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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Nattilik)

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(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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(Iqaluit West)

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(South Baffin)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Cambridge Bay)

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(Arviat)

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(Baker Lake)

James Arvaluk

(Tununiq)

Steve Mapsalak

(Akulliq)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, May 28, 2008**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Ministers and Members, good day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 184 – 2(4): Women and Elections Project

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I am pleased to announce that elections training for women as part of leadership programming is now underway.

In June, the Nunavut Women's Secretariat and the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council are co-hosting a Women's Elections Forum and mock elections training workshops in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, we are developing an elections toolkit to encourage women to run for elections to public office, whether it be territorial or federal government, land claims organizations, or municipalities. The toolkit provides information on the election process, steps in running a successful campaign, managing public life, and roles and responsibilities. We are anticipating partnership with organizations and municipalities as the programming continues and develops, and engaging the schools to get young people involved.

We are developing and sending out 'Rock the Vote' newsletters to women's groups and organizations across Nunavut, whenever relevant elections occur. The newsletters provide background information on the voting process, the candidates, and encourage women to vote.

This election project is part of our new Women's Voices in Leadership programming. Similar projects have been very successful in the Northwest Territories and these initiatives are aimed to increase women's participation in leadership and decision-making at all levels in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the political empowerment of women is important to ensure that the particular needs, challenges and issues that affect women in Nunavut can be properly addressed, and that women's voices are heard. We encourage and want to see more young women and women running in all Nunavut elections. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Minister's Statement 185 – 2(4): Long Term Service Award Ceremonies

Hon. Levi Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the continuing effort and contributions of our employees who have served long periods of employment within the public service.

Mr. Speaker, long term service award ceremonies, recognizing employees with five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of continuous service with the Government of Nunavut, and the Government of the Northwest Territories, are being held this year for approximately 587 employees.

Mr. Speaker, for this year's awards, I would like to acknowledge our two 35-year recipients: Jocelyne Savard of Health and Social Services in Iqaluit, and Caroline Iqaluq, Teacher, Sanikiluaq. There are also nine 30-year recipients. If I mispronounce their names, I apologize: Alice Barrieau, Finance in Iqaluit; Lyn Geikie, Community and Government Services, Iqaluit; Meeka Kakudluk, Teacher in Iqaluit; Brent Boddy, Community and Government Services, Cambridge Bay; Mary Eetoolook, Teacher, Cambridge Bay; Shirley Tagalik, Teacher, Arviat; Samwillie Killiktee, Community and Government Services, Qikiqtarjuaq; Piuyuq Enoogoo, Teacher, Arctic Bay; and Tirak Parr, Nunavut Arctic College, Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, over 190 employees will receive five and ten-year awards at a ceremony being held here in Iqaluit. Upcoming long service award events will be held in other communities across Nunavut this year.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to invite all Members of the Legislative Assembly to the Long Service Award Ceremony for employees receiving 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35-year awards in Iqaluit. The ceremony will be held on Friday, May 30, at the Frobisher Inn starting at 6:30 p.m. and I look forward to seeing you there.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in acknowledging the dedication of our employees - our most valued asset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 186 – 2(4): Skills Canada Nunavut Territorial Competition

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the House and to our colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House about Skills Canada Nunavut's third annual Territorial Skills Competition which was held in Iqaluit last month. Students and apprentices from 11 communities from across Nunavut came together to compete in 14 skilled areas. This year, more communities participated than ever before.

Skills Canada Nunavut is a non-profit organization, whose mission is to expose our young people to trade and technology occupations by developing and delivering educational programs and activities to these youth, educators, parents and others. Mr. Speaker, Skills Canada Nunavut provides venues for young people to explore the many opportunities available in skilled trades and technology careers. In partnerships with private and public sector parties, the organization is helping to address northern Canada's need for a skilled workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the gold medalists from this year's territorial competition, who now will be representing Nunavut at the Canadian Skills Competition in Calgary, Alberta this week.

Mr. Speaker, skills clubs are an important step in helping to guide our people on the path to success. These clubs are extracurricular programs for high school students, organized by volunteer professionals in the community. These individuals donate their time and expertise to help our Nunavut youth realize potential career opportunities. As well, all the Skills Canada Nunavut volunteers deserve enormous thanks.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me in wishing the team members of Team Nunavut good luck at the National Skills Competition in Calgary this week. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 187 – 2(4): End of Life Vehicles (“ELV”) and Scrap Metal Removal from Iqaluit

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon my colleagues. I am pleased to announce the first significant project to remove the end-of-life vehicles and scrap metal out of Nunavut. This project is being supported by the Department of Environment, Community and Government Services, and Economic Development and Transportation.

The government is supporting the City of Iqaluit to engage a Quebec based company to gather all of the old vehicles and scrap metal, prepare it for transport, and ship it to the south for recycling. This project will get underway in July of 2008.

We will monitor all aspects of this first project very closely to learn as much as possible about the logistics and cost implications so that we can expand the program into other Nunavut communities. The lessons learned will allow us to design a broader program for implementation in 2009 and beyond.

This initiative will greatly assist Nunavut in dealing with its solid waste and it will assist communities in cleaning up scrap metal that in some cases have been around for decades. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. If there are no more, Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for High Arctic. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 3: Members' Statements**Member's Statement 450 – 2(4): Cost of Living**

Hon. Levi Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the threat of global warming, the Arctic is a new hot spot of the world. There has been little interest from most Canadians in regard to the Arctic over the last 100 years or so. The issue surrounding the potential rich oil reserves under the Arctic ice have sparked a renewed interest regarding Arctic sovereignty and have put our homelands into a spotlight of the world.

For many years, the federal government has promised Nunavummiut improvements to their standards of living. Within the communities of my constituents, there's a greater need for an injection of funds and programs to improve the living conditions of the residents who live there.

With Arctic sovereignty on the minds of many throughout the world, we are now in a position where we can remind Canada that we have been the stewards of this land and the surrounding waterways for many years. The residents of the High Arctic, throughout their long term use of the land and waters, have allowed Canadians, including the Canadian

government, to prove to the world that the Canadian Arctic has been used for a great many years by Inuit as their homeland.

In fact, it was the Canadian government that brought Inuit up to the High Arctic and used their presence to prove that this land belongs to Canada. With this in mind, I would like to remind Canada that a favour has been done for them and that it is high time that favour be returned back to the residents of the High Arctic.

My constituents need additional financial programs and support that will address the high cost of living endured there. The cost of living in Nunavut continues to rise. We see this especially in the communities of my constituents. Food, shelter, and other basic living expenses in the High Arctic are around 60 to 65 percent higher than those living in southern cities. Additional support is required to subsidize our travel and freight costs.

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

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

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues, for allowing me to conclude my statement.

(interpretation ends) Basic opportunities, such as travel, are enjoyed by many Canadians living to the south of us. For residents of Grise Fiord, it costs them over \$4,000, just to get to Iqaluit. Don't forget that is not even out of the territory. To fly out on an international flight from one of the southern cities, you can go across the Atlantic, over to Europe for less than \$700 on a seat sale. Imagine flying all the way across the great Atlantic for under \$700. We, in the High Arctic, don't have the luxuries of travelling on competitive airline services. This creates a monopoly that the people in the High Arctic pay the price for.

With these types of costs, most of my constituents cannot afford to travel out of their communities using their own funds. This affects such things as sporting, or training opportunities, or being able to visit family members living in other communities.

The elders of my constituency have received a pension from the federal government, receiving the same amount of money for their pension as those living in southern Canada. The same amount of money, even though the cost of food is three times the price of those living in the far south of us.

To ensure that all my constituents access affordable food, the federal government needs to monitor how the Food Mail Program is working and address the shortcomings of the program. Additional support is required for economic initiatives, such as providing our local fishing companies with proper fishing quotas needed to sustain the viable fishing

industry, or to provide my constituents with the funds to build up our infrastructure requirements, and I list these as examples.

