. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am in support of this motion because our current Integrity Commissioner will be resigning at the end of March. It is stated in the Act that he has to investigate and make a report to the Member for Baker Lake. He was fair and he was sensitive.

If the Member for Baker Lake apologizes, this issue will be over. I want to conclude with that and I would like to say that I'm sure that this was not done on purpose. I'm sure we will hear from our colleague for Baker Lake tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I was a bit concerned because I believe that we will have to look further into the regulations that we cannot control. If any ministers are travelling overseas, then they have to follow these policies and we as a government can control that. I have heard that the ministers have travelled to other provinces and that one of the ministers had gone down to Ottawa to play golf travelling from headquarters down to Ontario. These have to be known by Nunavummiut because they are paying for it. I believe this has to be transparent.

I will be supporting the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Some Hon. Member:** Hear, hear.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the motion. Question has been called. I just would like to remind you that there was a request for a recorded vote.

(interpretation ends) A recorded vote was requested. (interpretation ends) All those in favour, please stand and then sit down when I have called your name.

Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Akasuk.

Madam Aglukkaq.

Mr. Picco.

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Okalik.

Madam Brown.

Mr. Netser.

Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Peterson.

And, Mr. Kattuk.

All those opposed, please sit down while I call your name. All those abstaining, please stand and then sit down when I call your name.

Mr. Simailak.

(interpretation) Thank you. In favour of the motion, 16; opposed, 0; abstained, 1. The motion is carried.

Going back to the Orders of the Day. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Mr. Premier.

**Item 18: First Reading of Bills****Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's from the Department of Justice. I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nanulik, 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, Minister. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 27 has had its first reading.

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 with Committee of the Whole with Mr. Barnabas in the Chair, we'll take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:43 and Committee resumed at 16:11*

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

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

**Mr. Kattuk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with Bill 23 and commence the review of the Main Estimates of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. If time permits, we would proceed to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders, and Youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement that we first deal with the Main Estimates for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Bill 23 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2008-2009 –  
Consideration in Committee – Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs**

**Chairman**: Thank you. I would like to ask Premier Paul Okalik of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to make his opening comments. Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. I am pleased to appear before the Committee of the Whole to discuss the 2008-09 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA).

EIA has the smallest departmental budget in the Government of Nunavut (GN). This budget permits us to accomplish the goals and objectives committed to in *Pinasuaqtavut* 2004-09 and to advance *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* across all sectors of the government.

For 2008-09, EIA has been allocated \$11.2 million in operations and maintenance expenditures, as compared to \$10.9 million for the previous year, an increase of \$295,000.

Compared to the 2007-08 main estimates, there are only two changes: a \$145,000 increase to fund the implementation of the *Ikummatiit* Energy Strategy; and a \$150,000 increase to create a new decentralized position in our Statistical Division to support the GN's Mining Strategy.

As a territory dependent and reliant on fossil fuels, we are subject to volatile world oil prices each year. Over the next year, the Energy Secretariat, in coordination and input from the public and GN departments and agencies, will carry out important implementation on the *Ikummatiit* Energy Strategy that will focus on assessing alternative energy sources best suited for Nunavut and using our current energy more prudently. The results will be a stronger and more efficiently managed energy system, and a reduction in our energy consumption, thus meeting one of the key objectives of *Pinasuaqtavut* 2004-09.

The new position with the Statistical Division will allow us to assess and monitor activities relating to mineral development. This year, the focus will be to establish baseline socio-economic data, such as employment rates and income levels in communities. It will provide us with a snapshot of communities before development. As mineral development continues, this will allow us to monitor the benefits and impacts and guide our programs to maximize benefits to your communities and constituents.

Mr. Chairman, in this, the last year of *Pinasuaqtavut* 2004-09 mandate, I expect to continue building our successes over the past several years. I welcome questions and comments from my fellow MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table? Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Yes.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?



**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort Premier Okalik's officials to the witness table.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, Premier Okalik, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left, as you know my Deputy Minister, David Omilgoitok, and to my right, we have seconded him from the Department of Finance, Scott Marriott, who provides assistance to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Welcome. I would like to ask the Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability if he has any opening comments. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Please proceed, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very happy to be able to deliver the opening comments today for the Government Operations and Accountability Committee. Our committee has scrutinized the proposed 2008-09 Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, and as I indicated, I am very happy to be able to provide the committee's comments.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2008-09 budget of \$11,240,000 is slightly less than the budget that was approved for 2007-08. The department's budget has increased approximately 45 percent from its initial allocation of \$7,734,000 in 1999-2000.

Mr. Chairman, this is the fifth and final set of main estimates and departmental business plans to be considered by the Members of the Second Legislative Assembly. A number of concerns have been raised by the standing committee during prior years' reviews of the department's main estimates and business plans. I would like to take a moment to note progress and performance in these areas.

In a number of respects, the government's performance in meeting its statutory tabling requirements has improved since the first few years of GN's existence. EIA has an important role to play in enforcing discipline in this area with respect to departmental and Crown agency tabling requirements.

The standing committee continues to urge ministers to formally table in the House all policies that are approved by the Executive Council under the signature of the Premier as head of the executive branch of government.

The act of formally tabling such items in the Legislative Assembly in a timely fashion serves to recognize the fundamental principle of this government's accountability to the legislature. The regular tabling of new and revised GN policies also provides ministers with the opportunity to make formal statements in the House on the merits of such policies for the benefit of all members and the listening public.

