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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq

(Nattilik)

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

Hon. Levinia Brown

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services

Hon. Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk

(South Baffin)

Minister of Environment

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

David Alagalak

(Arviat)

Joe Allen Evyagotailak

(Kugluktuk)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Ed. Picco

(Iqaluit East)

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

James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

Deputy Speaker; Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Peter Kattuk

(Hudson Bay)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

David Simailak

(Baker Lake)

James Arvaluk

(Tununiq)

Steve Mapsalak

(Akulliq)

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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

Hon. Levi Barnabas

(Quttiktuq)

Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Hon. Patterk Netser

(Nanulik)

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

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Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, May 29, 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): Thank you and good afternoon. I would like to ask Mr. Simailak to say the opening prayer. Mr. Simailak.

>>*Prayer*

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

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 188 – 2(4): Heavy Equipment Training Simulator at the 2008 Nunavut Tradeshow

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon to our colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House about a training situation that took place during the 2008 Nunavut Tradeshow.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education, in partnership with the Operating Engineers Training Institute of Ontario (OETIO), trains Nunavummiut in the heavy equipment operator field. Now, since 2005, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education has sponsored 175 Nunavummiut to attend that program.

Mr. Speaker, during this year's tradeshow, the department shared a booth with the OETIO to demonstrate the mini training excavator. This is one of several simulators used at OETIO to provide hands-on training for the students who attend the ten-week program.

Mr. Speaker, this demonstration raised interest and awareness as it was very popular and many people wanted to learn more about the delivery of the program, and again, some of the Members of the House here had an opportunity to be on the simulator.

Mr. Speaker, graduates of the Heavy Equipment Operators program are employed by construction and mining companies, as well as municipalities. Mr. Speaker, training opportunities such as those offered through OETIO are crucial in ensuring we have experienced trades people. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education

strongly believes in the need for a skilled, well-trained work force so that Nunavummiut can take advantage of future opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank staff from OETIO for travelling to Nunavut. I would also like to thank First Air for donating the cost of transporting the equipment to Iqaluit, and Nunavut Excavating for donating the much needed sand that was used for the excavator, as well, Mr. Speaker, KRT Electrical for providing a vehicle to the OETIO staff for the week. Mr. Speaker, their generous donations are sincerely appreciated. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, and Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 189 – 2(4): Strengthening Financial Management - Building Capacity

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut, through the Department of Finance, began the *Strengthening Financial Management* project in 2003 as part of its continuous improvement process. This ongoing process was further guided by the 2005 Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly.

One component of the 2006 Territorial Formula Financing discussions between Nunavut and the Government of Canada was the need to build capacity in the area of financial management. In Federal Budget 2007, Canada deemed this component important enough to make a one-time contribution of \$23.2 million, over seven years, into Nunavut's process of continuous improvement in financial management.

Since the announcement, officials of both governments have been working to develop projects that will remain true to the spirit and intent of *Strengthening Financial Management* while maximizing the value from the use of the funding. The program will be rolled out over the next five years with expenditures commencing later this year.

Mr. Speaker, it is a two-part program. The first part, valued at \$15 million, provides the computer hardware resources necessary to adequately process financial information. These hardware upgrade needs are particularly acute in communities outside of Iqaluit, where per-keystroke wait time is excruciatingly long. This \$15 million contribution will allow the GN to modernize and upgrade its business network which, in turn, will greatly increase the efficiency of financial operations over the next four years.

Mr. Speaker, the second part of the program focuses on financial operations. The GN's own *Strengthening Financial Management* project was a great beginning: now this \$6.6 million contribution to Phase II over the next five years, with yearly funding of \$800,000 after that will build on those efforts. Areas of emphasis within projects include: financial policy and procedures; the Public Accounts Strategy; the continual monitoring, evaluation and introduction of financial processes, computer software solutions and standardization and implementation of computer-based solutions.

