



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**4th Session**

**2nd Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 49**

**Monday, March 3, 2008**

**Pages 3172 – 3239**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**

(Pangnirtung)

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**

(Nattilik)

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown**

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services*

**Hon. Paul Okalik**

(Iqaluit West)

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**

(South Baffin)

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

**Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

**Joe Allen Evyagotailak**

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

**Hon. Ed. Picco**

(Iqaluit East)

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

**David Alagalak**

(Arviat)

**James Arreak**

(Uqummiut)

*Deputy Speaker; Chair of the Committee of the Whole*

**Peter Kattuk**

(Hudson Bay)

**Steve Mapsalak**

(Akulliq)

**David Simailak**

(Baker Lake)

**James Arvaluk**

(Tunnunuiq)

**Levi Barnabas**

(Quttiktuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Patterk Netser**

(Nanulik)

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

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

**Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

### *Officers*

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk  
Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant  
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk  
Susan Cooper

Sergeant-at-Arms  
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production  
Innirvik Support Services

**Box 1200**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0**

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

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

## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	3172
Ministers' Statements .....	3172
Members' Statements .....	3176
Returns to Oral Questions .....	3178
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	3179
Oral Questions.....	3181
Written Questions.....	3200
Tabled Documents.....	3200
Notices of Motions .....	3202
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	3202
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	3238
Orders of the Day .....	3238

**A.**

**Daily References**

Monday, March 3, 2008 ..... 3172

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

150 – 2(4): New Members for Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council and Celebrating  
International Women's Day (Aglukkaq)..... 3172

151 – 2(4): Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program ..... 3173

152 – 2(4): Workers' Compensation Board 2008 Corporate Plan (Akesuk)..... 3174

153 – 2(4): Piqusilirivvik Status Report (Tapardjuk)..... 3175

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

357 – 2(4): Search and Rescue at Sanikiluaq (Kattuk)..... 3176

358 – 2(4): Importance of Fire Prevention Measures (Barnabas) ..... 3176

359 – 2(4): Avataq Hockey Tournament at Rankin Inlet (Curley)..... 3177

**D.**

**Returns to Oral Questions**

Return to Oral Question 427 – 2(4): \$89.1 Million Contingency Fund (Tapardjuk) ..... 3178

Return to Oral Question 422 – 2(4): 2008 Federal Budget – Gas Tax Fund (Tapardjuk)..... 3178

**E.**

**Oral Questions**

448 – 2(4): Review of Qulliq Energy Corporation Emergency Preparedness and Practices  
(Curley)..... 3181

449 – 2(4): Status of Small Craft Harbours for Nunavut (Arvaluk).....	3184
450 – 2(4): Announcement in Budget Address of Outfitters Assistance Program (Barnabas) .	3186
451 – 2(4): Options Paper on Inuksuk High School Forwarded to DEA (Tootoo).....	3187
452 – 2(4): Update on Manitoba-Kivalliq Winter Road (Alagalak).....	3190
453 – 2(4): Forward Operating Location Site in Rankin Inlet (Curley).....	3192
454 – 2(4): Update on Remand Inmates in Iqaluit (Arreak).....	3194
455 – 2(4): Number of Communities Lacking Learning Centres (Mapsalak).....	3196
456 – 2(4): Issues Affecting Nunavut (Tootoo) .....	3197

**F.**

**Written Questions**

009 – 2(4): Academic Success of Arviammiut (Alagalak).....	3200
--	------

**G.**

**Tabling of Documents**

188 – 2(4): NTI/NSDC Annual Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society 2005/06 and 2006/07 Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education in Nunavut (Okalik).....	3201
189 – 2(4): Photographs of Rankin Inlet FOL Site (Curley).....	3201
190 – 2(4): Environmental Rights Act Annual Report January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 (Akesuk).....	3201
191 – 2(4): WCB of the NWT and Nunavut Corporate Plan for 2008 (Akesuk).....	3201
192 – 2(4): Piqqusilirivvik Status Report February 2008 (Tapardjuk).....	3201
193 – 2(4): Terms of Reference for the Nunavut Heritage Centre Capital Fundraising Campaign Request for Proposal 2007-40 (Tapardjuk).....	3202
194 – 2(4): FPT Finance Ministers' Meeting December 12, 2007 (Tapardjuk).....	3202

**H.**

**Motions**

028 – 2(4): Extension of Review Period of Bill 20 – Notice (Alagalak) ..... 3202

**I.**

**Bills**

Bill 23 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2008-2009 – Consideration in  
Committee – CLEY ..... 3203

**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, March 3, 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, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Peter Kilabuk)(interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Alagalak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Good afternoon, Mr. Premier, Ministers, and Members of the Legislative Assembly. Welcome, everyone.

Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 150 – 2(4): New Members for Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council and Celebrating International Women's Day**

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

Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I am pleased to announce the appointment of five new council members to Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council.

I would like to congratulate Neevee Wilkins and Trista Mercer from Iqaluit, Annie Iqalukjuak from Clyde River, Bernadette Miqusaaq Dean from Rankin Inlet, and Meeka Alivaktuk from Pangnirtung, on their appointments to the council.

Mr. Speaker, the new council members will serve a two-year term and will join Donna Hakongak, Acting President, Leonie Duffy, Vice-President, and council members Anaoyok Alookey and Anne Isnor. The council is here with us today so I would like to welcome them all. I would also like to take a moment to thank those council members whose terms expired in December: Kathy Hanson, Meeka Mearns, Celine Ningark, Catherine Pilakapsi and Christine Ekidlak, for their hard work and dedication during the time they served on the council.

Mr. Speaker, on March 8, Nunavut communities will be celebrating International Women's Day. This day is set aside to celebrate women, to bring attention to the challenges they face, and their roles in leadership and the role everyone can play in advancing their issues.

In Iqaluit, we will be holding our second annual Nunavut Wise Women of the Year Award Ceremony, held to celebrate the strength and wisdom of our women in Nunavut. This year three will be awarded to represent the entire territory.

I am also proud to announce, leading up to International Women's Day, that in partnership with Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council and other stakeholders, we are planning a multi-year program called "Women's Voices in Leadership."

Mr. Speaker, the intent of this program is to increase women's participation leadership roles and decision making in Nunavut. This program is in the design phase and will involve Women and Elections workshops and Forums; a Nunavut-based Women & Leadership conference; and promotional activities.

Mr. Speaker, we need the talent and skills of our women in Nunavut, such as the Qullit Council members, to contribute to the leadership at the local, regional and territorial level. We need to ensure our women's voices are heard.

Later in the agenda, Mr. Speaker, I will be recognizing each of the members that are here with us today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Netser.

### **Minister's Statement 151 – 2(4): Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to inform this House of changes to the Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program, or NDAP, for Iqaluit residents. Changes will be effective April 1 of this year.

In an effort to encourage homeownership, Mr. Speaker, the corporation will increase assistance to new homeowners in Iqaluit to the same level as that which is currently available in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay...

>>Applause

... \$30,000 for an existing home and \$50,000 for a newly constructed home.

I would also like to note that the current levels in all other communities is \$45,000 for an existing home and \$75,000 for a newly constructed home.



Mr. Speaker, in November 2005, the NDAP limits were increased in all Nunavut communities except for Iqaluit. At that time, it was felt that Iqaluit had a healthy homeownership market, but demanding fairly high prices for single family homes. Mr. Speaker, at that time, there was concern that an increase in the down payment assistance available to homeowners would only encourage even higher prices in Iqaluit.

Since then, the Iqaluit market seems to have softened with most sales falling under the \$400,000 mark. The current level of assistance is not enough to cover even the minimum required down payment of five percent.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that an increase in NDAP in Iqaluit at this time will encourage and make it easier for more qualifying applicants to enter into homeownership, and at the same time, serve to aid recruitment and retention of GN personnel in Iqaluit through the purchase of their new homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

#### **Minister's Statement 152 – 2(4): Workers' Compensation Board 2008 Corporate Plan**

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

Under the new *Workers' Compensation Act* that comes to force on April 1, the Workers' Compensation Board's name will change to the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC). This reflects the shift of philosophy to emphasize safety and prevention in addition to fair compensation for injured workers. Later today, I will table the Workers' Compensation Board's 2008 Corporate Plan.

The *2008 Balanced Scorecard* sets the WCB's strategic direction by establishing its priorities and goals as well as measures and targets for the coming year. Flowing from the balanced scorecard, the corporate plan explains the importance of WCB's priorities, the associated goals, and the means by which the goals will be achieved. The annual report then highlights the WCB's results.

The Workers' Compensation Board values openness and transparency. As a means to foster this openness, the Governance Council initiated activity reporting to provide stakeholders with frequent and current operations updates. The *Activities Report* will present a summary of WCB's activities, programs, and projects, allowing stakeholders to track progress and evaluate the WCB's success. The report will be published on a quarterly basis.

As I have stated, the Workers' Compensation Board's name will be changed to the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission on April 1. To make stakeholders aware of the name change, as well as changes to the Act, and its progress on objectives, the WCB has implemented a communications strategy. The process of disseminating information has already started. Using existing and established mediums of communication, like the website, the e-newsletter *Insight: A Look a Safety & Service and Reflections*, a semi-annual magazine, the WCB is committed to ensuring northern workers and employers know how WCB is changing and how the changes affect them.

The new *Workers' Compensation Act* strengthened reporting system, and communications strategy support and further the board's mission to *promote workplace safety and care for injured workers*. They allow the board to better and more effectively serve the people of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Minister's Statement 153 – 2(4): Piqusilirivvik Status Report**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Having a cultural school in Nunavut has been a vision of Nunavummiut for many years. Inuit are passionate about their identity, language and culture. They value highly the importance of passing along their traditional knowledge to future generations.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has been working to respond to the high priority set by our caucus meeting in Arviat to establish such a unique learning facility.

We are well on the way to design and construction of Piqusilirivvik in Clyde River and we are now developing the programs that will be offered there and in the two satellite communities of Baker Lake and Igloolik.

Mr. Speaker, my staff have prepared the Piqusilirivvik Status Report, which I will be tabling later today, to inform us all on the developments to date, the values and the goals of this exciting new project, and to outline the direction of work in the coming years.

I would like to emphasize that we are working very closely with NTI on this project, and their participation and contributions to this process have been very constructive and helpful. Similarly, we have benefited from the contributions and the advice of a number of Inuit elders and youth from throughout Nunavut who believe very strongly in what we are creating. In fact, my staff and I would like to thank all elders involved in this project to date. Without their commitment and vision, this project would not be moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, the Piqusilirivvik Status Report marks an important step in the creation of this wonderful institution that will be so important to the continued support and preservation of those values, skills and knowledge that are so essential for Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. If there are none left, we'll move on. Members, for your information, we have two Members from Cambridge Bay and Akulliq who will be arriving a little later on today, and the Member for Baker Lake, due to his constituency work, will be coming in on Thursday.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

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

#### **Member's Statement 357 – 2(4): Search and Rescue at Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to my family and the people of Sanikiluaq.

This is something that I don't want to mention in the House but I do have to make an announcement. In my riding, they are going through a very hard time right now. There was an individual who went out hunting on Thursday and hasn't returned. They have suspended the search for this individual for the time being due to the weather.

We hope that everything is okay and we hope that he will be found. I would like my colleagues join me in expressing our hopes with the people of Sanikiluaq as they go through this period of worry and concern.

Myself, I have a cold and I will have to leave some time during the day.

My thoughts and prayers are with the people of Sanikiluaq. I know that they're doing all they can for that individual and their family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 358 – 2(4): Importance of Fire Prevention Measures**

**Mr. Barnabas**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the importance of fire prevention in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, a number of communities have suffered severe losses in recent years as a result of fire. We have lost schools, hamlet offices and housing units.

In my community of Arctic Bay, we have lost a number of housing units in the past year as a result of fire.

Given the severe housing shortage in Nunavut, we cannot afford to lose even one unit.

Mr. Speaker, a concern that has been raised in my community is the location of pumping station. At present, our firefighters get their water from a location that is some distance from town. This slows the reaction time for fighting fires. In Grise Fiord the holding tank is experiencing problems with its levels of water.