Mr. Chairman, one of our collective goals announced at the 2004 Arviat Caucus Retreat at the beginning of our mandate was to explore overarching legislation to govern the accountability of public bodies across the territory. Issues of transparency and disclosure need to be a part of this initiative. An important issue that continues to need to be addressed is a system for the registration of lobbyists.

In a number of Canadian jurisdictions, the government regulates the registration of paid lobbyists. This is to help ensure that there is no secrecy when it comes to the public knowing who is acting on behalf of private interests. Generally, a public registry exists that clearly indicates who is lobbying on behalf of whom. This transparency is important when it comes to the public's ability to know who is attempting to make representations to government decision makers, and on what subjects. The 2006-07 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner to the Legislative Assembly, which was tabled in the House on May 29, 2007, noted that "the value of lobbyist registration, introduced by other jurisdictions, might be considered."

However, we continue to lack such a system in Nunavut, despite the standing committee's repeated calls for its establishment. To date, the government has not provided clear and compelling justifications for its apparent reluctance to introduce reform in this area.

Mr. Chairman, transparency and accountability must be more than a mere catchphrase. It must be a set of values which guide us as a public government. Thanks in part to recommendations made by the standing committee, the Government of Nunavut has improved and expanded the range of information that it makes available to the public through tabling in the Legislative Assembly. Members are pleased that the annual reports on government-wide grants and contributions expenditures, contracting, procurement and leasing activities, and bonus and travel expenditures are now being tabled in the House, although the timelines of these tablings has been inconsistent.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee has publicly noted on a number of occasions that the bottom line is this: members of the public have the right to know, in detail, where their tax dollars are being spent. Making detailed information public on a regular basis also serves as an effective deterrent against wasteful spending and abuse of process.

Mr. Chairman, the Government of Nunavut's obligations and activities with respect to the territory's *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* are coordinated by the department. The standing committee notes that the government has been working to develop a privacy impact assessment process for GN departments and public bodies. The

standing committee recognizes that a degree of progress has been made to act on recommendations made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the committee itself. The standing committee looks forward to continuing its work in this area, and notes that it has held three public hearings since the beginning of the Second Assembly on the annual reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to the Legislative Assembly.

Members have been pleased with the Government of Nunavut's ongoing work with the Northwest Territories and the Yukon on tri-territorial priorities, as illustrated by the renewal of the Northern Cooperation Accord and the 2007 release of the joint document titled, *A Northern Vision: A Stronger North and a Better Canada*.

Mr. Chairman, in December of 2005, the Government of Nunavut announced the appointment of a Chief Negotiator for devolution negotiations with the federal government. A new Devolution Division was subsequently added to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. In June of 2007, the Mayer Report was submitted to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs. The report recommended a "go slow" approach to devolution.

The 2007-08 Business Plan for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs indicated that the GN had a goal of achieving an Agreement-in-Principle on devolution by December 31, 2007 and a Devolution Final Agreement by December 31, 2008. However, the 2008-09 departmental business plan has a revised target of achieving an Agreement-in-Principle on devolution by December 31, 2008 and a Devolution Final Agreement by December 31, 2010. The department's 2008-09 business plan also indicates that "the federal government ... has not secured a negotiation mandate and negotiations have not yet begun."

The standing committee continues to believe that it is important for our government to come to the devolution negotiation table with credibility and confidence. Our capacity to achieve a significant transfer of responsibilities will be strengthened if we can clearly and convincingly demonstrate to Ottawa that we are successfully and responsibly managing our own affairs. It is important that our government act on recommendations made by this standing committee and the Auditor General to strengthen the government's financial management structures and practices.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee has encouraged the Premier and his ministers to account more frequently and formally to the House on their activities and achievements at the numerous federal-provincial-territorial meetings at which they participate. The standing committee has noted that ministers have been more proactive during the past year with respect to tabling reports on their intergovernmental initiatives and activities. The committee looks forward to the continuation of this practice.

On August 10, 2007, the federal government announced a number of sovereignty-related investments in the High Arctic, including a docking and refuelling facility in Nanisivik. During the fall 2007 sitting of the Legislative Assembly, a number of members raised

concerns in the House with respect to reports in the news media concerning the possible use of unmanned aerial drones by the Department of National Defence to patrol the arctic.

While the standing committee welcomes federal infrastructure investments in the arctic and supports the vigorous assertion of Canadian sovereignty, it is important that the human dimension of sovereignty not be neglected. The Government of Nunavut should work to act as a bridge between the federal government and local communities that will be most impacted by new federal initiatives in order to open lines of dialogue and help maximize local awareness of employment and training opportunities.

The standing committee continues to support a positive working relationship between the Government of Nunavut and NTI, while encouraging the government to be significantly more candid with MLAs and the general public concerning the rationale for its own position in areas where the two parties may have honest disagreements on specific issues. The standing committee also expects the Legislative Assembly and the public to be kept informed of the status of NTI's lawsuit against the federal government in light of recent developments that may result in the GN being dragged into the dispute.

The standing committee has noted that the GN's Deputy Ministers' Committee on Environment, Economy and Land is responsible for "coordinating GN participation and representation in resource development planning activity in the territory, as well as initiatives to improve the regulatory system related to land management." The department's budget for this program area is increasing from \$367,000 in 2007-08 to \$581,000 in 2008-09. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation has been involved in efforts to streamline the regulatory environment in Nunavut in relation to natural resource extraction and development. The standing committee supports regulatory reform initiatives that support the development of our economy and create employment, training and business opportunities for our constituents and our communities.

