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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(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

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(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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, February 29, 2008

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. 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 morning. I would like to ask Mr. Evyagotailak to say the opening prayer. Mr. Evyagotailak.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak, Mr. Premier, Ministers, and Members. My colleagues, today is Friday, so I wanted to wish all our family who we left behind in our community well. I miss my granddaughter, Alison, very much, so I say “hello” to her if she is watching the proceedings. I also would like to go see my family and my grandchildren during the weekend.

Item 2. Ministers’ Statements. Mr. Premier.

Item 2: Ministers’ Statements

Minister’s Statement 147 – 2(4): Enactment of Family Abuse Intervention Act

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The *Family Abuse Intervention Act* will come into force tomorrow, on Saturday, March 1, 2008.

Mr. Speaker, all Members of the Assembly, if you remember, unanimously supported your motion on November 30, 2005 to reduce and eliminate domestic violence in Nunavut.

Since making that commitment, we have shown united resolve to reduce the incidence of violence and other abuse in our families by supporting the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* (FAIA). The legislation was passed in November 2006 and this Assembly allocated a budget of \$1.8 million in October 2007.

Over the past several months, Community Justice Outreach Workers have been hired and trained to help coordinate their community’s prevention and intervention activities. Community members and RCMP officers have been trained to help Nunavummiut apply

for Emergency Protection Orders and Community Intervention Orders. Justices of the Peace have been trained to apply the Act. We are now ready for full implementation.

As of tomorrow, Nunavummiut who are experiencing abuse may apply for these orders and will be supporting families to build a better community.

Mr. Speaker, this Act is designed to be community driven, with effective orders which are consistent with Inuit values. It includes opportunities for counselling for both victims and abusers. The Act provides the tools and resources for communities to prevent abuse at its roots, and for the communities to heal from within.

In travelling to Nunavut's many communities over the past few months, the department has been overwhelmed with support for the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* and enthusiasm for intervening in abusive relationships. Individuals, families, and entire communities will be healthier as a result of community's active participation in implementing the Act.

Thank you, members, for demonstrating your commitment to reducing abuse in our families. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and also responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Minister's Statement 148 – 2(4): Pilot Project – Winter Test Fishery in Repulse Bay

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good morning. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform my colleagues today about an investment the territorial government is making in a project with the Arviq Hunters and Trappers Organization of Repulse Bay.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation has approved a \$32,000 contribution from the Small Communities Initiative Program for winter test fishery in Repulse Bay.

Mr. Speaker, the Arviq HTO will purchase a minimum of 10,000 pounds of arctic char from the local harvesters for further processing at the Kivalliq Arctic Foods in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, depending on the success of this initiative, Kivalliq Arctic Foods is prepared to process a maximum of 20,000 pounds of arctic char before the end of the winter fishing season.

The government, in partnership with the Nunavut Development Corporation, completed a char marketing strategy in 2007 to develop additional markets for our arctic char products. This pilot project will allow Kivalliq Arctic Foods to put the marketing strategy into action.

I congratulate the Arviq HTO on coordinating this pilot project, which will provide employment and income, precious income, to residents of their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 149 – 2(4): Inuit Health Summit – Kuujuaq

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): Good morning. I rise today to inform my colleagues of the results of the Inuit Health Summit in Kuujuaq on January 17, 2008. This summit was organized by ITK. It was an opportunity to meet with the federal Minister of Health, the Honourable Tony Clement, as well as representatives from other provincial and territorial governments and organizations from Inuit regions across Canada. I was invited to participate, along with some of my key staff, to discuss the most pertinent health related issues we face as Inuit.

As this was the beginning of a future collaborative effort to address issues affecting Inuit nationally, we were able to identify the two most important issues to address first: namely, the need for Inuit health human resources and Inuit-specific health information.

(interpretation ends) I was able to share details of our Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy as well as the progress we have made in developing an Inuit workforce, which includes many different health related training programs we have initiated, initiatives such as:

- The Health Careers Access Program offered through Nunavut Arctic College;
- The Nursing Program;
- The Maternal Care and Midwifery Program;
- The Mental Health Program;
- The Community Health Representative Program;
- The Radiology Program (x-rays);
- The Human Services Program (social work, A&D counselling)

- As well as new programs from Home and Community Care, and Community Therapy Assistants

At the summit it was decided to initiate a broader Inuit Health Human Resources Strategy that would include the other Inuit regions. Nunavut has a long-term strategy to train our own health workforce and I strongly believe we are seen by other jurisdictions as leaders in this initiative.

We will be carrying the momentum for the Inuit Health Summit to the broader Aboriginal Health Summit being held in Winnipeg this weekend, where we will have the chance to progress the initiatives we started in Kuujuaq and develop action plans collectively to address the health human resource issues in Inuit communities. I look forward to updating this House about the further progress we make. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. If there are none, we will go on to Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 346 – 2(4): Member's Apology to the House and Constituents

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my greetings to the residents of Qamani'tuaq.

I will be speaking in both Inuktitut and English if you don't mind. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak directly to you, my colleagues and my constituents, on the matter of the Report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut to the Legislative Assembly, which you formally tabled in the House last week.

Mr. Speaker, as you know the people of Qamani'tuaq are known for their plain speaking, and I want to be very clear today.

As you will appreciate, the past few months have been very difficult for me, my family, especially my wife and my sons, my friends and my constituents. I want to thank them for their unwavering support of me during this time, as it is their strength that enabled me to get through this experience.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for having tabled the Integrity Commissioner's report at the first opportunity.

I want to state clearly that I accept without reservation the findings of the Integrity Commissioner. I would like to take the time to read into public record a section from the Integrity Commissioner's report, which states as follows:

“The member admits that he failed on four occasions to fulfill his obligation of disclosure. He pleads that his failure was the result of honest error and his explanation is plausible.”

And he wrote, “I am prepared to accept the Honourable Member’s word that his failure was inadvertent and not deliberate, nevertheless it left incomplete and inaccurate the record, which the public is entitled to reply.”

Mr. Speaker, I fully accept the Integrity Commissioner’s judgment in this matter. As he points out in his report, it is essential that all Members of the House be fully compliant at all times with the...

I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. The member is seeking unanimous 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 all my colleagues. Let me state again, I fully accept the Integrity Commissioner’s judgment in this matter.

At this time I acknowledge his findings in this matter, and formally apologize to the Legislative Assembly, my family, my constituents and all Nunavummiut for my conduct.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close today by saying that I look forward to continuing to represent my constituents in Baker Lake to the best of my ability during this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Item 3. Members’ Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Member’s Statement 347 – 2(4): Hudson Bay Quest

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As the sun rises high and clear in the skies over the Western Hudson Bay coast, the people of my constituency will once again experience the thrill of the mighty dog team race which is called the Hudson Bay Quest.

Mr. Speaker, the race is to start from Churchill, Manitoba, on March 29, 2008. Teams of excited dogs will race 250 miles along the frozen shore of Hudson Bay to their final destination of Arviat, Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, over the past few years this even has risen in popularity. The elders and general public of Arviat watch with amazement as the dog teams race each other to be the first to arrive. It takes about two to three days for the teams to reach their destination.

Mr. Speaker, this event brings back good memories to the elders and the general community, as they recall the dog teams of the past which were the major mode of transportation. The dog teams of the past carried whole families from place to place, brought mail and supplies between Churchill and the Kivalliq communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members to join me and celebrate and encourage the dog team owners who are in Arviat right now preparing for the upcoming mighty dog team race, the Hudson Bay Quest. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 348 – 2(4): Alcohol Education in Kugluktuk

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge an important lifestyle development in the community of Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this month, Kugluktuk's recently appointed Alcohol Education Committee began reviewing applications for the purchase of alcohol. No longer can alcohol be freely brought into the community – it must first be approved. Kugluktuk now has a way to manage who can purchase, possess and consume alcohol in the community. And already, Mr. Speaker, the RCMP has noticed a reduction in the number of alcohol-related incidents.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the volunteers who sit on Kugluktuk's new Alcohol Education Committee:

Millie Kuliktana,
Melissa McDonald,
Doreen Evyagotailak,
Susie Evyagotailak,
Valerie Daniels,
Catherine Kunelok, and also Chairman of the Committee,
Gary Kennedy.