Mr. Speaker, when fighting fires, every second counts. I urge the Department of Community and Government Services to work with the municipality to identify a solution to this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to address the issue of arson.

We have seen incidents in which fires were caused by children and youths.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Repulse Bay rose in the House last week to speak about the DARE program, which fights drug use in our schools. It is important that the Department of Education also make efforts to fight arson. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 359 – 2(4): Avataq Hockey Tournament at Rankin Inlet**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring up the issue of the hardship that was experienced by Rankin Inlet. Because of that emergency, there has been a delay in the Avataq Hockey Tournament, which is a very important event. Over this past weekend, the Avataq Hockey Tournament was able to proceed. We had a lot of youth from the Keewatin and it seemed like they had a most enjoyable experience.

Mr. Speaker, when I was in bed, I turned on the radio and I heard the play-by-play in Inuktitut when there was just five minutes, it was just between Coral Harbour and Rankin Inlet. There was a 3-0 score for Rankin Inlet and before the end, Coral Harbour had a penalty, and in the power play, Rankin Inlet scored.

I am very proud of all the teams, not only the winning teams but all the teams that were there and the youth who participated. I send my congratulations to all of the individuals, players, and participants in the tournament. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 3. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

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

##### **Return to Oral Question 427 – 2(4): \$89.1 Million Contingency Fund**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table my Return to Oral Question 427 – 2(4) asked by the Member for Iqaluit Centre, Hunter Tootoo, on February 27, 2008, regarding the \$89.1 million contingency fund.

Mr. Speaker, on February 27, 2008, the MLA for Iqaluit Centre asked me during Question Period if the cost of implementing our pending legislation for education and languages is contained in our \$89.1 million contingency.

Mr. Speaker, after reading the interpretation of my response in *Hansard* and receiving a more thorough briefing on our fiscal plan, I realized that my responses should be clarified.

Mr. Speaker, the \$89.1 million contingency contains four elements:

- The Nunavut Teachers Association and Northern Employees Union negotiating mandates;
- A reserve for fuel costs;
- Funds identified for the Strengthening Financial Management and Building Canada Fund Initiatives; and
- A small general contingency.

Mr. Speaker, when substantial legislation is being reviewed by this House, we do not prejudge the outcome of that review. The final cost of implementation depends on what specific elements of each piece of legislation are agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Tapardjuk.

##### **Return to Oral Question 422 – 2(4): 2008 Federal Budget – Gas Tax Fund**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table my Return to Oral Question 422 – 2(4) asked by the Member for Cambridge Bay, Keith Peterson, on February 27, 2008, regarding the Gas Tax Fund from the 2008 Federal Budget.

**Question:**

Exactly how much would Nunavut receive every year on the Gas Tax Fund if the fund becomes permanent?

**Response:**

In the budget speech, Minister Flaherty announced the permanent extension of Gas Tax funding after 2014. No monetary amount for this funding was provided by the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Aglukkaq.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I would like to recognize all members of the Qullit Status of Women's Council. I will say their names, and when I do, please stand up so that they can be recognized by Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) The first person I would like to recognize in the Gallery today, a new board member, is Neevee Wilkins (interpretation) from Iqaluit.

>> *Applause*

The other one is Annie Iqalukjuak from Clyde River.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) Another person from Iqaluit, Trista Mercer, welcome to the Gallery.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation) From Cambridge Bay, Anne Isnor.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) Another board member recently appointed, Bernadette Dean (interpretation) from Rankin Inlet.

>> *Applause*

Another constituent of mine and one whom I've known since I was a child, a woman named Anaoyuk Alookey from Taloyoak, who is also well-known.

>> *Applause*

And also, the staff members who are here: Rhoda Palluq; Shylah Elliott from Iqaluit, an employee from Health and Social Services and works closely with the Qullit Status of Women Council, Rian.

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, lastly, I would also like to recognize Stephanie Williams, who I understand is also leaving the Qullit Status of Women Council, and I want to take this opportunity to thank her on behalf of the Government of Nunavut and the Qullit Status of Women Council for her contributions to women's issues and to the organization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would also like to welcome someone who is not my constituent but someone who is from Iqaluit, across from us, who is on the Liquor Board, Jesse Mike. Welcome to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to recognize someone who is not my constituent, Mr. Pauloosie Akeeagok, who is from Grise Fiord, but we work closely together with them on school planning. I want to thank and recognize Jesse Mike and Pauloosie Akeeagok. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to recognize someone who is from my constituency, Bernadette Dean. Her daughter, Ashley Dean, is doing studies in town and we are very proud of her. She represented Nunavut when she was in the beauty pageant about two years ago and she is very beautiful. She also has a son here in Iqaluit, Cody Dean. We often visit them and they were once very close to us, so I would like to recognize Bernadette Dean. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Welcome to the Gallery. Members, please note that we only have two pages at this time, so they'll have to do tasks only within the Chambers. If we get more pages, then we would be able to ask them to go outside the Chambers.

Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

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

#### **Question 448 – 2(4): Review of Qulliq Energy Corporation Emergency Preparedness and Practices**

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

Mr. Speaker, the emergency situation in Rankin Inlet has stabilized and it is now time for accountability. Mr. Speaker, tough questions are being asked in Rankin Inlet about the circumstances that led to this situation occurring in the first place and I believe that my constituents are entitled to clear and candid answers.

As the minister knows, three out of four generators in Rankin Inlet failed within a short period of time. Replacement parts for one of the generators were not available in the community. There were significant problems in locating and flying in a new generator. Can the minister explain why the QEC was not better prepared for this situation? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very quickly, what occurred in Rankin Inlet was a catastrophic failure of three engines. We had four engines which gives us more than enough power generation when needed to deal with the peak load in the community.

What occurred first was the first engine went down, as the member is aware, the second engine then because of the load pickup and some other concerns with the motor parts itself within the engine failed, and then we lost a third engine when there was a small fire in the engine in the turbo charger. We were left with one out of four engines.

In any other reasonable expectation, Mr. Speaker, we never see a case where you would lose three out of four engines like this; it was an unforeseen circumstance. What we are doing right now, after we have now put the new generators in place, is we have secured the power, and over the next couple of weeks, we will be looking at the reasons and causes for the failure of the engines that we just spoke about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister because the residents of Rankin Inlet want to find out why the emergency generator was so far away when there could have been one flown in from the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents are asking me whether the QEC is devoting adequate resources and effort to maintaining equipment in our communities. I have heard concerns that the QEC is spending too much time and too much money on its hydro studies in the Iqaluit area and trips to Greenland for photo opportunities. Will the minister commit to putting a freeze on unnecessary travel and studies until such time as he is satisfied that the quality of equipment in all of our communities' power plants is reviewed – yes or no? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I just pointed out, this was a catastrophic failure. It had nothing to do with the capital expenditures. For example, one of the engines in the community was brought in brand new last year in 2007, then the other engine set was 2003, it's only four years old, so indeed, Mr. Speaker, two out of the four generators were less than four years old. One was practically brand new, and as the member knows, it goes by the number of running hours on the equipment itself. In this case, it was 7,700 hours.

No, we will not stop trying to access other opportunities for developing other alternatives for energy, which includes hydro. Right now, we're in the process of doing a desktop study for hydro development in the Kivalliq region; we're in the process of putting out a tender for that. So we want to look at that and we want to look at opportunities with wind. We've had contact this past week with a wind consortium, and indeed, someone from the Energy Secretariat will be going down there.

So we want to continue to look at alternative energy, but at the same time, we want to continue to keep our capital purchases up and keep the generators up to stock and up to date. I think that's what we're doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was no emergency generator available in Kivalliq and there is none available.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my supplementary: the service that QEC provides to Nunavummiut is literally a matter of life and death. It is essential that QEC's personnel be fully trained and fully qualified to do their jobs. This is an area where shortcuts must not be tolerated. Will the minister commit to ensuring that the QEC fully reviews its training plans for all of its employees? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Power Corporation is the largest employer of apprentices in Nunavut and we have ongoing training. One of the good things that happened in Rankin Inlet during this outage was that we actually had a training workshop on the go with some of our people. So we actually had extra staff in the community.

What happened here, again, was very unique, and in reviewing some of the information that has been provided to me since the outage and so on, is that with the lineup of the four engines that we had in place, we were at over 110 percent of peak load with the largest engine out of service.

So we were way more than compensated for if we lost an engine but no one would have foreseen losing the three engines. So it isn't a matter of training. Our people are trained to the highest standards and quality, Mr. Speaker, and indeed, our apprentices regularly pass the Inter-Provincial Red Seal which means they are nationally certified.

Again, what we will do is appoint an independent review of what has occurred in Rankin Inlet and be able to bring that forward to the members. We will do a debriefing with the hamlet and mayor, and go through what has occurred on the file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. I would also like to thank the mechanics; they work very hard. A lot of the time, the operators are not certified mechanics, so they must be trained properly.

My final question to the minister is this: given that the Qulliq Energy Corporation cannot be expected to investigate itself, and the minister alluded to that, will he commit to commissioning an independent and objective third party review of the circumstances leading to the recent Rankin Inlet situation, including the QEC's management of the situation, and if not, why not? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me say in the House publicly and on behalf of the government, and I'm sure indeed the people of Rankin Inlet in particular, the hard work by the Power Corporation's staff during this emergency. They put in over 18 hours a day for almost five straight days, they worked in some of the worst kinds of weather conditions, and they did that above and beyond the call of duty. So I want to take this opportunity, first of all, to thank our dedicated staff.

>>*Applause*

There's no one, and Mr. Curley is correct, there's no one suggesting anywhere that staff

are at fault in this case. I will commit, on behalf of the Power Corporation, to hiring an outside agency, a third party, independent organization to review the total operation before and after the emergency in Rankin Inlet to find out what the causes have been. I also commit to having the Power Corporation do a debrief with the mayor and the hamlet in Rankin Inlet.

We would do this in course, like we did in Pangnirtung a couple of years ago, Mr. Speaker, as standard practice, and I commit to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

#### **Question 449 – 2(4): Status of Small Craft Harbours for Nunavut**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to make a statement but I'll just ask some questions first. If it gets difficult, then I'll elaborate later.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I was very disturbed to note that today's *News/North* is reporting that a spokesman for the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans has stated that the resources available to the department "do not permit the department to build additional harbours in Nunavut at this time."

**An Hon. Member:** Shame, shame.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Can the minister indicate to the House whether or not he has been formally advised of DFO's position on the issue of providing funding for the construction of new small craft harbours in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have not been approached by the DFO based upon the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) The GN's capital estimates, which I stated before, for 2008-09 includes \$1 million in funding for small craft harbour contribution. This represents our 10 percent contribution towards small craft harbours. What are the government's current plans for the use of this money

that was approved last fall by the Legislative Assembly? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That \$1 million that we have in our current budget for the small craft harbours was going to be a down payment on the small craft harbours funding we were asking for the seven communities. We also used that fund to repair docking facilities across Nunavut. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister has stated that he has not been told by his federal counterparts about their decision. I understand then that there is no discussion going on between the federal government and the GN. As the minister stated to me earlier, there was continuing dialogue, continuing discussions, and continuing lobbying, and yet, the federal government announcement in the media without actually telling the minister or the government. In this case, are there any plans he has now of what he will do in the immediate future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I meant to say that my staff have been in dialogue with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in particular to that file, but we were never told that only one community of the seven communities that we were asking for would be approved.

I will consult with the Cabinet on what we want to do with the Small Craft Harbours Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not really shaky; I'm just angry.

>>*Laughter*

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Baffin Fisheries Coalition had generally warned that Nunavummiut should not accept just one. We are happy for Pangnirtung, but what are the minister's plans now to force the federal government, especially the Prime Minister, who has been saying that we will defend the arctic sovereignty. What will the minister do now, to assert that we want to participate in economic development, for the federal government to have a sign that they have sovereignty on these arctic islands? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All dialogue between the Prime Minister's Office is best with the Premier's Office on that that may be able to answer that question. Thank you.