Mr. Chairman, the department is responsible for the overall implementation and monitoring of the GN's decentralization initiative. According to the department's recent business plans, a total of 459 GN positions have been decentralized. The business plans also indicate that the government "is looking at various issues that are impeding the filling of decentralized positions and is planning an annual Decentralization Planning and Reporting meeting for 2008 to provide an update on the status of decentralization in Nunavut."

A number of reports of the Auditor General and this standing committee have recommended that the GN review aspects of its decentralized financial management structure. The standing committee's recent public hearings concerning the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the impact that its decentralized location has had on its operations have clearly highlighted the need for the government to realistically re-evaluate specific decentralization decisions that have not proven successful.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2006-07 business plan reflected the creation of a new Energy Secretariat in the Intergovernmental Affairs branch of the department. The proposed budget for EIA's Energy Secretariat has been increased to \$424,000 for 2008-09. The secretariat's size has increased from two PYs. Its main priority for 2008-09 is to "implement the *Ikummatiit* Energy Strategy through a coordinated approach with affected departments and agencies."

On November 1, 2007, the provisions in the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* providing for the creation of an Affordable Energy Fund came into force. This fund is to be managed by the Department of Finance. The standing committee looks forward to closely scrutinizing the way in which this fund is managed.

It is important that the government continues to examine ways to improve the coordination of energy-related functions and responsibilities across the government. For example, while the Department of Finance administers the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program, the Department of Education manages the Seniors Fuel Subsidy Program. In fact, a majority of Cabinet Ministers have some form of energy-related responsibility in their portfolios.

Mr. Chairman, the final theme that I wish to address is performance measurement. The standing committee was pleased to have worked well with the minister in scrutinizing and approving Nunavut's new *Statistics Act*, and is pleased that the first annual report required under the legislation has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The department's 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 business plans have all indicated that a priority for the coming fiscal year is to establish a GN performance measurement system. The 2008-09 business plan also indicates that an evaluation framework has been developed to guide evaluations of GN programs.

One specific goal of the department in 2007-08 was to "measure the effectiveness of government-wide initiatives aimed at reducing the number of suicides in the territory." The 2008-09 business plan indicates that a priority for the coming year will be to "implement action areas of the Suicide Intervention and Prevention Strategy." An important step in this process is the clear designation of which minister is actually responsible for coordinating the government's suicide prevention strategy. This is an issue that has been raised publicly in the House.

The standing committee continues to advocate for performance measurements that look at actual results and outcomes, not just activities and outputs. For example, one of the stated priorities of the Department of Education in 2005-06 was to "undertake the development of initiatives to address drop-out rates." However, it remains unclear as to whether its activities and expenditures have actually had any measurable success in reducing drop-out rates. We need to be able to honestly, rigorously and accurately establish benchmarks to measure our own success in achieving such important goals, and be prepared to re-evaluate our expenditures and approaches if they do not produce results that genuinely benefit our communities and constituents.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments to make as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation ends) Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have ten minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that whenever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments? I don't have any names for general comments.

(interpretation) At this time, we are on page B-4. (interpretation ends) Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,356,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this page, the monies slated for resource development planning activity and land management is at \$367,000 for 2007-08 and is increased to \$581,000 in 2008-09. It's on page B-4.

My question is: what is the increase going to be used for? With regards to trying to conserve money, I'll just use an example. Economic Development and Transportation also deals with streamlining the conservation of funds with regards to mining and economic development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If he's referring to B-6, I can respond to it once we get to that page. I don't see anything on B-4 for what he's referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Arvaluk, could you elaborate your question. We are on B-4 under Directorate. Could you rephrase your question, please, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I believe we were on (interpretation ends) the GN's Deputy Ministers Committee on Economy, Environment and Land is responsible for coordinating "GN participation and representation in resource development and planning activity in the territory, as well as initiatives to improve the regulatory system related to land management." The department's budget for this program area increased from \$367,000 in 2007-08 to \$581,000 in 2008-09. I thought it was in the Directorate.

My question was what will these additional resources be used for and what is the status of efforts to streamline the regulatory environment in Nunavut in relation to natural resource extraction and development that our Chairman was talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Are you referring to the opening comments that were made by the Premier? Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): No. My question is under B-4, Directorate.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Chairman, but I'll respond to this under B-6. It's in regard to the assistants for the Deputy Ministers of Economy, Environment and Land who will be assisting with reviews of land issues.

Under B-6, we will see a corresponding slight increase in Compensation and Benefits. That is slated for the employees so that there is uniformity in the government departments for governmental responses in regard to reviewing mining exploration activities and development reviews. This is more for our Planning and Evaluation Division and that is what we have in place for this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Arvaluk, maybe if you clarify your question, I will give the Premier an opportunity to respond. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if the minister and I are in the same subject, but I'll get back to him. If it's in B-6 that it shows, so be it, but if it's in B-4, I'll get back to him then. (interpretation) I'm done for now. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you. (interpretation) I would also like to ask a question under B-4 and it's in regard to the policies.

The standing committee, on more than one occasion, has asked the Premier about possibly setting up a rule or a policy in regard to the registration of lobbyists. I think that we should also include the previous deputy ministers. When they leave the government, they get contracts and become consultants.

Has the Premier considered setting up a policy and possibly put in a number of months or a year so that the deputy ministers won't be able to bid on contracts? We also see more and more lobbyists who are contracted by the Nunavut Government. Have you considered this issue? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of lobbyists has been brought up more than once in this House. As a small territory, we all know, or we usually know, what everyone is doing. (interpretation ends) I think my colleague for Cambridge Bay was pretty succinct in outlining that what happens in Nunavut is probably pretty commonly known.

It's difficult to try and set up a Registry with the limited resources that we do have. So if we had an unlimited pool, it would be fairly easy to set one up and copy the few jurisdictions that do have lobby registries.