Mr. Speaker, while it is important that we acknowledge the community's willingness to establish this committee, and the important work of the committee itself, a lot of credit for alcohol education in Kugluktuk goes to our youth.

Mr. Speaker, when this issue was first brought forward, the children and youth of Kugluktuk took a stand. They made posters; they spoke to their parents; they marched from the high school.

Mr. Speaker, the voice of our children was heard loud and clear. It is our children who campaigned the loudest and had the most effect on public awareness of the damage that alcohol can inflict on our lives and families.

I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the youth and children of Kugluktuk for their important role in addressing the issue of alcohol in our lives. And, also Mr. Speaker, have a good weekend and some of us will be here in Iqaluit who will be trying to have a good weekend here also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Your timing was perfect. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Member's Statement 349 – 2(4): Praise for Repulse Bay's RCMP Communication with Community

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to remember and acknowledge a family that lost a son in Kugaaruk, and Katherine and her spouse, and I love you all and support you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say how pleased I am with the Repulse Bay RCMP who are continuing to make efforts in keeping their lines of communications open with the community.

Mr. Speaker, the RCMP recently delivered a Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program, also known as DARE, to the grade five and six students at the Tusarvik School.

Mr. Speaker, the students are shown how to be assertive in saying no to drugs and to resist peer pressure. This program also encourages students to live a drug and alcohol-free environment.

Mr. Speaker, visiting the schools also helps the students to know who their officers are so that they may feel comfortable in approaching them.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the RCMP's efforts to getting to know the community members and promoting the DARE program in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all RCMP officers in Nunavut to attend public events, community feasts, visit schools, so that they may get to know people in their community better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 350 – 2(4): Aboriginal Financial Officers Association

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House about a good news initiative that I believe has the potential to pay huge dividends to organizations and businesses in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, sound financial management practices are the foundation upon which the success of our public government rests. We consider the issue of sound financial practices every time this House sits.

Mr. Speaker, I often point out to people from other parts of Canada that one of the strengths of our public government is that we are regularly audited, just like any other mature level of government in the country.

This transparency strengthens our credibility as a jurisdiction and should give confidence to our constituents. The fact that audit reports on the government are publicly considered and debated is another source of systemic strength.

Mr. Speaker, as the Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability, I can say without hesitation that our ongoing and rigorous scrutiny of the government's financial management practices has shown me that our financial officers are some of the hardest working employees in the government.

They have to be, because there aren't enough of them, and they have to review countless financial documents to ensure compliance with government policies and regulations.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, finance officers from the Government of Nunavut, regional Inuit associations, municipalities and NTI attended the National Aboriginal Financial Officers Association conference held from February 12 to 14 in Montreal.

Mr. Speaker, there were participants from all corners of Canada at this important conference.

The conference facilitated the exchange of knowledge and information regarding aboriginal finance and management in Canada. Participants attended plenary sessions and learned best practices that used in other organizations which might benefit them in their own work.

Mr. Speaker, as an MLA, I have had the opportunity to participate in the annual deliberations of the Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees. I have learned that all levels of government face challenges and issues with respect to financial management.

In fact, my colleagues and I have exchanged information with our provincial and territorial counterparts that we think could benefit them.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Nunavut financial officers who attended the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association event held a meeting to discuss establishing a Nunavut chapter of the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association. I believe that this is a commendable idea and we should support and encourage our financial officers to establish their association.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that representatives of NAM and NAMIX were invited to make a presentation at the conference on our very own Nunavut Association of Municipalities Insurance Exchange.

This insurance program has been very successful since its inception in helping NAM provide affordable insurance to their members. It was a very worthwhile investment by the Government of Nunavut and I'm confident their continued support will be appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to join me in congratulating our finance officers across Nunavut for their dedication and commitment to strengthening financial practices in their respective organizations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 351 – 2(4): Recognition of Tara Tootoo Fotheringham

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't forget yesterday but I didn't want to say this yesterday. My daughter had a birthday here, Mannie, I wish you a happy birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today... I have to put on my glasses. (interpretation ends) I would like to make a happy announcement on behalf of my constituents in Rankin Inlet South. The Honourable Chuck Strahl, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, had announced on February 21 the appointment of Tara Tootoo Fotheringham as a Member of the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board.

I think we all know who Tara Tootoo is. She is a very extremely active person in her community and she also has her own business and that business is running very well. I would like to congratulate her for her new appointment and it's for two years.

(interpretation) I just wanted to congratulate her with you because she's a young woman as young people are becoming more and more independent within Nunavut, and she's very active in her community. Tara, I congratulate you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Member's Statement 352 – 2(4): Implementation of Family Abuse Intervention Act

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We Inuit are changing with time; we are changing quite a lot.

When I was a young boy, I recall the mornings when I was trying to put on my *Kamiik*, they would be frozen solid. Further, our water buckets would be iced up because it was so cold in our house.

When undergoing that kind of experience, it seemed normal since that was the way we lived and this was our lifestyle; it was fine since we knew no other lifestyle. This winter, in Igloodik, when walking through the streets, I see young men and women with frozen garments and frost bitten facial parts because of being outside in this extreme cold climate.

The school actually was closed for one day due to the extreme cold. This was due to the fact that the school furnaces could not keep up the heat in the school and the classrooms were actually cold. If the weather had been warmer, our children would have just walked to the school.

In hearing about closures due to the extreme temperatures, as Inuit, we often wonder why. It seems that Inuit are being softened up and losing their adaptation to this arctic climate. Whenever any type of hardship visits our communities, it seems that we must always stop our activities or close our schools and workplaces.

As Inuit, we grew up being taught about hardship and we would be strengthened by experiencing these hardships. We have to retain these strengths and continue to practice them, and that is what I wanted to mention.

And, in regard to the matter that the Premier raised that there will be a gathering to support those who are abused tonight and with the legislation that we are working on to address this, my mind immediately goes to our elders, many of whom are being abused today, frightened in their own homes by their own grandchildren and grown children. A lot of this is due to the loss of our cultural practices and changes in our lifestyles.

I wish to extend my gratitude to my constituents of Igloolik and Hall Beach. We have been given tools and programs to address our problems, and if our traditional ways and values will be used as a foundation, I am grateful for this opportunity. That is what I wanted to speak to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 353 – 2(4): “ED” Act and “ED” Department

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that it's Friday and people usually do a lighter statement, but I would like to do a more serious statement if I may, Mr. Speaker.

Over the past several years in and out of this House, I have been the recipient of many gifts of words, items, comments, criticisms, accusations, and objects. I have received and been presented with bloodworms in a jar, talking duck dolls; I have been referred to as a rubber stamp, and last week, Mr. Speaker, given a light bulb.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, Ed has been compared to the great Thomas Edison. There is the *Ed Act*, and there's the Ed Department, there is the *Edergy* Department, and there is an Ed Minister.

Mr. Speaker, in politics, you have to, as they say, get used to all of the comments, the accusations, and criticisms, that debates, and again, the disagreements between members and colleagues, and you can never, Mr. Speaker, in politics, please everyone.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is one thing I know: there is no greater honour than being elected to serve people and the public, and that's what we do here every day.

Mr. Speaker, there is a proposed *Ed Act* by the Ed Department and, Mr. Speaker, they are under Minister Ed., and I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, three Eds are better than one.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 354 – 2(4): Radio Collared Seal Hunting Story

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to make a lighthearted statement since it is Friday morning.