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

**Question 450 – 2(4): Announcement in Budget Address of Outfitters Assistance Program**

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Finance.

In his Budget Address, the minister announced the creation of a new Outfitters Assistance Program to help Nunavut Outfitters “obtain suitable liability insurance coverage at a reasonable cost.” There are a number of commercial outfitters in my riding, and this will be welcome news. Can the minister indicate which department will be responsible for administering this new program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the insurance coverage for outfitters is under the portfolio of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the minister's budget package, he indicates that “a single organization will represent the outfitters in the territory.” Can the minister indicate to the House how this organization will be established? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if there will be a single organization for the outfitters in the territory as it has not been fully considered of whether it will be established yet. I think this would be under the portfolio of the Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government has stated that its financial commitment under the program will be limited to a maximum of \$2 million per year. Can the minister indicate from which department's budget this program will be funded? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I was just reminded that that was your second supplementary. Minister of Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is identified in our 2008-09 budget that the \$2 million is for the insurance coverage of this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate how the GN will communicate the details of this new program to wildlife officers in our communities and tourism operators in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been a great deal of discussion on insurance coverage for some of our sports hunters coming into our communities. It will be used to assist the outfitters in the communities in getting insurance coverage, and it is also recognized that outfitters are required to have business licenses when they're guiding sports hunters and so on.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that the Departments of Finance and Economic Development and Transportation will be starting discussions on the development of this new program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 451 – 2(4): Options Paper on Inuksuk High School Forwarded to DEA**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Education.

Mr. Speaker, on February 19, the Iqaluit District Education Authority had its annual meeting and there were a number of parents that were there. They were hoping to be able to look at different options that had been presented to the District Education Authority in regard to the renovations to the Inuksuk High School.

Mr. Speaker, in early November, the District Education Authority had indicated that over the next several weeks, they were going to be looking at all of the options presented by

the department. The deputy minister, at the meeting, said that that meeting would have to wait until mid-March to be considered. Can the minister responsible indicate when the options paper was finally provided to the DEA? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. The DEA actually held their Annual General Meeting, the AGM. In that meeting, the Deputy Minister Ms. Okpik was in attendance and actually gave an overview to the parents that were there on the schedule, the timeframe, and so on, of the work on the Inuksuk High School renovation, so that work went forward.

Mr. Speaker, the department put together an options paper with nine options for the renovation of Inuksuk High School and that was presented several weeks ago to the DEA. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, we met here at the Legislative Assembly with the full DEA members. I gave a PowerPoint presentation to them; we had some further discussions; we had to work on some of the logistics, as well as working on the administrative; and some of the costs entailed with some of those options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think in a correspondence that was sent out by the DEA at the beginning of November, I believe around that time, the department had indicated that they would be, very shortly, providing that options paper to the DEA. Can the minister indicate why several weeks turned into several months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are several reasons and just quickly, in this timeframe, I could go through just to give you an example of why there was a delay.

We wanted to look at how we would be able to renovate the new Inuksuk High School and how we would be able to do that. Would we close down one wing, and if we closed down one wing, could we work around the students? If we couldn't do that, then we had to look at alternative places to place the students. For example, we had to look at the Ukiivik Residence and when we looked at that, we had to see how many classes were there. If we actually went in there, could we bring it up to code? So there was a whole range of construction and logistic issues that had to be dealt with and that caused the delay in finalizing the options paper.

Once the options paper was finalized, and there were nine options available, after they came back again to the minister's office to review, we then scheduled a meeting with the DEA several weeks ago and actually sat down with them.

And, Mr. Speaker, the next step now would be to hold a public meeting here in Iqaluit in the next couple of weeks to go through the options with the parents, educators, teachers, and DEA members. That will be a full and open meeting and we will be able to have a discussion then on the timeframe and what seems to be the best option for our students and for the school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, in the correspondence that was sent out by the District Education Authority, they had indicated that they planned to meet with the parents to go over all of the options and much of the decision making would occur once they've received guidance from the community.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that, basically, there's just one option being favoured by the government is to move and what option to look at. Can the minister indicate if they have made a final decision on the preferred option that the government has or not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the AGM, Annual General Meeting of the DEA and in the last two weeks, all of the options were discussed, and the member is correct, we went from nine options down to actually three.

Therefore, an option out of those three options, there is one option that is preferred and there has to be some more work on that last option, option number one, to see how that works logistically again, as I said earlier, with the timeframes and so on, and that's part of the delay that we have talked about with having the public meeting because we need to get a firm handle on dollar values and as well as timeframes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I guess my last question to the minister is: would he confirm to me and to the parents here in Iqaluit that have students at Inuksuk High School and the DEA that, indeed, no final decision will be made until they have some input? Would he confirm that if the decision or the option that the community chooses isn't the option that the government chooses, would that be something that they would consider? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, as a parent who has students in the high school, I, too, am worried about what happens and what transpires. I believe we actually have a good plan in place and I believe the preferred option would probably be the option that most parents would recommend.



I can commit to the member that I would choose whatever option comes out of a public meeting because I don't know what's going to come out of the public meeting. For example, if the decision coming out of a public meeting was to build a brand new school, then we're not in a position to be able to do that. If the decision coming out of a public meeting was to delay the renovations to the high school for five years, for example, then we wouldn't be in a position to do that also. So depending on what comes out of the public meeting, I believe that the preferred option would be the one that would be chosen by most parents, and indeed, at the AGM.

Over the last couple of weeks at that meeting, indeed, the preferred option, the one that we have been talking about, is the one that found the most consensus with the group. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 452 – 2(4): Update on Manitoba-Kivalliq Winter Road**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. First of all, I would like to acknowledge my wife, James Arreak's wife, and my sister. Mr. Speaker, I want you to acknowledge them very much.

>>Applause

Thank you. I have asked this question last year and the year before to the Minister of Transportation. There have been some concerns raised in the Kivalliq region and they do know that they need support, I don't think it's really the case where there is more rough terrain, because when they have to transport large quantities of cargo, they have to find their own way of transporting their goods from Churchill and possibly putting themselves in dangerous situations.

So I had asked the previous minister to see if they could mark the best transportation routes and do some testing on the ice to see if it's safe to travel on, and to also do some testing on the safety of lakes, the minister had responded that he would look into this. So what's the status of it to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to welcome the visitors.

Mr. Speaker, I had not been briefed about this issue but I know that in the Keewatin region, there is a lot of cargo being transported from Churchill to the Kivalliq communities. I would like to work closely with God...

>>*Laughter*

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I would really like to work with the member, Mr. Speaker, on this matter. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have more hope now that God is going to work with us.

For the cargo, they bring in huge vehicles to bring in large amounts of cargo from Churchill to Baker Lake through Arviat. They have to look for a transportation route because they lack snow sometimes and they have to test the ice on the lake in the cold winter and they need help. When we need to transport goods or cargo, the government needs to take the lead.

Since becoming the minister for this portfolio, I wonder what he is prepared to do; I know that the winter is still going to be with us for quite some time.

Sometimes overnight, they start transporting goods through a request for proposal and they get knowledgeable entities at the community to transport goods through the winter trails. I was wondering what you would be able to do on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister of Transportation, Minister Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really don't know how to respond to that question because it seems like he wants me to make a decision right away. If we need to make a decision that requires funding, I'll have to work with all Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think they are about 42 miles away from Baker Lake. For that reason, the government provides funding where he has authority or jurisdiction over, for example, to work temporarily at the airstrips. When the government requires work to be done urgently, perhaps, use that.

I know that this not going to be a huge contract. Perhaps, you could work with the Cabinet or work with the appropriate department, such as Community and Government Services, and if there was a big company, ask them if they would provide support for this.

There are various things occurring in the Kivalliq, such as mining, and they have to transport all of the cargo from the huge parts that has been left down there. There is a lot of work to be done, so if you could discuss this matter with those people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the mining sector, they have to work on their own. If there is a cartage company in communities, they use that, but as the Government of Nunavut, we work with the communities. So if we can have a discussion with the company, we can do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 453 – 2(4): Forward Operating Location Site in Rankin Inlet**

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

As the Premier is aware, the Department of National Defence maintains a number of Forward Operating Location sites in Nunavut, including a major facility in Rankin Inlet.

At a time when the issue of Arctic sovereignty has never been more important, it is essential that these sites be in a state of readiness.

Concerns have been raised with me that the site in Rankin Inlet is being used for such purposes as storing, thawing, staging and marshalling equipment, and cargo owned by private companies. It does not appear that the military has authorized the use of its facilities for this purpose. Can the Premier indicate to me how the GN works with the military on the issue of maintaining FOL sites? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of how it operates but we did want to use the FOL sites for our own purposes. We were looking at using these facilities in Rankin Inlet, possibly for the use of student housing, but we were informed at that time by the military that should they use those facilities on an emergency basis, everything that we owned or who rented would have to vacate the premises right away.

I'm not exactly sure how it operates but this question has been posed to the military, and again, those are not our facilities and they are not at our discretion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier. As that seems to be the case, it's quite cumbersome but they are being used as storage spaces and they're starting to take photographs of it.

Can the Premier indicate whether the Department of National Defence has raised concerns with him regarding the condition of FOL sites located in the territory? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't been informed of such but General Whitecross will be coming in tomorrow and I will be having a meeting with him. I will pose those questions that you're asking me. Those sites belong to the federal government in any case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I will ask this in English. (interpretation ends) The FOL sites are not standing on guard for Canada at this moment, so it's really quite important that the Premier commits to examining and raising the issue, and we thank the Premier for his commitment to raising it with the man in charge.

We would also like to ask the Premier if he would suggest to the armed forces that they re-tender the contract for maintenance of the security contract for Rankin Inlet as it appears to have been abused by the current contractor. Would he raise that issue with the armed forces as well? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know exactly how the contract is set up but I will look into the issue. It is out of our hands, so when I have a meeting with the general, I'll bring it up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 454 – 2(4): Update on Remand Inmates in Iqaluit**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank Mr. Alagalak for recognizing my wife.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. I had posed this question earlier and I was told that they would be looking into it, but I have been directed to bring it up again. It's with regards to individuals in remand who are sent down here to Iqaluit.

When the inmates come here, they have no place to stay. When they're in Iqaluit, the parents worry about them because they have no place to stay while they're in remand. The minister indicated that he would look into this issue. Could he give us an update on what's happening with this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question that we've had challenges with. The court system operates independently and makes its own decisions. The defence lawyers and the prosecutors are also involved, which are under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

There's not much we can do on this issue and that's where the majority of our challenges are. We can give them advice but the court system operates independently and makes its own decisions.

It's something that's very hard to do when you can't make any decisions, but there's something we can do under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. But, to date, we haven't really gone anywhere. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. It's hard to look at people who are just wandering the streets with nowhere to go and they're not in Iqaluit on their own will. Because of these problems, I would suggest that they stay in the communities and be dealt with at the community level before any action is taken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I gather, they do look for housing and if there's some available, they can either stay at their relatives or board in some other place. The majority of the people in remand are given the assistance. If they could look for housing, either stay with their relatives or friends, I would suggest that they do, but sometimes, from what I can gather, they can't find any place to stay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would rather see every single individual on remand have proper housing and not just some of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we could, we would, but as I stated earlier, when there are issues being taken care of by the federal government, it is quite hard to do. I am sure that we would overcome or alleviate this problem once the facility is opened in Rankin Inlet and we're building more facilities so that there is room or places to go. It's going to alleviate some of the problems that we're experiencing at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister. I don't have a question but I'm just focusing on the people in remand who have been sent out to Iqaluit when they're from another community. There are some people who are boarding or staying with some relatives, they do need food and there are expenses incurred. Does the government pay for those expenses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how many times I have to say this but the court system operates independently; the prosecutors and the defence lawyers are under the federal jurisdiction. They are the ones who make those decisions and they're not under our jurisdiction.

