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Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable James Arreak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Pangnirtung)

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(Nattilik)

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Hon. Levinia Brown

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services

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(Iqaluit West)

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

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(Iqaluit East)

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(Hudson Bay)

Steve Mapsalak

(Akulliq)

David Simailak

(Baker Lake)

James Arvaluk

(Tunnunuiq)

Levi Barnabas

(Quttiktuq)

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Hon. Patterk Netser

(Nanulik)

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 10, 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, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Honourable Patterk Netser, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Mr. David Simailak, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. James Arreak)(interpretation): Good afternoon. I would like to ask Mr. Alagalak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Good afternoon, Mr. Premier, Ministers, Members, and also Nunavummiut. (interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Picco.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 167 – 2(4): Minister Tapardjuk Absent from the House

Hon. Ed. Picco (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House and the members that Minister Tapardjuk will be absent from the House today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Picco.

Minister's Statement 168 – 2(4): Update on the Language of Instruction

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to update the house on the progress of the Department of Education's Language of Instruction initiative.

Mr. Speaker, instruction of Inuit languages in our schools is important to attain the government's goal of having Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun as our working languages. To facilitate the proper methods, communities and schools must plan appropriate language programs for their students. Mr. Speaker, these plans are based on the use of both languages in the community and the availability of staff and learning resources to deliver the programs effectively.

Mr. Speaker, the department has been delivering Language of Instruction information workshops in communities throughout Nunavut. To date, workshops have been held in Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Baker Lake, Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay, Iqaluit, Cape Dorset, Arctic

Bay, Igloolik, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, Sanikiluaq, Kimmirut, and all the communities in the Kitikmeot. Workshops in the remaining communities are scheduled to be completed by April of 2008.

Mr. Speaker, discussions in these workshops have been very productive on how to improve language instruction. For example, many communities have indicated that they would like to ensure that early childhood and adult programs are available in the child's first language.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education is eager to look forward to Nunavut's goal of strengthening and working in its own language and the language of instruction is an important part of this. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Netser.

Minister's Statement 169 – 2(4): A Day of Sealing Celebration

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to announce new initiatives that the department is doing to promote sustainable sealing in Nunavut, and I would like to thank everybody for wearing sealskin vests yesterday.

>>Applause

On March 11, 2008, with the support of my department, the Fur Institute of Canada will be holding a Sealing Workshop in Iqaluit, immediately before the Nunavut Fisheries Symposium.

This event will be followed, Mr. Speaker, on March 15, 2008, by a *Day of Sealing Celebration*, which will also take place in Iqaluit and will include community events and cultural celebrations to recognize the importance of the seal to our economy, our culture, and our way of life.

I am also announcing today that the department is sponsoring a new web site to promote sustainable sealing in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I hope Paul McCartney is listening to this.

>>Applause

This new web site promotes the truth about sealing in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, through the use of streaming video and new media, we hope to make more people aware of this sustainable resource, and its role in our territory, it is important for Nunavummiut to work with individuals and organizations in Canada to fight the myths and misconceptions about our traditional, sustainable seal harvest. We need to promote the seal and its contribution to Nunavut.

The Government of Nunavut supports both animal welfare and the sustainable use of wildlife. Inuit have survived for thousands of years by responsibly harvesting renewable resources including seals, and this practice continues today.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Mr. Speaker, as we all know, animal rights groups continue to try to ban the importation of all seal products into European Union countries. Yet, the seal hunt contributes to the livelihoods of hundreds of Inuit families.

I encourage all members to visit www.sealingnunavut.ca and share this educational and entertaining web site. And, I encourage everyone to join us for a *Day of Sealing Celebration*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Premier, Premier Okalik.

Minister's Statement 170 – 2(4): Sivuliqtiksat Program Graduates

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel like I went seal hunting.

Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Justice and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to congratulate three of my staff who have recently graduated from the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program. The three graduates are:

Lucy Wilson, Manager of Business Planning & Support for Court Services in the Department of Justice;

Napatchie Kolola, Director of Communications with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; and

Tanya Tungilik, Cabinet Registrar in the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, these individuals committed to advancing their skills and abilities and successfully completed their internship.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the dedicated supervisors, trainers and mentors who worked with our three graduates throughout their internships.

Mr. Speaker, Sivuliqtiksat provides valuable, on-the-job learning experience, and is an effective means of increasing Inuit employment in management and specialized positions in our public service. This program is coordinated through the Department of Human

Resources and demonstrates our commitment to developing a workforce that is representative of the people it serves.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating Lucy Wilson, Napatchie Kolola and Tanya Tungilik and wishing them continued success in their positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. We congratulate and honour the graduates. Ministers' Statements. If there are no more, Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 395 – 2(4): First Time Ever: Iqaluit to Host National Curling Championship

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share with you an exciting "First Ever" announcement for Nunavut and the City of Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I know that many of my constituents and fellow curlers are tuned in to their televisions these days as the Brier is underway in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

A couple of weeks ago, we enjoyed following the Scott Tournament of Hearts from Regina, Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to announce that from November 9 to 16, 2008, Iqaluit residents will have the opportunity to watch the Canadian Mixed Curling Championships live right here in our city.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first time ever that a National Sport Championship will be held in Nunavut and the City of Iqaluit is extremely proud to have been chosen to host this event. For a nice change, curlers in the rest of Canada will be turning and tuning in to Nunavut to hear what's rocking.

Mr. Speaker, this announcement could not have happened without a lot of work and dedication by members of the Iqaluit Curling Club, members of the Canadian Curling Association, the City of Iqaluit, and also major support from First Air.

Mr. Speaker, as our young Arctic Winter Game curlers get ready for their first match over in Yellowknife, they will know that even greater opportunities are in store for them. Holding a national level tournament in Nunavut not only allows our athletes to compete against the rest of Canada but opens the door for them to participate in future tournaments of this calibre.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my fellow members to join me in congratulating the Iqaluit Curling Club, Canadian Curling Association, and the City of Iqaluit for this “First Ever” announcement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation) Members’ Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Member’s Statement 396 – 2(4): Repulse Bay Athletes at the Arctic Winter Games

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My daughter watches us on the live broadcast, whom I love very much, Lucie, so I wish her a good day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today with pride to support the Repulse Bay athletes who are in the Arctic Winter Games in Yellowknife. These games got underway yesterday with the Prime Minister in attendance.

Mr. Speaker, we have 12 young athletes from my community of Repulse Bay and I would like to wish them the very best at the games.

The young athletes from my community are competing in three sports categories. For Badminton: Alexander Tuktudjuk, Garry Tinashlu, and their mission staff and assistant coach, Michael Putulik. In Hockey: Jeff Siusangnark, Jaimisi Siusangnark, and Nelson Kopak. In Volleyball: Kelly Tuktudjuk, Stephan Angutialuk, Devon Ariugala, Ray Curtis-Tuktudjuk, Trevor James Pingajak, Dino Milortok, and their coach, Joshua Bruce.

Mr. Speaker, the Arctic Winter Games will no doubt give our young athletes a very memorable experience, please join me in wishing them the very best and to enjoy this time to get to know fellow athletes from different places around the world.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member’s Statement 397 – 2(4): Wise Woman of the Year Awards

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women’s Council for hosting their International Women’s Day on Saturday, March 8. As you may be aware, the theme of this year’s International Women’s Day is “Strong Women, Strong World.”

Mr. Speaker, the event raised awareness of the issues affecting women and families across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I attended the event with several of my colleagues and many Iqaluit residents. It was an entertaining afternoon; they had an arts and crafts fair, a coffee house, music and singing, prizes, and special awards that recognized the work of Nunavut women who helped improve the lives of women and families in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I was very honoured to accept the 2008 Wise Woman of the Year Award for the Kitikmeot on behalf of Ms. Elizabeth Hadlari. I have known Ms. Hadlari for many years and I am familiar with her work as an adult educator and a craftsperson; both fields where she has helped women in our community of Cambridge Bay to improve their lives. I will present her award to her on behalf of the women's council when I return home.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Hadlari and the Baffin and the Kivalliq recipients of the 2008 Wise Woman of Year Awards for what they have done to help women in Nunavut.

Nunavummiut submitted many worthy nominations which made the selections difficult, attesting to the vital roles that women play in Nunavut. If it were possible, they would have all received an award.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Nunavummiut to support women in their communities as they work to improve the lives other women and our families.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the Iqaluit Music Society for the entertainment that their members provided on Saturday afternoon. I was delighted by their variety of talented individuals of all ages who entertained us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Member's Statement 398 – 2(4): Protection of Inuit Intellectual Property

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, we send our condolences to the residents of Sanikiluaq and we want them to know that they're not alone.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of protecting the intellectual property rights of Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin my remarks with the interesting illustration of how different cultures borrow from one another.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, many Nunavummiut are enthusiastic players of Scrabble and I understand that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's Annual Nunavut Day Scrabble Tournament is extremely popular.

I find it very interesting that the Official Scrabble Dictionary formally recognizes a number of Inuktitut words such as *Qajaq*, *Umiaq*, and *Ulu*. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of speakers of our language, I would like to thank the makers of the game for incorporating words from our language.

Mr. Speaker, we heard last week about the agreement that has been signed to provide Inuksuit for use at the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver and I am pleased that our artists and carvers will benefit from providing the Inuksuit. I urge the Premier to formally table a copy of this agreement in the Legislative Assembly so that Nunavummiut will know exactly what they agreed to.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it's important that the intellectual property of Inuit be respected and protected. As you know, a visit to a local souvenir store anywhere in Canada can be a frustrating and disheartening experience. We see cheap imitations of genuine Inuit art; we see evidence of how our cultural designs have been appropriated for the profit of others.

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

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and everyone.

We see cheap imitations of genuine Inuit art; we see evidence of how our cultural designs have been appropriated for the profit of others. This practice has been extended to clothing. Note that the multinational corporation, Adidas, is now marketing a so-called Inuit jacket.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize that the intellectual property of Inuit is very complex and that the protection of intellectual property rights is a very complex legal area.

I would like to pay tribute to those groups and individuals who have been working to identify ways of enhancing the protection of our intellectual property. I can say that Pauktuutit has been working for a number of years with such bodies as the World Intellectual Property Organization, which is a specialized agency of the United Nations to protect the *Amauti*.

I also urge our retailers and galleries in Nunavut to demonstrate their support for Inuit intellectual property by only selling authentic Inuit art. I do not believe that our stores

should be selling plastic Inuksuit or other imitations that are made in other countries when there is so much genuine Inuit art around us.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I would like to state in this House that Nunavut Inuit would like us to introduce legislation to protect the intellectual property rights of Inuit in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 399 – 2(4): Saqijuq

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform my colleagues about a book called *Saqijuq* and a play that was performed last weekend in Pond Inlet by a Pond Inlet youth theatre group.

Mr. Speaker, the play was adopted from the book called *Saqijuq*. *Saqijuq* is a story that was written by Nancy Wachowich from British Columbia and it is about three generations of women from Pond Inlet who are: Apphia Agalakti Awa, my mother, Rhoda Kaukjak Katsak, my sister, and Sandra Pikujak Katsak, my niece.

Mr. Speaker, this play was directed by Christopher Morris and was appropriately performed on March 8, 2008, on International Women's Day.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, each woman tells their own story, starting with my mother, Apphia, about how life used to be out on the land and the Inuit way of life. It is followed by my sister, Rhoda, her story where she recounts the days when the federal schools were started and progressed with the life of my niece, Sandra, and her perspective of life today and the issues that are currently faced by our youth. I am told that this play will also be aired some time in the future.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, sadly, my mother, Apphia, passed away in 1996, leaving behind 12 children who are all alive today. My sister, Rhoda, who lives in Pond Inlet today, and my niece, Sandra, is now living in Iqaluit. She recently completed the Akitsiraq Law School Program and she is a lawyer for Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, please join me in applauding all of the performers, writers, and crew for the hard work...

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, your time is up.

>>*Applause*

Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Your time was up. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements.
Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 400 – 2(4): Support “A Day of Sealing Celebration”

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to support the comments that were made by the Minister of Economic Development on “A Day of Sealing Celebration.”

I think this is the third time that I have made the same comment. I am very proud to have made those statements as the people out there who are opposed to sealing can be listening.

We utilize the seal entirely. If there were no seals, some of us wouldn't be making statements in the House today. When we were living the traditional life, the seal was an all important part of our life; we used it for food, for light and heat, for making *Uujuq*, for making clothing and, at times, we used it to make harnesses and the tracers for the dogs.

Our mothers used the skins or pelts for different things. After they had cleaned it, they would give it to the children to use for sliding, and at the same time, to clean it. We used the sealskins to go sliding and it was very handy.

Today, we get the seals for our own families and for the entire community. We share it throughout the community. The seal pelt is also used for economic purposes for entire families and the money is used properly.

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

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

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

We see a brighter future for the communities that don't have jobs available to get an economic boost through the sale of the seal pelts. Due to the fact that the hunters are able to make money off the pelts, it's better for the entire family and for the community.

There was one time we saw a television program with Paul McCartney who was lying down beside a seal pup. We don't do that as Inuit. We harvest the pups to make sure that we have something to eat and clothes to wear. For that reason, I disagree with Mr. McCartney and I hope he understands exactly what I'm saying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 401– 2(4): Wise Woman Awards Recipients

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was International Women's Day on March 8. A constituent of mine from Whale Cove was recognized, Martha Teenar, I am very proud of her and she is very resourceful. She has helped a lot of people and still helps the people of Whale Cove to this day.

I would also like to congratulate the other women who were recognized and I also congratulate the women's groups that represent Nunavut Inuit. I would like to congratulate all of these women and the organizers who worked very hard for the event two days ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 402 – 2(4): Arctic Winter Games Athletes

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise today to congratulate the individuals who are participating in the Arctic Winter Games in Yellowknife for Inuit and Dene Games, and Basketball.

I would like to recognize the following: David Shuyook, Jennifer Issigaitok, Don Oyukuluk, Tagurnaaq Willie, Jenny Oyukuluk, Wesley Attagutsiak, Susie Shuyook, and Thomas Levi, who is the coach, Debbie Oyukuluk, Bobby Uqittuq, Darryl Levi, Joe Aullaqiaq, Shawn Oyukuluk, Tina Ataguttaaluk, Nina Anne Shuyook, Amanda Ataguttaaluk, Saila Oyukuluk, Susan Kalluk, and Aimo Kilabuk.

I would like you to join me in congratulating the athletes who are participating in the Arctic Winter Games and I hope they will bring a lot of gold medals back to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Members' Statements. If there are no more, we will move on to Item 4. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation) If there are none, Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Premier.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my Minister's Statement, I would like to welcome these individuals who have graduated from the Sivuliqtiksat Internship Program. First of all, Lucie Wilson, welcome.

>>Applause

Napatchie Kolola, welcome.

>>Applause

And, Tanya Tungilik, welcome.

>>Applause

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize my wife, Sally, and our grandchild, who has a lot of friends here in Iqaluit, Meagan Netser.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. If there are none, Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like consent from the House to move back to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking consent to return to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Akasuk.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleagues. I would like to recognize Mikidjuk Akavak from Kimmirut and he is running for President of Nunavut Tunngavik at the upcoming elections. I would like to welcome him to the House. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I thought we were on Item 6. (interpretation ends) I'm sorry.

>>*Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): We had returned to Item 5. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Curley.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 494 – 2(4): Devolution Negotiations Letter

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Very briefly, I have a question for the Premier. He recently showed us and talked about a letter he received from the Prime Minister with regards to the negotiations for devolution.

When the Premier was referring to the letter, I don't think he indicated that this was a response from the Prime Minister. Is it possible for the Premier to table that letter in this House? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Honourable Paul Okalik, Premier of Nunavut.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly can. I wrote a letter in the past and they're trying to get that ready. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 495 – 2(4): Issue of Violence in Schools

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

Mr. Speaker, over the years, I have heard of incidents of violence against teachers in schools. It's a very serious issue and the situation seems to be continuing. I hear of incidents quite often in my travels across Nunavut.

My question for the Minister of Education: can the minister tell the House how the Department of Education is dealing with the issue of violence against teachers in schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education, Honourable Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member raising the issue. The member is correct. It has been an ongoing issue for the last couple of years and I believe we have seen an increase in I don't want to say it's violence, but behaviour issues, disciplinary issues in our schools.

We have a partnership between the school, the families, and the local DEA, as well as the Nunavut Teachers' Association, NTA, to look at how we can be proactive in directing and talking to our children, our students about proper behaviour in and outside the classroom, not just in the classroom or in the school but on the playground also. That work is continuing and ongoing.

And, I believe with outside groups coming to the schools across Nunavut, for example, the RCMP and the DARE program, helps us move forward in that direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. He says that he doesn't like to call it violence but when you have students pushing teachers and throwing stuff and that, then I would daresay that is violence.

My question for the minister: can the minister inform the House if the Department of Education has a zero-tolerance policy to protect teachers against violence in schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the new *Education Act*, Bill 21, we have a section there on interdisciplinary issues within the school and outside the school, including in-school suspensions and so on, and for the first time in the Act, we talked about how to deal with those types of behavioural problems in and outside the school.

We do have a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to violence in our schools. As an example, if someone is struck or assaulted in the school, it doesn't become a school issue, then it becomes a police issue if someone is assaulted, so it's turned over to the RCMP in those types of cases.