Last fall, when the ice first formed, as per my usual practice, I went seal hunting at the floe edge. I went to a favourite seal hunting location; it's called *Ikirasak or Aukarniliit*, which is a polynia. While waiting at the edge, a seal popped up its head so I shot it. The sea current happened to be flowing in my direction, so I waited for the seal to come closer. I had a long gaff that was about 14 feet long, which is my floe edge gaff.

As soon as it came within range of my gaff, I hooked the seal carcass. Then I saw an unnatural object on the back of the seal, which triggered my suspicions and especially this thought: what the heck is that? I immediately had thoughts of explosives strapped to the back of this seal.

I believe last year, I stated at one point that researchers had placed radio collars on a number of seals, lo and behold; here I had harvested a radio collared seal.

Once I realized that it was nothing but a radio collar, I pulled out the seal onto the sea ice and since I was unsure of how to proceed, I became hesitant to flense the seal, but since I am an Inuk hunter who has harvested many different animals, as per my custom, I proceeded to butcher it as this would allow me to decipher the condition of the animal upon viewing its innards. With this thought in mind, I proceeded with the butchering. I also cut off the radio collar which had been adhered to the skin with some kind of glue.

When I reached home after my hunting trip, I purposefully left the radio outside my house since the wildlife office was closed and I wanted to drop off the radio collar to the wildlife officer in Sanikiluaq.

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

Speaker (interpretation): You still have a bit of time left. 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 and colleagues.

In any event, the next morning, I went to the wildlife office to drop it off. After a night thinking about it, my original idea was to keep the radio, in case I ever get lost out on the land, if I had that radio, searchers would be able to discern my whereabouts.

>>*Laughter*

Although I wanted to retain the radio, I felt compelled to drop it off at the wildlife office. Although my snowmobile was on hand, I decided to walk to the office with the radio.

I was thinking that this would fool the satellite into thinking the seal had surfaced at Sanikiluaq and was either walking or crawling around the community, and that the researchers checking out the radio telemetry of this radio would think that was the case.

I just wanted to mention the pitiful seal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 355 – 2(4): Gratitude to Employees of CGS, QEC, and Ministers

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to state that we're past the problems we were having in Rankin Inlet and I would like to thank the people who worked very hard.

I would especially like to thank the officials from CGS and QEC, and all of their staff. They worked very hard and I personally want to thank the two ministers because they kept us updated with what was happening. We thank you for keeping the communities updated through the hamlet or through the radio and informing the public.

Rankin Inlet is reviving again and continuing on. The state of emergency was declared over yesterday and we have now put it behind us.

Further, this weekend there will be a hockey tournament with participants from all over, including from Qikiqtaaluk and our constituents are becoming a lot happier. It was a stressful period, including our elders who again showed extreme patience and this situation is now over.

However, Mr. Speaker, I wish to remind this House that many of my constituents are raising questions, especially what caused the situation and the reasons for the delayed return to normalcy. We expect these types of questions, and our job is to get answers to those types of questions next week and we want to hear some answers to these questions. I just wanted to apprise the House that this will be the case and I thank everyone for their patience during this period. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 356 – 2(4): Gratitude to Ministers, Mayor of Grise Fiord, RCMP and Teachers

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning as I was reading the *Nunatsiaq News*, I ran across this news item that stated that the Member for Quttiktuq was panicking in relation to Grise Fiord and the news about residents leaving the community. I would like to inform this House and the public that I did not panic as per this news item.

Firstly, I wish to thank all those who were involved, especially our Premier, as well as the Deputy Premier, Levinia Brown, and Minister Picco, along with Leona Aglukkaq, the Minister of Health. They were all instrumental in dealing with the issues we faced in the community of Grise Fiord and they were extremely helpful in addressing the challenges we faced in Grise Fiord.

As well, I wish to express my gratitude to the Mayor of Grise Fiord, as well as the residents of Grise Fiord. Although it initially appeared as a frightful situation, we have met those challenges up to today. It is obvious that there are helpful spirits, thank you for the prayers and assistance.

I also wish to thank the members of the RCMP who met with the teachers and resolved the situation to all parties' satisfaction. Further, I wish to acknowledge the Department of Health and Social Services for their tremendous work, especially since the nurse was able to remain in the community, along with teachers, even though there was some tension in the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite obvious that we all learned something and due to this particular episode, we now have the experience to better handle future situations and to come up with the solutions as they face our communities and our government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Item 3. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a visitor in the Gallery, Mr. Jack Anawak. Welcome back to the House, Mr. Anawak. As some of you are aware, Jack represented Rankin Inlet in the First Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and he has assisted the community of Rankin Inlet tremendously. Jack has also held various positions all over the world, including as Ambassador for the Arctic Nations. I would like to welcome Jack Anawak to the Gallery as I hold him in high esteem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 439 – 2(4): Community Awareness of Family Abuse Intervention Act

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My voice is kind of hoarse, although it's not due to shouting, nor is it due to my advanced age, for your information.

>>*Laughter*

My question is directed to the (interpretation ends) Minister of Justice, our Premier.

As most many times, new Acts seem to be put away in the files after they are passed through the legislature. (interpretation) So for that reason, *FAIA*, the new Act, which is the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, will come into force on March 1. It will have to be enforced if the law is broken, for instance, for being abusive, or being violent, or misbehaving, or hurting others. How has the minister prepared to inform the communities about this new Act? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I went on the news and our staff in the communities are aware of this and they have been giving workshops, which I am very happy about. They are working very hard to keep the communities informed and we will also have to work together on this. And, I thank him for his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Premier Okalik. Once these Acts are introduced, often there are misunderstandings in the courts.

I'm pretty sure this will be translated but the different communities have different dialects, even though they have the same language. Some words mean different things in the different dialects and we want this Act to be understood. It is supported and it is very important. If they have to go court, I wonder if the translation will be suitable for the particular community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for his concern.

Yes, we want this enacted because it will benefit everybody. I am happy the staff we will have in the community, especially the Committee Justice Committee, will have the numbers. They want to be on top of this Act, so we will be available everyday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

The people of Nunavut all know that there is a lack of emergency shelters in most of the communities. They have absolutely nowhere to go in the middle of the night. In today's culture, most of the houses are locked, so you can't access the majority of houses anymore.

Could the minister tell us if we can have more shelters accessible to people who are being abused? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With this *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, we're trying to alleviate some of the problems we're experiencing today.

If we look at Inuit culture, what they did was they held a meeting right away in order to overcome the problem that had been experienced. They faced the problem right away so that they could overcome it.

With the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, we are going to be utilizing more of the elders and the local resources, and work towards healing or reconciliation. If somebody was in a dangerous situation, they would be able to take a break from each other and the children would be with the victim. We're trying to keep the family intact and focus more on healing through this *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Premier. The council we have now is to take the men out of the house and just throw them outside without a place to go. I'm sure that this would have to be factored in today because the houses are all locked up now and you don't have free access. If a woman has to leave the house, again, she has no place to go and ends up just freezing outside.

Could the Premier inform the House, and I do know that there are few places that can be used as shelters, such as private homes, how many shelters there are in Nunavut that are used by people who are being abused? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the present time, we use four options, and like I said, we would like to see more of the victims staying in their houses. We're trying to keep the family intact and focus more on healing. We will only break up the family if there are safety issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Question 440 – 2(4): Application Process for Outpost Camps

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

Mr. Speaker, I think I brought this issue up before in the House and he had mentioned it a while back; it's in regards to the smaller communities and giving more support for utilizing outpost camps for inmates. There are probably some communities that are interested in setting up outpost camps for inmates. Where can they access the information in order to get started? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are very happy when a community wants to start an outpost camp. They can go through our department because we would like to see more outpost camps set up. Our staff is available to train the people who are going to operate the outpost camps. We do give financial assistance for operations and maintenance. Our office is readily available if you want to start an outpost camp. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

When I was having a meeting with the individuals, they also stated that because, of course, this individual was easily accessible to the people who wanted help. How many outpost camps for inmates do you have in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. That was your first supplementary, Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have seen more and more outpost camps being established. We have approximately nine, which is not many, but they're a great help to the inmates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's very interesting information.