As residents of Nunavut and as the government of a great territory, we need to involve the monitoring of potential oil reserve developments in our area that may rise due to the impact of global warming over the next 20 to 50 years. Damage to our environment and the impact of a great number of people using the land and waters of the High Arctic is a real threat to us, a threat towards the Inuit way of life and our culture. With that in mind, we need to ensure that our land, water, and way of life will be protected at all costs. We need to ensure that we include, in all the discussions regarding the protection of our land and in the ways our waters will be used, proper policies addressing these threats need to be well thought out and written with all the states, territories, and people at the table.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord residents are proud to live in the area of Canada that is unique to the rest of the world, but we and all Canadians need to support these High Arctic communities to obtain the same standards of living as other Canadians enjoy. Prime Minister Harper has stated, and I quote, "If we don't use it, we'll lose it." While the people of the High Arctic use it and endure the harsh climate, high cost of living, and little support, they're the ones that Canada has relied on to prove that we, as Canadians, have sovereignty over this land.

Mr. Speaker, now it's time for Canada to step up to the podium and show the same level of support to these great people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Just a reminder to members that the time allotted for your statements has to be respected and unanimous consent is only supposed to be used for completing your statements. However, since yesterday, the extensions for the statements took a long time to complete. So please refrain from abusing the time allotted for Members' Statements.

Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Member's Statement 451 – 2(4): Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear Quota Decrease

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express a grave concern raised by my constituents, especially harvesters, regarding the Western Hudson Bay polar bear quota. The quota has been slashed and this is the only population that we harvest from. The polar bear hunt is one of the few economic opportunities Inuit have in my community and this has economic repercussions when they reduce the quota.

Mr. Speaker, the reduction in the polar bear quota will have a big effect in the community of Arviat on the hunters who hunt bears, and the dog team owners who conduct sports hunts. This is becoming an extreme concern to my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I can state unequivocally that the hunters in Arviat are distressed, perhaps to the same degree that Newfoundland seals feel when they are clubbed by a hakaik, as we observed on video a few days ago. This analogy is exactly how the hunters felt in our community of Arviat when the Minister of Environment arrived to make a statement that the polar bear quotas were being slashed in the Western Hudson Bay population. That is how they felt when they heard the news. This is not acceptable. They are still in a state of shock because of the reduced quota.

Mr. Speaker, the HTO, sport hunting operators, and other businesses will lose thousands of dollars this year because of the reduction in the Western Hudson Bay polar bear quota. This year, guides, cooks, dog team owners, and all who find seasonal employment working for the sport hunting operators in Arviat will not have those jobs. Quite a number of dog team owners are on the verge of giving up their dog teams because it is a costly and time-consuming venture. This also affects several families and those buildings that were used for the sports hunts seem to have been built needlessly now.

For the reasons I've stated and due to what the Minister of Environment said at the HTO meeting in Arviat, that the department would look into alternative options for the people most affected by this decision, the people of Arviat are now expecting these alternatives and are waiting for the substance behind the minister's promises. They are waiting for news as to what alternatives they will receive from the Government of Nunavut and are expecting a statement from the minister as to what will comprise this assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 452 – 2(4): Intrusive Wildlife Research Methods

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today again to express my concern regarding the issues of intrusive wildlife research methods.

Mr. Speaker, I asked questions to the Minister of Environment last week on the issue of a proposed polar bear research project in Foxe Basin. As I indicated in my questions to the minister, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board has written to the minister in order to express concerns regarding this project. I look forward to receiving a copy of the minister's reply to the Kivalliq Wildlife Board on this matter. I urge the minister to respond favourably to the board.

Mr. Speaker, as you and other members are aware, I have had longstanding concerns about the use of intrusive wildlife research methods and I have tabled photographs in the Legislative Assembly of a marine mammal that was suffering from invasive research methods.

Mr. Speaker, the concerns that have been expressed by the hunters and HTOs regarding polar bear research methods need to be listened to and addressed. The effect that tranquilizing drugs, ear tags, and other technologies have on the health of polar bears is of great concern.

Mr. Speaker, although there is a role where western science could play in the management of our wildlife, it is important to recognize that the so-called experts are not always correct. Just recently, for example, it was revealed that the federal government's estimates for the bowhead whale population in the eastern arctic were completely wrong. The observations of long-lived hunters were much more accurate.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit recognize the world is changing. We know that there is a need to manage our wildlife in a responsible and a respectful way. We have agreed there is a need to understand the impacts of climate change on the behaviors and populations of listed species.

However, Mr. Speaker, I and many others do not agree that...

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry, Mr. Mapsalak. Your time has run out. If you would like to conclude your statement, you may ask your colleagues for consent. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my colleagues for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. It's not going to be very long, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

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

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.

However, Mr. Speaker, I and many others do not agree that the use of unnatural and intrusive methods is the right approach. I will continue to raise this concern until it is resolved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 453 – 2(4): Fuel Delivery to Homeowners in Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about a concern that has been ongoing for some years, and I spoke about it in this House during the winter session.

After the session, it was brought up as a concern again by my constituents regarding inadequate services provided for petroleum products that are brought into the community. With the impending creation of Nunavut, people thought they were going to be better served by the government and that they would become self-sufficient. Unfortunately, there are a lot of services that the government is not providing adequately to people in the communities.

Many have to fill their own fuel tanks. People who run their own business run out of petroleum products, so they have to try and get it themselves. I raised this issue last winter with the government - if an individual were to get hurt, the government would be at fault. This needs to be rectified.

I'll use an example. In the winter, when I got back home after the session, there were two elders who were unable to work because they didn't have any heating fuel and the fuel truck was not running during a blizzard. Fortunately, their daughter-in-law helped them fill their fuel tank with assistance from her children. That is not acceptable.

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 and I thank my colleagues.

Before the end of the winter session, I asked the minister about resolving this matter, but it is still ongoing to this day. If it's going to be like that again, it has to be resolved. Before this session ends, I will be asking questions to the minister responsible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 454 – 2(4): Review of Subsidies and Programs by GN to Nunavummiut

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the high cost of living in our communities. We all know about the high cost of living in every community, especially with petroleum products.

Mr. Speaker, what I want to raise specifically here relates to the government assistance programs they provide to the people in subsidizing heating fuel and other petroleum products. They should be thoroughly reviewed and updated. Today, these assistance programs fall short of the assistance required by our people. There are other programs such as the down payment assistance program and this is greatly appreciated by Nunavummiut.

However, the home repair and renovation programs are not reaching our constituents and part of the reason is the combined household income limit is \$125,000 plus a \$6,500 allowance for each additional household member. For example, when two people apply, they fall short of the actual criteria. This automatically excludes a large number of people from applying and the people who can apply for that subsidy don't own their own homes. For this reason, amongst others, we have to completely overhaul these ancient subsidy programs since our residents are becoming anxious.

In our community, even when people apply, they are not approved and I can provide one example. An individual applied every year for the past three years, but stated that the funds are depleted by the time the paperwork is completed and this year is just like the past years.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to be talking about energy efficiency but we do not have the funds to implement it properly, it will be useless to our people. Just like the minister's motion in regard to one light bulb type that could lower the energy costs of households. We have to reassess all programs to better reflect the costs that our constituents are paying and to better assist Nunavummiut. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 455 – 2(4): Death of Silas Kalluk and Vera Akumalik in Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Let's have a great day. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a statement about two elders who recently passed away in Baker Lake this month and whose lives were a source of pride to me.

Silas Kalluk, whom we called Kalluktuaq, was in his 80s or 90s perhaps, recently passed away. Although he was quite elderly, he still walked around the community and whether it was deep winter or summer, he would still go hunting and fishing at his advanced age. He was exceptionally skilled, a real inlander and talented hunter. It was extremely

gratifying to see him active at such an old age, and because of his age, his extended family was quite large.

The other person that I would like to mention is Vera Akumalik. She was quite an elderly lady when she passed away being she was over 100 years old when she died. The government records stated that she was 96 years old, but according to *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, she was over 100 years old when she passed away. She was one of the original Baker Lake residents, although she was born at Cape Fullerton in the Kivalliq region, she moved to Baker Lake and stayed there until her death.

During the funeral preparations, we looked at the church documentation and I was tremendously impressed because there were some documents that outlined her family tree. In perusing these documents, it was heart-warming to discover the history of her family. She had two children and they are still alive. She had 13 grandchildren, 46 great-grandchildren, and 27 great-great-grandchildren in her extended family in Baker Lake. Vera Akumalik also had relatives in Igloolik and her relatives are also numerous up there.