I don't think it's an epidemic problem within our schools. We do have issues of violence and it has been ongoing; I think we have seen a marked increase over the last few years, but our schools are safe, the staff are well trained, and the proper behaviour models are put in place. There are some instances which are more violent than others and those are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that explanation. The minister indicated that he didn't think it's a serious issue. My question to the minister: can the minister explain to the House how the Department of Education works with the District Education Authorities to develop policies and programs that raise continued

awareness about the serious issue of violence against teachers so that it does not escalate out of control? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Education, Honourable Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I want to emphasize that we're not talking about some of the situations you may see in the inner city schools in our larger urban centres; we're not seeing that type of issues being raised. We have bullying in our schools, like every school across the country, we have socio-economic problems within our society itself and that spills over, at times, into the schools.

What we do have in place, I think, is a good working relationship with our students and because we are a small community and a small population throughout the territory, in many cases, the individual students are known to us, we know their families, we have counsellor support, and so on. We have the effective behaviour supports in our schools, or EBS, we have professional development and training with our staff on a regular basis on how to deal with this issue.

And again, if something escalates to the point of endangering a teacher or endangering a student, then that's dealt with aggressively and forcefully. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the answer. Can the minister tell the House how many teachers since 2004 have left Nunavut because of violence experienced against them in schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Education, Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know of any teacher who has left Nunavut because they have been subjected to violent behaviour in or outside the classroom and pertaining to their actual work. I have not been made aware of any person or individual.

What I can say is that I am aware of different schools at different times throughout Nunavut that have issues with behaviour that is not acceptable in the school or on the playground. When we have those types of issues, they are dealt with in cooperation with the parents, the school, as well as the District Education Authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 496 – 2(4): Hiring Local Staff

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my greetings to Qamani'tuaq. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I want to be clearly understood, so I will speak in English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a number of my colleagues have raised questions in this House about the staffing of social worker positions in our communities. As the minister will be aware, there are often a number of jobs that need to be done to provide adequate social services, especially in some of our larger communities.

Can the minister clarify for this House what policies are in place to maintain staffing levels in our community social services' offices? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Health and Social Services, Honourable Leona Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the human resources practices of the government, the Department of Health policies related to the human resource practices are the same as every other department through what is outlined in the collective agreement for issues related to compensation, for instance, of all our public servants.

So that's what is in place for that if I understood the member's question correctly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. I'm sure that the minister will agree that communities are best served when the people providing the services are familiar with the community, can speak the local language, and have some experience in delivering the service.

Can the minister clarify whether her department has any policies in place that seek to employ qualified and competent local residents before employing people from outside the community, and if not, why not? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health and Social Services staff and recruitment practices are part of the Government of Nunavut's overall recruitment practices. So the advertisement, interview process, job descriptions, interviews, the application, and the beneficiary status; that whole process is in place, the screening is determined by a committee, and so on, from the recruitment process side of it.

So if it's a public process where a member from the general population can apply and if they meet the qualifications, then they're screened in for an interview and so on. That practice is the same as any other government department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Will the minister commit to providing an update on how many staff at the community level social services' offices are employed locally and how many are employed from outside the community? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can provide that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We look forward to that information. Mr. Speaker, it is often the case in offices with a heavy demand for services, such as social services, that individuals are hired on a casual basis to fill vacant staffing positions. Sometimes this can be a short-term placement and sometimes it goes longer.

Can the minister update this House on what policies are in place to ensure that locally hired casual staff receive their wages in a timely manner and what kinds of staffing circumstances would prevent them from receiving the pay that they deserve? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the situations of the individuals in Baker Lake. The Department of Health and Social Services looks to the central agencies for support and around social worker human resource practices and recruitment. The payroll side is managed by the Department of Finance.

So if there are issues with the Department of Finance processing, I will find that out. If it's at our end, in terms issuing pay sheets and so on, I'll get back to the member on those individuals from the two social workers that are in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 497 – 2(4): Number of Ships Travelling in Nunavut

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

According to my knowledge, I think there are about 91 ships that have gone to Nunavut and that have gone to Lancaster Sound last year. Can the minister table some information with respect to how many ships have travelled into Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Honourable Patterk Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information on hand, so I will have to get back to the member. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The minister has taken your question as notice and will get back to you. Oral Questions. Member for Tunnuniq, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 498 – 2(4): Community Priority Changes

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

I want to know ahead of time as the minister stated last week that the funding coming from the federal government will be used to consult with the communities to find out what their priorities are. I would like to ask the minister: did their priorities change for some municipalities, especially for the municipalities that did not receive their funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Community and Government Services, Honourable Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question. As I have stated before, the priorities of the Five-Year Capital Plan have been reviewed and with the new fiscal year, when I met with my staff, they told me that they were going to go back to the communities and consult with them.

I heard that they will start visiting the communities within this new fiscal year and they just started visiting the communities, and this is still ongoing this winter and it will be continuing in the upcoming months. They will be looking at the priorities of the communities and they will also look at the Five-Year Capital Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regards to the authorization policy, before you send your staff to the communities, they probably have to specify what the purpose of the visit is.

The plans that were made last year and were prioritized; it's still the case in the community and when her staff go to the community, they will hear the same thing that they did last year. Will that not just be a waste of money? I hope they get the information why they have to visit Arctic Bay or Pond Inlet. How is the authorization policy structured? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation ends) Minister of Community and Government Services, Honourable Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is also a committee and they usually go through that committee, along with Nunavut Community Infrastructure Committee. So they review what the plans are and after they put in more from Building Canada Fund, they will have to do a closer review as to exactly what they need in the communities and they will advise us in the coming months.

(interpretation ends) Under the criteria for Building Canada Fund, recreational facilities are eligible and we must take into consideration of all the infrastructure requests. That should be done very shortly. A joint letter from Finance and CGS will be delivered to all members of the process to identify projects for that fund.

(interpretation) We follow the policy that we have and the people who have to visit the communities do visit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): When you go listen to the residents of Pond Inlet who want an arena, if you go up to Pond Inlet, you'll hear the exact same thing that they still don't have an arena, which is too bad.

The O&M for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is \$639,000; (interpretation ends) Community Support, \$684,000; Government Services, \$524,000; and also, Planning and Technical Services, \$795,000; (interpretation) we see that it's almost \$4 million to run those services by your employees. That's an arena right there.

Do you have any idea of what your department spends on travelling to the communities to consult with them on what priorities they want to see? Even though they hear the same thing from the communities, can you give me an estimate of the amount of money they spend on travelling? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Community and Government Services, Honourable Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information with me at this time, so I'm not too sure. I'm getting a little confused because

communities ask us to visit but say it costs too much; so it's twofold. What should we do; should we visit the communities or just forget the whole thing?

We want to work together with the hamlet, NAM, and CGS, so we will always travel to the communities and in the coming years, we will continue to do so. Once I get the information that clearly identifies the funding that was used for travelling, I will provide it to my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't even know what they call it; Authorization Travel Policy. You probably have to authorize them whether they're visiting Pond Inlet, or Rankin Inlet, or anywhere, you can probably guess what the community would want because they would have the same priorities: they still want the arena.

Once your staff goes to the community and they're unsure of what to ask, the priorities they had are still their priorities, so they will get the same information. For example, if the residents of Sanikiluaq would like you to visit their community... what I'm trying to say is if you just go to random communities, it's going to be expensive, and we're saying that if you don't visit, it's fine with us. When we request a visit, it's appreciated by the community and I would like to thank the minister for sending three officials to my community.

What I want to find out is: do you keep track of when your officials visit the communities and authorize the funding so that they are not going to the communities questioning what they should be doing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we know because we budget funds for what they will be used for. The funding that we use for travel is identified every year and we try not to go over the amount that we put aside.

At this time, I don't have the information on how much we have set aside for this year but when they go to the communities, they get a lot of information, and they give us a report of the major things in the community that were discussed.

What my colleague is saying about requesting an arena in Pond Inlet has been seriously considered. I have stated that the capital plans every year and what usually happens is when the councils change, then some of the priorities change.

We know that the community of Pond Inlet still wants an arena and we know that they will eventually get their arena once we have adequate funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 499 – 2(4): Number of International Nurses

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of March, I saw a report that states that there were still 42 international nurses that are up here from overseas that are hired. Can the minister tell me if the number of international nurses hired will increase or will they eventually go down? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, the recruitment efforts for nurses in Nunavut, we'll be concentrating on recruiting our own as well as within Canada. The number that the member makes reference to 42, I think relates to the casuals that we have in place right now. In terms of international nursing recruitment, we are no longer recruiting internationally but are focusing our resources in recruiting nurses within Canada as well as within our own program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People find it very strange when they see those nurses, even for bilingual people or people who understand English because they have an accent. So the patients have a hard time understanding and they don't know anything about the customs up here.

There is still no an agreement with the public service. The negotiations are still going on and it hasn't moved forward for a while. For those people who will seek employment with Nunavut, they may not want to apply because of the long negotiations. So for that reason, we have to make these more attractive to the people, and if we don't get international nurses, it would seem more appropriate if we didn't use the agency that has the contract.

What is the case; are we still leaving that open? How long will the agency nurses have the contract to hire international nurses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my earlier reply, we are no longer recruiting international nurses in Nunavut. We are looking at putting our recruitment energies into recruiting within Canada, at the same time in Nunavut.

Some of the initiatives that we have outlined that we are trying to address for nursing were outlined in the Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy which was tabled in the House in November. We're also working with our own training programs in Nunavut to hire the graduates of our Nursing Program. At the same time, we're patiently waiting for the results of the bargaining which will help us in our efforts to recruit further nurses in Nunavut so that we're more competitive with the rest of Canada.

So those are some of the initiatives that we're focusing on now within Canada and within Nunavut, and we are no longer recruiting international nurses at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's very nice to hear and I understand. I've heard they were a higher number and a lot of them didn't pass the nursing exam. As you stated earlier, you are currently looking for nurses in Canada and a lot of them can speak English and Inuktitut. Have you seen any interest coming from Canada, or even from the States, who would want to work up here? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The efforts for the department for recruiting are ongoing; it's no secret that we have a huge challenge to hire nurses in our territory. Every other jurisdiction, and internationally, are competing for skilled nurses, hence our initiative related to our own Recruitment and Retention Strategy. So we're hoping that we'll be able to fully implement that this coming fiscal year and move forward on the initiatives there.

Currently, out of the 210 nursing positions, I think about 80 are vacant. So we continue to recruit for those through advertisements, through casuals, through agencies, and will continue to do so in Canada and open to the competitive process of applicants coming into Nunavut for various jobs. Thank you.

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

Question 500 – 2(4): Status of Materials for Housing Projects

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Housing Corporation.

As you may be aware, Mr. Speaker, last year, the supplies that were supposed to be shipped to the communities didn't make it in last summer. It was obvious which community was affected for the materials for the construction of houses. Can the minister update us on what the status of this situation is with the housing corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Honourable Patterk Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the building materials were shipped by air to the communities on Saturday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister aware of how much the freight will cost to fly the materials into the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I'm not sure where some of the materials that were shipped to the wrong community are at this time.

We don't know how much the total budget will be for the materials shipped by air but I will get back to the member once I have that information. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The contract that was done by Arrujak was going to be contracted and there was a mistake. What is the current situation of the subcontract that was done for the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) We are working with a mediator right now and the Housing Corporation is also involved. There are three parties involved but the issue hasn't been resolved yet. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) We're on Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Question 501 – 2(4): Cost of Swimming Pools

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services concerning capital projects dealing with swimming pools and arenas.

Mr. Speaker, some communities in Nunavut have swimming pools but there are probably many more that don't have them. If you were to erect a building to put in a swimming pool in a community, how much would it cost? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Community and Government Services, Honourable Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is our colleague referring to an item that is not in the estimates as he tends to state? If it is a new expenditure, it has to go to CGS, and if it is an item that requires upgrading or repair, then he can look after it himself. That's a good question and I thank my colleague for bringing up his concern.

There are different capital items that each community prioritizes and every community has different projects that they wish to undertake, and each project has its own requirements in terms of parts and construction costs. I recall one project that cost over \$3 million. Some projects can have cost overruns and others come in under budget, but not all of them are paid for.

However, when we are talking about a new project, I have not heard of any new projects since I sat as the Minister of CGS, especially in relation to swimming pools, but quite a few of those capital items have been either been deferred or delayed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Yes, I had previously brought up this issue in the Legislative Assembly, that prior to the establishment of Nunavut, our community had a swimming pool allocated under our capital items, but it was taken out of our capital items and given to another community.

We were told that Repulse Bay would be given a new swimming pool in the future, and this occurred that long ago. Some of the smaller communities, especially the non-decentralized communities, do not have any available large buildings that can be diverted or renovated as a swimming pool as most buildings in the communities are already at capacity.

Does the department of CGS have any plans in place to look at recreational facilities for the smaller communities, especially in regards to swimming pools and are there any plans to try and deliver swimming pools to the non-decentralized communities, especially those who do not have very many recreational facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, I am not aware of any plans to build swimming pools in any communities. As I stated earlier, we

are late in dealing with all of the capital items for all the communities and we would have to prepare our plans as it relates to these items.

I can direct my staff to develop plans to meet our community requests, and in regards to the community of Repulse Bay, I can ask my staff to meet with the Hamlet representatives, and perhaps the Member for Akulliq can be involved in those discussions to start preparing their capital items and this can be a starting point to proceed from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her initiative in this regard, and I would like to see that kind of process be undertaken since the community has been requesting a swimming pool for many years and this is one of the recreational facilities that the community would like to see installed, especially since people remember our original swimming pool and it would be a good facility for both our children and our young people.

Our residents really would like to see a swimming pool in Repulse Bay. As the minister stated earlier, she can get this matter reviewed by her officials. Does the minister know that there was a \$5 million fund that would be set aside for development projects for smaller communities?

Is the minister aware whether or not this fund has been used up or whether there are leftover funds that can be used to for projects such as this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can certainly speak to my fellow minister in regards to this issue, especially the ED&T department as to whether we can use those funds for initiatives such as this. In the past, I believe that ED&T used to look after capital items such as this.

Yes, communities can have swimming pools and in particular our children need to have recreational facilities to occupy their time since we hear that many youth have no alternatives in our communities. I can indeed, look into this matter and I will discuss this matter with my fellow minister as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does this mean that the minister agrees and that she will direct her staff to undertake research into this matter right away by initiating discussions with the Hamlet of Repulse Bay?

The community of Repulse Bay definitely needs a swimming pool to offer our children more choices, so can the minister commit to looking into this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can commit to discussing this matter with my colleague, and if my staff is required to proceed with their research, or if they have to collaborate with other departments, then I will ask them to go down that path. However, it is not only Repulse Bay that wants a swimming pool but I'm sure that there are a lot of communities that want swimming pools. Yes, I will begin discussions of swimming pools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Peterson.

Question 502 – 2(4): Recycling of Beverage Containers

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

Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest last week to the Minister's Statement on the update of the Nunavut recycling. I was quite intrigued by the announcement in Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit that they have collected more than 500,000 beverage containers. Congratulations to those two communities and the folks that worked hard to do that.

My question for the minister: they have collected the beverage containers, and the obvious question, but where are the containers going? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Environment, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working with the people that are doing the recycling in the communities, and up to now, we are still reviewing it on how we are going to do the work and how we are going to continue it as well because the cans are accumulating. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I guess what I'm hearing the minister saying is that they're removing the beverage containers and stockpiling them in the community somewhere, so they're still accumulating until they decide how to remove them from the community.

Mr. Speaker, my other question concerns his comment about the End-of-Life Vehicles Initiative and the removal of other metal from Nunavut. I thought I would ask the minister if he could clarify what that means. Does that mean that they remove all the

metal from the dumps, and if so, where would they remove it to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Environment is working with CGS and ED&T on how we are going to do the work on recycling.

Environment is dealing with the environment and how we are going to deal with the metals that are in the dumps. We will be working with Community and Government Services and Economic Development on the issues in the communities with respect to metals and how we are going to proceed in looking after it for the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Mr. Speaker, I hope his Minister's Statement on Nunavut recycling is not just a feel good statement, and that they're actually going to carry through with some of these initiatives and find money, and pass legislation to deal with the growing environmental issues in our dumps in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, one of other comments that I noted in the news release was the issue of disposable plastic shopping bags. I believe you raised it a few years ago, Mr. Speaker. They talked about plastic shopping bags, and Mr. Speaker, there are other plastic products in dumps and in the communities; you can see them on the land, all over the place, on the shores of our lakes and oceans; there are diapers, juice containers, oil containers, and milk jugs.

So I'm wondering, Mr. Speaker, if the minister could comment when they have talked about how to dispose of plastic shopping bags, if they will also discuss how to deal with the disposal of those plastic products. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the plastic products, we don't like to see plastic and containers being left out there in the camping areas. We urge everyone to bring back their garbage to the community.

To date, the Department of Environment is doing a campaign awareness to make sure that we leave camping areas and the land clean. We are also going to work with the stores so that they can order non-plastic and biodegradable products. We will be giving out containers so that the households can put together their recyclables. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information and clarification. Mr. Speaker, I was supportive of these pilot projects in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet last year. I was hopeful that we would have a similar pilot project in the Kitikmeot, of course, I would like to see one in Cambridge Bay, but we'll see how that goes. The minister says that they're planning to establish a third pilot project in the Kitikmeot.