Mr. Speaker, what kind of advertisements or information do you have available for the people of Nunavut who are interested in establishing these types of outpost camps? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our staff is always available whenever they're required. We did go through the media last year welcoming anyone who was interested in setting up outpost camps. I will direct my staff to make sure that there is more information available out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister direct his staff to provide that information to the Members of the Legislative Assembly before we return to our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, we will provide that information to you as we are very interested in seeing more outpost camps set up. I will make all of that information readily available to anyone out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 441 – 2(4): Update on Nakasuk School Repairs

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am delighted today to rise and ask a question to the Minister of Education. If I heard him correctly this morning, he admitted to having a split personality. Hopefully, we get the right personality answering the question.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday I asked the minister some questions in relation to asbestos issues that may have arisen during the remediation of Nakasuk School and the minister replied that he hadn't been aware where asbestos was an issue with the school closing and so on, and then I went on to say that I never said that asbestos was the cause of the closure.

I'm just wondering if the minister can confirm for the House and the public here if asbestos issues arose during the remediation work that's being done at Nakasuk School. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to thank the member for raising the issue.

There were no issues with the clean-up of Nakasuk School. From my understanding, there was some asbestos there that was removed according to code and plan; it didn't cause any kind of ramification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker...

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister just indicated that there was some asbestos removed from the school. Can he indicate why it had to be removed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In carrying out work, when organizations, companies, schools, and businesses come across asbestos because of the substance itself, then it is removed. That was the case in Nakashuk School. It was deemed that when it was uncovered, it was removed from the school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm if all the asbestos from the building was removed, or is there still some asbestos left in that building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Asbestos, as members know, was a commonly used fire retardant in many houses and other substances in buildings and so on in the early 1970s. It was found to be a carcinogenic, meaning it could cause cancer, and therefore, and thus, it was banned by the federal government. However, it still remains in some homes and buildings, and when renovations or work on houses and homes, buildings occur and it is found to have asbestos, then it is removed.

It is my understanding in this case at Nakashuk School that's what occurred while doing the clean-up for mould and some of the other work that had to go on in Nakashuk School, asbestos was found and was removed. That was my understanding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to ask the minister, when I asked him on Tuesday, if there was any asbestos issues related in their remediation process at the school, why he didn't then indicate in fact that there was some that has been found and removed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because the member didn't ask me: was asbestos on site or in the school? That wasn't the question the member asked me. I did answer to the member's question and he just referred to the *Hansard* and read out my response.

I want to make it very clear so that people aren't worried and so on; the Nakasuk School is a healthier environment. WCB will go back in there. There will be air quality tests and so on. It's a safe environment to work in and the issue with the asbestos has been resolved. If it wasn't and if there was an issue, then the school would not open. So that provides that check and balance. So I don't think we need to cause any fear mongering or anything like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 442 – 2(4): Strategies for Clean Up of Metal Waste Dumps

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week in my Member's Statement, I raised a concern from Cambridge Bay about the metal waste dump. I indicated in my Members' Statement that there was a huge mess and possible environmental hazards. Later today I'm going to table some photos from that dump.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House if his department has developed individual community assessments and clean-up strategies for metal waste dumps in Cambridge Bay and other Nunavut communities, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues. We're working with the Department of Community and Government Services, along with the Municipal Boundaries Commission. We have done an evaluation of all the areas within the municipal boundaries to see if there is contamination.

I don't have that information with that right at hand. I will be providing that information to the member and if there are any areas that need to be cleaned, we'll analyze and evaluate them to see how they will be worked on in the future. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Yes, I would like to receive that information. I'm sure all members would love that information as well for their respective communities.

Mr. Speaker, in my Member's Statement, I also raised a concern that if this metal waste dump in particular in Cambridge Bay was to catch fire, it could potentially be a hazard because there are toxic chemicals in the dump, possible PCBs, waste oils, and other products; there are tires. The prevailing winds in Cambridge Bay shift sometimes and then the smoke could blow over the community, and some elders have raised that concern with me as well.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House if his department has emergency response plans in place to respond to metal waste dump fires that may contain hazardous wastes, such as oils and PCBs, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our officials are always available to evaluate or check if there is any possible contamination. We also train our officials on how to deal with contamination.

It should run smoothly and we do not like to see any contamination in the future, but we must always be prepared. So to this date, our officials are always available to do any work. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I hope officials in his department are listening and they take this quite seriously. There is a situation developing, I think, in my community and I'm sure there are a few other communities.

Mr. Speaker, most communities need help and it's no secret that they're stretched to their financial and staff limits. They're doing all of the responsibilities within the hamlets; water and sewer, the road maintenance, such things as that, and they do need help.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House what initiatives his department is developing with his other colleagues to help communities contain and clean up the metal waste dumps in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. When there has been contamination in some communities, it has been cleaned up.

I think it was by the end of the year that a review was done, but we will do a review to see if there is any contamination within the municipal boundaries within the Keewatin and Kitikmeot. After that, we will be able to table the results of our findings from that review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Mr. Speaker, as a former Mayor of Cambridge Bay, I received a letter from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada threatening me with a \$100,000 fine or a year in jail if we didn't clean up the metal waste dump.

So I would have loved to see if they could have done it but mayors are volunteers for the most part and they don't have all of this expertise and knowledge on all of these environmental issues in Nunavut within municipal boundaries. So to receive letters like that is quite serious. I think most mayors and councils do want to see the metal waste dumps and other dumps cleaned up within their boundaries.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this session, we heard an announcement about funding from the Building Canada Fund. My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House if one of the department's initiatives includes the procurement and stationing of a metal waste shredder and compactor in Cambridge Bay or the Kitikmeot using funds from the Building Canada Fund? This machine could be used to compact some of the vehicles that are in metal waste dumps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sure our officials are listening to the questions and I'm sure that we will have to work with the government departments to find out if that could be our priority.

We have stated that we're now working on sending metal waste down south for recycling. We will have to work with ED&T to see how we would send metal waste out from Nunavut. At this time, I don't know if this will go ahead or not, but we will also look into that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 443 – 2(4): Status of the Appointment of the President of the Nunavut Development Corporation

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, who is responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I have been asking questions for some time now about the status of the appointment of a new President of the Nunavut Development Corporation. This position is appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Cabinet. As of today, can the minister advise the House whether this important appointment has been made for this important position? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just last week, we interviewed a couple of people for the position of President of NDC. I still haven't been told who they have selected. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Now that I hear that there were two people who have been interviewed, we also want to know where they come from as I'm sure this employment opportunity was advertised across Canada. This position has been vacant or occupied on an acting basis for some time now. Can the minister indicate to the House, since there are two potential individuals to be selected for this position, what is going to happen now? Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department has not told me who they will be selecting but they're working with the NDC Board and they have been looking for a new president. They have not made that recommendation to me but once they have, it will have to go through the Cabinet process and it will have to be approved through that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): As the minister is well aware, our recent hearings on the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation disaster revealed that one of the problems with that Crown corporation has been the lack of clarity with respect to reporting relationships. The *Nunavut Development Corporation Act* is very clear: subsection 7(4) provides that, (interpretation ends) and I quote, "the president is the chief executive officer of the Corporation and shall supervise, manage and direct the business of the Corporation in accordance with the direction of the Board."