In reading the documentation, it was heart-warming to say the least. People had pet names for her and she was called mother, great aunt, granny, *Anaanatsiatnaaq*, *Amautiktuaq*, *Kukak*, *Qapapaa*, *Amautsiaq*, *Tisiaq*, old, old granny. It was enjoyable to read these details of her family, Mr. Speaker. These names I mentioned are all different names given to her over the course of her full life and she was called all these names until the moment she was called from this life.

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

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): I thank all of you. I would like to finish my statement by articulating that both of these individuals lived full lives and both of them lived exemplary lives. Like everyone else they underwent periods of hardships and pleasure in their lives. Both continued to live life to the fullest until they passed away. Neither of them was cut off from their lives.

These are concrete examples for our younger generations and we have to ensure that we assist the younger generations as a government. So if this government needs more assistance, there are many elders who are willing to be interviewed about what constitutes a good life to help guide our young people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 456 – 2(4): Domestic Violence in Nunavut

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to ask my colleagues to seriously consider what kinds of mixed messages are being sent to the residents of Nunavut, to our constituents, to our public service, and to the many volunteers and advocates, amongst them who devote their time and energy trying to make our society a better, safer, and more equal place for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident you will recall that on November 30, 2005, you brought forward a motion in this House on ending domestic violence in Nunavut. That motion, which was carried unanimously, confirmed the commitment of the Legislative Assembly, which is you and me, and all of us together, to supporting measures to reduce and eliminate domestic violence in Nunavut. That motion encouraged other elected office-holders in Nunavut to do the same.

The motion also stated that we, the Members of the Legislative Assembly, agreed to demonstrate personal leadership in participating in the public education efforts to promote the unacceptability of domestic violence in any form and to provide positive role models.

However, Mr. Speaker, when an individual, who was appointed by our Cabinet a few months ago to serve in an advocacy position, spoke out about unacceptability of domestic violence, she was advised by her employer that her actions may violate the Government of Nunavut's Code of Conduct. She would not, in fact, be able to speak openly, despite being appointed by the same government for just that reason.

Mr. Speaker, on the one hand, we have pledged to follow one code of ethics and demonstrate personal leadership in participating in efforts to promote the unacceptability of domestic violence. If we follow this code, we should be applauding and supporting the efforts of the former President of the Status of Women Council.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, we appointed an individual who happens to be a Government of Nunavut employee to speak up and advocate on an issue that affects all Nunavummiut, and when she does so, we claim that her actions may be in violation of the government's code of conduct.

Mr. Speaker, I would like my fellow Members of this Assembly to think carefully on what code of ethics we truly commit to following. We apply different standards to different people or at different times. Do we interpret codes of conduct at our convenience?

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, no one likes to be accused of hypocrisy, however, applying a double standard leaves one open to that criticism.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Minister of Human Resources to reconsider his position and further, to apologize to the former President of the Qullit Status of Women Council for the situation she has found herself in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 457 – 2(4): Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Peter Ma's Marathon

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The SIDS, or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, is one of the most tragic and not well understood causes of death of newborns and infants.

Last week, two Nunavummiut, Mr. Peter Ma and Mr. George MacLyntock, participated in Nova Scotia at the Cabot Trail Relay Race. Mr. Peter Ma is our Deputy Minister of Finance and needs no introduction in this House. Mr. Ma is a frequent sight here in Iqaluit jogging and running on our streets. Both Nunavut runners were there in Nova Scotia to raise awareness and money for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or SIDS.

Mr. Speaker, each runner was asked to raise \$1,000. Mr. Ma has raised \$2,700 to date and would like to reach \$3,000. Thanks to very generous individuals and businesses, Mr. Ma raised \$1,000 very quickly, so he raised his goal to \$3,000. Thank you to First Air, who provided a reduced rate for Mr. Ma to fly to Nova Scotia so he was able to compete.

The runner that raises the most money gets a prize from CFID, and Mr. Ma right now, is neck and neck with a runner from British Columbia. So it would be awesome, Mr. Speaker, if Nunavut could raise the most money. Contributions will be accepted until June 30 and you can go to www.canadahelp.org. Click on to the giving page, and then type in Peter Ma, and you can contribute.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ma ran in the memory of the late Alainga Bucken, the child of Alex and Michelle Bucken of Cambridge Bay. Alainga passed away on April 21, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, Peter and George are to be congratulated for the efforts on behalf of and for all families affected by SIDS. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Member for Baffin South, Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 458 – 2(4): Concerns of Constituents and the Shipping Lanes for Mary River Project

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like it noted that my constituents in Lake Harbour and Cape Dorset will soon be expressing a matter that is causing consternation with regards to the future impacts of the Mary River Mine. This is in regard to the shipping route proposed by the Mary River company and passing offshore of those two communities. We were not included in the consultations of the mining company when they started to consult with affected communities and this is a matter of great concern.

The resident wildlife populations in the area will be significantly affected by those large ships and it will have impacts on my constituents. Perhaps they should have consulted with those two communities. Our Inuit representatives from the Qikiqtani Inuit Association ought to have consulted with the communities as this is a huge concern. They were not informed that the shipping route was slated to go through that area adjacent to these two communities and these ships are enormous.

The other impacted communities of Iqaluit, Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Igloolik, and Hall Beach have already been consulted about the possible routing. However, the two communities that comprise my constituency were never consulted about this route by either party.

They do not even have information on the number of ships to be used, including the number of ships that are scheduled to pass through Hudson Strait, and these ships will be plying that route even in the winter. This is of great concern to my communities and perhaps with the assistance of my two constituency communities, I can draft up a letter requesting that information to be disbursed to these two communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. If there are no more, Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin South and Whale Cove, Ms. Brown.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two individuals sitting in the Gallery. Yesterday, I had every intention of recognizing the individuals, but I didn't. The first individual I would like to mention is Annette Boucher from Rankin Inlet. She will be paging with us for this week. Her mother is Leonie and

Abe Boucher is her father. Her mom is also my younger sister. They have lived in Rankin Inlet for a very long time and also residing in my riding.

The second individual I would like to recognize is Ellie Cansfield sitting out in the Gallery. I would like to thank her for observing the proceedings and please be welcomed in the House.

I would also like to recognize the President of KCC and a long time Keewatin resident, and her husband, Ken Masen. They are accountants in the Keewatin region. Welcome and thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you. Our visitors and our staff, welcome. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 560 – 2(4): Renovations to Hamlet Office Building in Kugaaruk

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

Mr. Speaker, not too long ago, I was asking some questions to the minister about the Kugaaruk Hamlet Office which is quite old and in desperate need of repair. I would like to ask the minister what has been done about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the member for raising his question. I'm looking into my documents to find out about the Kugaaruk situation.

There are quite a lot of hamlet council offices that are in need of repair. Everything is aging and will have to be repaired and brought up to code. In any event, we have to make proper plans before replacing any of these facilities. We're even looking at the utilidor systems because all of them are aging. It seems like they were built about the same time that the communities were established 20 to 30 years ago.

I share the member's concern, but I don't have the information in front of me, so I can't respond to his question at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister. Again, the hamlet office definitely needs repair or renovation and we have absolutely no space there if we wanted to relocate them. I would like to ask the minister if she would respond to my question prior to the end of this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to say yes to a lot of things, but I know exactly where the member is coming from. Again, all the community facilities are aging. I believe the hamlet offices, garages, the municipal garages, sewage systems, and dumps were all built at approximately the same time, which are now overloaded, so we need to consider them.

I will review the Five-Year Capital Plan and once I have reviewed it, I will get back to the member on his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to ask the minister because I have brought this up before and I'm pretty sure her officials try and check as to what has happened. I'm pretty sure this has been looked into, so I wonder if the minister can provide me with correspondence to the status of the office in Kugaaruk before the end of the session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all want to do a good job and we don't want to omit any communities. I will certainly check into this and provide you with the information via correspondence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 561 – 2(4): Baseball Diamond for Pond Inlet

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, have a question for the Minister of CGS. It must be her lucky day.