My question for the minister; these pilot projects are important to gather data and information: can the minister commit that these pilot projects will receive multi-year funding to carry out important work that they're doing in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We have a firm, Zack/Whitford, doing a study on how we can improve and keep setting up those types of programs, and to also have containers available for recyclables. We are going to work diligently on this issue, and hopefully, I will be working with the other government departments to make sure that we deal with our recyclables as best as we can. Thank you.

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

Question 503 – 2(4): Refund of Rental Payments for Older Units

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

This past January and February, it was extremely cold in Baker Lake. There were quite a number of houses frozen with their drainage pipes frozen and so on. In particular, it was the older rental units that were built first. There are still some of those old houses available and what was happening during the coldest months of the year was that the tenants were just going there to sleep and leaving them behind for the whole day.

Is it possible for those tenants to get some of their rent back because they didn't utilize those rental units except to go to sleep? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, (interpretation ends) Honourable Patterk Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Units are extremely old all across Nunavut and it's about time that we made replacements. I'm not exactly sure if the rent that was paid out could be paid back and I don't know if there is a policy on it, but I could find out. Thank you.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm referring to the older units in the communities. Do they get inspected by health inspectors? Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would like to inspect the older units, but unfortunately, we don't have the money and I'm not exactly sure if they're inspected by health inspectors. Thank you.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand it somewhat, but those units are still being rented by tenants because of severe shortage of housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are forced to continue utilizing those older units. The \$200 million received by the Housing Corporation from the federal government is just a start. We are still waiting for a remaining \$1.9 million, so until then, we can't do much about the housing shortage and the replacement of the outdated units. Thank you.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and also the minister. Do their Board of Directors of Local Housing Organizations have the discretion on disposing those older units, or do they have to wait for approval from the Housing Corporation to dispose of them, or do these old units have to be declared unfit for living? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They have to go through the Nunavut Housing Corporation to dispose of those units and to write them off, if I understand the member correctly. Thank you.

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

Question 504 – 2(4): Independent Review: Update on Rankin Inlet Power Incident

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

Could the minister remind us what the status is on the independent review or if it is still in progress? This is in regard to the three generators that broke down in Rankin Inlet, so my first question is: do you have an update on that independent review? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Honourable Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just very quickly, as we know, we just finished this catastrophic failure of the generators a week and a half ago. Last week, we were just to the point where we actually got up to a reasonable state of power in the community.

This week, we're looking at approaching a couple of different companies to provide that background and update that we talked about to review what occurred on the file and do that independent review. So we haven't picked the company yet, I would hope to be in a position to announce that in the next three to five days, or a little bit longer, depending on what process we take. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's good news and I appreciate that information. I think it's really quite important in view of the major disaster that occurred where we had only one generator that was working left after three of them went out of commission.

It may be appropriate that the minister consider, amongst other things, not just the generators that failed. I raised some concern whether or not we have an adequately funded, for instance, maintenance crew. I believe the utility has gone through a number of major changes, including the management, and apparently, the information that I have is the people that used to know where every bolt of these diesel generators have been put to rest through our retirement payouts and so on.

I wonder if the minister would be prepared to do a major maintenance review of the crew, as well as the management review, to ensure that the utility is properly staffed. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of the review will include the before and after and during the emergency that we had in the community.

The first step would be to ensure that the proper maintenance and everything was carried out on the equipment and the generators, and indeed, we had a crew in the community at the time. All information to me thus far, Mr. Speaker, in the case, that proper maintenance schedules were kept. Indeed, the generator that went down only had 7,000 hours on it, it was brand new, and we only purchased it last year, so it was a little over a year old.

Then we'll be looking at what occurred during the event and then the after care and so on. So Mr. Curley's suggestions will be included in that report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the information. I think it will be a welcome independent review if it's successful. But, I believe it's also important that you look at and not be shy about doing a management review. I believe the utility needs people with technical competence, including engineering competence at the management level, and that is crucial not only to Rankin Inlet but to Nunavummiut as a whole.

I'm wonder if the minister would be prepared to do a thorough review and put in place the qualifications for every management technical staff so that we will not have to worry about our utilities, as the minister has a whole lot of other things to do in Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We take Mr. Curley and the members' comments seriously, and what we committed to do last week in the House was to provide a thorough independent review of the situation. That will include looking at the maintenance and upkeep of the generators, and ensuring if there was a shortfall within the personnel side and the technical side, for example, with the mechanics and so on, that'll also become evident in the report.

I want to suggest to the House very strongly that that's not the issues that have come out of the preliminary work that has been done that I'm aware of, and indeed, this was kind of a one-off situation.

Again, I want to thank Mr. Curley and the people of Rankin Inlet for bearing with us during that problematic situation, and indeed, our staff on the ground put in 18-hour days and they worked very hard in some of the very worst weather conditions, so we want to support and thank them for that due diligence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the minister was quite correct that he is satisfied and I certainly agree that the mechanics are doing quite well, the maintenance crew of that region.

I'm asking the minister to expand the review to include the senior management of the utility as a whole. I wouldn't want the minister to hire an anthropologist, for instance, as a person in charge of the utility. That could happen if we don't put in qualifications required to run the utility. Would he do that please? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senior management of all Crown corporations is an ongoing priority of the government.

I can't suggest to the member or to the minister, or the ministers, or my colleagues in the House here that this independent review of the catastrophic situation in Rankin Inlet that we would review all of our senior management across the board. What I can say is that management's response to the incident will be part of the review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Question Period is now over. (interpretation ends) Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Peterson.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 010 – 2(4): Status of Decentralization

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Written Question is for the Honourable Paul Okalik, the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, and it concerns the status of decentralization. The question is:

- 1) Expressing the data in the same format as that which is provided in the Return to Written Question 4 – 2(3), what is the status of the Government of Nunavut's decentralization initiative as of December 31, 2007?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Bring the Written Question to the table, please.

(interpretation ends) Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns 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. Simailak.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 204 – 2(4): Photographs of Caribou at the Baker Lake Sewage Lagoon

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a collection of photographs that show caribou in the Baker Lake area drinking from the community's sewage lagoon. I am concerned about the impact that it has on their health. The photographs clearly reveal the need for adequate fencing around the lagoon and my son was able to take those photographs last year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Please bring the document to the Clerk's table.

(interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Minister Brown.

Tabled Document 205 – 2(4): F/P/T Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management Meeting, January 9, 2008

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following document: Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management Meeting, January 9, 2008 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Minister Netser.

Tabled Document 206 – 2(4): F/P/T Ministers of Housing Meeting in Vancouver February 6, 2008

Tabled Document 207 – 2(4): Marshalling Minister's Participation at Chesterville, ON Event February 8, 2008

Tabled Document 208 – 2(4): NDC Business Plan 2008-2009

Tabled Document 209 – 2(4): NBCC Annual Report for the Year Ending March 31, 2006

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a number of items to table. The first two are the F/P/T Meeting in Vancouver on Housing and the Opening of the Illamar Marshalling Site in Chesterville, Ontario; and also, Mr. Speaker, I've got the NDC Business Plan for the Year 2008-09; and also, Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Annual Report for the Year Ending March 31, 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Honourable Paul Okalik.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 26 – Securities Act – First Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 26, *Securities Act*, be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, raise your hand, please. Against. The motion is carried and Bill 26 has had first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice, Honourable Paul Okalik.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I request consent of this Assembly to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for the second reading of Bill 26, *Securities Act*.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The minister is asking consent to deal with Bill 26 today. Are there any nays? There being none, please proceed, Minister Okalik.

Bill 26 – Securities Act – Second Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nanulik, that Bill 26, *Securities Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill modernizes the framework for the regulating of the buying and selling of securities in Nunavut.

Importantly, Mr. Speaker, the bill enables implementation of the passport system for securities. This is an agreement entered into by almost all provinces and territories for the inter-jurisdictional regulation of the securities industry in Canada. The passport system will give market participants access to capital markets across our country based on consistent laws and agreements between securities regulators so that the decision of any participating securities regulator will be recognized by all.

In particular, the bill authorizes the Superintendent of Securities to delegate duties, functions, and powers to another Canadian Securities Regulator to accept the delegation of duties, functions, and powers from other Canadian Securities Regulators throughout our country.

In general, the bill sets out detailed information on the procedures and rules that must be followed by every market participant and every person trading in securities, and it contains offenses for contravening those requirements.

This bill creates a new position of Superintendent of Securities and gives the superintendent new powers to ensure the securities market is fair and to protect the investing public.

The bill gives the superintendent the power to investigate suspected wrongdoings and to make various orders when it is necessary to protect the public interest.

The bill gives investors a number of civil remedies by which they can seek compensation. These remedies include the right to withdraw from a purchase of securities and the right to bring in action for damages or recession.

Finally, the bill authorizes the making both regulations and rules relating to securities and the trade of securities, sets out consequential amendments to the *Business Corporations Act*, and provides transitional rules that apply to transitions that began under the existing *Securities Act* and continues upon its repeal with the coming into force of this bill.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Against. The motion is carried and Bill 26 has had second reading and is referred to a standing committee.

Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 22, 23, 24, and 25. In accordance to the authority provided to me by Motion 4 – 2(4), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed with Committee of the Whole with Mr. Barnabas in the Chair, we will take a 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:19 and Committee resumed at 15:50*

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

Chairman (Mr. Barnabas)(interpretation): Thank you for coming back, my colleagues. I will call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 22, 23, 24, and 25. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 23 and the Department of Education, followed by the Departments of Environment and Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Does the committee agree we continue with the Main Estimates for the Department of Education?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Picco, do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table? Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Good afternoon. Does the committee agree to bring in Minister Picco's officials?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

(interpretation ends) Order, please. (interpretation) Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, Minister Picco, please introduce your officials. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you and good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon to the committee. With me today on my immediate right is Mr. David Pealow, the Comptroller with the Department of Education, and on my immediate left is the Deputy Minister of the Department of Education, Ms. Kathy Okpik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. We were on G-12. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. School Operations. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last week, we were on page G-12, School Operations. I've got, very quickly, five questions. Your business plan notes that suicide is an extremely "important issue for Nunavut schools and communities," and that the "suicide prevention protocol is planned to be implemented in 2008..." Can you describe what this protocol includes and who will be implementing it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our draft School Suicide Protocol is an interagency funded program with the interagency groups at the local level. What that means is that the local DEA interagency social groups supply people on the ground, like social workers, school staff, principals, school community counsellors, and so on, and are involved in a protocol that states that when there is a suicide in a community or at the school with one of our students, then the protocol will kick in.

The first level of recourse would be at the local level or the community level and then we call on outside resources, for example, from the regional level to help facilitate some of the issues around the suicide in the community. Those would include grief counselling, support issues with the parents, students and families, as well as work with the caregivers and with the family. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks again, Minister. In 2007-08, your department initiated a pilot project, the Multiple Options Program Strategy, which focused on pre-trades and engineering. How many students have taken advantage of those programs and what types of diploma or certification will those students have upon finishing high school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're really excited about the Multiple Options Program. We have been running the program in the member's home community of Kugluktuk for about three years now. The first multiple options pilot that we're doing in Kugluktuk is to see how it works and then we would like to be able to take it across the communities in Nunavut.

There are a lot of options in the program itself - pre-trades, engineering, heritage and culture, family and community care, fine arts and crafts, innovation and information technology, as well as business. We expect to see several of the students graduate from the program I believe on May 24; the Victoria Day long weekend in May is the graduation this year in Kugluktuk.

After we have an opportunity to analyze how the multiple options has gone at the high school level in Kugluktuk, we would like to be able to take that program and then launch it through some of our other communities' high schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My third question is: what other career options are being considered for future programs under the Multiple Options Program Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have about six under the Multiple Options Strategy, including business, IT, which is information and innovation technology, fine arts and crafts, family and community care, heritage and culture, pre-trades and engineering. Pre-trades would be programs, for example, in the construction industry, and engineering could be used, for example, in the mining industry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks again, Minister. Your business plan indicates that all Nunavut schools and principals were involved in the school

improvement planning programs. Can you provide an update on the process and how the process will be monitored in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every school in Nunavut was asked to put forward a framework accountability process to improve their school and that included looking at areas around academics, extracurricular activities, in-school activities, discipline, and so on. That framework then came forward to the Department of Education, and we need to evolve that into and with the new *Education Act*, which requires our DEAs and our schools to do that type of planning every year. So that framework is in place and we're moving forward with the implementation of the framework. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks again, Minister. This is my final question for the minister. The amount of funding allocated to French language initiatives is projected to increase. What is the current status of French language education in Nunavut and do you anticipate a growth in demand for French language education? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not really seeing an increase in the number of students themselves at the Francophone School that we're seeing across Nunavut in our K-12 system. The CFSN is looking at implementing the grade 10 program or expanding the grade 10 program at their school here in Iqaluit.

The majority of funding, as the members know, is split between Heritage Canada as well as the GN's contribution. There are some constitutional requirements for the French First Language of Instruction in any jurisdiction, including Nunavut.

I think it's important to point out that right now, there are 49 students in the K-12 program, there are seven PY teaching positions, including a full-time principal, plus 1.5 non-teaching positions in the school itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials here today. I want to start off with a question about the relationship of the regional offices to the DEAs. As the minister will recall, last year, there was a bit of a dispute, a tug-of-war between our Cambridge Bay DEA and the Regional School Operations over an issue, and the regional operations wouldn't concur with the DEA's decision.

So it appeared, to many in Cambridge Bay, and I'm familiar with the issue, that regional operations didn't support the DEAs or would only support the DEAs as long as the DEAs made a decision that regional operations encouraged them to make or wanted them to make. I'm wondering if the minister could comment on whether that situation has improved since last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very aware of what occurred there with the DEA and the KSO office for the Kitikmeot region. I believe, right now, you can say that there is a fantastic or very good working relationship with the KSO office and the local DEA. I know that the deputy minister also had an opportunity to sit down with them and work on some of the issues. I was also in there just before Christmas in November and had an opportunity to meet with some of the DEA members, and I believe those issues have been rectified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Perhaps the minister could give us a bit more clarity because it's confusing to an MLA if you've got DEAs complaining to you that the Department of Education doesn't listen, you've got parents complaining to MLAs because they say that the government doesn't listen to the DEAs who were elected by all parents in the communities, and then you've got the district offices who are basically following the government policy, which was created here in the Legislative Assembly, administered out of Iqaluit.

So as a parent and as an MLA, how are we to view the relationship between the DEA and the GN in terms of ensuring that our children get the best possible education in the schools that they attend? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It goes back to the heart of some of the discussions that we've had over the last few days on accountability mechanisms that would be in place under existing legislation or introduced legislation.

In the case of the Cambridge Bay DEA, I believe almost everyone there was acclaimed. Now, that points to another situation where how many people want to run for their local DEAs. And it wouldn't be the first place where we've had acclamations in all accounts. I believe you have to have a check and balance and I think that was demonstrated in this situation regarding language of instruction in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Again, it comes down to a situation where the local residents and parents may elect the DEA to represent them and hire teachers, hire principals, and give direction on in-school programming.

So when the DEA is fulfilling their mandate and they're being told by the regional operations of the Government of Nunavut, "No, you can't do that," then what message does that send to parents and the community-at-large, that despite the fact that you elect a democratic, or in this case, they were acclaimed, but they're parents, they're representing the community, other parents have input into the DEA operations.

So you have a democratic organization that's trying to represent the community but then they're being told by the regional operations that they can't do certain things, which is clear in their minds that they think they can. It's not necessarily with the language of instruction; it's also the hiring of teachers and the hiring of principals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to go back to what the member was saying, and again, for brevity and to move the discussions along, just very quickly under the new Bill 21, as an example, the DEAs establish the panel that hires the principal and direct the principal regarding the organization, the administration, and the operation of the school. That's found in section 16, 107, 108, and 115 of the new Act. That's a new responsibility that the DEAs did not have under boards. Under Bill 21, it shifts authority to the DEAs and again, they have authority over education at the community level, as well as the Student Conduct and Attendance Policy, which are two of the most fundamental issues, and that's in sections 37, 58, and 59.

I agree with the member that sometimes you have issues between what the DEA is trying to implement and what the school is doing in a process. Sometimes it's very difficult for whoever is in charge, in this case the principal at the local school, to change midstream in what they're trying to do to reflect some of the concerns and issues, so that's why you need that check and balance.

Again, I believe that we have a good working relationship with the DEA right now in Cambridge Bay. We've got good follow-up through the KSO office and through the deputy minister and the ADM for K-12, Mr. Geikie, have followed-up, and I believe that line of communication is now open and I think the member would agree that it's more proactive than it was last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. To revisit one of my old issues in the context of DEAs, and I think it was two years ago, where we had the issue of semestered versus non-semestered, there were quite a few parents in Cambridge Bay who

wanted that issue to be reversed. The DEA at the time, in working with the local principals, couldn't or wouldn't reverse it, so they appealed to the minister to look at it.

On the one hand, the Government of Nunavut would, through the regional offices, tell the DEA to make this decision or would agree with this decision, but on the other hand, when the parents wanted something changed, the Government of Nunavut wouldn't agree with the parents. It took a considerable amount of lobbying to make some adjustments to the semestered versus non-semestered terms issue.