(interpretation) For that reason, I would like to ask the minister: will the minister assure this House today that there will be no political interference whatsoever from his office or that of his deputy minister with respect to the relationship between the new President of the Development Corporation and his Board of Directors? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Economic Development, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe in the integrity of the board that we have and that there should be very little, if any, political interference at all with these boards. I can assure the member that we will keep our hands off. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: I appreciate the response; it's quite clear and the Act is very clear that it needs to be at arms length that there is to be no political interference.

There have been some very confusing reporting relationships that have been demonstrated, and I would like to ask the minister again: while he is the Minister of

Economic Development, there will be an arms length relationship with NDC and that he will abide by the recommendations from the Board of NDC with respect to hiring a CEO. Is that correct? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Economic Development, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They haven't come forward with a recommendation yet, but we will work with the NDC Board, and ultimately, it will be the Cabinet's decision to appoint the president. Thank you.

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

Question 444 – 2(4): Payment for Justice of the Peace

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was already asked by Mr. Alagalak. My question is for the Minister of Justice concerning his Minister's Statement, that his department will be available anytime they need to support a community. Will the JPs be earning wages at the community level? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister of Justice, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was listening to the member during his Member's Statement. If I was him, I would have kept the radio collar and board an aircraft because people would think it's a very fast seal.

>> *Laughter*

Super Nattiq; it can go anywhere.

Mr. Speaker, the JPs in charge in Iqaluit will be available at any time for assistance if there is a need from the community. The staff will be overseeing the legislation and the policies within the office of Iqaluit, and they will be available within the Office of the JP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand that there will be no JPs at the community level but there will be a JP in Iqaluit at headquarters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister of Justice, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. There are Justice Committees in the communities but the JP's office will be open 24 hours a day in Iqaluit. They will be able

to help at the community level if they need support, or if there's an emergency anywhere in Nunavut. They will be able to inform and make some clarifications if there is going to be an emergency, if there is a situation for the families to be divided, or if there is abuse happening. So they will be available 24 hours a day at the Iqaluit office for assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the employees in the community have an office at the community level for the JP positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister of Justice, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The JPs will have the similar mandate but they will be available every hour. We will have employees and staff that will assist all the communities with the situation within families. They are going to be available and they will have somebody at the community level, and the RCMP will be assisting them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was: will the JPs be earning salaries within the community, or are they going to be volunteers in the community? Because they are volunteers, will they have a salary within the community level? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They earn wages and that will not change with the JPs in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 445 – 2(4): Government Support for a Nunavut Ombudsman

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I rose to address the need for a Nunavut Ombudsman. This position would be an independent office to assist Nunavummiut in resolving problems and complaints with government programs and services.

As I indicated in my Member's Statement that almost all provinces have an independent ombudsman, as does the Yukon territory, I believe that at some point, the government may even have considered the idea of introducing legislation during the next Assembly to create such an office.

Can the Premier tell me what the government has planned in regard to the issue of an ombudsman? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was mentioned in Members' Statements as you had stated earlier. I applauded just as loud as other members since I was really happy to hear it brought up and that we are thinking of the same matter. We have been looking at this position and directed our staff to see if we could have an independent ombudsman in Nunavut.

I agree with his statement; we have different organizations today and they hold some degrees of responsibilities, while others are not really hampered by responsibilities. So we could review this to see what could be done on this front. The Cabinet has held discussions on this and it would create a better structure for an ombudsman in Nunavut. We would have to agree on the mandate as this would benefit Nunavut as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Premier. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in my Member's Statement, I recognized that there are many different models that we could look at in setting up an ombudsman's office.

I imagine that the Premier has discussed this issue with government leaders over the years. Can he indicate what models have been looked at by our government? I understand the Premier touched base on my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are reviewing the matter, especially as to which organizations presently hold some of these responsibilities, and to look at amalgamating them and put it under one organization which would assist both the government and our constituents. We are reviewing it. As I said before, this might not happen in the term of this government but we can certainly set it up for the next government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier. My colleague from Cambridge Bay has often spoken about the need to establish a Children's Advocate for

Nunavut. In some provinces, the ombudsman's role can also include advocating on behalf of children and youth. Does the government support the idea that Nunavut's children and youth deserve some type of independent advocate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, I agree that this position will be able to advocate on behalf of the children. We can add as much responsibility as we desire. We can work on this idea and I want to also discuss this with the other Members of the House as to how we could put the idea together to establish an ombudsman for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Premier. I thank him for his response and I think we need some more ideas from the other members in regard to this matter.

Mr. Speaker, when the discussions are being held on the Nunavut Ombudsman position, could it also play a role in advocating for elders? Would the Premier be willing to consider this idea since I believe it should be included? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to leave anyone out of this process. We will have to work on it together to establish it either way, especially after some discussions on the mandate, particularly with *Sapummijiit* and also our staff.

There will have to be an organization established for appeals because the government's operations must be monitored and gathered. There is no doubt that tasks can be narrowed down, and perhaps, consolidate them into one organization. That organization would have to report to all of us, not just to the government but to all elected members as well. We have been examining this and will continue to look at it closely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 446 – 2(4): Contingency Fund Included in Main Estimates

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance and it's just dealing with some numbers that the minister had indicated in his Budget Address that I'm not quite totally clear on and I would just like to get some clarification.

Mr. Speaker, in his Budget Address, the minister stated that they're looking at a \$4.5 million surplus for the coming year and also that there is an \$89.1 million contingency, and that they're looking at spending \$970.3 million in their main estimates here.

My question to the Minister of Finance is: the \$89.1 million contingency that he mentioned, is that included in the \$970.3 million that we're looking at in the main estimates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The budget we would like to implement for 2008-09, we are estimating revenues from the Building Canada Fund and Gas Tax Credit and block grants from the federal government total a little over \$1 billion, if we were to look at all of the funds accruable to the government.

The \$89 million contingency fund is basically an insurance fund out of the total estimated revenue and if it is not required, then it would be a budget surplus. That is where this fund actually comes from, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess then that that \$89 million isn't included in the main estimates from my interpretation of the minister's response. I'm just wondering if there's a draw down on any of that contingency of that \$89 million, will that affect the bottom line of the \$4.5 million surplus or not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 2008-09 main estimates that we introduced, \$89.1 million is a contingency fund and it's included in there. The contingency fund that I mentioned is divided up and it states how each will be used. I cannot mention all of the details here due to time constraints.

However, what I can say is that we have to try and strengthen the accounting for the funding that we receive from Indian and Northern Affairs. Keeping in mind the \$25 million that will be given to us annually for seven years, including the \$8 million that has been given to us for capital estimates, these are the funds we receive.

So the \$89.1 million is for the contingency fund and we have details on what that funding will be used for within the departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response and the clarification.

I'm looking through the main estimates and it doesn't say in any of the departments' budgets, or it doesn't outline a contingency at all. I know the minister committed earlier this sitting to provide us with a detailed listing of what the contingency fund was for but could he also provide us with a list of exactly where it is because, looking at the main estimates, you can't determine where those contingencies are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have identified what some of the funds are used for. At this time, the government and the union are in the process of negotiating the compensation for our staff just in case we have to use more money for our employees' compensation amounts and we do identify that amount but I can't say exactly how much.

For energy, we have identified \$19 million, \$6.7 million for strengthening financial management, \$121 million is identified for the Building Canada Fund, and we have to contribute \$1.1 million to that pot. It will not all just be funds from the federal government; this government also has to put \$8 million in the fund and we have identified \$7 million in case of unexpected emergencies. For example, if there is a fire, or if there is another emergency just like Rankin Inlet, then we must set aside \$7 million for emergency funds. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can certainly understand the predicament that the minister is in and not wanting to identify any contingency amount they might have set aside as a result of negotiations, and I can appreciate that.

I guess the point I'm trying to make is that these numbers that the minister mentioned and did provide us, in my review of the main estimates, to me, they don't show up as identified as contingencies anywhere in there. And, that's where I was asking if we could get an idea from his department exactly where those amounts show up in the main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the figures right in front of me but I will be more than happy to provide that information when we are dealing with the Main Estimates for the Department of Finance and I will provide the details then when we have more time to itemize the funds. Thank you.