During the Committee of the Whole review of the capital budget, I noticed that there was nothing for the baseball diamond that was to be constructed. First of all, I appreciate her response. I don't see in the appropriation, which was agreed to, the arena that was going to be constructed as soon as the community hall was finished. I don't see that in the

documents, so can the minister tell me what the status of that arena is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have lots of paper in front of me. To my colleague's question, we went to visit his community and I remember that very clearly. I can tell him today that it's in the design stage and it is almost 100 percent complete. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. So it's almost 100 percent complete. Once the design and planning is complete, will you advise the hamlet council as to exactly when the construction will start? The present arena is about 30 years old and it was inadequate when it was built in the first place. Meanwhile, other communities have received very good arenas. Will you write to the hamlet council once the design is complete? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that. The department and the NCIAC have listed the arena project as a priority. Yes, I can write that letter to the hamlet council in Pond Inlet. Officials will be consulting with the community this summer, too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister, do you expect, once you have the design done to be attached to the community hall, to have the orders made for this summer's sealift season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, there is no funding for the arena project, but officials are working on developing a budget with associated funds. The project is currently under review by Technical Services and as I read this note, it was to be completed by January of 2008. It's too early for me to tell whether the supplies would be there this summer, but I can certainly check into that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would you then convey that information to the hamlet about the complete plans and when it would start, and when it would finish, etcetera, rather than leaving the community up in the air once again this year? Can you give them a concrete plan as to when you expect the work to begin?

I'm quite concerned, Mr. Speaker, because I have been reading the Northern Connections from the three governments - the Yukon, NWT, and Nunavut - that there is actually an Airport Capital Assistance Program that was not used to improve the Iqaluit airport, rather they used the Building Canada Infrastructure Fund that could have been used for arenas and stuff like that.

So I would like to get concrete information as soon as possible and relay that message to the Pond Inlet Hamlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, the member, Phase I has been completed already, and that was the community hall, and we're now into Phase II. As the member asked if I could convey to the hamlet council in Pond Inlet, I will do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 562 – 2(4): Income Support Payments and Growing Global Food Crisis

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, who is responsible for the Income Support Program.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister knows, for months now, there have been well-documented reports of a global food crisis sparked by rising commodity prices for wheat, corn, soy beans, livestock, and they're all priced in U.S. dollars. As we know, the higher fuel costs are adding to shipping.

Canada has been sheltered this year because of our rising loonie against the U.S. dollar, so we have been lucky, but now, it is stabilizing near parity. I read recently that inflation is expected to increase in Canada by 3.5 percent in 2009, and that's in southern Canada. In Nunavut, it would be much higher.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House if his department is factoring in the already increasing Nunavut food prices in 2008 when they calculate the income support payments to their clients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education and Minister responsible for Income Support, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member again is correct when he talks about the situation on a worldwide basis and we have heard on the news that there is a crisis in many communities and countries. For example, we saw riots in Haiti because of the increased cost of basic food staples.

Most of those basic food staples, Mr. Speaker, are corn, rice, and so on. What the Department of Education has done, through the Income Support Program, has increased by 15 percent during the life of this Assembly the income support amount. We closely monitor the food baskets based on the consumer price index, or CPI, for our given communities. 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 response. The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, in their revised northern food basket survey of 2006, indicated that it would cost a family of four in Cambridge Bay \$382 per week for a nutritious diet of food. That's almost \$1,600 per month and that's in 2006 dollars. With the ravages of inflation since then, it must be more in 2008.

My question for the minister: you indicated that they track staple of foods or basket of foods in various Nunavut communities. Can the minister tell the House what the department currently estimates the cost of feeding a family of four weekly in Cambridge Bay is when they're processing income support payments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education and Minister responsible for Income Support, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have several programs in place for families that are on income support, and the members are aware that it includes a very low rental amount of \$30 or more a month, we have a subsidy in place for the electrical costs, and so on.

We did increase the income support amount by 15 percent. I don't have the actual cost for a basket of food in Cambridge Bay. What I can say is that, as the member is aware, in Cambridge Bay, like all across Nunavut, residents were increased by the 15 percent amount that we have talked about earlier in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I'm pretty sure that the food prices have gone up a lot more than 15 percent since 2004 in most communities. The communities I go to, I usually go to the Northern and Co-op stores and compare, and they're fairly high all across Nunavut, even here in Iqaluit. It's amazing the prices that people have to pay.

Mr. Speaker, the Food Mail Program has helped to mitigate the high costs of shipping and purchasing food in remote and rural communities. Many Nunavut communities are able to take advantage of this program, particularly if they have credit cards and in Nunavut grocery stores as well, when they purchase food through resale.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House who monitors food prices in Nunavut grocery stores to ensure that some food mail savings flow through to consumers, particularly for those on income support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education and Minister responsible for Income Support, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been a lot of controversy over the Food Mail Program. As the member knows, the Food Mail Program is administered by the federal Government of Canada. They monitor the costs and they look at the total. For example, if there's an increase in freight rates, then the federal Food Mail Program has to increase the amount of money they put into the program. So that is monitored by our federal partner.

It has had a significant impact in many of our communities by keeping the costs of perishable foods especially lower than they would be if the subsidy wasn't in place. Indeed, I believe I saw some figures recently which indicated that the federal government had increased the cost on the mail subsidy program for food by over 20 percent. They do monitor that cost and they do look at the end result on a regular basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. If the federal government is monitoring the Food Mail Program, I hope that they're ensuring that some costs are flowing through to low income residents in Nunavut. It is very expensive to live in Nunavut; there is no doubt about that.

Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that the Income Support Program has increased by 15 percent since the beginning of the start of this Assembly; I think it's up around \$30 million now. In my mind, the sustainability of the Income Support Program is in some doubt as it keeps increasing and we have seen that tremendous increase. It doesn't appear that the demand is going to decrease for that program in the face of all the increasing costs I mentioned earlier.

My question for the minister, and I'm sure the minister has met with his federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts in various meetings: can the minister tell the House what initiatives his department is considering discussing or has discussed with his federal or provincial counterparts to address high food costs for low-income families in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education and Minister responsible for Income Support, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Income Support Program is a program of last resort. Probably the best and surest way to lower the income support levels in our communities is through economic development. I believe some of the members have been very strong in the House talking about economic opportunities, whether that's in the mining industry or the fishing industry, and so on. When we see those numbers actually take off, we see the number of households per family on income support considerably drop off.

There is a concern in some jurisdictions, when we meet with our federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts, about the amounts of income support. But across the country, you see those amounts dropping, especially in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland, where they have seen increased economic opportunity. We see the same thing, for example, here in Nunavut communities, Baker Lake, as an example, where we are seeing increased economic activity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Question 563 – 2(4): CGS Initiatives in Kugluktuk

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am grateful to you for this opportunity to ask questions. I'm not expecting many positive answers but I would like an answer. We see a lot of documents in front of us. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Last week, I was pleased to take part in an announcement that included her department's initiatives in Kugluktuk. I have been raising a number of these issues and I am glad to see the government taking action. We are thankful for that.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) one of the department's plans is to invest \$450,000 this year to develop a solution to the Water Quality Program in Kugluktuk. Can the minister indicate to me what the timeline is for completing the work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry that he did not speak long enough for me to find the document, but I'm still looking for it.

In regard to his question on timelines, it doesn't appear here but I know that they will be working on it this summer. The contractors will start their work this coming summer,

with the contract having been awarded to A.D. Williams. I cannot respond as to when it will be completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Concerns have been brought to my attention that the community has recently experienced a shortage of naphtha. Can the minister indicate to me today if she will ask her officials in the Petroleum Products Division to address this issue and ensure that this year's fuel resupply will include an adequate amount for the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although it might not be in relation to his first question, I would like to say that (interpretation ends) I'll take that as notice. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Member, I'm just letting you know that your question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

Question 564 – 2(4): Fuel Supplies in Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry that I was going to be asking the same question as Mr. Tootoo today. If I had known, I would have asked a different question. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services, who is responsible for the Petroleum Products Division.