I'm wondering if the minister could clarify: how do parents, on behalf of their children, and their children as well, when they want to advance a certain initiative within education in their communities, who can they rely on to ensure that their best interests are taken to heart? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, in the specific case that the member was talking about, there were some logistic as well as administrative issues where you couldn't change from a semestered system to a non-semestered system in midstream. There were a lot of technical issues there as well, and I think we had some questions in the House and we had a chance to speak to the member about it. Right now, that's not an issue in the community, but again, you're going to have these types of issues come up on a regular basis and from time to time, but at this time, it has been dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I realize it has been dealt with but I think what most parents and students like is a continuity of programming; they don't want to be caught up in some regional or community tug-of-war between DEAs and education authorities or regional operations.

How can we, as parents in the communities, be sure that our children aren't viewed as so much cannon fodder that they're not caught up in the competing mandates or policies so that they can just go to school, get a good education, graduate, and carry on with further education or get a job maybe after graduation? I think that's what most parents want. They don't want to be caught up in political battles between the government and DEAs in the community. Can the minister shed some light on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member brings up some fundamental issues when we talk about politics.

At the local DEA level, you might have a new slate of DEA members come in and they want to change from a semestered system to a non-semestered system. Students that are

in a semester, for example, the DEA might say, "Well, this is the reason why we want a semester system," and they call the principal in and the principal says, "Look, I can't change in midstream because so many students are in the semestered system and here is the reason why I think a non-semestered system is a better system to be in," you then have a difference in opinion and a debate.

The same thing happens when you have a DEA in place, and they have some corporate knowledge and have been in a place for a couple of years, and then all of a sudden they hire a new principal who says, "I want the semestered system," and the DEA says, "No, we have been going with a non-semestered system." So who has the final say in the school? The principal may say, "Look, from my experience, the semestered system has been the very best," and so on and so forth.

You're always going to have, in any type of political situation, when you have an elected group of people overseeing an institution, whether it's the Legislative Assembly, whether it's the hamlet council, or whether it's the DEA, some of the issues and concerns that they believe and they vote on, the populous out there, meaning the constituents at large may not agree with that process.

Sometimes when they want to do something, like in the House, you can't do it immediately because of some of the constrictions that are on you. Even though it may appear at the Legislative Assembly level, or at the hamlet level, it also occurs at the local council level, and indeed, at the DEA level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that. I'm sure we will hear more debate on DEAs and education in the coming months.

In your business plan, on page G-18, one of your priorities for 2008-09 is to "Implement a second community based teacher education program in the Kitikmeot Region, prioritizing Inuinnaqtun." Could you provide some clarification of what that initiative is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Mr. Chairman, thank you. When we tabled our Qalattuq Report in the Legislative Assembly, it talked about reinvigorating the NTEP program, so we put extra money within this budget to be able to do that. There are several fundamental parts of that program, including starting a campaign called 'Be a Teacher,' where we're trying to get more and more Inuit to enter the NTEP program across Nunavut.

With community basing and funding a program in the Kitikmeot out of base funds, right now, the only base funding program is the one in the college campus in Iqaluit as an example. We're base funding the one in Rankin Inlet where we're running a program

right now for four years and extending that type of base funding to Cambridge Bay. That was the idea behind the business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. How many NTEP teachers are in the Kitikmeot currently? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, in the Kitikmeot, we have 10 students in the second year of the NTEP program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that. And, teaching in the schools, how many NTEP teacher graduates do you have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have over 300 Inuit teachers right now in our schools across Nunavut. Specifically in the Kitikmeot, we're just looking to see if we have those numbers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell me, when he's looking at those numbers, how many NTEP teachers are currently within two or three years of retirement from teaching? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to give the member some numbers. Right now, we have, in the Qikiqtani region, 142 Inuit teachers on staff; in the Kivalliq, 66; and in the Kitikmeot 38, for a total of 246. Of that, with their Bachelor of Education, 98; Language Specialist Positions, 70.5; and certified teachers, 67; with a letter of authority and that's a letter of authority from the minister at 10.5. So the total number of teachers in the Kitikmeot region is 115 and the number of Inuit teachers in that grouping is 38. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for those numbers. Can the minister indicate how many of those Kitikmeot teachers, who are Inuit NTEP teachers, are nearing retirement in the next couple of years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the number of who is near or at the retirement age with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope the minister can get me that information. The point I'm driving at hear is: are you going to have enough NTEP teachers graduate in the coming years to allow you to implement some of the goals that you will hope to achieve under the legislation that you're planning to introduce, particularly in the Kitikmeot schools? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the member. That's what we have been talking about is how do we get more and that's why we need the 'Be a Teacher' program and campaign. You just can't put someone in a classroom and say, "Go ahead and teach grade nine, grade 10, grade 11, and grade 12." It doesn't work that way.

Right now, we have over 36 people in the NTEP program, we have 17 more in the Aboriginal Language Specialist program in Kugluktuk, and we have five in the foundation program in Rankin Inlet, so the total would be 58 people right now across Nunavut who are training to go into classrooms as teachers and as language specialists all in their foundation program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Another one of the 2008-09 priorities is to "Implement the Master Apprentice language revitalization model in the Kitikmeot region, at the grade nine levels." Could the minister clarify a bit more on what that objective is dealing with? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of that is working with the Inuinnaqtun Language Specialist Program, where we have over 17 people involved in the program right now at the Nunavut Arctic College. It's also piloting the Master Apprentice program in Kugluktuk with an independent society on the ground there in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for clarifying that a little bit. I raised this issue in the House the other day: the teacher certification process.

Now that the minister has his deputy minister with him, if the minister could provide some more detail on how they're going to improve the operations in the teacher certification process, but keeping in mind that maybe we're already in the recruiting process for teachers for the 2008-09 school year, so we're going to probably be having to go through all this. So I'm wondering if you could provide some more details on how that certification process has been improved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What happens is, the member is correct, now, we're getting into the spring months of April and May, we will be in the position of knowing when and how many more teachers would be resigning, for example, and how many more teachers we need to hire. And that begins the teacher recruiting process. Once a teacher goes through the initial screening process that is, you know, the reference checks and so on, and eventually is hired, they're requested to provide instrumentation that proves that they have a Bachelor of Education for example.

We hire them and we have a registrar's office which is set up in Arviat, which provides certification services for all teachers in Nunavut. That office is located in Arviat, as I said earlier. The office was vacant, meaning there was staff turnover in the office for a few months in 2007 and that caused some backlog that the member talked about last week in the House and we appreciated him asking some questions on that to move forward.

All teachers who say that they have a Bachelor of Education have been moved to step four on the pay grid and as soon as the paperwork for the Bachelor of Education can be confirmed, then we look at where they should be then placed and continued on the pay grid so that there is not a financial hardship in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Can the minister indicate how many, if he knows, new teachers will have to be recruited for the 2008-09 school year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. By an agreement, you know with the collective agreement that we have in place with the Nunavut Teachers' Association, all teachers that need to contact us, the Department of Education, to let us know if they're going to be returning or extending their contract, and so on, and then that gives us a firm number of how many new teachers we need to recruit. And that's done in the next six-week period, so I don't have those numbers yet. The early indication that we have is that we're not going to have a large turnover this year in new teachers, but we don't have any firm numbers right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister tell us, on average, what it costs to recruit a teacher for Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It depends on what's entailed. If you're talking about the relocation as well as the recruiting expenses, I believe it averages between \$10,000 and \$20,000, depending on the community and on the process involved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to ask a question on the same issue. I heard that the Department of Education is going to set up an NTEP program in Rankin Inlet. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's our proposal: to set up the NTEP program, as the member mentioned, in Rankin Inlet.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this program applicable to all communities or only for the community of Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say very quickly, I was very pleased to be in Arviat for the graduation of our NTEP students. Last year, that was a community-based program and I'm quite pleased with that.

The Rankin Inlet program first would be for students in Rankin Inlet and if there were openings for other people throughout the Kivalliq region who would like to take that program, then that opportunity is there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite understand him. Is that program open to the outlying communities? I'm talking about the NTEP program that is being proposed for Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer was yes. As I said, for example, in the NTEP program, if we had 10 seats that are available and only eight people from Rankin Inlet qualify, then we would look to other communities within the region first to see if they would also want to take that program. If we have 10 applicants that are from Rankin Inlet, then we wouldn't go outside the community if we've got them right there who would like to take this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, the people who took the program in Arviat were very thankful and enjoyed the program and now have jobs. People heard about its success and are now clamouring to take the program. In the Keewatin, did I understand correctly that only Rankin Inlet will be benefiting from this program and there's nothing for the other communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Nunavut, we have one campus based program for NTEP and that's based here in Iqaluit. Anyone from anywhere in Nunavut can attend that program, and then we have community-based programs, like we had in Arviat last year and that program was specifically for Arviat students, but if we had extra seats in any given program and other students would like to apply to attend, then we would try to facilitate that.

So in this case, Rankin Inlet is the community of choice and if we don't have enough students there who can qualify, then we would look at running the program in Rankin Inlet but bringing in other students if needed. So that's how we said that the program is open for.

The territorial-wide NTEP program is based out at this campus here and we're also running programs in Arctic Bay, Igloolik, and as I said earlier, Kugaaruk, as well as the foundation program which this year is in Rankin Inlet, we've got five students there right now, and we also have the Regional Language Specialist program which has 17 students in that program in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there are still some seats available and if you do get some students from outside of Rankin Inlet, would accommodations be made available for them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, it would be based on accommodations available in the community. We have a new residence that has been built in the community but it's not open yet, that will help us provide some extra

accommodations. However, we also have an opportunity to lease on the open market in Rankin Inlet, which we are doing. So it would again depend on the availability of accommodations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He touched a bit on the residence. (interpretation ends) Are those single dwelling or family units that may be available? (interpretation) Which one is it, or are they both available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've had a chance to go through the facilities in Rankin Inlet and the new accommodations; they also include a day care for families. In the community itself, in Rankin Inlet, where there's a need for extra accommodations, we have been able to rent on the open market, like we have done, for example, in Iqaluit, and again, for families. Single accommodations are usually held through Kivalliq Hall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. We are on Branch Summary. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the minister to elaborate a bit more on his opening statement. There was a very interesting paragraph on reinvigorating education in Nunavut. Could you explain that a bit more because it doesn't appear to be bureaucratic language? Maybe you could include the second part of my question because I think it begs the question of exactly what you mean by that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member pointing out that section out in our earlier speech. I have been saying that since 2004, we've had a fundamental shift in the way we deliver education in Nunavut and that's not just words. As to the way the philosophy, we look at *Nunavutizing* our curriculum, introducing the Language of Instruction, introducing a Bilingual Education Plan, looking at the *Education Act*, the NTEP expansion, as well as the Adult Learning Program, so all of that is the reinvigoration of education in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: This particular statement that he made on the last part of that paragraph is tied in with the \$14 million that he promised. Why is it only a promise? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm hoping that the member will make this promise come true because the promise is there, if this new *Education Act* goes through, to implement some of the fundamental shifts that we have just talked about but also some of the other issues within the *Education Act* itself. The price tag is about \$14 million and that would be rolled out over the period of the Act. So that's what we mean by that amount and what we mean by that statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: I share the minister's list of items that he included because there were about four or five of them, many of which are ongoing and are needed to strengthen our education system in Nunavut, which includes the Nunavut Teacher Education Program and the Bilingual Education Program for Inuktitut and English. We already have a bilingual, I believe, French and English program here in Iqaluit.

My question to you is: what was preventing you from continuing on with these very important subject areas that you just outlined with the new current system? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess, very quickly, when the Act goes through, there are so many different changes in the Act - the responsibilities and control, and some of that fundamental shift that we have talked about - it means more extra PYs, as an example, and *Nunavutizing* the curriculum to the point where you're going to have grade seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, and 12 Nunavut curriculum within Science and Math, and so on, all that costs money.

It costs dollars and dollar values aren't in the current budgets framework that we have right now in the department, and we can't implement that type of strategy or plan unless those dollar values are forthcoming. That's why we say to introduce this Act, like any legislation, usually there's a price tag attached to any new legislation. In this case, we estimate, directly to the Department of Education, about \$14 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. My question then to you is: why does the current *Education Act* prevent you from providing a bilingual language of instruction to schools in Nunavut at the moment? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current *Education Act* that we're using in Nunavut goes back to 1996. It was passed in the Government of the Northwest Territories and refers to Dene, Slavey, Dogrib, and other things that are western oriented

in the Northwest Territories. It does, however, provide a framework for bilingual education.

As we said earlier, we actually have brought forward a Bilingual Education Strategy and we're doing our language of instruction right now, but to continue it and actually put that process in place to the degree that the new *Education Act* outlines and discusses, there's extra costs to that with extra PYs at the high school level and so on and so forth. And that Act gives us the legislative authority, which you need, of course, to spend money to be able to demonstrate and bring that amount forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Why does the current *Education Act* prevent you from bringing forward extra PYs to continue and improve upon the Bilingual Education program?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What Mr. Curley is stating is that this is just one small part of that Bilingual Education Strategy that we talked about, and it's a small component again of the *Education Act*.

When we look at the *Education Act*, we're talking about the education in Nunavut; K-12, preschool, early learning, adult learning, and so on and so forth. So we have introduced a Bilingual Education Strategy but that strategy starts talking about: how do you bring forward an X number of PYs, and so on and so forth. The way we have been developing a new legislation is tied up with Bill 21; it's intertwined. So hopefully that helps answer the member's question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, it confuses me because on one hand, you say you're carrying on the NTEP program, for instance, and you're trying to bring in more bilingual teachers, and so on, but at the same time, you're saying that you can't do all that unless you have \$14 million.

I don't believe there's anything in the Act that says you couldn't increase it by \$14 million to reinvigorate it now and not have to wait another ten months down the road until you establish the regulations, for instance, with any new Act. So why is it so complicated? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The legislation that we're talking about is a large piece of legislation that touches different areas of education in Nunavut. What it proposes to do, for the first time ever, is to deal specifically with Nunavut issues in the *Nunavut Act*, and I think the member would agree with that; it's not being made in

Yellowknife and it hasn't gone to Inuvik for their input. We have held over 100 consultations across Nunavut and we have only heard one person in 100 meetings say, for example, "Bring back the education board." That's documented and that's there on the record.

What this *Education Act* does is actually enhance and put more resources in several areas of school operations from K-12; it talks about the bilingual education system, it talks about the Adult Learning Strategy, it talks about local control, and it talks about trying to put kindergarten to grade 12 in Inuktitut, and so on; it talks about the invigoration of the NTEP program. Can all of this occur under the current 1996 *GNWT Act*? No, it cannot. Can we take \$14 million and put it into the Department of Education and say, "Give us a strategy and do these things"? Well, we could probably do that, but would the members, or the House, or the public feel comfortable in doing that?

This new Act says, for the first time ever, that we will have a PTR, people-teacher ratio, better than the national average and that's going to cost money. It's something that the members in the House have talked about doing. This new *Education Act* is talking about, for example, taking elders and weighting their experience the same as an academic weighting of a Doctorate or a Bachelor's Degree; that's going to cost new money.

So all of those things cost money; you can't do those through policy changes. You need to do those through legislation and that's why the extra costs. Hopefully that helps clarify for the member the issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. I think the minister should pursue that but I'm not asking for the benefit of myself. If the education is any important; that's not my role. My role is to make sure you know at least to differentiate between why you're so handicapped now that you can't do a thing to improve education with the current bill. I think it's a little too far stretching to some and the minister really should be fair because I believe that Nunavummiut do want education and they have taken advantage of this current system.

So having said that, I want to ask another question; it has to do with the way in which the Inuktitut teaching also includes culture. I believe that even with the current legislation, my constituents tell me that eventually, they would like to see, whether or not that would help, a cultural school in their own communities so that they have an opportunity to teach culture and be more effective in teaching culture at just a standalone Inuktitut school. Would that be possible in any way, shape, or form either with the current Act or would you have to have a new Act to consider that possibility? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the new Act, the Act outlines that our Nunavut culture, the Inuit culture, provides the basic building blocks of all of our schools.

What Mr. Curley is saying, and I like the angle that he's taking on it because he's suggesting, I believe, that a school doesn't have to be brick and mortar; it could be a transcendental thing, it could be outside of that box. For example, in the community of Rankin Inlet, if the DEA says, "Look, we're going to set up a cultural school in area six outside of the community and that school is going to have a tent in the summertime or maybe it will have an *Illuvigaq* in the winter, and we're going to do cultural programs." That can be accomplished within the scope and framework of this new *Education Act*. For the first time ever, in North America, we're legislating a language in a school other than English or French: an aboriginal language. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. School Operations. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: I appreciate that. I think, eventually, all this will be debated once the bill is formerly back in.

My point is that some of the elders are legitimately saying to us, as MLAs, "Whose role is it to teach Inuit culture and language? Should it be part of the curriculum or should it be separate?" I think the reason, in my view, that it's happening is because the goal of education is somewhat confusing, I believe, in Nunavut. In order to help them out, does the minister have any plans to promote the meaning of education to households, instead of just children that attend school, I believe, from K-12 and beyond? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We agree with Mr. Curley that better communication of education in Nunavut should occur and that's one of the things we have talked about in the Act itself. We're continuing to do phone-in shows and being able to go at the community level to explain the different multiple options that are going to be presented in the Act. These are very exciting times for education in Nunavut; being able to see a real change at the school level, that fundamental shift that we have talked about.

I just got an email and I'm going to ask the principal if he will table it, and the principal is talking about, in one of the smallest communities in Nunavut, Mr. Chairman, for the first time, how they've got six graduates who passed the Alberta exam in one of the smallest communities in Nunavut and how the Nunavut curriculum, since 2004, has reinvigorated the school system.