I will update the House on these initiatives as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. If there are none, Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 459 – 2(4): Congratulations to Graduates

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the graduates of the new Nunavut Aboriginal Language Certification Program who will be receiving their certificates today in Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, 11 Kugluktuk residents have graduated with their certificates to teach Inuinnaqtun in the community schools and early childhood programs.

The graduates are:

Patricia Algona

Aggie Angulalik

Christine Kaiyogana

Anita Niptanatiak

Connie Pangon

Laila Uttak

And our elders are:

Kate Inuktalik

Ida Jane Kapakatoak

Agnes Kokak

Lena Niptanatiak

And also Mamie Oniak, who is 73 years old.

This is a great accomplishment not only because of the benefits to our language but on a personal level.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, five of these graduates are elders (or close to being elders) and for some of them, taking this course was the very first time they had ever been students in a classroom. I applaud them for their efforts and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, this program was offered this year through Nunavut Arctic College with support from the Tahiuqtiit Society. It is an important course that will play a very big role in bringing more Inuinnaqtun language teaching to our younger generations.

I am very proud of our graduates and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Member's Statement 460 – 2(4): Federal Government Presence in the Kitikmeot

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House about an issue that greatly affects the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Canadians across the nation are entitled to a certain level of service from their federal government's departments and agencies. In most parts of Canada, those services are easily accessible within a few minutes, or certainly within a couple of hours of driving.

Mr. Speaker, over in the Kitikmeot, we lobbied for 15 years during the 1980s and 1990s to convince the federal government to open an employment services office. The federal government finally opened a HRDC office in Cambridge Bay in November of 2001. The HRDC office has now become a Service Canada office with two staff who deliver a number of valuable and timely services to all Kitikmeot communities.

My Speaker, my own personal experiences with the Service Canada office has saved me weeks and possibly even months of red tape and frustration. Nowadays, they can help clients with passports, residential school payments, Social Insurance Numbers, applications for Old Age Security, Canada Pension Plan, tracking down missing income tax documents, and many other services.

Mr. Speaker, that being said, when I look around Iqaluit, I notice that there are many federal government departments located here which are not present in the Kitikmeot.

I see no reason why many of these departments cannot open an office in the Kitikmeot, similar to what HRDC did in 2001. This would enable them to provide more timely and efficient delivery of their programs and services to the western part of Nunavut, which is 2,000 kilometres west of Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, a larger federal presence in the Kitikmeot of such key federal departments as Indian and Northern Affairs would enable our residents, communities, and businesses better access to important information on available programs and services. In addition, it might reduce the need for expensive trips to Iqaluit and Ottawa to meet with officials to discuss how they can help to develop our region.

Mr. Speaker, when federal officials and politicians come to Iqaluit, they often say that they visited Nunavut. However, they fail to recognize that Nunavut is much more than just Iqaluit.

Nunavut is over two million square kilometres in size, extends across three time zones, and has residents living in 27 communities.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, when the House of Commons adjourns for the summer, I encourage ministers and Members of Parliament from Ottawa to come and visit the Kitikmeot to learn about our challenges, issues and opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in urging the federal government to increase its presence in the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

Member's Statement 461 – 2(4): Integration of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into Government Policies and Practices

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to comment once again with respect to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and its lack of use.

Since 1999, when Nunavut was created, we were told that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* would be integrated into the government system. Today, it seems to be everyone's favourite topic but we are starting to lose our knowledgeable elders. Time is running out since our experts on the subject are being lost and we have yet to start integrating *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in Nunavut.

Yesterday, we were informed that an elder died in Baker Lake. I'm sure this individual could have made a huge contribution in regard to the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* database and I imagine that this elder was looking forward to the day that the government would start applying *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. People are still waiting. Even young people are inquiring as to when *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* will be implemented and taught, and more specifically, knowledge relating to the land, the animals, and traditional Inuit way of living.

Although we hear that the government will use *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and are asking about its integration, not one department is utilizing this knowledge. Inuit in particular

have accumulated a lot of knowledge about animals. They have had to subsist on animals for thousands of years, so they know them like the back of their hands.