The individuals who are going to be sent down here are asked first if they have any relatives they can stay with and then they look for some place where they could board. It's not under our jurisdiction and whatever needs to be done is done at the Justice of the Peace level in the community, not through our department. I don't know how many times I have to say this but that's it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 455 – 2(4): Number of Communities Lacking Learning Centres**

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

Mr. Speaker, could the minister inform this House of how many communities do not have adult education centres or continuing education facilities?

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there are two communities that do not have an adult education centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister inform this House of which two communities don't have adult education centres? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe, I stand to be corrected, it's Whale Cove, and what we've done in Whale Cove, as an example, is we have brought in casual staff when there's a program being run by the college in the community itself, and I believe the second community is Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do they have an individual who teaches adults in Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that, on a contract basis, when there is a program being run or sponsored by the Nunavut Arctic College, in that case, we actually put a person in place or hire someone from the community to do the Adult Education Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister planning to have an adult education centre built in Kugaaruk, and if he does have plans, when can we expect to see it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the Department of Education, we fund the Nunavut Arctic College capital plan, and included in that capital plan are our community learning centres. What we have tried to do with this budget is to put a rush on the new CLC in Pond Inlet because of the training opportunities through the mine.

The CLC for the community in question, Mr. Speaker, is later on in the capital plan. Part of what we have been discussing in the House, Mr. Speaker, is with the new infrastructure monies from the federal government is reorganizing and re-shifting buildings and programs within the capital plan, and that's something we can look at with the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 456 – 2(4): Issues Affecting Nunavut**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier. As his colleague, Mr. Netser, pointed out, he's the one that deals with Ottawa.

It appears, based on questions that my colleague asked, that his fellow minister wasn't aware of something. Earlier in this sitting, there was another issue that came up with the turbot allocations that we were totally unaware of up here.

Can the Premier indicate what kind of mechanisms or people do they have in place to try and keep on top of things like this so that we aren't caught off guard on issues and decisions that the federal government makes that have an impact on Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I know that we have officials in Ottawa at our office to work with the bureaucracy and EIA works with a lobby firm in Ottawa to keep an eye on the ministerial occurrences in Ottawa. So those are some of the eyes and ears that we do have on the ground.

Unfortunately, in this case, we were not given warning as to what was going to take place. So we were all a bit taken aback and surprised with what took place on the turbot issue, and my minister, when he first had an indication, wrote to the Minister of Fisheries expressing our concern on any new allocations to outside interests.



We have been trying to manage it, but unfortunately, in this instance, the Minister of Fisheries chose to ignore our advice and proceed with an allocation that was not in the interests of Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that comment. I guess it wasn't in our interests. It almost looks like it was in the minister's own interest because he allocated it to his own province.

Mr. Speaker, I'm just wondering, the minister indicated that they have a contract with a consulting firm down there, is that one the responsibilities of that firm, or including the staff down there to try and be a liaison, or be our eyes and ears down there to try and catch these things before they come up? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, that's part of their function and I don't know how this progressed to that stage of the actual transfer but I believe it was transferred to a Nova Scotia company out of Newfoundland.

So we were a bit flustered because when I last met with the Fisheries Minister, he explained that there was historical use and allocation of the quota when I expressed our ongoing frustration. So in this instance, when it was transferred to a non-historical entity, that argument is gone. They can't argue that anymore.

So I'm looking forward to meeting that Fisheries Minister again and asking for an explanation as to why he's defending that interest and not re-allocating it to Nunavut interests. So I'm looking for an explanation the next time I see the minister.

As I said, the firms that we use have been very good on other interests. It was just this one instance that I think it got missed. Usually, they're very much on the ball and they have been very effective on representing us. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that response. I think a fish you can get in Southern Canada, when you have your meeting with that minister, you can bring him a fish, and I think it's called a "sucker."

Mr. Speaker, I know the Premier indicated there was just that one instance, but just today, as the minister was saying again that he wasn't aware of comments on the position by DFO as far as small craft harbours go and their position, that's a second incident in a very short period of time.

So I'm just wondering if he could follow-up with the people that they have a contract with in Ottawa and find out what's going on. Hopefully, more of these things aren't going to come out. There were just two incidences in the last month. So would he commit to contacting them and finding out why these things are being missed? Is it just the federal government being secretive, or someone not doing their job? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I don't think it's a matter of our side not doing their jobs. We have been very firm and we have been meeting with the federal Minister of Fisheries, for example, explaining our expectations of seven facilities that we're expecting, \$40 million plus that we were expecting for Nunavut. We have been very firm on that, along with the allocations that are totally unfair to Nunavut.

So it's not a matter of our interests being represented by our government or entities, it's that the federal government choosing not to accept our advice and our recommendations.

So I think we have done as much as we could leading up to those announcements; we have tried our utmost, but unfortunately, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans chose to ignore our advice. So when I see the minister next, I'm looking forward to talking to him and asking for an explanation as to why he made those decisions. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Premier indicated, it seems like we're wasting our time talking to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Will he commit to writing to the Prime Minister himself expressing our displeasure and concerns with how Nunavut is being treated by that particular minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I will do that. At the same time, I look forward to seeing the Minister of Fisheries when he comes here in a couple of weeks and ask him for an explanation. Perhaps, he can try and explain. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Members, please note that Question Period is now over. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

### **Item 7: Written Questions**

#### **Written Question 009 – 2(4): Academic Success of Arviammiut**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Written Question is directed to the Minister of Education.

1. (interpretation ends) For the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07, broken down by gender and type of educational course, how many adult Arviammiut have enrolled in courses funded by the Department of Education, including Nunavut Arctic College?
2. For the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07, broken down by gender and type of educational course, how many adult Arviammiut have completed courses funded by the Department of Education, including Nunavut Arctic College?
3. For the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07, broken down by gender and type of educational program and/or course of study, how many adult Arviammiut have received diplomas, or other certification from the Department of Education, including Nunavut Arctic College?
4. For the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07, broken down by gender and type of educational course, how many adult Arviammiut have received degrees from the Department of Education, including Nunavut Arctic College and in partnership with accredited institutions?
5. For the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07, broken down by gender and type of educational course, how many adult Arviammiut have received diplomas, certifications, or degrees from educational institutions outside of Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Please bring the documents to the table.

Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Return to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. 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. Mr. Premier.

### **Item 13: Tabled Documents**

**Tabled Document 188 – 2(4): NTI/NSDC Annual Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society 2005/06 and 2006/07 Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education in Nunavut**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table the following document: *Saqqiqput*: NTI/NSDC Annual Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society for 2005/06 and 2006/07. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Please bring the documents to the Clerk's table.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Curley.

**Tabled Document 189 – 2(4): Photographs of Rankin Inlet FOL Site**

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table four photographs that shows exactly how Canada is standing on guard for Arctic sovereignty at Rankin Inlet with all of the private sectors that supply the photographs. Thank you.

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

(interpretation) Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

**Tabled Document 190 – 2(4): Environmental Rights Act Annual Report January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007**

**Tabled Document 191 – 2(4): WCB of the NWT and Nunavut Corporate Plan for 2008**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following document: The Environmental Rights Annual Report for the period of January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007.

The other one that I would like to table is a document from Workers' Compensation Board for Nunavut and NWT Corporate Plan for 2008. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of CLEY, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Tabled Document 192 – 2(4): Piqqusilirivvik Status Report February 2008**

**Tabled Document 193 – 2(4): Terms of Reference for the Nunavut Heritage Centre Capital Fundraising Campaign Request for Proposal 2007-40**

**Tabled Document 194 – 2(4): FPT Finance Ministers' Meeting December 12, 2007**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three documents to table. I mentioned the first one in my Minister's Statement and it's the Piqusilirivvik Status Report.

The other document that I would like to table is an update on the status of the fundraising for the Nunavut Heritage Centre that I was going to table at the last sitting in the fall.

Mr. Speaker, the third document that I would like to table is the FPT Finance Ministers' Meeting, December 12, 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Can we have those documents brought forward to the table, please? (interpretation) Please wait a minute.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. There being none, Item 14. Notices of Motions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions**

**Motion 028 – 2(4): Extension of Review Period of Bill 20 – Notice**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Wednesday, March 5, 2008, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit Centre, that the period of time for the standing committee to report Bill 20 back to the House be extended by a further 120 days. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. 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. 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. Evyagotailak in the Chair, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:09 and Committee resumed at 15:38*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Evyagotailak): Good afternoon. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In the 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. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 23 and commence with the review of the Main Estimates for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, followed by the Department of Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Are we in agreement we deal with the Main Estimates for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Tapardjuk, the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, to make his opening remarks. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues. I am pleased to have the opportunity to present the Department of Culture, Language, Elders, and Youth's 2008-09 Business Plan and Main Estimates.

This department holds the leadership role within the Government of Nunavut for the preservation, development, and enhancement of Nunavut's culture, heritage, languages and healthy living opportunities for Nunavummiut.

To show commitment to our lead role with *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit*, the department has increased contribution funding for community-based projects focused on incorporating Inuit societal values in the 2008-09 fiscal year. The ultimate goal is to improve community wellness by establishing high-level cooperation between community services agencies and groups, using the Inuit approach in dealing with social problems.

Piqqusilirivvik remains a major priority. This project will help to strengthen Nunavummiut's unique identity and create an environment where our youth can positively contribute to the cultural and linguistic development of the territory. The department now has two dedicated positions to work with steering committees and working groups in moving this initiative forward.

Language is a vital element in the incorporation of Inuit societal values. The Official Languages Branch is working hard towards the future implementation of the important made-in-Nunavut language legislation.

Through the continued implementation of initiatives, such as terminology workshops, language week, and Titiraliritti, the Official Languages Branch ensures the preservation, promotion and development of the Inuit language in Nunavut.

The department's Culture and Heritage Branch continues to work closely with consultants on the development of a public fund-raising campaign for the Nunavut Heritage Centre. In the 2008-09 fiscal year, the branch will also introduce a Grant-in-Aid program to support student research in archaeology and palaeontology.

The Community Programs Branch continues to provide a human face by being very accessible through its toll-free number and by continuing to have a well-established presence in the communities through community presentations and workshops on the Grants and Contribution programs.

The Sports Nunavut Branch is actively preparing for Nunavut's participation in the Arctic Winter Games to be held in Yellowknife from March 9 to 15, 2008. This year, Team Nunavut will be represented by 227 athletes, 33 coaches and managers, eight cultural performers and 14 mission staff.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer any questions that you might have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Do you have any witnesses you would like to bring to the table? Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, I would like to have my witnesses join me at the table.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please escort the witnesses. (interpretation) Please feel welcome. For the record, Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Phoebe Hainnu, who is the Deputy Minister, and on my right is David Kolot, who is the Financial Comptroller of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kolot and Ms. Hainu, welcome. Does the Co-Chair of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Arreak.

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

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to deliver the standing committee's opening comments as we begin consideration of the 2008-09 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* has had the opportunity to meet with the minister and his officials. The minister was able to provide an update on his department's proposed expenditures for 2008-09.

Mr. Chairman, 39 percent of the department's budget is allocated to grants and contributions for heritage, culture, language, sports and recreation projects in Nunavut. Members support these expenditures while encouraging the department to monitor and evaluate the success and actual results of its grants and contributions expenditures.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, members are pleased that the department continues to table an annual report on its grants and contributions expenditures. Members look forward to seeing the 2006-07 annual report being tabled at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, members noted that the department has added one additional PY to its Official Languages Branch. While the standing committee recognizes the challenge of accounting for the implementation costs of legislation that has not yet been passed by the House, it is important that the department develop detailed and realistic projections for the implementation costs of Bill 6, the proposed *Official Languages Act* and Bill 7, the proposed *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

Mr. Chairman, members were pleased to be informed that progress is ongoing with respect to the development of the Piqqusilirivvik Cultural School in Clyde River and its satellite campuses in Igloolik and Baker Lake. Members stressed the need for the CLEY to work with the Department of Education to clarify the extent to which students will be eligible for financial assistance to attend the school. The standing committee is aware that this issue was raised last year during another standing committee's hearings on the FANS Program.