I just received that email this morning, so I would like to be able to share that with the members, but that principal is talking about what Mr. Curley is saying about the change and the fundamental shift that we have seen in the last couple of years and will continue with this new *Education Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that and that will be interesting to read. Mr. Chairman, my next question also ties in with the 'Stay in School' kind of message program. I alluded to it the other day but I wasn't fully satisfied whether or not we're getting any inroads or getting the message to parents. I believe, in my view, it is the parents that we need to convince more than the students.

I used an example the other day when I was challenged by my dad when I was a very young boy, he said, "It's going to be very crucial and important for you to learn and speak *Qallunaatitut* some day in the future." He didn't have any piece of document that said, "Stay in school. Go to school," or that thing, but he sent a message and it remained with me.

I believe it's important that that message, 'Stay in School' message, and the importance of going to school... if we can't explain properly what education means, but the importance of staying in school is so crucial right now that parents have to take it seriously. I believe that if the minister shares that view, he should commit to providing a message to homes and deal with the parents. And, it's not just a DEA matter; I believe it's a ministerial responsibility in some respects that he should establish a program for adults to continue to encourage their children to stay in school. Would that be possible? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is possible and there's some work ongoing right now, as the members know, with mature graduation and keeping more of our students in school.

I think the member has hit the nail right on the head that with our children in school, we only have five hours a day, five days a week; 25 hours a week where most of our students would be in an academic setting in school. The rest of the time, they're at home, or at a playground, or so on. One of the big issues that we see with drop-outs when we talked to the students was the socio-economic conditions that they find at home.

And, what Mr. Curley's father said to him many years ago is true today as it was true then and that's the importance of having a high school graduation and graduating from high school. We're seeing technology and everything changing, so we need to work with parents, work with the local education authority and with the government to try to help our children stay in school and that's a partnership and that starts, as Mr. Curley has indicated, right from the family. So we're in concurrence and in agreement with him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman, because I think, for many of us who are parents or whatnot in the community, to continue to blame kids for not attaining their educational needs is really not the answer. I believe that we have such a conflicting situation that is happening in schools that many of them are beyond the children or the school age people; there are so many.

For instance, kids don't go to bed when they should be in bed; they play and many of them will now be playing all night/all day and not have to worry about going to school the next day, and some parents are more permissive to other kids as well. So we need that program specially designed to parents because sometimes we overlook our responsibility as parents and we feel that it's only the kids that don't really like to go to school. Some kids are more preferred by some parents, and therefore, if they say, for instance, they're not feeling all that well, "Okay, stay home," or that kind of stuff.

So I think you have a very challenging issue here and you need to address it. Would you be prepared to keep us up to date on that area of responsibility? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I agree with Mr. Curley. I think that, especially coming up in the springtime, as Mr. Curley indicated, we want to stay out all the time, a lot of our kids are out longer hours and when they come home, they're tired.

You have Xbox, Nintendos, and computers at home, and the kids are MSN Messaging, you've got 50 channels on your cable television now everywhere in Nunavut; there's so much for kids to do and we're finding that, especially in the mornings, you will see attendance drop off; sometimes you are at the point where you're at 20 and 30 percent attendance. So that's part of the home thing where you've got to help the children get up in the mornings and get to school.

As I have said earlier and I have said many times, when we see the attendance of our students at 80 percent, they attend 80 of the time, Mr. Chairman, they're actually passing grade 11 and grade 12 at the high school, they're passing the Alberta exams, just like we said today with that small community where their principal contacted us.

So that's something that we're going to continue to work on, not only with the department and government but we need to get that message through the House, like today, that the partnership between families, the DEA, and the school is so important that all of our children be successful. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: I appreciate that. I think you would be supported by quite a lot of parents and students as well. We were all young once and we didn't like going to school every day. That was true with me. I was geared up one time, I could give you an example, all geared up to go out hunting. I had my parka and everything but I was good at that: getting

prepared for the day. If he's going out hunting, I'm going with him and he knew that. Without a comment, he picked me up and took me to school, so I didn't go hunting that day.

So I think we can learn from some examples like that and I encourage you to spread that message and we'll back you up on that. Mr. Chairman, that's the end of my comment, thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a quick question. I believe the school counsellors are included in there under School Operations. Are they all recognized as professionally trained school counsellors? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good point, Mr. Chairman. What we try to do with our school counsellors is hire them locally because they know their community, they can speak the language, and they know the families, and that's what a school community counsellor does is liaison between the school and the community counsellors. At the same time, we provide a lot of in-service professional development work with those counsellors so they can enhance their skills. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is he saying then that they are not professionally trained? Is the department prepared to train them so they will be professionally trained as counsellors? The reason that I'm saying that is the students' minds are still developing because they're young, so they must be counselled on a case-by-case basis. My question is: will they receive formal training so that they can get certified to work as school counsellors? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We agree with the member and that's one of the things we're working on is some of the certification for our staff who fall under that umbrella, like the school counsellor, like the FSA, and so on, and that work is ongoing.

Every time there's professional development for school staff, the counsellors also take part in that. Before a school counsellor is hired, if they don't have the academic requirement, because we're looking at language skills and the community knowledge, and so on, we also look at their work experience. In many cases, Mr. Chairman, our school community counsellors have worked for several years in situations with children and have that background. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on to a different subject, under Grants and Contributions, there's \$10 million. Is this for the DEA and if so, is part of that used for school supplies? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to those questions on Friday, we explained, like in this case, we received the reduction of \$444,000 that was specifically for the bussing contract here in Iqaluit. The school supplies, and so on, are funded through the auspices of the DEA offices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: From this \$10 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you. I didn't quite catch that. Can the member ask his question again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Please clarify your question, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister said that the school supplies are supplied through the auspices of the DEA offices from the \$10 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: That's correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do we know how much of that is for DEAs; a portion of it? I don't think they get very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Grants and Contributions, the total amount that we see there, as referred to by the member, goes to the DEA. So that's inclusive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seemed to hear something else before that but now he's saying that the total of that whole \$10 million is given to DEAs. Is that correct, Mr. Chairman?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: That's correct, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: So each DEA gets approximately \$500,000. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: No, Mr. Chairman. It depends on the size of the DEA. An example would be Apex, which is a smaller community, would get a smaller amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. We're on G-12. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials back. I just have a quick question. My colleague was asking about drop-outs and how they're dealing with that. I know our drop-out rate is exceptionally high, but I'm just wondering if the minister could give us an indication of what it is currently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct; it is quite high. It has been improving over the last few years. Our graduations have gone from about 25 percent now to about 28.5 to 29 percent over the last three years. So it has improved but it is still very high. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was the minister saying, right now, that only 29 out of every 100 kids that enter into the school system finishes? Is it correct; that the drop-out rate is between 70 and 75 percent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's something wrong here: 70 to 75 percent of the kids going into the school system don't finish. It is a pretty scary thought. I believe, in southern jurisdictions, it's probably reversed where they probably only have about a 25 to 30 percent drop-out rate.

I would assume that, with numbers as staggering as that, that's something that the department would be looking at trying to address. So I'm just wondering if the minister could give us an indication of what they have done in the last little bit and what they plan on doing to try and address that issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation ends) Before I recognize Minister Picco, just to mention that I have used my discretion to allow you to ask questions as you asked questions on Friday on this page. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, we appreciate the member's question. When you keep looking at the situation with education in Nunavut, one of the things that the critics will point out, and rightfully so, the high drop-out rate in Nunavut. A lot of that has to do with what is occurring socio-economically at home and we haven't really addressed that.

At the school level, if I can very quickly because I know we're pressed for time, but very quickly, the education system within Nunavut, over the last three or four years, has put in a multiple graduation options in our classrooms. We're looking at bringing forward more trades programs that we're seeing at the high school level, the reintroduction of some theatre programs, music programs, and so on, again, to make more exciting programs in the school, and when we say programs, we mean courses and curriculum development, and so on, and make it more relevant to Nunavummiut.

But you could have the most exciting program in the school and it may not increase your graduation rate if you still cannot get the students to come because, as Mr. Curley was just saying earlier, when you have, especially at this time now going into the spring, more daylight, a lot of our communities, after April 1, there's daylight all the time, kids are out walking around at night, attendance drops considerably, and so you see that type of thing happening where children aren't going to school because of whatever their socio-economic condition is, because there's overcrowding in the houses, and so on. That's a factor. In many of our schools years ago, you wouldn't have thought you would have a breakfast program in your school, but today, we know that we have breakfast programs in almost every school across Nunavut.

All of these types of socio-economic factors also affect our students, but we do know, Mr. Chairman, that when our students are in school 80 percent of the time, they're graduating. So the program itself is not at issue; it's why our students are not attending school and why their truancy rate is so high or their drop-out rate is so high. It's a different group of issues; not just one issue. It can be, for example, pregnancy or socio-economic issues at home and those types of factors are outside the scope of the school itself.

What we're seeing is that when the students are attending school and they're there 80 percent of the time, they're being successful, and that goes from the smallest community in Nunavut to the largest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to maybe suggest to the minister that they try and do a little bit more in that area. I looked through their priorities for 2008-09 and I didn't see anything on trying to address the drop-out rate, although there is that section that the minister indicated there about multi-option programs, but if the kids aren't there, that doesn't do them any good.

My next question, Mr. Chairman is, also in the minister's priorities for 2008-09, they talk about implementing changes to graduation requirements for Nunavut high schools. I'm just wondering if he could give us an understanding of exactly what they're looking at changing there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're continuing with the Alberta curriculum at the high school level but we have been looking at *Nunavutizing* that curriculum.

Part of that multiple option that we have talked about is the introduction of some of the specific Nunavut programs. For example, at the high school level, we have actually taken the *Aulajaaqtut* program and introduced that across different provinces and territories, and we have received certification from that program saying that the program meets the requirements of grade 10 and 11, as an example, as a program. So that's part of what we have been doing with the program itself.

We're also looking at the senior secondary curriculum itself within the high school level across Nunavut. We have also developed Inuktitut and *Aulajaaqtut* with that again, and that's shown at over 20 Canadian universities across Canada as recognized as an entrance requirement, meaning if you have completed that at the high school level, 20 Canadian universities will actually recognize that as grade 10 and 11, instead of just having to rely on what the GNWT used to do. So that's part of *Nunavutizing* the curriculum.

Part of the Multiple Options program that we're putting in place is other programs that are outside of academics and that's part of the *Aulajaaqtut* that we have talked about. It also includes pre-trades and engineering, it includes the heritage and culture, and that's *Aulajaaqtut*, and it includes family and community care, fine arts and crafts, IT, information technology.

At the high school level, more and more of our students are getting experience using the keyboard, computers, dealing with the bandwidth, and so on and so forth, as well as

business experience and that's through different programs like the Junior Achievement program that are run through the different chambers of commerce here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister indicated, they still use the Alberta curriculum. I think one thing that a lot of students that have graduated over the years are having a hard time with is they all think, "I have a Grade 12 Diploma," but when they go to apply to post-secondary institutions in the south, they don't have the required courses necessary to get enrolled or get into some of the programs in the south. I'm just wondering if the minister could give us an idea of how they look at addressing that as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the high school level, for the last several years now, what we had to put in place is that, to graduate, the student needs at least 100 credits of secondary course work and that the 100 secondary credits, of course, would include the Alberta exam.

For example, if the student, depending on what program they were taking, if they passed grade 12 and they got their grade 12 graduation, depending on what program they're applying for, they may not be able to get into a program because they might have taken English 30, for example, but university requires English 50. That happens not just in Nunavut; it happens across the country. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do all the schools have the ability to offer the higher class courses that a student may need in order to get into any post-secondary institution in the south? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've got students right now from some of the smallest communities in Nunavut and some of the largest communities in Nunavut attending school down south in colleges and universities, and they have completed programs at their local community.

Depending on what the program is, for example, if I'm trying to become a professional engineer and I need Calculus 444, I may not be able to get that in Grise Fiord. However, we have processed and put in place a program through distance learning, for example, where they would be able to get the necessary instruction to be able to get that calculus course if that's what was needed. So that's one of the options that are in place.

Every community in Nunavut can't offer every program, or class, or academic program that is needed for every university/college entrance that's required. It's pretty hard to be able to do that. So what we have been able to do, in cases where numbers may warrant, for example, or in cases of being specific with a certain class or instructional program, then we have been able to offer that so that student can be able to take it.

At the same time, there's also upgrading opportunities before someone goes into a college or university program. They may have to take a foundation year for that program, for example, to expand their sciences mark and that happens not just in Nunavut but across the country. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure the minister will correct me if I'm wrong, but my understanding is when you're in the high school system, you have so many credits that you have to get and if a student chooses the higher academic level to pursue and take throughout their high school, I'm just wondering if any of the changes that you're looking at implementing into the graduation requirements would limit or take away from those students' ability to obtain the strictly academic courses if they chose that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut is like many other jurisdictions in Canada when it comes to high school graduation; the student has to complete 100 credits to be able to graduate. To graduate, the student must take at least 15 credits in English, and that's from grades 10 to 12, but they also have to take four credits, for example, in *Aulajaaqtut*, and then they would have to take 10 credits in Math and Science, and so on.

The member is correct; depending on which program they're doing, it might be English 30, for example, and that may be the bare minimum requirement to get into a college. However, you may need English 40 to be able to get into a university. So that difference in the course that they're taking is usually explained to the student by their teachers at the high school level, but some students, like anywhere else in the country, may not have the academic ability to complete that during their high school year. So that occurs at all levels. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's only Monday. I thank the minister for that. I know there are some concerns that have been raised to me in the past with some of the additional graduation requirements that the department was looking at implementing into the program that had the potential of taking away the opportunity, you know, if there's no time in the year or in the three years to be able to take all the required courses if someone wanted to go with the academic levels. So I'm just looking for a confirmation from the minister and assurance that that won't happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. A couple of years ago, there was some concern that the prerequisite courses that would be needed for a student when they graduate grade 12 to be able to go on in a seamless transition from grade 12 to a university, as an example, may not be in place if we change and introduce some of the *Nunavutized* curriculum and multiple options that would be needed to graduate. I think, in most cases now, that concern has been put to rest; I haven't heard that concern for quite some time.

I believe people have now seen that the courses that we have talked about have met some standards in Canada. As we said, over 20 universities have now come forward and said that they would approve our *Aulajaaqtut* curriculum, which was one of their concerns, for example, as a graduation requirement for university. So I think that has been put to rest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hopefully it was just the way the minister said it but he said, "In most cases." To me that would come across as: there are still some cases that they haven't got sorted out. So I'm just wondering if you can clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it was just a term or a phrase. I guess what I meant was, as a department, we haven't heard any concerns being brought forward that the programs in place, the multiple options that now we have put in place and are continuing to implement, would cause the same concern that we were hearing about a year and a half ago. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. (interpretation ends) Mr. Tootoo, I gave you more than your 16 seconds from Friday. (interpretation) We are on Branch Summary. School Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$109,752,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We'll go back to page G-3. Department Summary. Education. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$197,072,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed the Department of Education is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Picco, do you have closing comments?

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the committee for their thoughtful questions and concerns raised, and we're looking forward to hearing the Minister of Environment up next in the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

At this time, I would like to ask Minister Akesuk, (interpretation ends) Minister of Environment, (interpretation) if he has any opening comments. (interpretation ends) I'm sorry.

(interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Can I have order? (interpretation) Minister of Environment, if you have any opening remarks, you may proceed now.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today before the Committee of the Whole to present the Department of Environment's 2008-09 Main Estimates and Business Plan.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's proposed main estimate budget for 2008-09 is \$16,126,000.

(interpretation ends) My department has prepared a budget and business plan for fiscal year 2008-09 that focuses on the mandatory obligations and responsibilities under several statutes and the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

These include responsibility for the co-management of terrestrial wildlife in Nunavut, land use planning, environmental protection, and regulatory functions including contaminated site inventory and drum crushing, and responsibility for the implementing of the Umbrella Territorial Parks Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement. My department is also representing the GN's interests during the negotiations for an IIBA for Nunavut's heritage rivers.

Through our budgeting and planning for fiscal year 2008-09, we have endeavoured to capitalize on partnership opportunities at the most cost-effective and efficient approach to getting things accomplished.

By partnering with other organizations in both the private and public sectors, the department will maximize the impact of its resources to increase or supplement its internal capacity. Often, a relatively small investment by a department will support a much needed service for Nunavummiut. In fiscal year 2008-09, we plan to contribute \$946,000 as grants and contributions to organizations such as HTOs, RWB and our other partners.

During the upcoming fiscal year, we will continue to deliver our harvester support programs. We will also continue working with NTI to reduce duplications in our respective programs and to improve the way we deliver these programs to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, mining and related infrastructure projects have impacts on the environment – on land, water and wildlife. My department has an important role to play in making sure that an appropriate balance is achieved between development and preserving the environment.

In that respect, we work closely with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and other GN departments to ensure that the government as a whole is able to give carefully considered advice on environmental impact assessments and other views which development projects must undergo before they receive final approval.

Over the coming year or two, we anticipate a significant increase in the number of projects upcoming in the environmental assessment and review, and we are taking the steps needed to prepare for that.

Mr. Chairman, Cabinet has directed Environment to take a lead on establishing a recycling program for the territory. We have been working on a number of pilot projects that will help us develop a recycling program that is practical, cost-effective and sustainable. We are already learning a lot from this work.