As the minister knows, Baker Lake is experiencing unprecedented economic growth due to the activities of exploration and mining companies. I had asked this question back in our February session, Mr. Speaker. My questions were in regard to the added costs incurred by these companies due to the Petroleum Products Division bringing in an inadequate amount of fuel to Baker Lake last winter.

Can the minister update the House today as to how the Petroleum Products Division is working with the industries so that they could provide adequate fuel supplies this summer? Can the minister update us on how the Petroleum Products Division has been working with the industry to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What the member is saying is correct. The community of Baker Lake is indeed experiencing fuel shortages

due to increasing demands. I believe that the exploration and mining activities will only increase and the number of their workers will be increasing as well, so the fuel has been increasingly in short supply. The Department of Community and Government Services takes part in the planning process and will continue to do their planning with regards to the increased demands.

I can state today that there's a possibility that we might start taking advantage of Churchill again since they have additional capacity in their tank farms and we could store the additional fuel there. The Baker Lake fuel tanks currently do not have the capacity for us to store more fuel and are inadequate for the amounts we are looking at, but I'm not sure if we have any future plans to add more fuel tanks in that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I raised the same concern last winter about the fuel shortage in Baker Lake. I stated that the existing fuel was inadequate and would be inadequate after this winter. This winter, the Hercules flew to Baker Lake five times to transport fuel. We expect that aircraft to arrive approximately 30 times to deliver fuel to Baker Lake. Although the scow season is almost here, I know that we are still going to experience a shortage of fuel.

In looking at the factors, there is a cause of concern here. Is the Petroleum Products Division properly reviewing their annual plans for fuel resupply to include the additional fuel requirements some communities need due to activities in their areas? I know for a fact that these exploration and mining companies have had discussions with the Petroleum Products Division staff about the amounts of fuel they would like to buy for the upcoming year.

Can the minister indicate to me what her department is doing to ensure that this year's sealift provides adequate quantities of fuel to Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Community and Government Services and Minister responsible for the Petroleum Products Division, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a concern, not only in Baker Lake but in other areas, too, because communities are just growing too fast, too rapidly. And in some instances, in some communities, there are mining activities. Because of that, the demand for fuel, oil, and gasoline is much more than previous years.

Just as an example, PPD had approximately 2 million litres of diesel fuel and 700,000 litres of gasoline on hand in Churchill from which to draw on in the event of a community shortfall. That's where PPD and CGS are hauling from Churchill to Baker Lake because they had run short. In the interim, that will continue.

However, after that, CGS and PPD are still monitoring the situation and what to do in the future. If need be, I guess they will develop a plan for Baker Lake. From what I see, I think the alternative is to use the storage from Churchill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, having fuel set aside in Churchill was timely, but this is obviously an expensive solution. This spring, we have heard that transporting fuel by aircraft is going to cost over \$4 million and this is only for chartering the aircraft. The government constantly talks about being short of money and yet, this appears to be an added waste of government money.

I would like to get clarification from the minister whether the Petroleum Products Division staff in Rankin Inlet are doing their work properly. Are they even in the office all day when they have to work, or is it because they have so much freedom that the plans for the community resupply are not updated, even though a lot of communities are experiencing fuel shortages?

We also know in Baker Lake that the Agnico-Eagle Company is using their own fuel which they purchased themselves and transported by barge to Baker Lake. The barges are still at Baker Lake and they do not purchase fuel from the PPD. I would like to ask the minister if the Petroleum Products Division staff are being monitored or even supervised to ensure that they are doing their work properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Good question.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Minister of Community and Government Services and Minister responsible for the Petroleum Products Division, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a bit offended on some of the comments that were made about CGS and PPD. I could even ask if there is anything right that PPD and CGS is doing. Of course, they are. We have light in here and everybody has fuel in Nunavut.

How about the hamlet councils in the communities? Are they preparing and planning for their future when they make agreements with KIA or with the mining company? Are they planning sufficiently so that there is enough fuel oil for them and for the mining company activities so that the poor community of Baker Lake does not have to run out of fuel, oil, or gasoline?

I'm quite offended that the question has to come on behalf of PPD and CGS because they are doing what they can. If there's a situation in the communities, who is right there? They send their technical staff right away or they order any expert to come to the community right away; they respond right away.

So the answer is yes, PPD and CGS are doing what they can. And with the limited number of staff and resources that they have, they are doing a wonderful job and I praise them. I thank our Member from Cambridge Bay before when he thanked the government staff. I congratulate him for that because all the staff of the government are doing what they can.

The Government of Nunavut, I think we wanted this, I think we have to support it, I think we don't have to say and ask if they're doing a good job or not because there are disciplinary actions to take when it's necessary. We are planning for Baker Lake to make sure that they're equipped with what their needs are for fuel, oil, and gasoline. It's important that we plan for the future.

There are just not sufficient tanks in some communities and that's one of the priorities that the communities have to work on along with the PPD staff to construct these, or to develop tank farms. A lot of communities have many needs, not only for tank farms but also for other infrastructure. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the minister asked about this issue, I can respond to the minister that the Hamlet of Baker Lake has a long-term plan to make sure that the mining companies and the people of Baker Lake are provided adequately with petroleum products. They meet with these companies and are continuing their work. They also worked on the amount of fuel required to meet all of these demands. However, CGS apparently ordered an insufficient amount of fuel last year.

I would like to ask her this last question if I may, Mr. Speaker. I wrote a letter to the minister last March and highlighted these issues. I searched high and low for the response letter in my office at Baker Lake and our offices here, but I could not recall whether or not the minister responded to my letter about petroleum products.

So my final question to the minister is if the minister can commit to me that she will reply to my letter written in March before the end of this sitting. If she can respond, it would be much appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I thought I responded to your letter of March and if I didn't, then I'm sorry. I will look for the correspondence that you referenced and I will respond to you by the end of this sitting here.

I also know that the Hamlet of Baker Lake does very good work. I work very well with the people and the Hamlet of Baker Lake and we consult extensively with them. I would like to thank the member for reminding me about his letter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 565 – 2(4): Public Housing Construction in Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Under the Nunavut Housing Trust, my community of Sanikiluaq is scheduled to receive 27 new units between 2006 and 2009. I would like to thank the minister for his recent letter to me in which he updated me on the status of three five-plex units that were scheduled to be constructed for the fiscal years 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Can the minister update me today on how many new units are planned to be built in Sanikiluaq in 2008-09 fiscal year starting this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly sure how many units will be constructed in Sanikiluaq as I don't have the information in front of me, but under the Nunavut Housing Trust, there are 725 units slated for construction in Nunavut. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand that my community will be receiving over 700 units in three years?

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first supplementary would be that the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy is designed to provide training opportunities for our constituents and to learn important trades skills. Can the minister indicate to me today how many training and job opportunities will be available for the residents of Sanikiluaq this year during the construction season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Going back to the first question, we have 27 units allocated for Sanikiluaq. Also, for the question on the Apprenticeship Program, we hope to produce up to 35 to 40 journeymen through that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister commit to me to writing a letter to my hamlet council and LHOs with an update on the public housing construction plans for the 2008 construction season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can commit to writing the letter to the member and his hamlet council on the progress over the Nunavut Housing Trust Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) The first question I asked, how many new units are planned to be built in 2008-09 fiscal year starting this summer, is the question that I would like answered. There doesn't seem to be good news for Sanikiluaq in the 2008-09 construction year. I seem to be hearing the number of units to be built will be reduced, so I will want to work with the minister on this issue perhaps during this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't heard any news that there are going to be fewer units built in Sanikiluaq. I think we moved some units to the High Arctic, I believe to Arctic Bay. I believe I can say that the number of units to be built in Sanikiluaq will not be reduced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 566 – 2(4): Regulating the Assignment of Rights under Nunavut Land Claims Agreement

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Environment.

Under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, under Section 5.7.34, provides that an Inuk may assign the rights to harvest to another Inuk, or to the spouse or person cohabiting as

the spouse of an Inuk. Subject to Section 5.7.3, it states that the person has the authority, under the local hunters and trappers organization, to assign that individual's hunting rights with or without conditions.