However, whenever *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and science are used in conjunction to make decisions on animals, everyone believes the scientists and it always seems to win out. This is not integration. This means that *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, which is knowledge on par with science, is being denigrated since science is also accumulated knowledge. (interpretation ends) IQ is knowledge just like science is knowledge.

(interpretation) We ought to make decisions using *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* with regards to matters that either our communities or our government are dealing with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 462 –2 (4): Arctic Gospel Concert #2 at Inuksuk High School

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tonight at seven o'clock here in Iqaluit at the Tisi area in the Inuksuk High School, there will be an Arctic Gospel Concert #2.

Mr. Speaker, the concert includes some of the very best musicians in Nunavut. All proceeds raised will go towards rebuilding the St. Jude's Cathedral here in Iqaluit. We will have a canteen, a cake walk, and a wheel barrel for donations. Mr. Speaker, it should be great fun. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all members and the listening audience here in Iqaluit to attend.

And I want to say just very quickly that the big hit over the last couple of nights, and some of the members have been out there to the Ukiivik, has been the youth church band from Pangnirtung and they are phenomenal to hear. The group, I understand, is going to be going to Ireland very shortly to perform. If you have an opportunity to see this youth group from Pangnirtung, the Speaker's home community, they are really worth seeing and very entertaining.

So with that, (interpretation) thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 463 – 2(4): Air Transportation in the Kivalliq – Awarding of Medical Travel Contract

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to comment briefly on air transportation in Nunavut, particularly in the Kivalliq region.

I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, I think all Members of the House share the fact that air transportation is crucial and very important in Nunavut. We don't enjoy road transportation, we don't have any access to visit our friends and relatives, or even on emergency basis to visit communities. So air transportation is very important in this place and the government must take into account that an Air Transportation Policy is crucial in Nunavut and that the Air Transportation Policy should be in place if we are going to continue to have any input with the changes in air routes and contracts, whether it be a medical contract and so on.

Recently, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health awarded medical contracts to a number of airlines, not only in the Kivalliq region but all regions, I believe. Mr. Speaker, prior to the awarding of the contract, I cautioned the government in this House that when it's awarding and considering changes to awarding of airline service contracts for medical travel, it assess the negative impacts that it may have if it creates a monopoly service in the region.

Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what has happened in my region that it has opted to award a contract to continue the monopoly, and that is not good for the business community and it's not good for the economy of the Kivalliq region.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the government to seriously put in place a Transportation Policy, that it would also bind each department that they not proceed independently to disrupt medical or air transportation routes in the Kivalliq or anywhere else because to continue to award medical contracts that would increase the monopoly really jeopardizes the air service in the region and that is exactly what may happen the Kivalliq region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 3. Members' Statements. If there are no more, Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. If there are none, Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person who is here from Rankin Inlet. She is my CA, April Eecherk, and she has many relatives here in Iqaluit. Please welcome her. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. If there are no more, I would like to welcome

everybody in the House. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Arv... Alagalak. I'm sorry.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 569 – 2(4): Trades Trainee Positions

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): I've been called all sorts of names, so that is not a problem.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that I may cause some discomfort, but I rise to ask some questions and I will remaining standing here. However, I do not want to be rebuked or disparaged by government staff, so I make this statement in the House.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I believe it was either last year or so, we had three students from Arviat attending the Nunavut Housing Trust Fund Program with funds from the federal government. The program states that training positions should be awarded to Inuit, who will be trained in the various trades required in the construction of these units using the funds allotted to the trust fund and the federal government has made that statement publicly already.

So for that reason, I'm not talking about the contractors, but I think that we, as a government, have to rethink our approach to implementing this training. Can the minister take into consideration these types of ideas, which use construction projects to conduct training, to discuss these issues further with construction companies?