Over the coming months, we will be taking these lessons, as well as best practice from other jurisdictions, and developing a recycling plan for the territory. We will review the stakeholders and public before coming back to Cabinet with recommendations.

Currently, our work on recycling, as well as drum crushing and the contaminated site inventory, are funded through the Northern Strategy funding. The Northern Strategy fund is expected to run out in fiscal year 2010-11. Between now and then, alternative funding will need to be identified for this work.

For many years, DOE has worked hard to leverage third party funding to complete some of our projects. During fiscal year 2007-08, we secured approximately \$1.4 million from various organizations in support of our wildlife research and other departmental initiatives. We will continue to seek third party funding to supplement our available resources.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut has some of the most beautiful parks in the world. We plan to continue with our feasibility studies and development plans for potential parks in some of the non-decentralized communities.

To ensure that our residents and visitors have the best possible experience while in Nunavut, we will continue to upgrade facilities at all of our existing parks and campgrounds, and we will complete promotional work and territorial parks and Canadian heritage rivers with the development of brochures, websites, maps and displays.

Mr. Chairman, to conclude, my department will continue to make efficient use of our allocated resources and to leverage additional third party support to meet our mandate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. I would like to ask the Chair of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* if he has any opening comments. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* has reviewed the proposed 2008-09 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Environment, and I am pleased to provide you with the committee's comments.

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, members noted that in 2007, the department issued a Request for Proposals to conduct an "organizational review" of its current structure and mandate. The minister informed the standing committee that the report on the organizational review is scheduled to be completed by March 2008 and that a copy of the report will be provided to the standing committee. Members expect to be kept fully informed on what changes may take place as a result of this review.

Mr. Chairman, section 160 of the *Nunavut Wildlife Act* provides that the minister must appoint an advisory committee of elders to review current, traditional and historical types, methods and technologies of harvesting wildlife in the context of the guiding principles and concepts of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and to advise the minister on those it considers humane and safe. Members were pleased that the department has begun accepting nominations for the Elders Advisory Committee that is provided for by the Act. Members expect a formal announcement once all nine members have been appointed.

The standing committee also continues to monitor progress towards finalizing new regulations under the *Wildlife Act*. The standing committee recognizes that draft regulations have been under consideration by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board for a significant period of time. The standing committee encourages the minister to be candid with the Members of the Legislative Assembly with respect to areas of

disagreement that the government may have with other organizations involved in this process.

Mr. Chairman, members support the department's efforts to conduct important wildlife studies and to develop management plans for caribou and polar bears in Nunavut. Members were pleased that the department is working on a polar bear co-management agreement with other jurisdictions. Members are also pleased that the department is completing and will be implementing a Peary Caribou Management Strategy.

The standing committee supports the department's ongoing efforts to advance Nunavut's position with respect to the proposal of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to list polar bears as a threatened species under U.S. legislation. The standing committee encourages the minister to report regularly to the Legislative Assembly and the public on the status of this issue.

Mr. Chairman, members were also pleased that the department is looking at alternatives to intrusive scientific research. This concern has been raised in the House by MLAs and was the subject of a formal resolution passed at Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's most recent annual general meeting. Members expect to be kept updated on progress in this area.

Mr. Chairman, members were informed that the department has developed a pilot project for an online Climate Change Centre. Members noted that this will not be an actual office but an internet website. Members were informed that the site is currently in the design stage. Members look forward to the completion of this website.

Mr. Chairman, the minister indicated that his department continues to study the issue of climate change and the potential for negative impacts on Nunavut. The department also continues to develop adaptation plans. Members encourage the minister to continue to voice the reality of climate change worldwide.

Mr. Chairman, members were informed that while the department's recycling pilot project in Rankin Inlet was a success, a similar project in Iqaluit faced a number of challenges. The standing committee encourages the department to carefully analyze the results of its pilot projects and continue its efforts to develop effective recycling programs for Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, members continue to urge the Departments of Environment and Community and Government Services to work with the federal government to list and survey all contaminated sites in Nunavut and continue its efforts to obtain federal funding and support for clean-up projects, including the site at Cape Christian.

Mr. Chairman, the federal Environment Minister was recently in Iqaluit to announce funding for the construction of a new bridge over the Sylvia Grinnell River in Nunavut's oldest territorial park. While the standing committee welcomes new federal investments in the territory, it is important to be aware that enabling significantly greater access to the

other side of the river comes with the potential for creating new pressures on the environment. Members urge the minister to ensure that his department's Parks Division works to promote environmentally responsible practices for park users.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee is aware that the minister's predecessor recently wrote to his federal counterpart concerning proposed federal environmental regulations that will allow the Navy to dump pollution in arctic waters. The standing committee urges the minister to update the Legislative Assembly on the status of this issue and to table a copy of any correspondence that is received from the federal government.

Mr. Chairman, Standing Committee Member for Hudson Bay Peter Kattuk has been working hard for many years with the Nunavummi Tasiujarjuamiuguqatigiit Katutjiqatigiingit. NTK is preparing for the proposed Hudson Bay Summit in 2009. The Hudson Bay Summit will be a meeting that NTK hopes will lead to important and mutually beneficial cooperation among different stakeholders for understanding and mitigating effects of major drivers of change on the Hudson Bay marine ecosystem and its coastal communities. The standing committee is pleased to note that the department is planning to contribute \$100,000 towards this important event.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. At this time, I would like to ask Minister Akesuk if he would like to bring his officials to the witness table. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in Minister Akesuk's officials to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses to the witness table.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, Minister Akesuk, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. To my right is my Deputy Minister, Simon Awa, and to my left is my Assistant Deputy Minister, John Lamb.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have ten minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more

than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have much to say but I would like to restate my concern in the House during the review of the main estimates for this department with regards to polar bear management.

Back then, when they increased the number for polar bear tags, your department stated that they were going to do a review of polar bears around the Hudson Bay area and that they were not going to make any changes to the Sanikiluaq polar bear quota until the review had been completed.

I had a teleconference call with the Hunters and Trappers Organization of Sanikiluaq. They were told that the polar bear research would be completed by 2008 and that they would be able to make a more informed decision after the department received the results of that study in 2008.

We have heard that the Government of Nunavut will be doing their study for another three years but we did not expect that it would be ongoing. The only thing we expected to see was the fact that the community polar bear quota would increase. This perception has totally changed from a few years back. This has to be done sensibly. It seems like Sanikiluaq residents should have been treated fairly because of that. They cannot make a decision until the study is completed.

One thing I have already asked the minister is that some of the hunters and trappers organizations have to use some of the paint that was discarded at the dump to paint their offices and this was during the spring in Sanikiluaq. That's one of the hardships that they have to deal with and it was not done on purpose.

Also, there was this hunter who accidentally threw away some goose meat and that individual had their name on a piece of paper or cardboard. So the renewable resource officer had disturbed the hunter because this officer, whose name cannot be identified, went to this individual and asked him if he threw away the goose carcass. He was threatening to take this individual to court with regards to this incident. I had asked questions to the minister if the renewable resource officer was allowed to do that in our community. I would like to get some more information before we leave to see if they were allowed to do that.

Also, at the end of your opening comments with regards to the Hudson Bay Summit, this is going to be very difficult to deal with and I'm very proud of the fact that you are planning to contribute \$100,000 to this important event.

If the Government of Nunavut can provide any form of support, we welcome them because we have to deal with management issues in Hudson Bay. We have a lot of concerns pertaining to that area because we eat the most grown fish and that's why we have a huge concern with regards to the future of that area. They would like to merge the three rivers into one dam and it's going to have a great effect on our ocean when the freshwater is going into the saltwater.

As I stated before, hydro power is in more demand in Quebec in the wintertime. They will be using more of the hydro generated power in the wintertime because there's more demand and in the springtime, they would reduce the amount of water flowing through the river, so that's part of our concern for our environment. It's going to have a drastic impact on our environment because we live near the ocean and we know the ice is different than freshwater ice. Some of these problems have already reached Sanikiluaq during the studies that have been done.

I personally know that because going towards Northern Quebec, the ice is totally different now from the way it used to form. For that reason, the Hudson Bay Summit should be fully supported by the Government of Nunavut because there's going to be a huge impact on Nunavut by having Hydro Quebec damming the rivers.

So we have three concerns with river systems – one in Manitoba, the Nelson River, and nobody has dealt with that issue around the other one in Moose Factory/Moose River and they have already done a study on that, and also, James Bay/La Grande River. Therefore, we are requesting for full support from the Government of Nunavut.

So these are the concerns I have for general comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Welcome, minister and your officials. I have a brief comment to make. The environment is very important to Nunavut because no matter who you are, it has an impact, especially the hunters or the harvesters who hunt for subsistence in Nunavut. So therefore, we have to be very careful with Nunavut and keep the land and waters fresh and clean.

Mr. Chairman, I know that your department has no jurisdiction over marine issues but it's going to have an impact all over. We have a great concern with the routing of marine transportation. Marine transportation is going to pass right through areas where there are marine mammals that we harvest for subsistence. I know for a fact that they might move away.

The ships will be passing by the wintering grounds for beluga and narwhal that ships will be passing by and we have a great concern with regards to the whales. Where would they go? This issue is of great concern to hunters because there are narwhal stocks that migrate via Repulse Bay from this area. So the routes that the ships will be taking in that

area must be taken into consideration very seriously, but I'm sure it's going to benefit Nunavummiut. I'm not too knowledgeable about that but I'm sure it's also going to have a negative impact on Nunavummiut. The environmental remediation of such sites needs to be worked on, especially the old DEW line sites.

The hunters must keep the areas where they go out camping and hunting clean. The garbage and shopping bags should not be left behind but they leave cans and shopping bags behind in their camping grounds. This has to be resolved as we are quite concerned that it's going to have a negative impact on our wildlife as they might be hazardous to our wildlife. It could, in turn, be hazardous to our health if we consume the meat of contaminated wildlife.

The other issue that I want to talk a bit about is that we need to get an elders' committee for the *Wildlife Act*. We are very interested in hearing about getting an elders' committee. They need to review and I know that we will definitely need these elders' committees as these elders have been hunting for a very long time. They will have to be heard for sure by various entities and they have to be heard by wildlife activists.

The elders who will be on committees pertaining to wildlife should be provided with authority and power. They need authority and power because they are the holders of vast knowledge of our wildlife in Nunavut. I would like to urge the minister to seriously consider this to make sure that the committee is given proper authority and power.

I will be asking questions with regards to this issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Are there any other general comments? Since there are none, we will take a 30-minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:56 resumed at 18:28*

Chairman (interpretation): We will resume our committee meeting. We're on page I-4. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have three questions for the Minister of Environment on I-4, Corporate Management.

On September 3, 2007, issues of *News/North* included a Request for Proposals from the Department of Environment to conduct an organizational review of your department. According to your department's business plan, a contractor has now been hired to undertake an internal review. Who was awarded the contract and do you anticipate that the results of this review will change your department's organizational structure, mandate, or research allocations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is to be completed by March 31, 2008 and hopefully there will be some improvements within the organizational review of the Department of Environment. Once it's completed, then I'll have to bring it to Cabinet and then we will find out what changes will be required. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Please feel welcome. (interpretation ends) What is your department experiencing with its current organizational structure and mandate and what changes do you, as minister, want to see? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The wildlife section is where we would like to see most of the improvements and we need to review that. The structure can be improved with regards to wildlife staff. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my last question to the minister and thanks for answering that question. When do you anticipate the reviews to be completed and will you commit to sharing the information with the standing committee once it is completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. As I stated earlier, it should be completed by the end of March and then I'll take it to Cabinet. From there, we should complete it and have a report by that time, and we will provide a copy to the committee. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your staff. I have a general question and perhaps I'll speak in English.

(interpretation ends) As the minister may be aware, I wrote a letter to his predecessor, Mr. Netser, last year regarding concerns that have been raised to me by the residents of Arctic Bay. As the minister is aware, sport hunting of polar bears is a major source of income for my community. I have received concerns regarding the ability of the local HTO to allocate tags to the HTO itself, rather than to establish commercial outfitters.

The minister's reply to my letter, which was dated October 24, 2007 stated, "While the HTO does not, at present, have a big game outfitting license, if they apply for one, there appears to be no reason that the license would not be issued. Therefore, there is no legal impediment to them getting into the big game outfitting business." Can the minister indicate to me if the HTO has applied and received a big game outfitting license? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation issues the licenses, so we would have to ask them, but the HTOs manage the polar bears in the communities on their own. The HTO is given a quota from NWMB, so it's not up to the community how many they can harvest. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize that MLAs and the minister do not have authority to interfere in a number of matters under the jurisdiction of HTOs. However, under Nunavut's new *Wildlife Act*, HTOs are required to establish a dispute resolution mechanism. Can the minister indicate how the GN can help ensure that all HTOs and their members are aware of this requirement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would probably have to go through the courts if we were to deal with that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question. (interpretation ends) On March 13, 2006, Minister Akesuk tabled a joint report by the GN and NTI on their review of the Harvesters Support Program. Can the minister commit to tabling in the House an update on the status of implementing the recommendations in the report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I will table it once it's completed. We want to work closely with NTI, as I stated in my opening remarks, "to reduce duplications in our respective programs." Once they are completed, I will definitely table them in the House. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,380,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you very much. I-5. Program Management. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a very short question for the minister. In your department's main estimates for 2008-09, there's a decrease of over \$1 million from last year and most of that appears to be in Contract Services. Why has the department's budget been reduced by \$1 million and will there be any cuts in the main estimates this year for programs and services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Part of the reason for that decrease is that we were given \$5 million under the Northern Strategy and we have utilized that funding for proposed projects. Our programs and services will remain the same. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The GN's latest Inuit Employment Plan statistics for March 31, 2007 indicates that your department had five vacancies in its Igloolik office. What is the status of filling your department's vacant positions to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I'll have my deputy respond to that.

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

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In our Igloolik office, they were filled for a while but there are now vacancies, not just in Igloolik but also some in divisions such as parks, environmental protection, conservation and others. Some employees have left but at this time, I can't give you exact numbers on the vacancies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Are they going to be filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we will definitely try and fill those positions. The positions have to be advertised and they have to go through Human

Resources. We will try and fill positions within the Department of Environment as much as possible in the future. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut's new *Wildlife Act* was passed in 2003 and the regulations have been worked on for quite a while now. They have been negotiating for a long time but the organizations haven't come to an agreement yet. What is the status of your department's work on the regulations under the new *Wildlife Act*? Have all the outstanding disagreements been resolved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and we are still working on this issue. Hopefully the regulations of the new *Wildlife Act* will be completed by this year. We will have to work with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board so that it can be completed this year. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the minister know how long they will be working on the regulations? Does he have any idea? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): I will have my deputy respond to see exactly what the status is. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The regulations that the government has to work on are completed and where they require decisions, last year, in the spring time and the fall, they were being worked on by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

We didn't deal with them all at once, but we worked on them for a month here and a month there. Being that that is the case, I believe they were on the last stretch of making decisions and we expect that they will give those recommendations to the minister hopefully within 30 days. Once they are given to the minister, then he will be given 90 days to see whether or not he agrees with them because he will have to make this decision.

We expect it very soon because as long as no other obstacles come along, we were hoping that it would be enacted on July 1, 2008 but it's kind of close. Hopefully the regulations will be completed by late summer or fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Minister and Mr. Awa, for that answer. Why is there a decrease of \$745,000 in 2008-09 for Wildlife Research? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We are going to be looking for more funding from the implementation funding in the agreement to do research on wildlife. So we will be looking for assistance from them to do more wildlife research. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand that the funding for research is from a third party? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, some of the funding comes from a third party and from the government. They allocate a certain amount of money in the area of about \$939,000. We should also get help from others for about \$3.1 million in total that we use for a year. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lastly, when I was speaking in my opening comments, I mentioned the need for an elders' committee. The *Wildlife Act* indicates that the elders' committee will be in existence. Where are they right now? Has the committee been appointment yet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we have more names now. At the beginning, there were only a few that were given to us, so they have since added more names to the committee but not too many. Some of the hamlet councils have not submitted names yet, but I think it will be finished very soon. We are reviewing them and the appointments will have to be given to Cabinet. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no specific questions to ask, but welcome and breathe deeply.

For the past two years or so, we have heard that the musk oxen populations we hunt near the communities of Arviat and Baker Lake in the Kivalliq region were found practically everywhere and to have significantly increased over the past 20 years. Hunters are seeing them everywhere and passing quite a few herds.

There are zones for musk ox hunting areas that are allotted numbers from MX 1 to 20. Have you considered removing these management zones as per suggestions from hunters? Have you ever considered that option? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We are currently working on this issue with the NWMB and the Kivalliq Regional Wildlife Organization to discuss our options regarding the musk oxen. To that end, we are working with NWMB and the RWOs on this matter. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's obvious that you're working with them but I was trying to ask what you have done with the musk ox management zones to date. So what's happening? That was my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We have to wait for NWMB's recommendations on the issue we submitted, so it's hard to say what will happen at this time. Once we get the recommendations from the NWMB, then we will have a better understanding of the situation. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my first line of questioning, I asked this question: are you working on this issue or has nothing been done at all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. As I stated earlier, we are working on this matter and our staff is proceeding with it. With respect to the affected MLAs' constituencies, we will clarify the situation as it relates to musk oxen in their areas. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another question under the same area on page I-5; I think it's the last item on that page but not about musk ox. We heard good news in Iqaluit that they're building a bridge across the Sylvia Grinnell River. Have you started the planning process and the various issues related to having a bridge in place, or have you identified issues when people start crossing the bridge?