I'm very concerned today about this since I think this section is being misused by our government. I have been led to understand that the government's conservation officers had put together an assignment form that can be signed by individuals, but I don't think the government should have anything to do with those assignment forms as Section 5.7.3 states that dealing with assignment of rights is to be regulated by the HTOs.

Can the minister tell me how those conservation officers can work with the HTOs on this issue? The conservation officers in Rankin Inlet are just administering this assignment without consulting with the HTO. So I would like the minister to explain why his staff are administering this assignment.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I'm not aware of the government being involved with the assignment of rights. Perhaps we can consult with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on how we can tighten up the implementation of the section in question, review assignments to check for abuse, and see if anyone is breaking the legal requirements.

I will speak with my staff in the communities and determine their involvement with the assignment forms. At this time, I'm not fully informed about this issue. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I said that this was included in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* out of concern for those with non-Inuit spouses and allow them to be able to give their rights to whoever is able to hunt.

We have started to see the assignment of rights for hunting animals that aren't intended for personal consumption in the communities. When the assignment is transferred, the spouse harvests an animal. This results in twice the number of animals and thereby limiting the Inuit share of that species since Inuit have quotas. Now that those forms are being signed, it results in a reduction of the Inuit share of quotas, such as for musk ox.

You have already drafted the regulations which have not been agreed to. The Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board are discussing this right now. Before those regulations are approved, can the minister tell us when those regulations will be completed and recognize the role of HTOs under the assignment provisions in such regulations? This assignment is an Inuit right and only Inuit can administer this right. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I will work closely on this. With respect to the regulations, at this time, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is reviewing those regulations. Once we receive the recommendations of the NWMB, we will take a better look at it to make sure that the HTOs are recognized under the regulations. They will be coming back to us in a little while with their recommendations.

I would like to recognize the hunters and trappers organizations in the communities with regards to the assignment of hunting rights. We will also work on strengthening the authority of HTOs within the regulations with respect to the assignment rights. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I can say Inuit are not selfish when it comes to the need to eat and we have absolutely no problem with subsistence assignments. We just don't want Inuit rights to be abused and end up becoming a trophy hunting activity.

This is happening in Rankin Inlet now and a wildlife officer showed me the list of names of people who had been assigned rights, including signed assignment forms for the people, when, in fact, they should not be agreed to. We have to rectify this situation, especially when assignments are increasing in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to ask the minister a question. There is some information available from the local HTOs. Can the minister table something in the House indicating how many assignments are transferred annually? Can he consider doing that?
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will talk with the HTOs in every community to make sure that they provide me with those forms and to provide us with the numbers of people who have assigned their hunting rights. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I saw the draft regulations recently and they have this assignment of rights written in there. I would like to remind the Minister of Environment that when he looks at the Section 5.7.34, he has to read Section 5.7.3 to see who can assign their hunting rights to their spouses. This is not in the

regulations and that the HTOs have more authority, with or without conditions. This has become confusing, so can you clarify this for the benefit of Nunavummiut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): I will ask the people who are in charge of the agreement to see how they can straighten this issue out. Thank you.

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

Question 567 – 2(4): Social Workers for Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk

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

Mr. Speaker, both Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay do not have social workers. I had asked a question on that to the minister previously, but we still haven't seen a response and it doesn't appear to have anything to do with the lack of staff housing. Can the minister inform the House why we still don't have social workers in the two communities I represent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand, the social worker positions have been advertised in the past for both the communities, but the challenge is finding qualified individuals for those vacancies. In terms of staff housing, that falls under the Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the staff housing is not an issue because we have two vacant staff houses that have long been available.

My question was: why have we not gotten our social workers in our communities for such a long time? There are a lot of people who require those types of services and the only services that they can be provided with is by long distance. It is a disadvantage for those two communities. What is the reasoning behind the delay in filling those positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand, the positions have been filled on a temporary basis through contracts and casuals. The challenge is finding qualified individuals to fill those positions is what I understand being the reason for not being able to fill the jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I do have meetings with my constituents and of course, they would like social workers who are acquainted with Inuit customs and traditions, especially they are Inuit. Are you having a hard time filling those positions because you can't find somebody who knows the culture and customs of those communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do encourage individuals to enrol in the Social Work Program that's offered in Cambridge Bay and in some communities. I understand, in the past, that they had looked into, in the instance of Kugaaruk, to try and get someone from the community to take that diploma program in Cambridge Bay to be a social worker. So there are other ways that they have tried to find qualified individuals to fill those jobs. In the interim, there is temporary coverage from other communities that travel to those communities to provide some support and/or through other offices in the region.

I will find out what the update is in terms of where they are at in finding someone for those communities, but from what I do understand, they had hired temporary casuals and contract staff to fill those positions. Encouragement is always something that they provide to the community to have graduates go into college diploma programs to take on these jobs in the community, not only in the Social Work Program but also in nursing and mental health, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Does the minister know how much longer it will take to fill those positions? Do you anticipate that it's going to take a long time or would you be able to fill that position shortly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's difficult to say when the positions will be filled. I can only work with the processes that are established within the government in advertising, interview screening, and reference checks, and so on, to try

and fill those jobs. If there is no one suitable, then we have to go advertising again and follow the same procedure that's in place under the *Public Service Act*.

So when can they be filled? We will continue to try and find suitable candidates for both Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk for the social work positions. I can only report back when those positions are filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 568 – 2(4): Elder Sent Home by Health Centre with Stroke in Cambridge Bay

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

Mr. Speaker, recently, an elderly constituent of mine visited our health centre in great distress. He was treated and sent home, despite his family's concerns that he was very sick. In fact, Mr. Speaker, they were so concerned that his family flew him to Yellowknife where he was admitted to the Stanton Hospital and diagnosed with a stroke. He returned home recently after close to a month in Yellowknife and he returned home in a wheelchair.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister: can the minister tell the House what medical treatment procedures and protocols are in place at health centres to treat and diagnose our vulnerable and elderly patients when they come in for a medical treatment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Without getting into the specifics of that scenario, I have provided to the member a response as to what happened with that particular person. I'm not going to get into the specifics of it, but in terms of what procedures and follow-up appointments were made, from what I understand, all processes have been followed through by the healthcare professionals and assistance was provided to the individuals that were in need. 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 response. Mr. Speaker, the minister misunderstood my question; I didn't ask her for specific details of a specific patient. I asked her what process or protocols are in place to diagnose and treat vulnerable and elderly patients when they come in for treatment. That was the question. I didn't want to get into the details of a particular patient.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, the medical research community has developed a special lab test that indicates symptoms of a stroke or heart attack very quick that can save money and lives. Damage to the heart, Mr. Speaker, when they're having a heart attack, is permanent if a patient isn't treated almost immediately.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House if the hospitals and health centres in all Nunavut communities are provided with and instructed to use a special lab test that can quickly identify enzymes and chemicals in the patient's blood that are indicative of a stroke or heart attack? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not a doctor to answer that specific question. What I can say here is that in a situation that transpires, the person came to the clinic and specialist referrals were made, the family was advised of that specialist referral, and the process to diagnose individuals were already in place.

A person comes to the clinic and the visiting doctor or a doctor in the community will diagnose individuals and take the tests necessary based on the person's condition. I can't respond to what types of tests are done for what type of illness because I'm not knowledgeable in that area and I'm not a physician. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Good answer.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure if the minister would read, again I said earlier, seconds count. If I had a heart attack or stroke in Edmonton or Yellowknife, I would probably get treated right away. In the smaller communities, time is of the essence, so you just don't have time to make a mistake.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to the tests, I have done some research on one such test. It's called a troponin test, it's expensive, and it can be quickly administered to rule out or confirm that a patient is suffering from a stroke or a heart attack.

My question for the minister, and if her officials are listening: can the minister tell the House if a troponin test is a lab medical test that Nunavut's hospitals and health centres use when diagnosing patients exhibiting signs of a stroke or a heart attack? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can read up on different types of procedures that are taken to treat certain kinds of illnesses, we can all do that, but that does not make us experts in this House to say, “Can we use this treatment? Why was this not used?”