(interpretation) I will look into the issue and see how it's used in the other jurisdictions. We'll also have to look at the financial resources. At this time, we don't have the resources to set up such a system.

I heard two questions and the other one was in regard to former deputy ministers who become consultants for the Government of Nunavut. They can only bid on contracts when their term has ended for over a year. That is the policy that we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you. (interpretation) I would like to thank the Premier for responding to my question. I don't think a year has passed whereby I noticed a contract and I'm not going to state the department, but a former deputy minister had already been awarded with contract work very shortly after departing. I think that it will be a year this spring since the deputy minister left the position, so we'll have to look into the management of those types of contracts.

As the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability we have, on more than one occasion, asked about the expenditures and discussed the Nunavut Government lobbyists down in Ottawa. It seems to be the opposite, since we are lobbying the federal government and we are not from the private sector, where lobbyists usually are used.

Can the Premier clarify who the people are that the government uses for consulting contracts? We have heard that the Department of Finance has a consultant there, as well as your office, Intergovernmental Affairs, has contracted an individual. Who are the consultants that you use and how large are their contracts? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under our department, we use Hill and Knowlton for the Intergovernmental Affairs contracts at \$5,000 a month. I would be able to elaborate a bit more on those contracts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik, Premier. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): You named one consultant and I'm sure that each department probably goes through the FMB because it was mentioned that the Department of Finance has consultants. Do you know who those people are? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't respond to your question at this time but the Minister of Finance will be making an appearance in the Committee of the Whole, so you can probably ask him then. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): With regards to contracts, according to the contract regulations, they must be tendered out if they're over \$5,000. So have those contracts been tendered out to consultants? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After the due diligence process, we look at who would be more beneficial to this government in terms of effectively lobbying the federal government and in representing our interests. First, we do a background check on the firms as to how they could best assist our government and then we select the firm who could undertake this work on our behalf. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I found out who the consultants were but they didn't go through the public tendering process; they were sole sourced contracts. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, we looked at all of the firms' experiences and after we reviewed all of the firms, we then selected one under a sole source contract - Hill and Knowlton. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): In regard to this review of firms, perhaps quite a few firms were unaware that they were being reviewed. If this was not a tendering process, how then can you review these firms? By requesting a proposal for the work or did you select a firm or a consultant from the phonebook? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been dealing with the issue for quite a while and we have been working with Hill and Knowlton for quite a while. When we undertook a review of the firms that do lobbying work in Ottawa, we checked with the industry and after discussing it with the other governments as to how they have resolved this issue, we then reviewed all these firms and then made a selection. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. With regards to the consultants again, Hill and Knowlton, could the Premier inform the committee on exactly what this firm does and what they have accomplished to date on behalf of the Government of Nunavut? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They have assisted us tremendously and kept us informed as to what the ministers in the federal government are doing and what kind of plans they have. If there is an emergency, they let us know right away. They deal with a lot of issues and are always readily available when we're going to be meeting with our federal counterparts. They set up the appointments, the meetings and the agenda items. They make a lot of appointments for us and they assist us in various matters as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Could these consultants be used by other departments aside from your department, or are they only available to your office or the minister? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they provide assistance to my ministerial colleagues and we try to work together as ministers on matters of common interest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. While we're on this page, there was a public announcement, and the Member for Iqaluit Centre also mentioned it, of the shrimp allocation in the Baffin region. According to the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act*, they must have considered the affects on Inuit who have offshore rights based on the principles of adjacency and I believe they got about 1.6 million tonnes.

Did the department check with the consultants to see if they lobbied the federal government prior to the decision on whether the allocation would be given to Nunavut or Newfoundland interests? Were those consultants used at the time for this purpose? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to this issue, this allocation caught us by surprise and therefore, most of us were not aware of it. That's why it created problems for us. Although they were supposed to follow the land claims, DFO just went ahead with their allocation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): We knew that when the DFO Advisory Committee was considering the allocation of resources, and Senator Adams' office generally knows about these issues, it was obvious that the department knew because they had a meeting recently in Atlantic Canada and the fishermen were lobbying DFO. We heard that the Atlantic ministers were involved during those allocation meetings. Why aren't our ministers included in these types of meetings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is hard to respond. The Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has to undertake this process as required by law. When we try to argue, they say that they have historical use, so we can't just take over their allocations in Nunavut waters.

It was given to an external company that didn't have historical use and their argument on that basis is not believable anymore. So we can tell them that whatever they're saying is not true. In the future, we will be able to point this out when we are talking about more allocations on adjacent waters as they are using a false basis when they conduct business in that manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. The Baffin Fisheries Coalition and others wanted support. I have heard that even in the Keewatin, it's hard. It's harder for the Baffin and according to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, we have more right. I think that was awarded because there wasn't enough lobbying on behalf of us and if we're going to pay them \$5,000 a month, they have to do more work.

The federal government seems to realize in their budget that the commercial port will be used for fisheries and a lot more funding would have gone to the Baffin region. It would

be good if you direct your ministers to work harder in this area since we tend to lose out on a lot of initiatives. Can you make that directive? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to this issue, this is not the end of the matter and we will continue to try to resolve this matter. Although jobs are scarce in our communities adjacent to the fisheries, we are still passed over for other companies. This is completely unfair and these are fishery resource inhabiting our waters here in Nunavut.