When people use machines for harvesting, such as ATVs, crossing through the bridge, maybe Inuit already use that land and is the habitat used by wildlife to bear their young, such as shorelines for nesting birds and denning areas for foxes and wolves inhabit. As most of you are aware, in our community, our land is very flat and people can use ATVs in practically all of the areas. There was a considerable amount of degradation of the tundra prior to trails being established.

Considering these concerns, what steps have you taken to start working on this and is anybody working on this to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Prior to any work on the bridge, we also have to keep in mind that there's a proposed park in that area and it is in the proposed bridge area. Our officials and staff will have to confer with the impacted residents of Iqaluit and tourists who want to use the bridge to visit the proposed park should it proceed to park status.

We are also trying to deal with those issues and further, we know that Inuit will have issues with environmental degradation since they do not want to contaminate their lands and our department will also keep those considerations in mind to the harvesters and they will take care of their wildlife. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This proposed project is one that many communities are interested in as it will be a project that can become a model for other communities and regions, especially when it proceeds and no one gets impacted detrimentally and one in which all of the concerns of the people are remedied when they are constructing the bridge. It is not that far off where the development will occur. The funds have already been allocated and it is set aside for only a couple of years. This project will occur in the short-term future.

Which organizations are you going to be working with? Organizations such as the City of Iqaluit, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, NTI or NPC will have to be involved. Which organizations and how many of them will you be working with on this project? Once you have involved all of these organizations, the consultation process will become

quite long and the consultations may end up taking a lot of time. So which organizations have you started working with on this proposed project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. If any of these organizations are going to be indicated, or if the waters and lands will be impacted, as well as the environment, then we would have to work with the Department of the Environment, as well as with the Nunavut Water Board, and we would also have to include all federal government departments that may be impacted so that this project can proceed smoothly.

We are just starting to work on collaborating with the affected organizations. As well, we will have to adhere to all of the policies and related legislation also to review the bridge development project here in Iqaluit. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's only Monday, but we are shooting the breeze, so to speak.

I just have three questions and my first question is in reference to the \$745,000 decrease in 2008-09 and it was a question that was posed earlier. You stated there will be a corresponding transfer of \$939,000 from the implementation fund, some of it from the federal government.

I think Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated stated in their suit against the federal government that the implementation process for funding is extremely difficult to access. How will your department deal with this issue and how easy is it for your department to access this funding? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Our employees in Nunavut also find it difficult to access this funding from the implementation funds but they keep applying. It requires consistent follow-up by our officials and that's how things stand at this time. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2008-09, do you think you're going to be able to get those funds, and if not, will you have to get the \$745,000 back to the budget through a supplementary appropriation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. If we don't get those funds, we will have to look for funds within our existing budget. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recall that DOE is planning a caribou study in the Mary River area in order to get population estimates. If a mine is developed, a population count on the caribou will be undertaken to see if there's a decrease or an increase in numbers.

In North Baffin, around Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, and Igloolik, our caribou have migrated out of our lands and we have very few left. Do I sound like Ikkarnaq now? What if the numbers are too small? Are you going to ensure that the biologists know these caribou migrate and they never stay in one spot? They move, sometimes after 10 years, sometimes after 20 years. The biologists seem to only know zero, but it's not over a nine-year period. Will the data be disseminated to the communities?

Today, the caribou are not in that area. I don't want the people to state in 2008, with the mine developed, that there are no caribou around Mary River. Can you state that they are in their cycle? But I do not want to convey that to the mining company. That's my question. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Once we have the information, we will find out and I will have my deputy make a supplement to my response. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's true. We will be collaborating with the company on a caribou study in North Baffin. First of all, I want to say nobody recalls when the last caribou study was completed and we have no numbers to work with for Baffin Island.

They recently did a study in the Keewatin and Kitikmeot and on the different herds, but I don't believe that there has been a recent caribou study on Baffin Island. Once we start doing the study in North Baffin, we will be using the advice of the elders from that area. We would like to know what the population was like in the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s.

We want a general idea from the elders of the caribou migration patterns, what years there was a huge influx of caribou, and what years of decline they recall. We will have to use that as a beginning to gather our data and even after the mine is developed, we will have to do another caribou study in North Baffin and other areas.

Mr. Chairman, my response to the MLA is that we don't have any numbers to go by at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same subject, but it's not about surveys or anything, I think the conservation officers know that during the summer, I think there are going to be four or five ships that will go through Milne Inlet to take some ore out for sampling. There's a road now that can be used for vehicles in Milne Inlet.

Do you have any environmental protection plans in order to protect the land and sea? We have conservation officers as well as park wardens in Pond Inlet. Are you going to be increasing the number of officers to ensure that the mining company adheres to the protection plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We will work with DFO and the Coast Guard if they are up around that area and it would be beneficial to utilize their expertise. We have to work closely with the federal government to ensure that the project proceeds with the proper permitting, the land and sea are protected, and we collaborate on certain matters. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): This will be my last question. However, it is contingent on a good response from the minister. Is the Nunavut Government going to be managing the lands to protect the land from pollution from Mary River down to Milne Inlet? Is the Nunavut Government going to be responsible for the management? From Milne Inlet down to the water, it would be the responsibility of the federal government.

The reasoning behind this is from Mary River down to Milne Inlet, most of the roads are dangerous, even heavy equipment can topple over and it goes alongside the river which is very dangerous. The river flows all the way from Mary River down to Milne Inlet and it flows down to Kangiqlumajuq and there's a road that goes right along the side of the river. Is the Nunavut Government going to be responsible for the management and protection of that land or is it going to be the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. That's Crown land, so it's the responsibility of the federal government. The regional Inuit associations, I'm sure, will want to be part and parcel of that because there are Inuit owned lands around that area. The Nunavut Government is going to ensure that the land is protected, and the federal

government and the Inuit organizations are going to be more or less responsible for that area. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) If that's the case, are you going to make sure that you tell the federal government to have qualified environmental protection officers working around that area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We will definitely make sure that the federal government has conservation officers in that area and we will want to have our staff checking around that area to make sure that the environment is protected and that the regulations or rules are being adhered to by the company. So we will work closely with the federal government to protect that area. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I have a question regarding polar bears. First of all, I would like to welcome the minister. He is now back to his portfolio. Welcome back, Simon Awa and John.

First of all, I have a question for the minister about polar bears. The Members of the Legislative Assembly would like to know exactly what is happening with polar bears. We don't have experts anymore or they never make an appearance. My question is: what are your thoughts on this?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I believe we are going to be having our next session in May. I will ensure that my employees make a presentation on the polar bears, the management areas, and after further discussions with the members, we will set up a date and time for this update. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Even if you give a short report on an update, there are numerous concerns we have regarding the polar bears. We only hear the activists' side of the story out there in the global world. For that reason, we should ask our elders in our communities what they have to say regarding the polar bears. I'm not only thinking about the polar bear quota, I'm also thinking about the point of view on the polar bears at the global level.

My question is regarding a story that was on the CBC News and all the major national newspapers. We heard that the polar bear is a threatened species, the United States has

been trying to designate the polar bear under the U.S. legislation for a year now, and they were supposed to consult with all affected parties from anywhere. In January, the Act was supposed to be passed and this has been postponed. I want to ask the minister what he thinks about the postponement. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We're anticipating the designation, but until the United States makes a statement regarding the polar bears, there is not much we can do. After they make the statement, we will have a better understanding on areas requiring improvement but it would be better if we don't make any changes. We are looking forward to finding out whether or not the polar bear is going to be listed as a threatened species and then we will take it from there. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. The previous minister went to the United States to oppose the action of having the polar bears designated as a threatened species. What is your view on polar bears being placed on the threatened species list? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I would prefer that they're not listed as threatened and we would oppose it if they do so. I would like to see them not listed. It's very difficult to say why they're taking so long. To respond to this, it's been two months at the very least and I would prefer that they not be listed as threatened species. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that this is a very important issue to be discussed further by organizations and I believe that the HTOs and wildlife organizations should be briefed more.

With respect to the United States, if they list it as a threatened species, right now, it's before the courts by the animal rights activists who want them listed and it has been delayed three times, so the people would have to be charged every time an individual breaks the law. The United States would put them into court right away and they will go to the very end.

It's possible that Canada might follow the United States listing and our minister already went to the United States. Are you now working to make sure that Canada doesn't follow the same listing as the United States, and if you haven't started already, why not? What have you done to date on that? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The Honourable John Baird is in Iqaluit. I met with the minister and had dinner with him, the Premier, Mr. Netser and Ms. Brown. We discussed the listing of the polar bear issue and asked him not to support the polar bears being listed under threatened species. It would be better to correspond formally with the Honourable John Baird to make our position known. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) They're very difficult to work with. It's already evident in the United States that if polar bears are listed as threatened, they cannot do any oil exploration in the sea, especially in their habitat. The wildlife managers prohibit any exploration where it affects polar bears, especially their breeding and denning sites on the land. It seems Canada will eventually follow.

There are many laws we must follow and this is in respect to wildlife habitat, whether it is a territorial park. Even if it is not designated as a wildlife area, the minister has the jurisdiction to stop all activity. If the polar bear's habitat is identified, then they can no longer exploit the minerals or land in that area. There are numerous breeding sites for polar bears in Nunavut that would be impacted. For that reason, I believe Canada should proceed expeditiously. Would you be willing to do that? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, we will continue to press hard on this issue and send correspondence regarding the matter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If the correspondence identifies any issues, then we will work hard to deal with it. We will proceed with the necessary work and I informed them that we would work with them. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. This is an urgent matter and it would be prudent to inform them prior to their decision about the negative impact on Nunavut's economy and Nunavut is not as developed as provinces like Ontario.

I urge the minister to utilize the processes in Canada. Firstly, under the *Endangered Species Act*, there's a Canadian Council on Endangered Species and a Conservation Council for the provinces. Our minister ought to have tasked one of his officials to attend the meeting and I wonder why this was not the case. I would ask that you recommend Nunavut be part of that process.

In regard to COSEWIC; this entity is comprised of scientists, but I know for a fact that we have Inuit experts on polar bears and the minister should notify them of our wish to be part of that membership (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will try that as this is a very important and serious issue and Nunavut has the largest number of polar bears in its area. Based on this, Nunavut should have a representative and we will formally request such a representative on the council if that is indeed possible. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) COSEWIC started coming up north last winter and they were planning to hold their meetings but bad weather ruined those plans. The representatives from the Kivalliq were also unable to arrive due to bad weather.

The Royal Society of Canada is a member on the COSEWIC Committee. These are scientific groups on that committee. Due to this, some Inuit in the communities do not comprehend the committee's role in listing species. I encourage the minister, as well as the wildlife organizations and other affected agencies to collaborate on this. You should treat them as insensitively as they treat Inuit when listing species of concern. And about animal rights activists, these delusional individuals are coming to Nunavut and have affected some of our elders with their rancor. Are you willing to do that?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we can try that, I mean we can attempt to get a seat and if that person is an Inuk, more power to us. A number of organizations have seats on that committee and they are quite knowledgeable. We will try that avenue. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): In regard to my comments, it is complicated due to the laws of the United States and their influence is felt when they flex their legislative muscles throughout the world, so it seems that Canada will follow their initiative as well.

It is nigh impossible to define listings to be agreed upon, especially when trying to help them understand, but we don't have enough staff to cover all the bases. The members here in this House would most likely support work revolving around understanding the issues and either task a staff member or submit an RFP. If you were going to initiate this, I would totally support you. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can attempt that tact. Strength comes from numbers, so if the members supported this initiative,

especially with a support letter from the Premier to COSEWIC, it is clear that they would pay more attention to our request from Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Now, in the States, their legislative process is not static and the delay of three months was not unusual, but already environmentalist organizations like Greenpeace have already put up legal procedures to force their hand. There are two other activist entities that I'm not sure of who were mentioned.

As you get this information for us during the next session at the end of May or June, I know more information will surface from the litigation and we will have a better understanding. I believe we will have a motion by way of supporting the polar bear management.

Could your department collect additional information and make a report to the proposed listing of threatened species by the United States? Although Canada says that they're not going to follow through with it, I'm sure Canada will follow through because the wildlife activists are getting very powerful. Would you be willing to do that? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, perhaps we will deal with this by way of correspondence. We will be able to work on it and send it to the members prior to them coming in to Iqaluit for the spring session. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support my colleague's statement because wildlife activists should not set our priorities.

In some ways, we Inuit are also protective of wildlife, especially when we watch sports fishing television programs. I can't seem to understand why they catch fish. They look happy to hook the fish when they reel it in, laughing as they seem to just enjoy catching the fish. I expect them to eat it because they look as if they have caught food by the way they act, but they shouldn't be celebrating if they're not going to eat their catch.

I know for sure that once they catch the fish, they grab it by the mouth and this is unacceptable. They grab it on their mouths and it's not good to see that when you fish for subsistence. They're laughing and cracking jokes when they hook the fish. Even before the fish actually dies, they take the lure off and put the fish in the water to send it off again.

Personally, I get angry and defensive when I see them torturing fish like that on TV. When an individual is sports fishing, they should not play with it. If the fisherman's head

was put in the water, he would soon suffocate as we breathe air, not water. It's similar with their actions on the fish. That's a mean thing to do to the fish because if our head was underwater, it would not be very pleasant. So that's how I feel for the fish and that's just a comment.

I would like to ask a question to the minister, although I asked it in the House before, in regard to the Ontario Government's survey on the polar bear population in southeastern Hudson Bay. Does the minister have the results now? What kinds of studies did they undertake in that polar bear management area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The Ontario Government has the results from the other side, not on the Northern Quebec side but on the Ontario side. We have heard that the results of the survey are done and are the same as the results from last survey. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you saying then that they haven't done the survey around the Belcher Islands near Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. No, they have not done research on those islands. However, they have done research on the Ontario side of James Bay. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was no need to decrease the quota. When the Sanikiluaq residents wanted an increase in their quota, they were told to wait until the study was completed on Sanikiluaq's polar bear.

What I would like to know is... at the time, we didn't have to worry about it when Ontario wanted to do the research, but what I want to ask the minister as he has stated the polar bears will be surveyed on the islands is: how will they conduct the survey? Will it be led by the Nunavut Government? How are they going to do the survey on the islands? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): It hasn't been started yet, so we are not sure. The HTO in Sanikiluaq would have to participate and we have to get some ideas from them

because they know more about the area, so we would have to work with them. Maybe my deputy can supplement my response.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to supplement the minister's response about Ontario doing the survey between 1999 and 2005, they did the research on the areas in the far north of the province of Ontario without going to the islands.

We asked why they didn't include southern Hudson Bay. Their response was that the helicopters used by their government do not have pontoons, so they cannot fly over water and that's why the islands weren't included, whereas the helicopters we use up here have pontoons and they don't use other kinds. For that reason, we thought that we should survey those islands.

At this time, we're saying probable because we are unsure of the funding of the survey. Once we start the Foxe Basin survey, perhaps our researchers or biologists can include the islands. This would depend on the time and funding resources leftover after the survey. That's all I wanted to add. As the minister said, we haven't come to a final decision yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Minister. Moving on to a different topic, I often say this in the House with regards to the environment; I have spoken about the dam on the rivers. It is called Eastmain 1A.

There were some Sanikiluaq residents who went down to Montreal about two years to attend public hearings. We have researchers from NTK who study the flow of the rivers to the ocean to determine where they abut the sea and we also brought the concerns of Sanikiluaq residents to Montreal. The federal government is aware of this but my question is: do you have any idea of what the federal government's Minister of Environment plans to do with the concerns of Sanikiluaq? Has the federal minister indicated to you as to exactly what they will do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The federal government researchers haven't really advised us as to what they have been doing, but as the Government of Nunavut, we wish to be informed and we will have to ask them what they think so that they can respond in a shorter length of time.

For the upcoming meeting in 2009, our government will have to bring the concerns of its residents to the table. We would like to be invited along with the residents of Sanikiluaq, especially where it will affect our waters. If we were to tell the federal government that

we want them to do it this way and that is what we want to hear, that what they want to do in Eastmain 1A will be done successfully. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. I don't have any other questions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister, Mr. Lamb, and Mr. Awa to the Committee of the Whole. I think my first question was touched on a little bit earlier, but I'm just wondering what the status is of finalizing the bilateral *Species at Risk Act* agreement with the federal government and what exactly the agreement will accomplish and how it will benefit Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get my deputy to respond to that one. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are getting quite close to finalizing the bilateral agreement. Also, I cannot talk about the details of the discussions yet, but I am quite positive that it will be beneficial for Nunavut. That's all I can say at the moment but the negotiations themselves are getting pretty close. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if he could indicate whether this bilateral agreement with the federal government would prevent them in trying to do what those silly people that live south of Canada in the States are trying to do with putting polar bears on the *Species at Risk Act* in the United States. Would this agreement prevent the Canadian Government from doing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I'll have my deputy respond to that.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said, we are hoping that the bilateral agreement will be more beneficial to Nunavummiut and more positive for Nunavummiut.