I’m not an expert in responding to specific treatments for specific illnesses, I’m not a doctor, I’m not a physician, I’m not licensed to even respond to that type of questioning in the House. What I can do is take that member’s question and ask Dr. MacDonald, who oversees the physicians in Nunavut, who is licensed to practice, who’s got the education to respond to the member’s question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I would appreciate it if she would do that. Nobody has ever accused the minister or any minister in this House of being an expert in that particular area. They become a minister because someone has to be accountable for their department and answer the questions that are asked.

When I ask a question, it’s not Keith Peterson asking the question, I’m asking on behalf of the constituents. I think all the members on this side ask on behalf of constituents, and then the minister hears the question, or her officials hear the question, and hopefully we get the answers.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister: will the minister explain to the House how Health and Social Services investigates those medical files where an individual or family files a complaint to ensure that proper diagnostic procedures were followed with a view to approving future diagnosis treatment for Nunavut residents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the member represents constituents. The point that I’m trying to make here is that I cannot respond to questions related to what treatment is provided for a stroke or a heart attack, or what procedures are taken to treat a heart attack or a stroke. I’m not an expert in that field, and I commit to the member that I can take that question and get my staff to respond to it.

I have correspondence here that responded to every question that the member has raised related to his constituents. In that particular scenario, I had also committed to providing the information to the doctor responsible for physicians to examine the file. In every question the member raises with me, I respond to it. Physicians and nurses review each file. Without breaching confidentiality, I try and provide that information to the member.

So I understand he represents constituents, I understand I'm responsible for responding, and I have responded in all those instances in Cambridge Bay. And so what I can say is that there is a process in place within the Department of Health when there is a concern in regard to a person's file or diagnosis, there are steps in place to address that, whether it be for doctors or for nurses. In the matter in that particular file, that matter was referred to Dr. MacDonald for review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Members, please note that Question Period is now over. We will proceed with our Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

Item 9: Replies to Opening Address

Reply to Opening Address 001 – 2(4): Mr. James Arreak

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to have unlimited time because we have limited time during Members' Statements.

Mr. Speaker, we Inuit have lived in this area for thousands of years and we depend on wildlife for clothing, food, and other necessities. When research is conducted up here, Inuit are always told that the population of this species of animal is declining, for example, with polar bears and say that they have studied them for 35 years.

They're saying 35 years of research, but they only conduct these studies during a very short period of time during each year. We disagree with their assessment that they have 35 years of studies because they do not even spend the whole summer conducting research. One month or two of studies during a year does not constitute a period of a year. Therefore, if you add these months over the 35 years, it only totals a few years, then they make the assessment that the population is declining.

Perhaps they should be asking the year-round residents about what their observations are, but when they conduct these studies, they become what we call instant experts. After only a few months of research under their belts, they assume that they know everything there is to know about that species.

As an example, the people who live in the United States have listed the polar bear as threatened and they are getting this information from these instant experts or scientists who live year-round in the States. They probably have no idea where the Arctic is and yet, they are the experts who have no idea about our climate and the wildlife.

As well, based on that information from April 30, 2007, the previous minister wanted a study done on polar bears to see if the population was declining and they even held a hearing on whether they should reduce the quotas. The quota for Baffin Bay is currently set at 105. The two communities comprising my constituency, Clyde River and

Qikiqtarjuaq, will be adversely affected by this if the quota is cut. The present quota is 105 for the Baffin Bay polar bear population and they wanted to decrease it to 64 or lower, to half of the existing quota, or totally remove the quota. These are the options that they are reviewing.

When they make a decision, you always hear that they used *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, and although the government states that they will use *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* in their assessments, I do not believe it. This is because Inuit keep saying that the population of the polar bear is not declining, the population is increasing because we live up here. This stated position is not the case since the scientists are only trying to support the American argument that polar bears are declining and this is all based on a hypothetical theory.

Some of my childhood memories include times when non-Inuit first started coming up to oversee the new communities, we were advised, "You are not to hunt caribou" or "You may only kill one caribou for the entire year." This was advice from our southern wards who were the so-called wildlife managers.

However, Inuit kept stating that after a specific period, the caribou will return because they migrate around the island, and that they would return in numbers. Back then, we used only *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and we also adhered to our Inuit beliefs. Inuit have been proved to be correct in their knowledge and they were not wrong then either.

Inuit were also told afterwards that they could not hunt geese anymore, or certain migratory birds which were not allowed to be harvested in big numbers. The hunters would state that the animals have changed their land use patterns but that they would return when the conditions are right and that the government would have to use public money to cull these birds. The birds are numerous and can increase in a short time, especially geese. Inuit have also been correct about the geese issue as well.

Shortly thereafter, Inuit were advised that the bowhead whale population was declining, that they were on the verge of becoming extinct. They stated that in the entire Eastern Arctic, as well as in the seas adjacent to our community, there were only about 300 bowhead whales. Today, Clyde River residents can tell you that if you go to this particular area, you can see about 300 in one day. Of course, the scientists never believed the Inuit about that either and just sloughed off these comments.

Lo and behold, the scientists have now advised Inuit that there were about 14,000 bowheads and then shortly after that, they were estimating that there may be up to 43,000 bowhead whales. Inuit kept notifying the scientists that the bowhead whale population was increasing dramatically. Now, the scientists have had to eat those words about the declining bowhead whale population, and they had to admit that they were wrong and that Inuit were correct in their traditional knowledge.

Inuit started advising scientists that the ivory seagulls were declining in the High Arctic, whereas not one scientist advised Inuit that this population was decreasing, and yet, they call these scientists the experts. When a population estimate was finally conducted, it

proved once again that Inuit were correct and that indeed, the ivory seagull population was in decline.

Inuit always know when there is a decline in the animals that they harvest, or conversely when there is an increase in populations, and will continue to advise whoever is managing that species about these changes in numbers.

Inuit also tell their fellow hunters that they should not hunt a certain species due to low population numbers. Inuit will continue to advise these transient experts about any changes, but we should manage our wildlife ourselves in Nunavut and not depend on the mistaken assumptions of southerners.

The polar bear population is not declining. That is a continual statement of Inuit in the communities and I believe their assessment and that they will again be proven right. Inuit state that polar bears in Baffin Bay are getting skinnier due to too many bears competing for the same food and they start going everywhere because there are too many of them.

Recently, we were told by the Americans that they wanted to list polar bears as threatened. Inuit think otherwise and we want our concerns heard. I believe, from 1954 to 1957, when Eisenhower was the President, the Americans built many DEW line sites. I believe there were 58 sites to protect the continent southern populations. The agreement was between Canada and the United States. Those agreements and radar installations are still in place, albeit with some upgrades. They're welcome to come here and they will always be welcome. And the people who pass this kind of legislation are using Inuit land, so they should listen to Inuit. Inuit always hunted with proper management. It is not the Inuit way to completely deplete any kind of wildlife. We want this to be known by outsiders.

On a separate topic, the issue of suicide, we often hear people say that the members or the government is not addressing the high number of suicides and that they need to do more. We cannot address the underlying reasons for suicide here in this House. I can empathize with those who lose family members to suicide due to my personal experience of feeling those emotions that bear down on people when that happens. My only son committed suicide and I know that many of you here have been affected by this as well, and that is why I stated we cannot change this overnight.

There is a saying, 'It takes a whole community to raise a child.' The community has to raise its children properly. This cannot be solved by the government alone. Healthy living starts at home. Love and respect has to be shown within the home. Parents have to provide their children with the right advice if we are to see a decrease in the number of suicides.

If the communities took some initiatives in addressing this issue and how suicide can be prevented, it would strengthen our desire to decrease the number of suicides. We realize that some people who commit suicide think that there is no other alternative, but others

who try to kill themselves and don't succeed go on to live because their time has not yet come.

One of the causes we have to address is the importation of drugs and alcohol that is brought in to the communities in Nunavut by airplane. Youth tend to be involved in the importing of these substances as well as in the distribution, and youth spend what little money they do have on the purchase of drugs since they have been enticed to try them by older youth.

As well, people have been given trial drugs so that they can buy the drugs later on. Some of them have tried to commit suicide, but what we hear is that it was an overdose and not a suicide attempt. I have heard this from several communities, not just Clyde River. Some of the youth just want an opportunity to leave their home communities when they overdose on pills to fake a suicide attempt. These are like quasi-suicide attempts just so they can go to another community, such as Iqaluit, Winnipeg, or Ottawa.