We have to be given the resources to be able to benefit from their proximity to our communities and I agree with my colleague that we need to do more. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans did make a statement about what they attempted to do during this process of allocating fishery resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. We have heard via correspondence that the federal government are being lobbied to change. It would be good to continue to fight for this and maybe we can appeal the process. I don't know if there's an appeals process but we really have to fight them on this because once they get the license, it gets very difficult to get them out of the process.

I urge the Premier to put on his other hat as the Justice Minister and Premier. You should check with your officials and maybe inform NTI, or maybe even take the DFO to court because we're going to lose a lot of the resources offshore, especially when there are adjacency rights under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

I think people would appreciate you more if you can try and get more information, or try to get part of that quota allocation. I know that the Baffin communities would really appreciate this, as well as Nunavummiut, although I know we are short-staffed. I would like to see all of our possible avenues explored to resolve this issue. Can you do that? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we went through the courts before so that they can adhere to our agreement. The courts said that we were not signatories and that's why we can't take them to court but NTI can. If NTI wanted to go through that route, we would give them our full support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Premier and staff, welcome to Committee of the Whole. I have a couple of questions here.

In his opening statement to the standing committee during the 2006 review of the Report of the Auditor General, the Government of Nunavut stated that “the Senior Personnel Secretariat has been directed to enhance the Deputy Ministers mandate letters to provide additional focus on their accountability for results in the management of financial resources.” Has this initiative achieved its objectives and what new priorities will be included in the 2008-09 mandate letter to the deputy ministers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It has definitely helped. I’m sure that we all know that before that was cleared in the mandate letters, it used to be quite obvious that there were some challenges, but there has been more attention paid by the deputy ministers to their respective departments.

As you know, there are other entities of our government that have ongoing challenges for tackling at this time, but that part of the mandate letter will continue to be enforced and will continue to be a part of the mandate letters each year. Mandate letters cover other areas, not just financial. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Premier. During the June 2006 Mid-Term Leadership Review, you publicly stated that you had “made a direction that if deputy ministers are employed within the Government of Nunavut in 2008, then they will have to be able to speak Inuktitut.”

Has the Government of Nunavut now developed objectives and standardized the Inuktitut Language Proficiency Test and can you confirm whether or not the Deputy Ministers of Justice, Finance, Health and Social Services, and the Presidents of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Nunavut Housing Corporation, and the Nunavut Arctic College have successfully passed their proficiency test? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I know that one of my deputies is at the final stage. The firm we were working with has done a wonderful job. I’m very proud that my deputy is almost fluent and the other deputies are doing well.

So I’m very encouraged by the signs of the effort shown by our deputies and presidents with the directive that we issued, that we would like to have a bilingual deputy system by 2008. The signs are very positive and it’s trickling down to other employees in our government; they’re making the effort to learn Inuktitut within our government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question was a policy question and kind of covers most of the pages, all except for B-6. When we come to B-6, I'll accept his answer. However, Mr. Chairman, I would like to supplement Mr. Curley's question a little bit more on the situation of the federal statute on the land claims agreement.

I know that the territorial government is not directly a beneficiary but it's a result of the agreement between Inuit and the Government of Canada to create the Nunavut territory, effectively creating this government under the federal statute. The federal government's argument on the historical use of these oceans by Atlantic provinces, like Newfoundland, is generally on the sovereignty issue. It's not written down as fishing rights in the statute.

How is the federal government allowed to prejudice Nunavut on the basis of geographical location? In the Constitution, you cannot be discriminated against race, religion, or geographical location, etcetera. Can the minister then tell me what fights he has in his hands with the federal counterparts that we have statutory rights in any question of adjacency on those fishing areas?

If the federal government says, "They're just from Nunavut. They're little guys; they have a very small population. We need to get votes from Atlantic provinces, so we better give the fishing rights to them for those areas in Davis Strait." Can they do that under the law of Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The land claims agreement is there for Inuit and it guarantees rights and benefits for Inuit. So we tried arguing that the shrimp allocations weren't fair and that the land claims agreement provided for Inuit to get fair allocations within our waters where we have adjacency. So we tried arguing that on the shrimp situation outside of Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River where we get I believe 25 percent of the overall allocation.

The courts said that we, as a public government, weren't representing Inuit at the time, I believe; that NTI was the body that should be enforcing those provisions. So that is why we couldn't argue, unfortunately, even though we tried arguing that we were representing everyone, in particular Inuit as well, in trying to get a fair allocation for Inuit.

So I agree with my colleague that what was allocated more recently on the turbot is just not acceptable for Nunavummiut and we will support NTI in their efforts if they choose to exercise their rights. We have been lobbying hard to try to get our fair allocation and we will continue to do so. Even though the courts have decided against us, it doesn't prevent us from lobbying for our fair allocation within Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a quick last question. In this case, have you spoken to NTI to ask them to take this action against the federal government in the question of adjacency and the land claims benefits that are supposed to come under that?

Surely, they can do something because I think the minister knows that NTI has been quite vocal about Bill 21, Bills 6 and 7, and language rights and education, etcetera. They must have resources and energy to fight the federal government on behalf of the Inuit that they are supposed to represent. Have you, as the minister, spoken to NTI or the Cabinet and say, "Look, we've got to get this done, otherwise we're going to lose out under the adjacency issue"? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would normally talk to the President of NTI on these matters and as you know, they're having an election at this time. So it's been difficult to find out who I can talk to on this matter.