Members were informed that the department is working to develop programs and curricula for all of Piqqusilirivvik's facilities, although it faces particular challenges with respect to the Baker Lake and Igloolik satellite campuses. Members urged the department to ensure that it works with elders' societies across the territory to collect and preserve *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* knowledge, much of which may not yet exist in written form, for use in the school's programming. The standing committee also urges the minister to bring forward for discussion possible governance models for the school.

Members were pleased that the department has provided funding to support the ongoing development of Inuktitut Sign Language, including the production of CD-ROMs. Members encouraged the department to work with such organizations as the Nunavummi Disabilities Makingnasuaqtiit Society in the distribution of new resource materials to potential clients.



Mr. Chairman, members continue to strongly support the department's mandate to strengthen our cultural foundations. Members were pleased to see a \$100,000 increase for the department's budget for its Inuit Societal Values projects. In September of 2007, following its retreat in the Kitikmeot, the Cabinet announced that it had reviewed the successes of the Inuit Societal Values Pilot Project in Clyde River and "directed the Department of Culture, Languages, Elders and Youth to pursue further ISV projects."

The standing committee encourages the minister to table a final report on the Clyde River project in the Legislative Assembly, and to provide ongoing updates on new projects. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is of the view that success in this area will bring other benefits. Addressing social problems, such as youth alienation and crime, requires a holistic approach that is rooted in our values. The standing committee encourages CLEY to work with the Departments of Justice and Health and Social Services in this area.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is aware that the goal of constructing a new Nunavut Heritage Centre and repatriating cultural artefacts from other jurisdictions will require significant new expenditures. Members were informed that the department has been working with a local Iqaluit company, Uqsiq Communications, to develop options and ideas for capital fundraising. Members expect to be kept regularly updated on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, members noted that the department has introduced a new grant program in its proposed budget for students in the field of archaeology and encourages the department to ensure that students are aware of this grant.

Mr. Chairman, members want to see more support be provided to community libraries in Nunavut. Libraries play a key role in enhancing literacy skills in all of our languages. Libraries also have an important role to play in preserving Inuktitut materials for the benefit of future generations.

The standing committee notes that the department's budget in this area has remained unchanged for some time. While the standing committee is aware of the difficulties in recruiting and retaining employees in this field, it is important that more effort be made to provide training for staff and volunteers in local community libraries.

The standing committee strongly supports the department's programs that provide creative ways of supporting Inuit language and culture, including the annual Titiraliritti Literary Competition. The standing committee warmly congratulates this year's winners.

Mr. Chairman, members were pleased to be informed that CLEY has been working with the Department of Justice on issues that arose from its Promoting Elders' Needs Strategy. Information was exchanged with the Department of Justice with respect to the issue of elder abuse, which is a major concern for all members. Members were also pleased that the department has been making progress with its Youth Identity Development Strategy. Members look forward to seeing the department continue its work in this area and repeats the need to integrate such work with its ongoing Inuit Societal Values projects.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks. Other members may have their own opening remarks as we proceed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

I suggest to the members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to welcome you, minister, and your witnesses, your deputy and financial comptroller.

There is one thing that I really do want to see while we're implementing official languages. I was told by an elder that they would like to see the *Official Languages Act* enacted before this Assembly's term is over and changes or amendments could be made in the future if revisions are required. I just wanted to make clear my support for that and I will be asking questions in that regard.

I'm sure the minister has heard quite a few suggestions from the public. Members of the public feel that the Act is not strong enough and they would like to get some of the sections reworded. I will be asking questions with regards to the bill. I'm not trying to debate the bill, but according to what we have heard, it's a bit too weak.

We fall short of expectations. I want to reiterate that our people are impatient for the establishment of the Nunavut Heritage Centre. I don't know what the terminology is in Inuktitut, perhaps "museum," but we are impatient for this facility to be built. In regard to the people who are trying to raise funds for the Nunavut Heritage Centre, I don't know exactly what's happening but in reading the notes, it makes one proud to see the work to date.

As some of us have stated in the past that your bureaucrats shouldn't be looking for funds, you should be looking at professional fund-raisers as I'm sure that they could look for funds more easily. However, I think you contracted an Iqaluit entity to look at ways of how this could be best be dealt with in reaching this goal. It seems like this entity doesn't know where to get some capital funds. This can be done through fund-raising but it can't be done just through local fund-raising. For that reason, I will be asking the minister as to what kind of mandate they have been given.

If we're going to construct a huge facility such as this Legislative Assembly, who is going to own the building? Perhaps get some assistance from entities, such as those on Bay Street that are experienced, as long as the contract stipulates their mandate. Most

local contractors can't deal with these issues related to capital fund-raising. I noticed that when I was reviewing the matter. Perhaps the entity is quite capable, but I will be asking the minister about whether we are falling short of our goals that we have set.

That concludes my comments, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Curley. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just briefly, I would like to welcome the minister, his DM, and Mr. Kolot.

I wanted to make a general comment in regard to Mr. Curley's comments regarding the heritage centre, if it's going to be established. There are some entities that work solely on fund-raising and you will have to hire fund-raisers. That is their only job - to look for finances for their selected projects. As long as you don't include Karlheinz Schreiber, there's also Baffinland that can be approached for funding.

There are companies out there who will be expending a lot of money in Nunavut. What are we, as Nunavummiut, going to benefit from? It's already set out that the royalties from that development project on Pond Inlet Inuit land parcels, since Pond Inlet owns that land, will go straight to NTI. We don't even know if the local Inuit will benefit from it but they must be asked to participate. The companies should be asked if they could provide some assistance to support adjacent communities within Nunavut, such as Clyde River, even if it's only \$10 million or \$20 million. Not an overly large amount. The mining companies that will be going to our lands, even if they didn't provide anything, should at least guarantee some funds if they're not going to provide royalties directly.

I want the minister to take these matters into consideration as well as in regard to Mr. Curley's comments.

Mr. Chairman, I know that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth states their goals along with *Pinasuaqtavut's* goals. The minister also stated that one of the *Pinasuaqtavut* goals, *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, if they're going to do it that way, all departments of our government will have to take part. If it's only the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, then it will not succeed because it will never come into fruition. For this reason, according to the elders' knowledge, we don't segregate or separate all the goals and objectives. As well, some of our own GN ministers pay lip service to these goals if they don't act upon the statements they have made. It's just lip service when all you do is make grandiose statements but nothing is done and I doubt we would see any progress.

On the third and final note, Mr. Chairman, the recording of oral history of Kitikmeot is a very good initiative. All of us have stated in the past that we should have recorded the Inuit legends and how they practiced decision making in the traditional life and how they managed crises.

However, most of the keepers of this knowledge have all passed away. A lot of them are now dead like my parents, like Mr. Curley's parents, Arraaq and Umilialuk. We all know those individuals and the minister knows those individuals. They have passed away and I think that 99 percent of their knowledge has not been recorded. We could have completed that quite a few years ago.

It's still not too late as we still have knowledge keepers. As a start, we should just record them without any subject matters and the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth can collect these recordings. The students at Arctic College or at the Piqqusilirivvik School in Clyde River could work on them at that time once they're completed.

Mr. Chairman, what I'm trying to say is that one thing I have been thinking about... just a second while I look for it. In the past, I used to wish to write the biography of James Arvaluk, written and edited by Noel McDermott. I think there is an over 300-page biography of Arvaluk.

What I'm trying to say is that there are many people out there that could just write their biographies or just record them on tape. There are still people that can do that. I would like to see that and I'm encouraging your department because this is very useful. I'm sure that our children and our grandchildren will work on those when they go to Arctic College or when they go to university. I will have questions when we go to the main estimates.

I'm in full support of the minister with his department, and I support his efforts. Just proceed with your initiatives and be the lead. Even though other departments may be dragging behind, I encourage you because Inuit in our communities are very proud of your department, especially in our community.

Inuit people are very proud of your department and your work is visible because the contributions go to the communities. For instance, they're used in the smaller communities for sports and also to educate others about Inuit culture. That's what Inuit are very interested in and very proud of - these departmental initiatives. I encourage you to keep delivering those programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. General comments. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased that you're appearing before the committee and I would like to welcome you.

The elders have great expectations through this program. They're very interested when they hear of the activities in Nunavut and they're always happy to see each other when they go to elders' meetings.

In Inuit culture, these meetings include visiting one other, knowing other Inuit and keeping updated as to what's happening in their lives, such as where wildlife habitats are

as well as wildlife locations. The elders talk about international issues like climate change and they need to communicate with each other in that way. The traditional way of communicating with each other was through face-to-face meetings. They also used the meetings to gain more understanding about other issues, even more so than us today.

When the elders are too alone, when they lead a life that is primarily singular, then they are only looking after themselves. They end up not knowing what other people's tendencies are and they're usually not visited for advice. They only know what is surrounding them.

However, for many people, this is now their primary goal - when communication expands, it gets larger and nothing seems impossible. Once the Inuit had gathered all the information, then they would make decisions. We are not even in the same league anymore, although nowadays, we have to work and we need the money to function today.

There are other issues that are interfering, like scientists of the world. They have written material and they show us what is happening through the media. Although we can be hooked with all those interferences, we can still remain the same. So I am very pleased to see that happening with the elders.

However, thinking about the issues and talking about heritage and our ancestors' way of life is so that the younger people may learn more about our ancestors, their old camps, the way they used to live, the areas where they lived in. For example, the scientists who look at artefacts scientifically to understand what their lifestyles were like and where they originated from, this includes trying to determine from which area Inuit are descended from.

Moreover, there is hardly any funding for this type of program, but there is a fund for heritage purposes for students to do archaeological work so that they could be put into reports. I really enjoy seeing those projects come into fruition. We should never forget the archaeology of Inuit and when our young people complete school and mature into adults, I'm sure our history will become one of interest to them. I'm sure they will be more knowledgeable than us.

Envisioning that, yes, I have seen the old sod houses and I have seen old artefacts. When I was young, there were no rules to access the sod houses, but the younger generations will not see that because there are rules. Since I did not write down what I saw, my descendents will never see what I have seen and that is why I prefer programs that include our youth. We need to provide additional funding for archaeological work because their lifestyles would be like written in stone and it can be used to recognize Inuit and their original lifestyles. I prefer to have Inuit students participate in programs like that and I just wanted to talk a bit to point that out.

The grants and contributions program helps to keep our heritage alive in the communities and work with the elders on artefacts, sod houses and the like. I like the idea of providing funds for that program, but they always have a shortage of tools or equipment. The

funding is inadequate and they lack support at the local level. They don't even know where to go to for support, so they definitely need more information.

There should be information given to the local government, or through their agents, such as libraries, so that they can at least provide information like brochures to let the people know what's available. You could also provide that information through the local radio stations so that they could publicize all your programs and services that you have made available.

I'm sure that the elders would be in support of that so that they're not feeling neglected and in that way, they can boost their moral. I know that it would assist many elders if they could access these programs. If you can at least provide additional funding for that, and I know that we cannot reduce some of the program funding, but if we can look at it carefully, maybe there's room for improvement.

I just wanted to summarize my comments prior to welcoming you because you understand the issues, but I want to state that our knowledge keepers, such as elders, are dwindling and we should record their knowledge while they have a voice, even if the recordings are not so fine. We must gather all of this information somewhere so that the younger generation can work and catalogue them down the line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. General comments. I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed with the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page F-4. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just several quick questions. In your business plan, (interpretation) it states that one of your priorities is to "Develop an Inuit Societal Values program," which was initiated in Clyde River and shortly thereafter, "A second call for proposal focusing on the Kitikmeot region was issued in September 2007."

Were you questioning whether this matter could be dealt with or planned out and who is responsible for this? In regard to working on developing an Inuit Societal Values program for Nunavut, what is the status of that proposal for the Kitikmeot region? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did research into developing an Inuit Societal Values program in the Kitikmeot, specifically in Cambridge Bay, but we changed the second call when we tried out this pilot project. We wanted to try a smaller community in the Kitikmeot region, so we wrote a letter to all communities in the Kitikmeot to see if they would be interested in this initial pilot.