These issues need to be looked into by the government as well as communities, and to develop policies to catch the abusers. We should not be embarrassed by these cases and start working on the principle of *Inuuqatigiittiarniq* at the local level so that the finger-pointing would be minimized.

As well, youth should believe and respect their elders because this is part of the Inuit culture - respecting our fellow Inuit and our environment. This has to be a priority in our communities because many youth try to win over their elders. This leads to abuse of their grandparents as the youth will go and bother the elders when they get their pension cheques.

In speaking to this issue, I have to mention the RCMP as well. I believe that the communities have to collaborate with the RCMP because we are not adversaries. Youth as well as young adults completely oppose any RCMP initiatives. RCMP are not our enemy, they are here to protect us and our communities and to ensure that we have safe communities. They should not just be scorned by Inuit but be part of our overall partnership in making our communities healthy.

It is extremely expensive to live in Nunavut. For example, if I were trying to purchase four litres of milk, it would cost \$14 to \$16, whereas down south, it may be as low as \$1 or \$2 for that same volume of milk. The same applies to everything. Pop, for example, is about \$2 or \$3 per can. This is partially due to the transportation costs required to ship up the food to our territory and so we have to work on lowering our costs.

My colleague from the High Arctic also mentioned that perhaps we have to supplement the existing Food Mail Program to send basic foods to our communities and ensure that we can stretch our meagre financial resources to enable us to buy more staples, especially with the lack of job opportunities here in Nunavut.

The unemployment rates in Nunavut are extremely high. In some communities, it is as high as 40 percent, although it may be lower in some communities. There are also people who are only able to get seasonal jobs since there are no jobs in the communities, along with the lack of assistance programs. That is why I believe that we have to look at the transportation issue and not just ship our foods up on airplanes or ships.

Down south, the transportation system is well-developed and you can practically drive anywhere via vehicles or even railways, and they have proper airports, docks, highways, and so on to enable the shipping of goods anywhere it is needed. Nunavut is not like that. Whatever we want has to be shipped up. That is why many communities are clamouring for docks and other transportation upgrades as these will allow the communities to diversify and expand their economic opportunities, as well as to bring the costs of transportation down.

We are always told that there is no funding available. There are many projects on hold, although we request financial support from our fellow Canadians to meet our basic needs to lower our cost of living. It is hard to have to see other Canadians with their entire infrastructure because aboriginal Canadians always seem to get the short end of the stick. We do not even have the basic infrastructure other Canadians take for granted.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, our government is now starting to develop and they're starting to work on the projects, but this all has to be accomplished with very limited resources. All departments stretch their funds just short of the breaking point to meet even some of these requests, and I am grateful that the government actually starts some of these initiatives.

It is extremely expensive to live up here and our people undergo tremendous hardships in trying to make ends meet. Our national government has to step up to the plate and deliver some of the very basic infrastructure we are asking for and they should be investing in Nunavut. Ottawa should be ashamed for not providing more.

I'm very proud of our Government of Nunavut for providing as many services and programs as they do with the little resources that they have, including local projects such as recreational and school facilities. We are now starting to get these facilities that allow communities to better their future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. 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. If there are none, Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Education and Energy, Minister Picco.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 35 – Energy Efficiency Act – Notice

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, May 30, that Bill 35, the *Energy Efficiency Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance and CLEY, Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for first reading of Bill 34, the *Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The minister is seeking consent of this Assembly to waive Rule 62(1) to allow for first reading of Bill 34. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Minister Tapardjuk.

Bill 34 – Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act – First Reading

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 34, the *Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 34 has had its first reading.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I'm trying to pass a note.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. If you have your hand up, I will acknowledge you...

>>Laughter

... when I'm reading the Order Paper, even if you have your hand up for someone else. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Here we go again.

>>Laughter

Minister of Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for second reading of Bill 34, the *Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The minister is seeking consent to waive Rule 62(1) to allow for second reading of Bill 34. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Minister Tapardjuk.

Bill 34 – Nunavut Outfitter Liability Protection Fund Act – Second Reading

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 34, the *Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill creates the Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund and sets out a mechanism for eligible outfitters, guides and tourist establishments to access limited indemnity coverage for comprehensive general liability claims. This bill also sets out the powers for the Government of Nunavut to administer the fiscally responsible indemnification and claims management system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 34 has had its second reading and will be referred to a standing committee.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 26, 27, 28, and 30 with Mr. Arreak in the Chair.

Before we proceed to Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:53 and Committee resumed at 16:18*

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak): Thank you. I will call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 26, 27, 28, and 30. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to deal with Bill 28 and after that, report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. That's a good wish.

>>*Laughter*

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 3 – Consideration in Committee

I would now like to ask Minister Tapardjuk, Minister for Finance, to make his opening remarks. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Good afternoon, Members. I am pleased to appear before members today to speak to Bill 28 - *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 3*; specifically, Bill 28 provides a tax credit for parents with small children under the age of six.

This bill is designed to provide parents with some much needed tax relief. It does this by introducing a new tax credit for parents with small children under the age of six. The tax credit would amount to \$600 in the 2006 taxation year and \$1,200 in the 2007 taxation year and later taxation years. This tax credit is available for each child under the age of six. This amounts to a per-child tax savings of \$24 in 2006 and \$48 in 2007 and later taxation years.

A person can claim this credit if they meet the eligibility requirements. Basically, a person has to be a resident of Nunavut on the last day of the taxation year, and either be a single parent, or the parent with the lower income, or the parent with an equal income and the other parent does not deduct an amount for the credit.

The child has to be under six years of age during the year, has to be living with the parent on the last day of the year, is a qualified dependent as described in the *Income Tax Act*, and the parent has not claimed an eligible dependent deduction for them.

I would be pleased to answer questions from members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Minister, do you have a witness that you would like to bring to the witness table? Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree to bring in the witness?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Minister, please introduce your official.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Peter Ma, my Deputy Minister for the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Thank you. Please proceed, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and Mr. Ma back to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability has carefully scrutinized Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 3*.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes that the purpose of bill is to provide a tax credit for parents with children under the age of six. The standing committee is in full support of this measure.

Mr. Chairman, during his appearance before the standing committee, members encouraged the minister and his officials to carefully monitor changes in federal tax legislation that impact Nunavummiut, and to introduce appropriate legislation as required. The standing committee also looks forward to the introduction in the fall of this year of legislation to implement tax measures that were announced in our minister's Budget Address of earlier this year, such as an increase to the pension income credit.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 28 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 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.

Are there any general comments? There being none, we will proceed to the clause-by-clause review of the bill starting with page one of the bill. This bill should be in your legislation binder. Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 3*. Clause 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to page 2. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just on clause 2, under (d), it says for 2006-07 taxation years, I just want to get on the record a response from the minister or his officials that individuals who are eligible at that time, was this something that will automatically show up for them as a credit, that they won't have to apply retroactively for the credit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, that's the case right now, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Clause 2 was approved. (interpretation ends) Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Turn to page 3. Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 5. Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 8. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: And clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to Bill 28 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 28 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to thank the minister and Mr. Ma. (interpretation) Thank you for appearing before us. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister and his official from the witness table.

(interpretation ends) I was directed by a person who was making a wish to leave earlier, so I'll now report progress to the Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Please be seated, Minister Picco. (interpretation) Thank you. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman, Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 28 and would like to report that Bill 28 is immediately ready for third reading. 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, Mr. Arreak. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Minister Brown. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have a few announcements. The meeting with the Minister of Energy on his briefing on energy issues will now take place five o'clock this afternoon in the Nanuq Boardroom. For tomorrow, the meeting for the Standing Committee on Health and Education at nine o'clock on Bill 20 is cancelled. However, there is a meeting at nine o'clock tomorrow of Government Operations on Bill 34 in-camera, and the meeting for the Standing Committee on Health and Education on Bill 21 in-camera at 10:30 in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for May 29:

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

9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 31
 - Bill 32
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 26
 - Bill 27
 - Bill 30
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 28
 - Bill 29
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 29, at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:34*