We have expressed our frustrations on this affair publicly so that everybody knows at this time. I hope that all of the candidates are aware of this and that they'll take a position on this during the election campaign of NTI. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick comment. I'm going to keep the Premier until the other one is sworn in next time. I think the President of NTI is similar in that same arrangement as president until the next one is sworn in and takes over. So I don't think there's any excuse for him not to respond to the Premier with this very important issue. That's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I didn't hear a question, (interpretation ends) but I will allow you (interpretation) to respond, Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We do have different regimes in place. I believe that NTI's President is on leave, unlike our position where we retain our position until the new one is sworn in. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the Premier and officials today. I want to follow-up on a question my colleague, MLA Evyagotailak, asked about the requirement to learn Inuktitut. I don't think he quite answered his

question. He made a reference to his proficiency test. I wonder if the Premier could indicate how the deputy ministers are tested for proficiency in the Inuktitut language. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I believe we have retained services of an Inuit firm that are teachers. It's their profession and they have developed a system where it's three steps - there are the beginners, intermediate, and the final. One is in the final stage. All of the ones that have gone from the first beginner's stage are in the intermediate stage at this point, except for one that's in the final stage.

So those are the tests that have been put in place by this firm that's been providing this service to us. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for that answer. Could you provide the name of that firm? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) That firm is called Pirurvik. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for that answer. Could the Premier indicate or tell us: since you announced this requirement in June 2006, are you aware of or do you know of any deputy ministers or senior officials in the government that have quit their jobs as a direct result of being required to learn Inuktitut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think the press has been quite active on one particular deputy that left for one of those reasons. Other than that, all of the deputies have been very supportive of our efforts and have been very encouraged by trying to learn Inuktitut, not just on their own but with additional help from families and friends. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier. Can the Premier indicate or explain exactly how much time the deputy ministers or these presidents of Crown



agencies are allowed each week to attend the courses? Is it during work hours, or is it evenings, or is it weekends? I'm just trying to get a sense of how much time they're allowed to dedicate to learn the language. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I believe it's around one and a half to three hours per week during working hours, but they're also given assignments outside of those hours. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier. The question was standardizing Inuktitut, but in the Kitikmeot, the dialect is Inuinnaqtun. Is there a requirement for your senior officials to learn the dialect from western Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The common dialect is the Baffin right now, but we're not preventing other dialects from being used within our government; we encouraged it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier. When you're recruiting senior officials for the government at the deputy minister level and president level, are they made aware that there's a language requirement to learn a language before they accept the position? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I usually hire them, I let them know of our expectations. They're always very encouraging and I appreciate their openness and their efforts to learn our language. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier. A former assistant deputy minister I spoke to left recently. He was quite interested in learning the language but the problem he had was finding the time. Second of all, there wasn't an opportunity for him to learn because he was based in a community outside of Iqaluit where they didn't have

the contract as you had outlined earlier, so it made it difficult for him, but he certainly was interested in learning.

So if you have ADMs and deputy ministers, and I guess it's mainly ADMs, but if the ADMs aren't specifically located in Iqaluit where this opportunity is to learn the language, how do you help those other ADMs that are located in, say, Rankin Inlet or Cambridge Bay to learn the language? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Our focus has been at the deputy levels, but as I said, it has trickled down to other positions. Unfortunately, for now, it's primarily in Iqaluit offices. I'll take this as good notice that, perhaps, we could do more outside of Iqaluit, so I appreciate the member's comments. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Premier indicated earlier in answer to Mr. Evyagotailak that it was trickling down to the other employees to learn the language if they want to advance in the government. Could you explain the policy in that regard? If people want to move up into senior levels, how do you make opportunities available to learn Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I know that quite a few ADMs that don't know Inuktitut have also taken the initiative of learning through the courses. I appreciate their interest and I encourage it all throughout the territory and I encourage it not just within our government.

I know the firm that we use is getting other employees from other sectors that are learning Inuktitut. So that's a very positive sign that our efforts are trickling not just within our government but outside. So I encourage it and want to see more of it. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for that answer. I'm not arguing that it's a good idea and I would like to see more of it. I'm sure there are many employees across Nunavut who would like to learn and be given an opportunity to learn. The problem is, is there aren't those opportunities; you don't have qualified instructors, you don't have courses, you don't have standardized training, and you don't have proficiency tests.

So a lot of people are learning on their own but they may not necessarily be learning the proper way. So when they're trying to advance in the government, it may be difficult for them when they get to a certain level where they should be proficient and they learn that they're not. I'm wondering if the minister could indicate how the government would address that issue if they want to have a public service that is proficient in the Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun language that is standardized; they're proficient and they're not just picking up bits and pieces here and there that may not help them in their jobs or advance in their careers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** I appreciate my colleague's comments very much because the goal was to make sure that they learn and they learn effectively. We have been using a very good firm in doing that.

I also take my colleague's comments very seriously that we should offer it more throughout Nunavut. So I'm going to take his advice and see how we can apply it throughout the territory and make it work so that we have, hopefully, a bilingual or a trilingual workforce in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Premier for making that commitment. It just occurred to me; an interesting thought there. So while all of your deputy ministers get together and they're all proficient at level one, two, or three, do they all converse with each other in Inuktitut at meetings? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently, we have seven Inuit deputies out of 10 and they converse in Inuktitut when they have their deputy ministers' meetings. The primary language is Inuktitut. Translators are provided for now, but as I said, my own deputy is at the final stages and I told him this week that I will expect my briefings to be in Inuktitut henceforth. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for that answer. Could the Premier tell the House what the cost of that training has been to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It was cost shared with departments that were providing students to the course. The largest

cost was developing the materials. I believe the total was around \$210,000 but the teaching materials are produced now, so that cost will be absorbed throughout. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Premier for that information. Are those materials the property of the Government of Nunavut now and available to use for training future deputy ministers, ADMs, and possibly other staff in the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, and we still need teachers, so we utilize the same firm for teaching our employees. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. We are on (interpretation ends) Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister's officials. I have just a couple of quick questions for the minister. I'm just wondering, under the Executive or Directorate, has there been an increase in PYs, and if there is, in what capacity? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** No. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) One; a Director of Corporate Priorities. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Mr. Chairman, I know they had, under Deputy Minister, I'm looking at the Core Business in the business plan on B-8 and B-9, I think this is the part that falls under the Directorate. It has Deputy Minister/Assistant Deputy Minister going up about \$150,000, so I'm just wondering if that was what that increase was for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Sorry, I'm just trying to figure out which one is which. I know, in the Directorate, it's the Director of Corporate Services for now.