I am hoping that it will give Nunavut's position a higher profile than what the member is saying. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know this whole move by the Americans to put the polar bears on the *Species at Risk Act*... if they really cared about the polar bears, they would sign onto the Kyoto Accord or do something to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions, but since they seem ignorant about that fact and don't want to do it, then maybe we should advise them that there's another little creature that looks very nice and cute they listed in Antarctica, it's called a penguin. Maybe they should go and start a 'Save the Penguin' campaign. If they're truly worried about arctic animals, they should look at sub-arctic animals, too. That's just a comment.

Mr. Chairman, I know that the funding levels for the institutions of public government were recently increased by DIAND, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and that included funds for the HTOs, and I just noted on the schedule on the back, in Grants and Contributions, there's \$317,000 for HTOs. I'm just wondering how that's divvied up to the HTOs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I'll have Mr. Awa provide a breakdown of those grants and contributions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each area of Nunavut is dealt with differently. In Qikiqtaaluk, our funding of about \$150,000 is given as a contribution directly to the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat in Rankin Inlet who administers this program on behalf of the GN for Baffin. In the Kivalliq region, the amount of \$50,000 is allocated evenly to all seven communities' HTOs. For the Kitikmeot, it's a little bit different. Communities or HTOs make an application to the Government of Nunavut, to the department and apply for funding. So that's how that \$317,000 is divided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Awa, for that response. You said the amount for the Baffin region gets sent down to an organization in Rankin Inlet, but do the HTOs in the Baffin get any funding from the GN? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. All HTOs are provided with funding. Maybe Simon Awa can add to that.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, let me apologize to the member; I thought he was referring to the Community Harvesters Assistance Program, whereas he was talking about the funding for HTOs. I apologize.

Yes, that \$317,000 is available to all HTOs in Nunavut and I was referring to the CHAP program and I apologize for that. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. We are on I-6. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks, Mr. Awa, for clarifying that. I just noticed on there, and I'm sure that all the HTOs and all the communities are struggling to get by, and if you look at a lot of the other line items in government, things are going up because costs going up, but the amounts here remain the same. So I'm just wondering if there's a reason for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The \$317,000 that is given to the HTOs is given to NWMB for them to disburse to the HTOs. This \$317,000 is the exact same amount but there's a bit of an increase for Disaster Compensation. The reason why it's the same is because there's not much room within the budget to be able to allocate money into that area. We need to review this again and not take too long because it's still the same amount of funding. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got a little bit of understanding of how budgets are developed and the targets are given, but I think it seems unfair where the departments, not just this department but all of them throughout the government, seem to add in costs as things are going to go up. I mean you've just got to go through most of the sections in the budget, like look at Wildlife Operations, it went up by about \$200,000, as an example, from previous years, and in different areas in the business plans where it shows the funding for four years, there are annual increases to it.

Are we kind of setting these HTOs up to fail in their obligations by not providing them adequate funding to do what they need to do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The HTOs are very useful in the communities, so we don't want to see them fail. We're not trying to set them up for failure and the funding that we allocated has not changed.

Although we want to do it and we try to do our best for the communities, we are not trying to bring them down and decrease their funding. If we could find more funding for the HTOs... I think the federal government added a bit of funding towards the HTOs. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like it's been like that throughout the life of this government, I think since I have seen it on day one, where they seem to put very little extra resources into organizations or programs, like basically, the HTOs are on the frontline or in the trenches of doing stuff throughout the communities, and I can say the same thing with frontline employees in the government, too, there never seems to be any additional resources there for them when they play such a crucial role in whatever it is.

They've got no problem increasing the... when HR was in here, how significantly the senior management increases, seemed like on an annual basis, and yet, people on the ground, the organizations like the HTOs in the communities, never seem to get any increase.

Given the fact that the government hasn't bothered to give them any additional resources, and it looks like, from what I can tell over the last two years, it's always been the same, has the department had any requests or issues of lack of funding brought to them by any of the HTOs throughout the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Like I said earlier, under the land claims agreement, the NWMB and HTOs have a partnership. The government is not part of this agreement but we also contribute to the HTOs because we want to assist them.

We have not received any requests from the HTOs in regard to the matter the member brought up. They may have written letters to the NWMB requesting an increase and we can try to find out about this. However, under the NLCA, the NWMB are the ones who make the main contributions to the HTOs. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just switching topics here. I think it was in June of last year, the department and the minister made a statement that indicated that the preliminary results of a survey of the Davis Strait polar bear population indicates that it appears to be thriving. I'm just wondering if the minister could indicate when the final analysis and the report will be available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I think the report will be completed by next year or the year after since they are still compiling all of the data. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it was in late 2005, NTI put out press release calling on the federal and territorial governments to halt intrusive scientific wildlife research and we have seen pictures here in the House that show the results of collaring and things like that. How is the department working with NTI on that issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We're going to continue working with NTI with respect to the wildlife issues due to the importance of wildlife to our people and the wildlife research concerns, especially so that we can make improvements as required.

We will continue to work with the NWMB because these issues cannot be done by one organization. The government and NTI appoint members to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. We continue to work together on many wildlife issues here in Nunavut with government and NTI collaboration. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to hear the minister state he's still working on it.

Mr. Chairman, another thing in the priorities for 2008-09 in the business plan, they indicate that they want to ensure that the Climate Change Centre is operational. Can the minister indicate where the new Climate Change Centre will be located and when do they anticipate having it operational and its website being ready to access? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to give Mr. Lamb his first opportunity to answer questions in Committee of the Whole, so I'll pass it over to John Lamb.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Lamb.

Mr. Lamb: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The Climate Change Centre isn't going to actually exist physically in a particular location. It's going to be done through a website, so it will be a virtual centre. It's being developed right now and will provide information to people in Nunavut and elsewhere with information about climate change, how it's affecting Nunavut, adaptation plans, programs, and so on. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So it's going to be virtually there. I'm just wondering if he could indicate when they plan on having that website up and running. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I believe the website will be ready by next year. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I think it was this past fall that the department and the minister made a statement that the department was working to establish a successful recycling program for Nunavut. I'm just wondering what the status of that is and when we can expect to see a successful recycling program in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I will have Mr. Lamb respond to that.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Lamb.

Mr. Lamb: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has been working on recycling for quite a while and what it has been confronting is: how do you run a recycling program that will be sustainable over time and cost-effective? So we have been studying how recycling is done in other jurisdictions and I guess last fall, we contracted a consulting company to look at options for us, and that study will be done by the end of this month.

In the meantime, the department went ahead and ran two pilot projects in Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit. Those pilot projects are being extended and the plan is to add a Kitikmeot pilot project in the coming fiscal year.

In addition, as the minister announced the other day, we're taking a number of steps to basically build stronger foundations for recycling, and that includes establishing an interdepartmental committee to make sure that the GN's efforts are coordinated, establishing a Recycling Advisory Committee of citizens and stakeholders, and initiating a project specifically focusing on the problems created by plastic bags. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the other things that are in your priorities for 2008-09 is to establish a fuel tank inspection program. I'm just wondering if you can give us an indication of the main elements of that program and what it's intended to accomplish. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): We will have to do a study on the fuel tank farms to make sure there's no spillage or anything of concern. We have to review that and to make sure the regulations are being adhered to. We will continue working on that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know of a couple of places in Iqaluit for sure that people's own fuel tanks in their homes have been buying out which leads to and has lead to, in some cases, thousands and thousands of dollars of environmental damage because of fuel leakage.

Is there any information that the department has that can be provided through the Housing Corporation to homeowners on what to look for in their fuel tanks so they make sure that they don't run into a problem with causing an oil spill in their backyard? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation ends) Your time is up. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Mr. Lamb to answer that question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Lamb.

Mr. Lamb: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister recently announced that the department has put out an 'Illustrated Homeowner's Guide to Heating Oil Tank Inspections' and this document is very useful for citizens and regulators alike. It provides detailed tips on maintenance, information about environmental legislation, national standards, and so on. It's a resource that's available in English and Inuktitut, and it's also on the department's website. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Lamb. I don't have any more names on my list. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one last question. I'm just wondering if the department has received a response from the previous minister's letter to the federal Environment Minister, John Baird, concerning the federal environmental regulations that

would allow the Navy to dump pollution into our arctic waters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation ends) I will use my last discretion; that's your last question. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We have not received a response to that letter to date. We will be writing another letter indicating that we expect to get a response on this issue. I brought this issue up when my federal counterpart was up here but we still haven't received a response. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. We're on (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Program Management. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress, but I do have a number of questions on Environment. Thank you.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and it is not debatable. Those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Those opposed. The motion is carried. No, sorry, the motion is defeated. (interpretation) I apologize.

(interpretation ends) We're on Branch Summary. Program Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) First of all, I would like to ask a question under Wildlife Management. It seems like we're hearing less and less about wildlife patrols. Could the minister or his officials explain why it seems as though the wildlife regulations and the *Wildlife Act* aren't really being enforced? We believe the reason they're not being enforced is because we're seeing less and less wildlife officers, and it seems as though the Act and the regulations were being followed a lot more when there were wildlife patrols. That is my question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) I have exercised my discretion and allowed you to ask additional questions. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We hope that our conservation officers are doing a good job. We have annual meetings and we try to improve our programs. There are patrols that are happening in some of the communities and we want to make sure that our conservation officers are ensuring that our laws are being adhered to. I have told them that it's best if they do their job the best that they can and that was at the last Iqaluit meeting.

If any community has a concern with regards to their conservation officers, it would be good if they informed our department. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, in our community, they get direction or orders sometimes in the spring to look at the nets that are stuck to the ice. Some of the lakes are very large in the Keewatin region and usually, if there are any nets stuck onto the ice, the HTOs are directed to go look into that because the DFO is not around, and some of them are big nets that are stuck. Your officials were told to go check the nets and look after it because the HTOs don't have any money. Some of them were not approved.

On page I-17 in the business plan, one of your priorities for 2008-09 is to "Complete the Nunavut Climate Change Adaptation Plan." Could you give us a brief outline on exactly what is covered here? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Lamb respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Lamb

Mr. Lamb: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has been working on an adaptation plan. It addresses issues in a way that combines western science with IQ, looking at the vulnerability of communities and wildlife species, and so on, and the adaptive capacity of Nunavut. It also looks at infrastructure, community planning, health and safety, energy and waste management, and potential increases in business opportunities.

The plan is scheduled to be ready by 2009 and I should just mention that the process of developing this plan has involved consulting with specific communities on certain parts of climate change adaptation. So, for instance, Clyde River and Hall Beach have been consulted on issues of sea level rise, coastal impacts, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. So could the minister or his officials explain to us: is that work currently being done by consulting firm or is it being done internally? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Mr. Lamb to answer the question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Lamb.

Mr. Lamb: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has been working with Natural Resources Canada, the Canadian Institute of Planners, and various communities and

hamlets in order to develop the Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that's good work. At one point, and I was probably with the wrong department, we were dealing with an adaptation plan issue. I also always think that transportation is somewhat impacted by climate change in some regions like the Kivalliq region. In some years, it occurs we have an earlier breakup of ice.

I would think that, given the fact that we have a very short shipping season, your department may want to look at whether or not that area should be looked at in order to try and expedite cargo coming in and also maybe realign shipping routes so that we can take advantage of a longer shipping season. Would that be possible? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. As Mr. Lamb stated, we're looking at economic opportunities to try and see if we can have a longer shipping route and how we can expedite the cargo coming in. We are working with Economic Development and Transportation on this issue. The drafting of the report should be completed by 2009. At that time, we will know exactly how we can utilize that and extend the shipping season to Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I think that that would be very good, Mr. Chairman, so I encourage the minister to look at all these issues on an ongoing basis.

I noticed a few days ago, but I'm not sure what it's called in Inuktitut, the plastic shopping bags that we use are absolutely no good for Nunavut. Nunavut is a vast piece of land and you see plastic bags all over the place. There's even a song that was composed by a Northern Quebecer regarding plastic bags. He thought it was a seal and wanted to shoot it but it was a plastic bag floating in the water.

What is your department going to do about eliminating the use of plastic bags? I believe there's legislation in Alaska that bans the use of plastic bags. Why haven't you considered doing something like that? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We are currently working on this that we are quite excited about because those plastic bags litter our land.

Economic Development and Transportation, Community and Government Services, and our department are working together on whether they're going to proceed banning plastic bags. If we're going to make regulations, we will also work with the Department of Justice as they are the ones who draft legislation.

This is what we want to do in the future, we would like to see this as a universal part of law used all over Nunavut. We're going to start first in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and in the Kitikmeot, and we will have better understanding within a year and how we can better the regulations in the future. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I believe you should be writing a report because some companies or other entities outside of Nunavut would be opposing it they make a lot of money. When we do recycling, why don't we recycle the plastic bags? I know they won't be sent down

There should be a program where they collect the plastic bags because these shopping bags are all over the place in the hinterland where there's wildlife when we go out hunting. They're an eyesore and they're not biodegradable; at least tin cans can rust and deteriorate. Perhaps the minister can discuss this further because we have to stop using plastic bags. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently documenting and dealing with the issue of biodegradable and degradable materials. There should be biodegradable bags or papers and we will continue to work on the issue. Our government had mandated us to deal with this issue, so it would be ideal if the members support us and give us their suggestions on how we can use less plastic bags. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. I have no more names on my list. We're on page I-5. (interpretation ends) Branch Summary. Program Management. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$12,746, 000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go back to page I-3. Department Summary. Environment. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$16,126, 000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Department of Environment is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Do you have any closing remarks?
Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to thank all of you, my officials, everyone that is providing support, and also my staff upstairs who are watching. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister and his officials from the witness table.

What is the wish of the committee at this time? (interpretation ends) Once again, I'm going to ask the committee: what is the wish of the committee?

Some Members: Opening comments.

Chairman: Okay. Ms. Brown.

**Bill 23 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2008-2009 –
Consideration in Committee – Community and Government Services**

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to appear before you today to review the 2008-09 Main Estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Community and Government Services has many roles to play in the delivery of programs and services for local government, government services, petroleum products, procurement, Office of the Fire Marshall, and acid management.

CGS has a budget exceeding \$155 million with 345 positions in 14 communities. Although CGS has a very large budget in comparison to other departments, there's very little flexibility in our programs as much of our funding is flowing through dollars, such as municipal transfer payments, building leases and utility budgets.

We are proposing to increase our budget estimates this year in a number of areas to compensate for forced growth. The main areas of increases include: utilities management; \$3,881,000, water and sewage funding; \$731,000, grants in lieu of taxes; \$420,000, the Community Transfer Initiative; \$285,000, maintenance, building and equipment; \$2,134,000.

Mr. Chairman, CGS continues to invest significant resources to ensure that we continue to improve services and programs to our client groups. Over the past several years, we have greatly improved the GN procurement process and services and the reporting of this activity.

In the past year, the department has increased training for project officers, added five new project management positions to improve capital project administration and better meet client department needs and expectations.

Last spring, we initiated a project management review where we sat with both industry and all project management personnel along with our client groups in order to improve our construction management and ensure we are meeting the needs of the clients and the public.

We continue to offer over 6,000 training days a year to municipal employees through our collaboration with the Municipal Training Organization, MTO. The efforts we are taking to improve services will continue in the new year and I will commit to keeping this committee up to date on our activities and outcome of our efforts.

The Petroleum Products Division continues to manage the Fuel Provision Mandate for the GN. As you are aware, the global oil market pricing is very unpredictable and the price the fuel is at record highs. PPD has no control over these costs but it is diligently working to make improvements.

The first area of improvement is through the competitive proposal process for supply and transportation activities and purchasing of fuel and delivering it to communities economically and safely.

A request for proposals for the Eastern Arctic Marine Fuel Transportation and the RFP Kitikmeot Fuel Supply and Marine Transportation were issued late last year.

The department is currently in the process of awarding the Eastern Arctic Marine Transportation Contract and presently evaluating the proposals with the Kitikmeot Fuel Supply and Marine Transportation.

In addition to this, the department continues with substantial energy management initiatives which include improving the efficiency of building design, lighting, heating systems and the maintenance and operations of these assets. All of these efforts are aimed at reducing our costs associated with utilities.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to Nunavut emergency management, the department has been working hard to improve the response programs available to the public for any type of emergency.

We continue to work with community star organizations, hamlets, government agencies, and individuals in assisting and coordinating the RCMP, military and the community groups in response to an emergency. These efforts will continue again this year.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to briefly mention the Building Canada Fund process that we have outlined to all members as it is not in our operations and maintenance budgets and was in the budget address highlighting some capital projects for various communities.

It is the government's intent to introduce a supplementary appropriation to increase the capital budget for 2008-09 this spring to include the Building Canada Fund projects. The GN will be following the established capital planning process to identify capital projects with for fund with a condensed timeframe. I would like to assure the members they will be included in the consultations.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that these brief comments give an appreciation of the wide range of programs and services that my department has. The vision of our future is one of partnership, collaboration, and continuing to meet the needs of all client groups to better support communities and the needs of Nunavummiut.

I now look forward to your questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. I would like to ask the Chair of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development if he has opening comments. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I'm not ready right now. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Pardon me?

Mr. Curley (interpretation): You asked me if I was prepared. I'm not prepared at this time. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to report progress.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. There's a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 20. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 23 and the Main Estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move

that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Akesuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 22. (interpretation) Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of a meeting of the Regular Caucus tomorrow morning at ten o'clock in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 11:

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 22

- 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: Thank you. (interpretation) Our House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 11, at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 20:30*