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

Question 447 – 2(4): Wildlife Officers' Powers to Search

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

Last year, one of my constituents went through a difficult time with a wildlife officer. This man went out with his son, and when the wildlife officer and that hunter saw a loon, and his name is included in there, the wildlife officer went to that hunter and asked him why he disposed of that duck. He wasted that bird and there were some disagreements. My question is: are wildlife officers authorized to go to the dump to look at animals or birds that were disposed of? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. This is the first that I have heard of that and I have not been informed of this. I'll check into this situation and find out exactly what happened.

Without the proper information, I don't want to give a response. It's kind of difficult to respond at this time but I will certainly check into this matter. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder when this will be dealt with. Once you get the information, I would appreciate it if you could let me know. When are you going to start dealing with this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be meeting with my officials this afternoon and I will definitely bring this up. Once we have more information about how this came about, then I will be able to let the member know. I will definitely give him an answer by next week or the week after, before he leaves to go home. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information that I want is: are the wildlife officers authorized to go to the dump? Do they have that authority? That's

the information I want to get. Are the officers authorized to check in the dumps and is it part of their job description? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will definitely give him information to see if they're supposed to do that because we want our conservation officers to abide by the rules. I'm pretty sure a lot of them work really well and I will definitely let him know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Members, Question Period is now over. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address.

Members, as you might have noticed, there is an error in the item numbers on our orders and we apologize. We'll just proceed with our Orders of the Day. I'll say the correct number this time, Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 187 – 2(4): Photographs of Metal Waste Dump in Cambridge Bay

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week, I rose to draw the attention of the House to the issue of Cambridge Bay's metal waste dump. I am tabling a collection of photographs today which clearly reveal the conditions at the dump. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Please provide the tabled documents to the Clerk's table.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Premier.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act – Second Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill modernizes the *Land Titles Act* by allowing electronic filing of documents and removing the requirement for filing duplicate certificates of titles. This bill also clarifies certain provisions, corrects errors, and updates references for Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 27 has had its second reading and is referred to a standing committee.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Item 19. 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 will take a lunch break and return to the House at one o'clock.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:55 and Committee resumed at 13:05*

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

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with Bill 23 and the review of the Main Estimates for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, followed by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement 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 (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Premier, do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table? Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr. Premier, if you would like to make any comments, you may do so.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I begin, there are some visitors in the Gallery I would like to have recognized if it's okay with you. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Members. My colleagues, at this time, I would ask that we pause to recognize a number of visitors who have joined us in the Gallery this afternoon.

On November 6, 2007, this House began its sitting day by holding a minute of silence in honour of the memory of RCMP Constable Douglas Scott, who was tragically shot and killed in Kimmirut while in the line of duty.

Constable Scott's family is travelling to Nunavut to visit the community of his last posting and acquaint themselves with Nunavummiut and the members of the RCMP with whom he served.

Joining us in the Gallery today are:

Constable Scott's father, Doug Scott Senior;

>>*Applause*

His mother, Marla Scott;

>>*Applause*

His brothers, Layne and Chat;

>>*Applause*

His paternal uncle, Chris; and his maternal uncle, Glynn Lindsay.

>>*Applause*

On behalf of all Members of the Legislative Assembly, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Scott family to Nunavut. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as we honour the memory of your son. Thank you.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. At this time, for the record, Mr. Premier, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank and welcome the family members. I had an opportunity to meet them personally and I thank them very much for that opportunity. I wish to welcome them to Nunavut and our Legislative Assembly.

With me this afternoon is my Deputy Minister, whom you well know, David Omilgoitok, on my left and on my right is the Director of Corporate Services, Scott Marriott. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. (interpretation ends) Members, we will continue with page B-4 of the Main Estimates for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. If there are no names, we will proceed with B-4. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,356,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Branch Summary. Statistical Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$578,000. Does the committee agree? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome our visitors. I'm glad you have come up here. I know it's probably not an easy thing to do, but I'm very pleased that you can come up here and visit us and see our part of the country also.

My first question here, Mr. Chairman, in 2007-08, they had \$326,000 budgeted for Compensation and Benefits, it went down to \$286,000, and this year, they're projecting \$430,000. I'm just wondering if the minister could give us, and I'm sure it has to deal with staffing because it's all compensation and benefits, an explanation as to why it was higher then went down, and it's now going up again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I said in my opening comments, there's one new PY added to this, which is from the Statistics Bureau, to keep an eye on the socio-economic benefits of mining activities. This was done through an agreement with ED&T as we want to gather statistics of mineral activity throughout the territory.

The Statistics Bureau is the ideal place to take advantage of the expertise in collecting numbers and utilizing already existing facilities and resources. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. Before I ask my next question, I just want to say hi to my aunt Dorothy who just popped in to the Gallery from Rankin Inlet. Hi aunty.

Mr. Chairman, one of the priorities that they're looking at here that they had for 2007-08 was to "Develop regulations related to the *Statistics Act* and its implementation." I'm just wondering if the minister can give us an update of what work has been done in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Welcome to the Gallery, Dorothy. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, we're still working on those at this time. Welcome, Dorothy. If your nephew gives me a hard time, please talk to him. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>*Laughter*

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Premier, I think she might help me out, so I would be careful.

>>*Laughter*

I'm sure, Mr. Chairman, between yourself and Mr. Akasuk, you might have some questions for Dorothy as well.

Mr. Chairman, can the Premier indicate when they hope to bring forward these regulations? Is it something that they hope to have completed during this upcoming fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We're probably aiming for the fall of this year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll probably be asking questions about it on the next page, but I know that some of the work that was identified through the Suicide Intervention and Prevention Strategy was they looked at gathering information. I'm just wondering if the Statistics Division of the department will be doing any work in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, that is the intention and we have to work with all of the affected departments in doing that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, one of the priorities for this division for the upcoming year is to "Participate in the development of the Nunavut General Monitoring Program established under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement." I'm just wondering if the Premier can give us a little bit of an outline of what's involved in there and what's going to be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, yes, we plan to do that but we have to work with the parties to the agreement to make sure that we do it properly. So that's our intention - to work with our partners and do as required by our land claims agreement. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate if any work has been done to date in that area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, there have been preliminary discussions but there are in depth discussions to take place with our partners in March of this year. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. We're on page B-5. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Statistical Service. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$578,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We'll go to page B-6. Policy, Planning and Evaluation. Branch Summary. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$1,313,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We'll go to B-7. Branch Summary. Nunavut Cabinet. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,967,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question and that is: there seems to be a decline in the Cabinet and these individual ministers visiting our communities promoting government or giving information about government; is the budget being cut here? I don't see any budget cuts but why does it seem to be that the ministers don't seem to be visiting more than they used to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We haven't cut travel budgets for ministers, so it's not the budget. I know that we have been busy here and there but we try and make visits wherever we can.

The ministers are here, so they can get the message that you have to do more. I enjoy visiting communities very much, particularly Pond Inlet in the spring. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Laughter*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. We're on (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Nunavut Cabinet. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think all members in the Assembly are aware, especially the ones on this side of the House, that the ministers get other benefits that the regular members don't. I would just like to ask the Premier if the extra benefits that the ministers get come out of this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Compensation and Benefits outlines all the benefits that are there not just for minister but also their staff. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. Can the minister indicate what specific additional benefits the ministers receive? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think the reports that are produced every fall outline the overall benefits that we all get as members and ministers. So that is what's produced. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that report indicate whether ministers get so much money for housing allowance, or do they get vacation time and things like that? Is that outlined in the report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The financial results are in the papers and published for everyone's benefit. In terms of vacation, we are entitled to vacation like everyone, but at the same time, when ministers have to relocate to here, we provide the housing to them as well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate exactly what type of vacation benefits that the ministers get and exactly how much housing allowance they get? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We don't get a VTA; we just get time off. So I can confirm that that's the only benefit, really, out of the vacation time that we do have.