When we invited the communities to submit interest in the Kitikmeot region, the people of Taloyoak were interested in this project and today, the people of Taloyoak are working on developing Inuit societal values and that's mainly being done by the elders. This is to ensure that there will be less emotional turmoil in the community when elders are talking about Inuit social values and that is how Taloyoak was included in this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to pose a quick question. I don't know whether it's on this page or not, but the Inuit Societal Values program is going to be included in your department. Are you researching to see if the Inuit societal values could be taught, for example, in the high schools?

When I was sitting in at one of the Social Studies' classes in Pond Inlet, it was almost a joke. They were being taught societal values from a *Qallunaaq* point of view. For instance, in History classes, they learn about all of the explorers and adventurers that came to the north a long time ago.

One thing that we're forgetting, and it's possible we will find it in a comedy show if somebody should say that Christopher Columbus discovered North America, but in reality, Inuit had already discovered it because it was already inhabited by Inuit. I'm sure he was very proud to have found North America, albeit with inhabitants already. I think it's about time that we teach true historical facts. Who discovered the Arctic to begin with? Only the first people who arrived here.

I would like to ask the minister if they have reviewed what's being offered in the schools. You could probably canvas them by telephone and ask them what they have taught today at 2 p.m. in Social Studies to find out what the curriculum is offering just as an example. I think it's up to the Department of Education and the Department of CLEY to work together on this issue.

Elders used to go to the schools to teach oral history. We don't even see that anymore as we no longer have elders going to the schools. I think that's under the Cultural Inclusion program now where they just make little *Qamutiik* and make little replicas of original Inuit tools or instruments, but they do not hear the firsthand experience from the elders. These stories, legends, and even hunting stories are very interesting to hear. They don't hear anything today that will pique their interests on Inuit culture. I'm trying to ask if these issues have been researched as to their inclusion in our schools. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have laid out a process for the funding identified for Inuit Societal Values, Mr. Chairman.

Today's societal values are based on the *Qallunaat* culture and customs, and that was how we had to act. We know now that these values are more or less waiting for someone to break the law. Only when a crime is committed is the matter dealt with. Right now, it's action taken on by the RCMP and the other service providers. These social values are set to look only for those who commit a crime so they can deal with us.

However, it seems that they are not too disturbed by what we do under Inuit societal values. Inuit societal values include disciplinary actions for people who require corrective measures. If you live a certain lifestyle, then you will be a dependable person and people will like you.

In regard to Inuit societal values, we have set aside \$100,000 for family counselling. This is to allow elders to be able to counsel couples where they have issues or problems in their relationships inside the community so that it can be resolved internally. Also, this family counselling is where they meet with the elders and counsellors at least once a month in the communities.

The customs our forefathers followed are those we would like to incorporate into the school system. We also have other customs that our ancestors practiced that are not included in this initiative. However, we feel that under this cultural school, these programs, Inuit societal values, traditions and customs would be built into the curriculum. All Inuit societal values would be included and identified under the cultural school legislation. These would also be identified in the school programs and legislation.

What I'm trying to say here is where we would focus on the cultural school and not focus on the schools and inclusion of Inuit societal values in the curriculum. We are focussing instead on family counselling by our elders in the communities so that the communities can deal with their own issues based on traditional Inuit customs. The fact is that without these values, our ancestors would not have survived. So this initiative is trying to assist communities to help themselves, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) That's it for now. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to make a comment under Directorate.

The minister's department is being utilized more often at the community level. There's an increase in the number of applicants going through the Grants and Contributions program. Now, even regular people are making applications and they are assisting their fellow people. I see a potential to increase those types of services and programs. I want to raise a question in regard to that, but I wanted to make that comment first of all.



When we're talking about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, I feel that people are playing with the term loosely, which conjures up a big image of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, and they tend to belittle it. We have to promote it so that we're no longer just paying lip service. It's something that we have to be proud of. We grew up with a lot of pride in our culture and Inuit societal values. I have personal experience with this and that is why I can speak to the matter. I see more issues with our current lifestyle and it is slipping away from the lifestyle and values we held even in the past ten years. If we were to use it, then we would be able to deal with more issues.

There are a lot of improvements to be had at the community level if we include Inuit societal values. Today's young couples are trying to fix their problems using a foreign culture. If they break a law, they automatically get dealt with by the government entities. We have to repatriate our Inuit societal values and develop a policy under your department since it's dealing with actual lives.

We need to set up some guidelines without worrying about the Social Services' Regulations and their programs. If the Social Services' Regulations and programs were to assist people to improve, then most of our people would not have so many problems. I sometimes state that somebody would become a millionaire if they were able to resolve a lot of these relationship problems.

Is it possible for you to consider expanding the Grants and Contributions program so that the people who want to do instructions or be compensated can do so without requiring consultants? Communities should be given the opportunity to develop this locally, and perhaps have an Elders' Advisory Committee. I would like to know if you would consider that and what your position is on this. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. The statement "*Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*," the government will adopt *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in their departments, is kind of misleading.

It didn't sit well in Arviat when we had our first meeting and shortly thereafter, we were trying to define the term and originally thought it was to integrate or implement the Inuit values and customs using *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. The response was, "How will we implement it?" There are a lot of elders out there who asked, "What is the definition of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*?" And because of that, we had made some changes to the term.

Inuit values, customs, and beliefs, those that Inuit feel are important, will be implemented through *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. We made that change and from there, we're looking at setting up policies and guidelines. The people who passed along the issue did not consider the impacts and breadth of the term and it seems this has magnified the problem since we adopted our legislation from the GNWT and most of them do not have Nunavut-specific or Inuit-specific provisions.

I totally agree with the member that we have to reconsider all of our options and how we can incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into the policies and guidelines of the GN. The next steps are to define *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* so that it's no longer just a term but an actual defined word so that it can be included in our government, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I appreciate that. If we don't expand the programs, then we will have to get approval from another culture. Even if we are talking about education, it may be too late, so it seems like we will have to work on it as soon as possible.

I can say that in Iqaluit, there's an individual who has held sewing classes every year without any kind of money coming from the government and she does not even do this all year long. This individual has sewing classes for *Kamiik* and other traditional crafts, and not it's just young people but adults are also involved in those classes. This is very beneficial, so I think we need to provide these types of initiatives with assistance.

I can also say that we have to regain what we're losing - traditional values, methods, and so on, that were taught when we were growing up. We must repatriate these cultural values. For example, there are people who don't have anything to eat, especially widows, who feel unwelcome and who wonder how they will have food to eat. We must regain all of those practices. If elderly parents start losing their independence and the hunter has not been taught the traditional methods and customs, then that person would go hunting but not in a traditional manner.

Some of us were taught from a young age about traditional harvesting practices. When we harvest an animal, we would give the entire catch to our parents for them to distribute as they saw fit. Even when they did not request any food, we gave it to them. We did not question whether or not they had food; we just dropped it off so that other elders can come and get their own portions.

These are the practices I have in mind that must be repatriated into our culture. I have noted that many hunters, although they have relatives who are hungry, do not assist them and this is what we have to remedy as Inuit. Can you take these ideas into consideration? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will definitely have to do brainstorm about this and other issues. I believe the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Committee will be having a meeting next month and I will definitely ask them to take this under consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I brought that up is because it's about time they offer courses, even for the people who are unilingual, if they can offer courses for a month or two to young people. There are some people who are willing to learn how to make igloos. Those grants and contributions should be used towards that because it will definitely help incorporate some of the Inuit customs and traditions. As we understand them, they will be encouraged to start practicing their customs and they could also be taught other matters.

Based on the English culture, to be wise, you must ask a lot of questions and just keep asking questions. I have never heard any *Qallunaaq* mention this, "I would like to hear your response." It seems all they want you to do is ask questions. In Inuit culture, we often wait for a wise response, especially when it's in regard to young people. Due to that reason, we have to open the door a bit more so that initiatives can be developed to be taught to the younger generations and we should make those available to our young people.

I will definitely want to hear what changes will be made after their meeting. Will you be able to do that? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, definitely. I will also be notifying the members on the developments. In Igloolik and Clyde River, we have looked into Inuit societal values, especially in relation to family counselling.

They will inform the community through the radio every week about their issues and how Inuit ought to handle each other while they're working on Inuit societal values. We can look at expanding this to other communities and we will see how they can make improvements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Curley. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials here to the Committee of the Whole. I just have a couple of questions on staffing levels at the department.

I know, prior to the Minister of Human Resources tabling the latest reports during this sitting, last March, I think the department had 14 vacant positions and according to September 30, the latest one, they're up to 20 vacant positions.

Looking at the report, almost two-thirds of the positions here in Iqaluit are filled and around three-quarters of the positions in Igloolik are filled. I'm just wondering if you could give us an indication of what's causing this. There seems to be a decline since last March in the department's filled positions. Can I just get any indication of what's causing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk:** I'm going to get my deputy to respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hainnu.

**Ms. Hainnu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, of the positions that are vacant, there are nine in Iqaluit, seven in Igloolik, two in Kugluktuk, and one in Baker Lake. From what we understand from other departments, the trend seems to be either that they move to different jobs or other departments, or have moved on. These are some of the reasons that the positions are vacant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hainnu. I am sorry for calling you minister. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Hainnu for that response. Did she indicate then that there are nine vacant positions in Igloolik, or is it nine vacant positions here in Iqaluit? I would just like some clarification there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, there are nine vacancies here in Iqaluit.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. Your headquarters is here, so I'm just wondering, that must place a strain on the existing staff that are there. I'm just wondering if you could give us an idea of when and what actions are taken to fill those vacant positions within the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk:** I'll get my deputy to respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hainnu.

**Ms. Hainnu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently preparing the job descriptions for the Application Coordinator and also a French Interpreter, although we have one on a casual basis.

For the Communications Officer, we offered it to a person but that person changed his or her mind and it will have to be re-advertised. In regard to the archaeological position, there is one currently being reviewed by the HR Department. We have a francophone employee who is on medical leave right now. Our administrator recently quit due to accepting a new position and her PY is currently being reviewed by our employment officers, and these same positions are also under review.

For the *Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit* Researcher position, which is just about to be put out, is also undergoing a review and I believe that it will be opened for competition next week. There is another position in communications and we are currently reviewing the responsibilities of that position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hainnu. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I noted that just under the Division of Culture and Heritage, and I know we're not on that division now, but it's this Directorate that sets out the framework for the department and that there is an additional PY in that division. I'm just wondering if he could give us an idea of what exactly that position is for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Mr. Kolot will respond to that.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kolot.

**Mr. Kolot:** Mr. Chairman, I would like the member to repeat his question, please.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kolot. Can you clarify your question? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking through it, I know there's an additional PY that has been added to the Division of Culture and Heritage and I'm just wondering what that job entitles. I know we're not under Culture and Heritage but it's the Directorate that sets all that out, so that's why I'm asking that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kolot:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually, for the 2008-09 fiscal year, there is one PY left under Culture and Heritage from the previous year, 2007-08, if you look at the business plan on page F-24. The reason for that position being less is because that is Vote 4/5 funding and it is not required for the Heritage Places Initiative, so it's one PY less. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Kolot for clarifying that. It seems like it was in a different division. Under Official Languages, that one has gone up, so maybe I'll just get him to clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman. The French Interpreter position is stated there.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Chairman, I noted that, going through the business plan for Directorate, the only area we see an increase in the budget from the previous year is in the IQ area under Directorate. I'm just wondering if he could give us an indication of what that increase is going to be used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those who take part in *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, or what we call the "Inuit Societal Values project" in English, are people in the communities. That funding was increased to include the Kitikmeot region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, this is the Directorate that deals with the policies and direction for the department. I know the minister, just today, tabled a status report on the cultural school. I'm just wondering, because we haven't got it yet, it was just tabled today, if he could give us an overview of that and where things are at with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Where are we at with the cultural school and in terms of an update with the Nunavut Heritage Centre? We are still in preparatory stages. The staff is working toward these preparations for the cultural school. We had space in Clyde River for the heritage centre and the cultural school, but due to problems with that site, we had to look for another site.