My colleague is referring to page B-6 which I mentioned is the Policy Analysts for DMEEL, or what we call DMEEL, Deputy Ministers Committee on Environment, Economy and Land. So that's one additional PY in there that is mentioned as an increase in B-8. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think maybe that's where some of the confusion is coming from and maybe just a suggestion to the minister and his staff. In the business plan, it has, in the first few pages, Executive and then it goes to Statistics, Policy, Planning and Evaluation, and then Intergovernmental Affairs.

I'm just wondering if part of the confusion on where to ask certain questions is because we're flipping back and forth through the business plan. Would they commit to trying to match up those numbers with the format that's followed under the main estimates to eliminate confusion for next year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We often produce these with Finance, so the departments will talk to each other. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things I know is, in here, it says to provide "administrative support to the Utility Rate Review Council." Just looking at the amounts here, there was \$185,000 budgeted for them last year and it's gone down to \$117,000 this year. Does that mean that there's going to be less requests coming from the Power Corporation, the Qulliq Energy Corporation, for them to look at in the next year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As you are probably aware, we went through a general rate review last year with the Power Corporation and we don't anticipate another general rate review this coming year, so that's why the figure is a little lower this year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan, it says, Deputy Minister/Assistant Deputy Minister last year was \$705,000 and this year, it's \$851,000, and then if you follow the numbers through, it goes back down to \$847,000 and stays static there. In the Communications area, it was \$858,000 for the 2007-08 year, \$909,000 for this coming fiscal year, and then it drops to \$902,000 for the following two years. The

Cabinet Registrar is \$255,000 for the 2007-08 year, and then it goes up to \$314,000 and then back down to \$310,000.

I'm just wondering if I could just get an idea of, it seems to get these ups and downs there in the numbers, how they arrive at that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Evyagotailak): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) These are salary dollars, so they go up and down. Sometimes, it's the workload that dictates the amounts, so each year varies on some of these positions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Premier. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also under here, I believe it's the Senior Personnel Secretariat. Could I just get a confirmation of that before I ask the question and get told that it has to get asked on another page? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My deputy is the Secretariat to the Senior Personnel Secretariat and I work with other Deputies from Finance and HR when we're doing our meetings. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Premier. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering, why is there only \$5,000 there for the Senior Personnel Secretariat? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's for purchasing materials for the meetings and we don't hire staff; we work with current deputies to deliberate over senior personnel matters. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Premier. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Communications, and I know each other department has probably a quite amount of money in there; it's just under \$1 million. I'm just wondering if we could get an idea of how those dollars are going to be planned to be spent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Just a minute. I'm sorry (interpretation ends) but we're trying to go through our B plans. We're at B-4 but we're trying to find the B pages of the rest of it. (interpretation) I'm sorry.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't have a complete breakdown at this time of all of the positions but there's \$438,000 for salaries set out. I don't have all of the PYs at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was looking at B-8 in the business plan under Executive. It says, Communications, \$909,000. I was just looking for an idea of the breakdown of what that's from. If the Premier doesn't have that with him, I would like to get it in the near future from him. Could he commit to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We're just going over our estimates and I don't have those right now but I commit to provide the details on this particular line item. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Premier. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question with respect to the URRC review that is currently going on with respect to the Fuel Stabilization Rider that was imposed with your recommendation, I assume, by the Cabinet on November 23. The Fuel Stabilization Rider requested by QEC, Qulliq Energy, was put into the electricity rate system as of November 1, 2007. Subsequently, the URRC was asked to review that particular imposition. Could the minister indicate to the committee exactly what the status of the review is at this time? Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, the URRC has completed the review and has set the rate after their review. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Premier. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you. Could the minister tell us exactly when, the rate that has been imposed as of November 1, 2007 which would last until October 2008, will the announcement be made to the public on that? We have already experienced some pretty hefty electricity rates throughout Nunavut. (interpretation) I would like to know when they're going to be making a public announcement. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think we announced the interim rate in November of last year to be effective and the review is taking place. I'll check with my colleagues when the rate may be published. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Premier. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. Last fall, I did ask a question of whether or not the imposition of... whether it be the Fuel Stabilization Rider or not, or the base rate, when they are increased, it is important that there be a transparent way of announcing them to the public, instead of just relying on the *Gazette*, which was done, and not many households read the *Nunavut Gazette*. It's really the responsibility of the minister responsible. In this case, you, as the Premier, have the responsibility for the Utility Rate Review Council.

You must make it public and explain to the public why you approved an extension of the rate that expired at the end of October 31, 2007. It was done very discreetly and quietly, despite the fact that I did ask before October, actually on the day of Halloween, whether or not the increase was going to continue and the Minister responsible for Energy said, "No, there were no plans." I believe that statement was misleading and the correct version should be stated in this House during this session. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think my role is to appoint the URRC members and they're independent of government. They do their reviews very well and thoroughly, and they have actually reduced proposed rates in the past. So I have been very impressed with their work and I appreciate their good work, and will continue to support them in their efforts in trying to make sure that the rates that are set are fair and that they're on actual costs incurred, and the fuel rider is based on the fuel price. So that's why it's been an interim measure for now until they have reviewed it.