In terms of housing, it varies per family size. We have asked them to relocate their families here and that's what some of the ministers have done. So it varies per minister and the family. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask the Premier if that information is provided in the report that he talked about and tabled in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The report that was tabled in the fall outlines the financial benefits and salaries that we do get as ministers, but it doesn't outline the housing benefit that is provided to ministers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the Premier commit to providing the information in a report or some form to be tabled in the House that outlines all of the additional benefits that the members of Cabinet receive? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I'll take that as advisement at this time. I don't know the particulars that are required by law as to privacy and those other matters, but I'll do what I can. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my mind, this is public money and the public has the right to know exactly how that money is being spent. If there are no privacy issues, would the minister commit to providing a report like that to the House outlining all of the additional benefits that members of Cabinet receive? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I will do what I can, as I said, and do what I can do with the constraints that I may have. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going to the vacation time that the minister alluded to earlier, can he indicate how much vacation time that ministers are allowed to claim a year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I know it's not any more than regular employees. I don't have all of the particulars at this time, but I must say that we don't take any more than we are required. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure how it works for government employees, but I don't know if they, instead of taking vacation time, are allowed to just get a payout of that time. Is that something that the ministers have available to them as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We're treated like government employees, so we get the same benefits here and there. I'm sure that we don't get any more than what our employees are entitled to.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was: are ministers able to get a payout for their vacation time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, we're treated like government employees and get the same benefits out of our government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister be willing to provide a list of which ministers took their vacation time and which ones took the payout? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Like any employee, there are privacy matters. I cannot divulge all of these things for the benefit of privacy issues and I'll have to get this looked at. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can understand the minister's caution, but if there are no privacy issues of just providing a list of which ministers took their annual leave and which ones took a payout of their annual leave, would the minister commit to providing that information to the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, if there are privacy matters, I cannot divulge certain information in some cases. I'll have to get this looked at very carefully as any employees are entitled to privacy of their affairs. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. We're on page B-7. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. I'm sorry. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had my hand up on the same page but I don't think you saw me, so I am not doing this on purpose.

(interpretation ends) On the same page, B-7, (interpretation) under Travel and Transportation, the revised main estimates for 2007-08 was \$789,000 and it's now \$787,000, which is \$2,000 less. I'm sure that all of the communities and the members request that ministers come and visit their communities. I know that members request ministers, as I do myself, but we have not had any ministers visit the communities.

This funding under Travel and Transportation, since it's Government of Nunavut and they also govern the communities, it seems like they should be travelling out to the communities. What is this Travel and Transportation line item, \$787,000, estimated for this main estimate directed towards? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These estimates are created using our travel budgets in total and when we're invited, we try to visit the communities. This year, we were invited by Arviat for the student graduation ceremonies. I was able to attend and I was extremely grateful to be a part of the ceremonies. We appreciate all of the invitations and we sometimes do have the time to travel to the communities. We will continue to do that during our tenure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we were very glad to see you come and visit our community but we would like to have your other departmental ministers visit our communities, especially the Minister of Community and Government Services because the communities expect to see the Minister of Community and Government Services. The Minister of Education also used to visit the communities when the schools started, but the communities really expect those ministers to come and visit the communities periodically.

My question is: how many ministers have visited the communities and how much did it cost? Could you table that kind of information? We are very interested in seeing that kind of information and the communities, especially for those who know the ministers, expect to see the ministers come and visit their communities. Generally, they know that the

minister is scheduled to come in, is coming in this week, or has been delayed due to funding issues. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we can say that there was not enough money to travel.

So if you could provide that information to us, I would appreciate it so that we can disseminate the information to our constituents. Can you provide us with that information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would have to fix that. It may take some time if the members wanted us to work towards making changes in the policy and regulations, but we can undertake that process.

We inform each other as to our travel plans, either to the communities or when we wish to invite other members when visiting the communities in their constituencies, and this is our usual policy. If we could add it to the report, then I will request that it be added. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you. I'm not saying you ought not to do that but please understand that we would like to see the ministers in our communities and we would welcome all ministers and our government leaders from Iqaluit who travel to our communities.

I know that you have already met with Members of the Cabinet and our new fiscal year is already coming close on April 1. Do you have any plans on whether you or the ministers would be visiting the communities in Nunavut and when? Have you planned which communities to visit and for which event or activity? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point, we haven't decided where we will go. As you may know, we are sometimes forced to make unscheduled travel, so we have to make allowances for those unexpected occasions.

At other times, we are more than happy to accept invitations, especially when we have not paid a visit for quite a few months. It makes things much easier when we get invited ahead of time. So whenever your constituents wishes to invite us over, having a few months lead time really helps us prepare and make the time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. We are on B-7. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Nunavut Cabinet. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,967,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page B-8. Commissioner of Nunavut. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$227,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this Compensation and Benefits for the commissioner's assistant? I understand that the commissioner is an employee of the federal government, so is this \$127,000 for the EA? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. We're on (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Commissioner of Nunavut. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$227,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page B-9. Branch Summary. Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this page, B-9, there seems to be an increase to \$424,000. What would these additional funds be used for? Are they for the secretariat priorities for the coming year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure exactly what he is referring to, I'm sorry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Could you clarify your question, please? Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's the department's Energy Secretariat; it has increased to \$424,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I spoke to this matter previously in regard to another position for addition to the Energy Secretariat. This position will assist in the planning of how to conserve energy and petroleum as we need to conduct more research into alternative energies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also in Intergovernmental Affairs, outside of Nunavut, other jurisdictions, this position is responsible for them. In the Legislative Assembly, I sometimes voice our concerns regarding our environment, but I would like to understand something.

In regard to some of the concerns we have raised about matters under the jurisdiction of the Quebec Government, what will the GN do to deal with this in the future? How are you going to work with the Quebec Government in the future to discuss some of the Nunavut Inuit concerns? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have tried to represent all of the communities' concerns and wishes in relation to this matter, especially in this upcoming year. The Department of Environment will also set aside monies pertaining to this development project, including our staff, Sanikiluaq in particular, and some of these issues will be brought forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The federal government does not notify any of the communities, especially the smaller communities. Although we have computers and satellite technology in most of our communities, there are Inuit who still don't use them.

My question is: do you inform the federal government about our government's plans and infrastructure requirements in the smaller communities? As an example, although I never heard any news from our government, one of my constituents was surfing the Web and found some news items regarding ports in remote communities in Canada, including Nunavut.

This news item stated that there are 987 fisheries ports and 183 recreational facilities for boaters. Over 6,000 docks and harbours have been erected in the communities and over \$3 billion operational funds for the ports in these communities. Yet, we have never heard any of these programs in the communities from our government, so I am posing a question to Intergovernmental Affairs.

These federal programs already in existence, whether they pertain to docks and harbours, or for that matter, any other useful program to Nunavummiut which can be utilized by our people... shouldn't our government keep us informed of programs we can access since the federal government is not keeping our people informed of these useful programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some ways, this is impossible because in some matters, we run our own affairs and resolve the problems within the Government of Nunavut.

The federal government doesn't always notify us either. If we are trying to access these programs and if we were trying to be included in any of these programs but we did not keep up with them, then we would be the ones being blamed.

This is part of the problem, although we want to assist the communities where we can and we try to assist them in anyway. Where we are familiar with the program, we advise our constituents, that if you go to this department or office, even though it is not under our programs, the federal government would try and assist them.