There is a site now, identified last month, in Clyde River for 2008. It's been identified and CGS officials are probably going to be surveying the site. Also, in April 2008, the architects are going to produce drawings on the possible facility size and shape this summer and we expect the date for the opening of the heritage centre to be some time in 2011.

However, for the off site schools in Igloolik and Baker Lake, these two projects will be commencing shortly. Particularly in Igloolik, there are preparations for program and curriculum development. In Baker Lake, they are working on curriculum subjects and programs. For these reasons, the school in Clyde River would most likely be opened in 2011.

These are the preparations we have undertaken to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Chairman, in his Minister's Statement today, he said they're "well on the way to design and construction," as he just indicated.

I know we've had students that have come to school here that have had to go home because they didn't have accommodations. So I'm just wondering what plans the department has to... or if they're working with the Department of Education, or if they're doing it on their own, are student accommodations going to be included in the design of the school itself? How do they plan on accommodating the students that would be enrolled in the school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): In our preparations for the opening of the school in Clyde River, students will have separate accommodations. Mr. Chairman, the school in Clyde River will have the capacity to accommodate 26 students. Those are some of the matters we have dealt with to date, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are the accommodations for students all part of the same building that they're looking at? Is the department working in conjunction with the Department of Education that's responsible for student accommodations on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The cultural school and student accommodations are the responsibility of CGS because they deal with capital projects. We have another working group that is looking at other issues related to the creation of the school.

I can say, Mr. Chairman, these are run by the Department of Education in preparation for the school as well as the preparation of programs. We work together with the Department of Education and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and other entities. We are working with these organizations and we discuss matters that require brainstorming for the issues related to the opening of the Inuit cultural school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another component I know that we have been told over the last couple of years is with all capital projects, the government is looking at

all the other costs associated with projects. Here with the school, you had mentioned they're looking at 26 students. How many staff are they looking at having employed at the school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We will have to review it further because I don't have the report with me with the details on the staffing. It will most likely have 13 staff but I have to confirm it... oh, I have it here. There will be 14 staff employed at the cultural school in Clyde River, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the department have staff housing available, or will those employees be eligible staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, they will be constructed as well, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the Housing Corporation is responsible for staff housing, so has the department contacted the Housing Corporation with their plan saying, "Okay, this time we're going to need so many staff housing units available in the community"? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, we have already informed them of how many buildings and staff housing that we will need when the cultural school opens in Clyde River. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister and Mr. Tootoo. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,650,000. Does this committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Branch Summary. Official Languages. Page F-5. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for the minister and his officials about the official languages and the reports that were tabled in the House on the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.



I have a question to the minister. NTI wasn't happy with the *Official Languages Act* and they wanted to see stronger language in the *Inuit Language Act*. Can the minister elaborate on what the concerns of NTI were and how you are going to rectify their concerns with the Language Bills? I would like to know which direction the minister is going. Although it is not a question, I think you know better than I as to what the *Official Languages Act* is all about. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Just for clarification of all members, questions to the minister on legislation that is before a standing committee are permitted as long as the questioning does not interfere with the committee's work. Mr. Minister, please proceed to answer Mr. Curley's question.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. We have heard, not just from NTI but also other organizations, concerns about the *Official Languages Act* that it is not strong enough language; Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in particular.

As the Government of Nunavut, there has never been an *Official Languages Act* or anything similar to it in Nunavut with respect to languages and their recognition. Therefore, our official languages need to be recognized within Nunavut and we would like Inuktitut to have the same status as the French and English languages. This is my understanding of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's concerns.

However, Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that *Ajauqtiit* is still considering amendments to the *Official Languages Act* and whether we should strengthen the wording of the bill or make revisions. We are waiting for some of their answers as to whether we are going to do any amendments to strengthen the *Official Languages Act* or if we are to add revisions. We are still waiting for the committee's final report, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I would like to thank the minister. However, I'm sure you hear from people privately as they have written letters of concern, as well as the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* dealing with the Language Bills, but I have not heard of those details.

(interpretation ends) In terms of public (interpretation) input, you hear from concerned people everywhere, along with public letters of concern in the newspapers. In terms of the public, and I know you hear and receive letters from everywhere, have you heard complaints and concerns from Inuit elsewhere? Can you resolve the issues of concern or does it seem that a solution can be found? That is my final question. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We received a number of responses on the phone-in show on television and the majority of callers supported the bill. Via several other broadcast avenues on the radio, Jonah Kelly from EIA had recorded some reactions on a number of radio shows and had them sent as tapes for broadcast to all communities.

We have not heard much else other than support for the most part. Inuit constituents have indicated their full support for the bill and feel it is long overdue for the protection of the Inuit language in Nunavut and that is largely what we have heard from individual Inuit. As far as organizations go, the Francophone Association, Nunavut Tunngavik, and the Languages Commissioner have been most vocal on the issue.

However, the comments we have received from ordinary Inuit overwhelmingly support the *Official Languages Act*, but organizations have been somewhat less enthusiastic. That is what we have received up to now, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Curley. Branch Summary. Official Languages. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess this is the area with official languages. I would just like to ask a question as to the status of negotiations with the Government of Canada on a Canada-Nunavut general agreement for the protection of French and the Inuit language. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had a cooperation agreement on the languages issue with the federal government for two years now and we have just recently signed it for the next two years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if the department has thought about, or priced out, or asked, or considered asking for an increase in this funding in the agreement as a result of the proposed two pieces of legislation that are in the hands of the standing committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): My deputy will respond to that question, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hainnu.

**Ms. Hainnu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regards to the two-year cooperation agreement that we want to sign, first of all, there's a bit more room than the first agreement, so we can make changes if we wanted to.

In addition to that, we're now starting to write our correspondence to Minister Vernon to let him know that the funding we receive is inadequate. So there's detailed correspondence that we are drafting at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hainnu. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It doesn't surprise me to hear that the funding we're getting from the federal government is inadequate. It seems to be the way they like to deal with Canadians.

As Ms. Hainnu had indicated that's inadequate, have they determined how inadequate it is? How much of an increase do we need in that agreement for the department to say that there was an adequate amount there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk:** My deputy will take that question.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hainnu.

**Ms. Hainnu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to our review of the cooperation agreement, I think the population of French in Nunavut is 400 and we receive about \$3,000 per capita for the promotion of the French language. Looking at what we receive for the promotion of the Inuktitut language, it's about \$32 per capita. That's the difference.

There is more money for French language services but it would be ideal if Inuit language services were on an equal footing, and we have written a letter to the federal government stating that that's something we would like them to consider. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hainnu. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Hainnu for that response. Does the department have a total dollar amount that would make the agreement adequate? Is it \$500,000; is it \$10 million? I'm just wondering if they have that number. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We don't have a figure at this time regarding the member's question, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. F-5. Branch Summary. Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,626,000. Does this committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page F-6. Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contribution for the Division of Culture and Heritage has decreased by \$80,000. Why is there a decrease in that area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main estimates were revamped and this led to a decrease of \$80,000 for the 2007-08 fiscal year. The reasons are as follows:

- a decrease in contributions for Culture and Heritage by \$25,000;
- the heritage contribution has increased for museums and seniors' homes by \$20,000;
- a decrease from Inuit Societal Values project by \$100,000; and
- an increase in the program for heritage and archaeology, especially for students in the archaeological field by \$25,000.

Those are the four main reasons for the amendment and that's why it seems to have decreased by \$80,000, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the status of your department's fund-raising efforts for the Nunavut Heritage Centre? Can you tell us a bit more about this capital campaign and how much this will cost the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The working group includes members from NTI, GN, and Heritage. We have already contracted out fund-raisers for the heritage centre. KCI, an Ottawa-based company, is working with Uqsiq Communications to raise funds and their target is to fund-raise up to \$10 million. To date, they have met once with our government officials and they have been discussing how they would be fund-raising, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, what is the status of staffing for the Division of Toponymy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We are currently trying to fill the toponymy position. It is still vacant but we are trying to fill it, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What is the status of the *Historical Resources Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I'll have Dave Kolot respond to that question.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kolot.

**Mr. Kolot:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government of Nunavut is committed to ensuring that its historical resources are properly managed. The existing *Historical Resources Act* was created in the former GNWT and it's out of date - it doesn't reflect the needs of Nunavummiut and it does not represent the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

To that end, progress on revisions to the Act have been delayed due to staff vacancies, but the Director of Culture and Heritage has met with the Legislative Council to review the issues with respect to this Act and will be proceeding in terms of revamping the *Historical Resources Act*. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kolot. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really miss Evaluarjuk when we are asking questions in regard to historical issues. I just wanted to comment in remembrance. (interpretation ends) What is the status of the proposed field school in Hall Beach that your department is working on in conjunction with Inuit Heritage Trust? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I think they were supposed to start working on that last year but it has been delayed to this year. The reason for the delay was that the Inuit Heritage Trust was too late due to various reasons to start their work last year, so it has been deferred until this year.

At this time, the people in charge of the archaeology work will be working with the young students. They will start working on the field school in Hall Beach this spring, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question is: (interpretation ends) what is the status of the Human Remains Repatriation Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a meeting last year or the year before in Rankin Inlet, I believe it was last year, on how to deal with the repatriation of human remains that are outside of Canada. At this time, we're now working on the policy to repatriate human remains. There is not much progress to date but we're working on the policy according to the meeting that had occurred in Rankin Inlet, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I have a question in regard to the heritage centre. Can the minister elaborate to this House further in regard to the fund-raising of \$10 million? How big would the building be? How far along is the planning? Are you working on that? Is it progressing or are you waiting for funds prior to initiating the project? I wonder if you can elaborate on that. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had to consider this for quite some time because what they envisioned was to conduct a feasibility study to see how much the heritage centre would cost. They said it would cost \$55 million but we can now say that it will cost approximately \$62 million. That's our estimate and that's how much it would cost based on the 2007-08 main estimates.

Due to these reasons, we are reviewing how we can establish the heritage centre. At this time, we have already written the discussion paper and it's twofold. In Phase I, they will have to build a storage facility to house the artefacts. There are a lot of artefacts in Yellowknife but due to their own lack of storage space, they would like to move them to Nunavut. However, we don't have any facility to store the artefacts, so that's why it's an urgent case.

We are looking at two phases because of those factors. The first phase is to build the storage facility and the second phase is to construct the museum. It's obviously cheaper if we build it in two phases and that seems to be the best case scenario. Right now, we're

reviewing the matter, Mr. Chairman, as to how we can get a museum in Iqaluit in an expedient manner. It's still under discussion and in the planning stages, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess we don't have much of a choice other than to take that alternative. It would be easier to do it in two phases and if need be, we could expand it later. If there's a design and planning phase, has it been contracted out or do you need to access the money first? Are you still waiting? It's hard to see the project management issues related to this project. Can the minister respond to that, please? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We currently don't have anybody on contract with regards to the planning and design of the facility, but we have contracted the fund-raisers who will be looking for the future centre's finances, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I have another question. Our people's expectations are on the rise but so are the costs of construction materials. Could you give us a brief outline of what your timeline is going to be like? Should you reach your target amount of dollars at the fund-raising stage, when is the planning phase, the design phase, the construction phase; when would everything start? If we could even get an estimate, it would be much appreciated. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's something that I'm sure everybody is interested in hearing. We don't have anything in writing for the planning and the timelines, however, we are looking at all avenues. We are also looking at the Building Canada Fund, which has provisions related for possible access to funds to build cultural and heritage centres. The Department of CLEY is going to try and apply through the Building Canada Fund and other pots of money.

I can't really respond to the member because we don't have any timelines outlined at this time with respect to the heritage centre, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. If I wanted to build a complex or a building, I don't think I would hire his department for mortgage negotiations...

>>Laughter

... because they haven't even come up with the timelines.

What I would like to ask you and what we have been asking the government about is setting up a P3 Policy. I think your project would move forward if you utilized the P3 concept – public-private partnership. For example, the Legislative Assembly was built using private money, there were shareholders, and it was built by private contractors.