So I will make sure that the House is fully aware of the rate that has been approved by the URRC. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Premier. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I'm getting at, and I'm not at all questioning how great the work is that the URRC members are doing, is I think they should be asked to do work and review rate proposals before they are approved by Cabinet. The Cabinet approved and extended the Fuel Stabilization Rider that existed in 2007, and the Cabinet approved this without any announcement to the public. That's what I'm getting at.



The minister and other ministers must be transparent and explain to the public why the extension was imposed with the Fuel Stabilization Rider and subsequently asking the URRC, in my view, to say whether they agree with the Cabinet or not because that's exactly what they're doing now. They may not even change any of the proposals that the Cabinet had already approved, so that's all I'm getting at. You must be transparent. The Premier has a responsibility to the public. Somehow, if you're not directly responsible for announcements, and I believe you are still responsible as a Premier, you could ask the minister responsible or whoever to make the public announcement soon. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, my Power Minister is right here and I'll make sure that he announces at the appropriate time.

As I said, we had to put in an interim rate so that the amount of time that the new fuel is used and paid for is paid over a longer period as opposed to a shorter period of time by our clients. If we were to just set the rate today as opposed to last November, our clients would be paying almost double of what they would normally pay. So that's why it was set earlier because we knew the cost at that time; we had a pretty good idea. The URRC will also continue to agree with that, even though we set it, and to see if it's accurate and set a new rate if required. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Premier. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the reason is I'm concerned with those behind the scenes reviews that are going on without public input and without any public announcements.

When the public is asked to pay for fuel, I suppose the public is not really 100 percent sure whether they're paying for the amount of fuel that is used in Nunavut for consumers or the amount of fuel purchased by Nunavut Power or QEC. Maybe they'll have a surplus as usual, but why should the Nunavut consumer be asked to pay for surplus fuel rather than the actual amount of fuel that is used? Because of those, I think it's really quite complex.

At the same time, the Premier, as the Chairman of the Executive Council, has rubber stamped the Minister of QEC's proposal to extend the Fuel Stabilization Rider without any review. That is not funny; that is deceiving the public and I don't want to be part of that deception. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Point of Order. Mr. Picco.

### Point of Order

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that the member is concerned about the URRC process and everything. However, in this House, the member should be very careful when he chooses his words. If the member wants to say that someone is deceiving, then that connotation means a lot and that's not the case because the minister doesn't deceive.

What happens is: the Power Corporation looks at their costs on an annual basis for the purchase of fuel. If the purchase of fuel goes up a certain amount, then the Power Corporation, under legislation, that means law, under regulation, and that means regulations, is entitled and allowed to apply for a rider. When they apply for a rider and they come to the minister and say, "We want X number of dollars," and then that goes to the URRC. The Premier doesn't rubber stamp it. The minister doesn't rubber stamp it. It goes to an independent body of Nunavummiut who will look at it. As the URRC, they then look at what's been proposed by the QEC, they publish it in the newspaper, and then they send out documentation to stakeholders if they want to have an input on that process. That's the process.

There's no deception. There's no rubber stamping. The verbiage and the vocabulary; the words being used by the member, by Mr. Curley, are incorrect and I would ask that he would maybe change that record because there is no deception and he knows the process. So I'm offended by the rhetoric of the member and I would ask that he would take back that word of deception, "deceive." Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. To the Point of Order. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Mr. Chairman, I think the minister knows very well that on October 31, 2007, I asked the minister and he can read that, and that should be part of the review of the Point of Order. That's why I'm alluding to that reference without explaining; the minister knows very well that I asked questions on that date. Will he be imposing, during this winter's consumption, a very difficult period for the consumers; will he be increasing any fuel or electricity rates? And, he unequivocally said, no, he will not impose any imposition of fuel increases.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that he had already presented a request from QEC to extend the fuel rider that expired on the same day that I asked the question. He did not tell the public, and that's why I'm using the word "deception" because he had asked the Cabinet and the Cabinet approved imposition as of November 1, which was to last for the whole year until October 31, 2008. He did not make it public. Now, the URRC is reviewing it backwards.

The rate imposed on November 1 was applied and it's in the system right now, which has been going on for three months. So that is part of the Point of Order and I refuse to withdraw that because he has not addressed the October 31 comments that I made. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Order. There is a Point of Order. Mr. Curley, your words are unfortunate and I ask that you withdraw your comments. Thank you. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Mr. Chairman, could you repeat exactly which comments I am to withdraw? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Curley, “deceive.” Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Mr. Chairman, I used the word “deception” because I believe when the public policy statement inferred when it’s not correct, I fail to understand how it could be correct.

So I’ll withdraw my statement but I still believe that the minister did not provide accurate information to the Assembly, and he should review my statements and his response in October because all I asked him was to be fair to the public and he has not been fair or transparent with the public. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Order. Thank you, Mr. Curley. You had removed your words. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Mr. Chairman, so that the minister will have time to review the comments, I would like to report progress. Thank you.

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

I would like to thank the Premier and his staff. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

### **Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): 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. Chairman.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Simailak. 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. Orders of the Day for February 29:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 27
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 23
  - Bill 24
  - Bill 25
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, this House stands adjourned until Friday, and I'm sure that during the term of this government, this will be the only time I say February 29 at ten o'clock in the morning.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:59*