Although we assist Nunavut entities and people, we do not run these programs and we are not aware of all of the details of these programs and we do not want to send people to the wrong places. There is bit of a problem with communication between governments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you talk with the federal Department of Intergovernmental Affairs? Here we are, also Canadians, but it seems like we live in the backyard and no one knows of our situation.

The federal government assists many people in Europe, overseas, and in different countries financially. They seem to pay more attention to them but we're right in the country and we're ignored, particularly in Nunavut. Can you speak with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and mention that they need someone in their department to do the notifications to the Nunavut public as to whether it is the Department of Oceans and Fisheries or Transportation?

You need someone from Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to inform the communities about federal programs and news whenever there are new initiatives from the federal government and send them to the communities. There are only 25 communities in Nunavut and they would not have to make millions of copies. Can the government commit to informing the federal government about this matter? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We try to work with Intergovernmental Affairs within the federal government and they know all of our programs.

We would like some assistance and we do not want anyone who is eligible in Nunavut to lose out on these programs. We try to inform them of the needs of Inuit in Nunavut and even if they had their programs translated into Inuktitut, then our constituents would be

able to benefit from the programs. As we all know, sometimes cooperation between governments goes smoothly and at times, it doesn't, and sometimes we encounter challenges with communication. When we work together and support each other, then this assistance can become quite substantial.

Looking at the Building Canada Fund, it would be very interesting, particularly on the fisheries, where we have run into obstacles. So, yes, sometimes they do assist our government and we will pursue them for their continued support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. We are on page B-9. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$1,322,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will go to page B-10. Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs. Branch Summary. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$412,000. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On B-10, my question to the Premier is: what is the status today of the transboundary issues with the First Nations group in Northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba? How is the Government of Nunavut keeping residents in the affected communities, such as Arviat, informed of this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, the Government of Canada appointed a factfinder for the Manitoba Denesuline and I haven't received a retaining copy of the report that has been produced by the factfinder.

NTI has been working with Denesuline in trying to find a way to resolve this matter and I received a letter from the Manitoba Minister for Aboriginal Affairs indicating willingness to try and work something out on this matter, so there has been no real progress to dates on this matter.

I have been keeping the MLA for Arviat, in particular, up to date on any progress and I'll continue to do that. On the Saskatchewan Denesuline, there has been nothing new to report there, but on the Denesuline for Manitoba, that's been where the focus has been at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Premier. On December 1, 2006, you were in attendance at the signing ceremony in Kuujuuaq of the Nunavik Land Claims Agreement. Has the signing of this agreement addressed the Government of Nunavut's concern in relation to such issues as fisheries? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The issue was deferred but it was clear in the agreement that the Inuit of Nunavut will always have a higher allocation of fisheries than the Inuit of Nunavik in our waters. So that's where we left the matter.

As you know, this is still an outstanding issue with the Government of Canada and will be so until we have the same allocation as any Canadian jurisdiction in the country. So this matter will not be resolved until we see the day that we're treated like the rest of the country. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Premier for that response. While we're still on B-10, I would like to get into the status of the Government of Nunavut's relationship with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

In which areas are the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated currently working well together and on which specific issues do the Government of Nunavut and NTI disagree? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think that's a very broad question, so it's hard for me to outline all of the issues that we worked together on. So I'll just highlight maybe some of the points that have become obvious in the public record where we did differ and where we agreed quite strongly.

We looked to the proposed *Education Act* where we feel strongly that our young people should have opportunities to learn and be able to attend university, for example, with a recognized diploma. NTI feels that Inuktitut is more important than getting a recognized diploma to use for higher studies in their reports. So that's where we have a definite difference of opinion in terms of making sure that our young people have the opportunity to learn and become qualified to take on any job that may come their way. We both agree that we want to make sure that they learn Inuktitut and have a strong foundation of our culture from our schools. How we get there is where we differ.

We agree in terms of getting more Inuit working in our government and getting them trained to take on the jobs throughout our territory, but we also disagree on the method. We want to work with the Government of Canada outside the court system because

taking the government to court takes quite some time and it is costly, but NTI has chosen to do that, while we have chosen to try and work something out.

We are presently in the courts on the gun control legislation, as you know, and we agree strongly that that legislation breaches our land claims agreement. We have the courts agreeing with us for the interim measures but this matter still requires going to trial.

So those are some indicators on devolution. We had a few differences here and there but we have worked them out, and that we have been working well together on devolution. We worked well together in trying to promote mining activity throughout the territory. So those are some of the things that we work on. On the overlap situations, we have worked well together and are partners.

So I think where it goes down to the core Inuit matters, we have worked very well together and made a difference, like in housing, and we continue to work on the fisheries matters. So those are some things that we have in common and we will continue to find ways to work together. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to add a little bit to what Mr. Evyagotailak was asking, maybe with more specific examples.

You stated earlier that you wanted to take the federal government to court over the land claims agreement on economic development issues, especially adjacent to or in the vicinity issues of the economic development section of the fishing in Davis Strait, especially between Clyde River and Pond Inlet, but you were disqualified because GN is a public body.

Have you spoken to NTI and urged them that because they qualify to sue the federal government under the land claims agreement to proceed with them, have you also advised them or urged them to start investing in more economic development opportunities for the communities, for example, partnerships with Baffinland and the Pond Inlet people on a development corporation, etcetera, along that line that you did not use in your examples? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Our focus has been in implementing the land claim agreement and I leave it to other entities to push NTI in governing how they will manage their affairs. We focus on governing matters in terms of trying to implement the land claims agreement, so we don't get involved in each others internal affairs. So that's where we try and leave it at that because our focus is to implement and make sure the benefits flow to Inuit throughout the territory.

As I said yesterday, this has been a grey area in terms of the fisheries allocation to date and we will do what we can. I know that my officials have been in touch with NTI's officials, the workers, on the most recent fisheries allocation.

So I'm hopeful that we will work something out in the long run. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I need your assistance. I think we have one page left. If nobody has to leave, I'm suggesting that we go past two o'clock to conclude this department. Can I make a motion? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the members agree with Mr. Arvaluk?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Let's proceed. We're on (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. B-10. Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$412,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to B-11. Branch Summary. Devolution. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have three quick questions on B-11. In the last year, in June I think, the Mayer Report on Nunavut Devolution was released and the report recommended a 'go slow' approach to devolution. In August of last year, a new Minister of Indian Affairs was appointed. What is the status today of devolution negotiations with the Government of Canada? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There has been some movement and I'll be tabling a letter I received from the Prime Minister in the coming days. There has been movement and I look forward to reporting progress to the House in the coming days as early as maybe Monday or Tuesday.

So there's progress and I look forward to seeing these discussions turn into negotiations in the near future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In a speech in December 2006, you publicly expressed concerns regarding the federal government's reluctance to include internal waters in the High Arctic as part of the devolution talks. In 2006-07, your department

commissioned a \$28,500 study on oil and gas issues related to devolution. What is the status today of this issue and what did the study conclude? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We have been working very hard and pushing strong for internal waters. And, as I said, there has been some movement and I look forward to reporting the progress in the coming days very shortly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did the minister say that he will be reporting during this session? Is that what he just said? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Please clarify your response, Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, (interpretation ends) either this coming Monday or Tuesday. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. We'll go on to page B-11. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Devolution. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$1,065,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We'll go back to page B-3. Department Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$11,240,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are we in agreement that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Sergeant-at-Arms... If you have any closing remarks, Mr. Premier, please go ahead.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues. The comments that we heard will definitely be taken into consideration, especially when we are planning our estimates. Even though I couldn't respond to all of the questions, I will try my best to respond to them in this House. I thank you very much and hope to have productive meetings in the near future.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. (interpretation ends) What is the wish of the committee?
Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would really like to move to report progress. Thank you.

>>*Laughter*

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

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Your committee has been considering Bill 23 and the Main Estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. There is one. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for March 3:

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

8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration 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.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, our House stands adjourned until Monday, March 3, at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 14:08*