It's quite difficult if you're trying to ask for charitable donations because it's highly unlikely you will receive huge amounts of money. We will never see anyone submit \$50 million to this initiative. You won't get \$10 million at once. Even if we did, I don't think it would go very far.

You should urge your ministerial colleagues to provide some assistance in setting up a P3 Policy because I think that would help move the project forward. Have you considered using the P3 concept in raising funds for this facility? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We can review this matter and yes, we will have to go that route and utilize them if we want to get anything going. We're working with the Inuit Heritage Trust and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. We can talk about this recommendation and encourage that they review this idea because this is becoming an urgent matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. If this project should get off the ground and if we're going to try to get money from outside government, then we will have to look at companies to invest in this project because it would speed things up a bit.

If we're looking at projects, for example, this House was \$15 million. The lease was negotiated with the federal government and we delivered the money through the lease negotiations, same with all the other offices that you see throughout Nunavut.

There should be a presentation on the P3 Policy in this House and I think that you would get support from the members. The NWT Legislative Assembly was built using that policy. Is it possible for you to ask your ministerial colleagues if they would consider using the P3 Policy? If you put out an RFP, you would find out if the project would be able to move forward or if it would come in over budget. I would like to know what your thoughts are on that. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I welcome that suggestion. We would have to look at setting up a policy on the P3s. I agree with the member wholeheartedly and



possibly, the working group could look into this issue. I agree with the member, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. (interpretation) I would like to tell the minister that if he wants to start looking for sources of funds, I don't think the contractors are knowledgeable about that sort of stuff, so I wouldn't use them but rather the ones with experience in this area.

The ministers might not approve of your suggestion, so you will have to come up with a strong argument that will convince them to go through that route. I think you might get approval if you're prepared before you bring that suggestion to the table. Would you be able to do that? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, we could look at all those in order to leverage some money. In the meantime, we can work on drafting up a policy.

The contractors from Ottawa, KCI, have been working with Uqsiq Communications and they're very experienced. Looking at their background, they have a lot of experience in that field and they have raised a lot of funds. They have a contract with Uqsiq Communications and I'm sure we could get more support from them.

With respect to his question, we can look into his suggestion and we're open to any other suggestions out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few questions. I know the minister indicated earlier that the Culture and Heritage Grants and Contributions program had decreased by \$25,000.

My question is: was that program fully accessed in previous years and that's why the department figured it didn't need the funding there? It's a program that's targeting all of the communities across Nunavut, so I'm just wondering if it was fully accessed in the previous year. If it wasn't fully accessed, is that why they decided to cut the funding there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I'll get Mr. Kolot to respond to that.

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

**Mr. Kolot:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The decrease in Culture and Heritage contributions was a result of less demand in that area and it was one of the areas that we could use to fund the Archaeology and Palaeontological grant program. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only other area to see a hit is again the Heritage, Elders and Youth Centre contributions. Was that something that was fully drawn upon in previous years, and if it wasn't, was that why they took \$80,000 out of that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk:** I'll get Mr. Kolot to respond to that.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kolot.

**Mr. Kolot:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was an area where we had identified surpluses in the past and we used that to basically fund increases in other grants and contributions. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's in here and again it seems like an odd place for Library Services to be under but it's in this division. The funding for that hasn't changed in quite some time.

I know that there were issues here with the library being closed down because of lack of staff and I understand that the previous individual who was working there had given the department plenty of notice that they were leaving and they still couldn't open because they didn't hire someone to take their place.

Given the increased costs and everything, is there a good explanation as to why Library Services hasn't seen an increase in funding recently? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk:** I'll get Mr. Kolot to respond to that again.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kolot.

**Mr. Kolot:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the department realizes that funding for libraries has not increased. This November, our department hosted a conference with representation from all libraries throughout Nunavut to work at developing a strategy for libraries in Nunavut. The Director of Culture and Heritage is working on that strategy and

it's our hope, through that process, that we will be able identify what some of the future funding needs will be and look at introducing that in future years. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I get the rationale as to why they haven't given the libraries any increase in funding? I know here, for example, that's the only place where someone, who doesn't have access to the internet at home, can go and get on the internet for free. Some of the programs that are offered at the library here; it always seems like it's just a struggle to keep the doors open.

They took \$80,000 out of Heritage, Elders and Youth Centre contributions that wasn't being spent, so why didn't they put any into the Community Library Support Division that only gets \$352,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk:** I'll get David Kolot to respond.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kolot.

**Mr. Kolot:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department allocates a total of \$352,000, I believe, for community libraries throughout Nunavut. In the 2006-07 fiscal year, the actual expenditures for community libraries throughout Nunavut amounted to \$319,000.

Some of the libraries within Nunavut did not access their funding and as I had mentioned earlier, one of the things people were looking at addressing at the Libraries Conference was how we could make better use of the existing funding that we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know here they had to cut back on services because they didn't have the money to keep it open. If there were excess funds there in the past, how come those couldn't have been reallocated to somewhere it was needed instead of just shutting down the service? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kolot:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there was a period this summer where the library was closed for a short period of time. The department realized that there was a real need for those services in the communities and acted as quickly as it could to fill positions for the Iqaluit Centennial Library. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just on the \$352,000 that's there for Community Libraries, how many libraries get funding out of that \$352,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk:** I'll get David Kolot to respond.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kolot.

**Mr. Kolot:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there are 11 community libraries that receive funding under that grant program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's 11 libraries for \$352,000. It sure doesn't go very far if you look at the cost of these initial... hopefully, that's something that the department seriously looks at when they have this strategy for libraries in a direction. To me, for what we're getting for \$352,000 is a heck of a lot more than you're giving. You're getting a lot more bang for your buck out of that \$352,000 than you're getting from a lot of other government programs out there.

So I think they should look at increasing funding in that area so that those libraries in the communities... I know the other communities that I lived in, those were the focal points for kids' programs and things like that. There always seems to be no place to hold programs that are in demand, literacy programs and things like that, Internet programs.

It says in the previous item that the library services, the central services is looking at working with the Gates Foundation and I think, when we look at putting the computers in the libraries, you know that's free Internet and free access to computers that a lot of people don't have the privilege of getting at home. I think it's important that the department takes a stronger interest in that area.

I would just like to ask the minister: given that they're doing this review, could I get an indication of when it will be done and would the minister be willing to have the department, and I don't know if we'll still be here when that's done, ensuring that there is a commitment on the record that that get tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation):** Yes, we will review it and I'll instruct our staff to see what they can come up with and see what else they can do, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of other questions I have following up on my colleague's questions earlier. He had indicated that this planned field school in Hall Beach that was going to be going on last year, and I think I'll quote the words in the business plan, is "postponed to 2008 due to unforeseen logistical issues." Can I just get an idea of what those issues are and how we're going to make sure we don't run into those issues again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will have to find out what the problems were. I know it was supposed to start last year but I'll have to look into that to see what problems they encountered. So I will have to get back to the member on that, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for committing to finding that information. One of the other questions my colleague asked earlier was in regard to negotiations for the transfer of human remains back to Nunavut and the minister indicated that they're working on the policy. Can he give us an indication of when they expect to have that policy completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): As it is right now, Nunavut Tunngavik, Inuit Heritage Trust, and the Government of Nunavut are reviewing this matter. I'm hoping that perhaps in the fall, just to give you a very broad estimate, it might not be completed. The policy can possibly be developed in the fall and that is my visioning, so I can agree to that idea of having a policy by this fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of this division's priorities in the business plan is to strengthen the operations of the Nunavut Public Library Services. Does the department have any other plans other than this workshop or whatever it was, and I think it was a workshop, that they're looking at holding to develop an action plan or a strategic plan dealing with that? Does the department have anything else in the works other than that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I'll get my deputy to respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hainnu.

**Ms. Hainnu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, the plans in regard to the Library Services are the only ones that we have completed. There is nothing else that is written. It's just to recognize what the problems are in Nunavut and what should be prioritized and what plans we are required to complete. These are just the start up activities for Library Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hainnu. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, in their earlier response, they said that they're looking at doing that this year. Is there a specific time when they're looking at getting that done? Is that something that they're going to do this spring, next fall, or next winter, or over the summer? I don't know if it's been determined yet when they're going to have that Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't made any definite plans of when it will be completed, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I heard them say that they haven't made any plans as to when it will be completed, but do they have any plans on when they plan on holding that workshop? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We have been told that they will probably be holding a workshop in October and in November, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I would like to ask some questions in regard to the field school in Hall Beach before I get into something else. It's my understanding that they research archaeological sites. If that goes smoothly, will the department consider establishing field schools in other communities?

We tell our younger people to be proud of whom they are but they have never actually been from Repulse Bay to Hall Beach. There are a lot of archaeological sites and all kinds of *Inuksuit*. They're all over; all the way from Pond Inlet to Arctic Bay. There are all kinds of archaeological sites. So if this Hall Beach project succeeds, are you looking at doing that in the other communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has already been done in the other communities, like in Repulse Bay, in Igloolik, and now it's in Hall Beach. I believe it was held in Resolute Bay as well.

The Inuit Heritage Trust, CLEY, the government, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated have been working on this for quite some time. If there are going to be archaeological digs or something, then different communities are given an opportunity if they are interested in sending people. It was going to be in Hall Beach last year and before that, it was in another community. This will be an ongoing project where it will be done in other close communities, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Yes, this would be a very good project. Why does one community in Nunavut get selected for these types of projects? Can't you select any more communities, whether it's through the schools in the communities or Arctic College, and receive funding through those entities?

Some of the archaeological sites that are on the land are obviously visited and some of them are being emptied of their artefacts either by mining exploration companies or other development companies, or even tourists who are coming up during the summer to explore. Can't you include other communities so that it's not just one community receiving these projects? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We could increase the number if we were allocated more funding and resources. Archaeologists that come into the communities would work on these sites, but there are not many of them around as they have other opportunities elsewhere, so we have to also include their availability when looking at this issue.

We could also look into that suggestion further to include other communities. Our main obstacle is funding or lack thereof. We only have \$429,000 for one year for this initiative, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The time is sometimes very slow and very fast. Why can't these professionals get together and proceed at the same pace when they are working on these types of projects? They should be evenly paced, not jerkily paced as it is right now.

I would like to pose a question. I want to know if I understood him properly. Did you go and ask those people, when they are preparing their financial and budget issues, in line with what Mr. Tagak Curley's stated, "Have you gone to Heritage Canada?" This is in

regard to preparing for the funding of heritage centre that you were talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We spoke with the previous minister for Heritage Canada when the Conservative Party was elected. At that time, Bev Oda was the Minister responsible for Heritage Canada and we met with her while she retained that portfolio. However, since they shuffled the Cabinet, we have not with that minister since.

In regard to the facility, she told us that, under the NLCA, especially concerning *Article 33*, there is a need for a heritage centre in Nunavut. Due to the fact that this is in the land claims, she went to the Minister of Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in regard to *Article 23*.

I hope that with the new minister for Heritage Canada that we can meet with them because we need give them an update. We will have to meet with them in the near future to discuss our option in regards to this facility, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** This is my very last one, Mr. Chairman, I promise.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) If the minister changed from Bev Oda, they would probably have completed the project. I know for those that are trying to get the implementation of the land claims, they lack funding. NTI has now taken them to court over the lack of implementation. So do you go and negotiate with NTI concerning *Article 23* of the land claims in particular to see if there is any progress with that? I'm telling you that this is the last question and I'm telling the truth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, we have a working group set up for the Nunavut Heritage Centre and also we have a committee made up of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Inuit Heritage Trust, and our department. They are all aware of what's happening and we keep deliberating on our options, especially in relation to the implementation of the NLCA. We are trying to continue our work on this but progress has been slow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,721,000. Does this committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.



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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have lots of questions on the next section and looking at the time, there won't be enough time to do it. So I would like to move to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Members. I don't think some members wanted to return to their seats. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Netser. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. 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. A reminder to all members of the meeting of the Full Caucus tomorrow morning at 10:30 in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 4:

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. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 4, at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:01*