We should enter into agreements for these apprentice positions in the trades, such as carpentry, electricians, plumbers, or other trades that Nunavut has a shortfall of skilled workers in. We have to keep our needs under consideration when we are trying to implement measures to train Nunavummiut under that particular program. This should include a review of the positions that the government stated would be included in this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We just recently received the funding for the Nunavut Housing Trust and we presently have 33 trainees.

It's still in the infancy stages, Mr. Speaker, so problems will continue to emerge. However, we are working to provide more employment to Inuit. I can say, (interpretation

ends) Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) we have already put in the pockets of Inuit (interpretation ends) \$11 million from that Nunavut Housing Trust Fund. (interpretation) We have never had a program like that before and I'm very happy about it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy clearly states, as I said it again, that a number of trainees would be involved in the construction of 725 new public housing units. Can the minister explain why no trainees have been identified to work under the housing construction program in Arviat?

(interpretation) They started to work, but I feel that they didn't get enough support in my constituency and I will reiterate my position on this. Four units have been completed and they will start again this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said it in my earlier response that we have 33 registered apprentices on site, in addition to many pre-trade labourers. As for the community of Arviat, I haven't been informed of what or how many apprentices they have. I just have the total figures of Nunavummiut in the apprenticeship program. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would be good if he could get that information before the summer. I know none of the 33 apprentices are in my constituency and I'm pretty sure they will not come to our community to work.

(interpretation ends) The Auditor General's report states that it falls under the Government of Nunavut's mandate to ensure that training is a component of the housing strategy. Will the minister ensure that during this year's construction season, there will be trainees working under the supervision of trades people? (interpretation) There are all kinds of trades people in Arviat and they have to be consulted, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can commit to the member's request and we will definitely deal with the Arviat issue in terms of having qualified tradesmen on site during the construction season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 570 – 2(4): Huge Increase of Fuel Costs and No Use of Hedging Policy

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, last week on Friday, he informed us of a huge increase in the cost to the government of buying fuel. I think on Friday, he said it was between \$70 million and \$85 million more.

Mr. Speaker, I know, like I said well over a year ago, this government developed a policy to help deal with and protect Nunavut from these huge cost increases in fuel. Can the minister clearly state here in the House why it went through all the trouble to put together a hedging policy and why they didn't use it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke to this issue already. Staff from the Departments of Finance and Justice are working together to look into ways that we can get assistance because of the sky rocketing prices of fuel and for the future. I'm not sure if it would be insurance or if it's called a hedging policy, but they're presently trying to get an account and they're trying to complete it.

We are currently working with Merrill Lynch & Associates to try and come up with a solution. This was delayed due to the extra work, but we are expecting a report and once all of the issues have been finalized, then we could review it and use it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the policy was approved over a year ago by Cabinet and you're saying that they're just working on it now. It's a little late now, we're going to be hit, as the minister indicated, with \$70 million to \$85 million and potentially even more because we haven't bought our fuel yet and we all know that the price changes daily, so I would say it's a little late for this year.

My question is: why didn't they implement or use the policy for this year's re-supply? It could have saved us a whole lot of money and we wouldn't be looking at between \$70 million to \$85 million hit this year. Can you explain why it wasn't used for this year's re-supply? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, this is quite a complex matter involving various issues. I even want to have an information session with the members tomorrow so that we can better understand the issues involved with this subject. However, this is, as I said, a very complex issue and we would have to very carefully deliberate on it.

If we look at the Yukon, they underwent this experience with the hedging policy by buying fuel futures but the price went the other way and they lost a lot of money. Now, they're having financial problems in the Yukon. Buying commodity futures is a risky business and because someone made the wrong judgement, they lost a great deal of money.

This is not a simple matter and we have to methodically consider the issue. Currently, staff from the Departments of Justice and Finance are currently working together but they have not completed their work on the issue. We expect this shortly and after we get the facts, we hope to use this in the future. That is what I can state, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said, the policy was developed over a year ago and there was even some talk, I believe, of they might have thought of using it for last year's re-supply and there were concerns raised about it here in the House at that time. Why are they just doing it now? They had all that time to be ready to use that policy that could have saved us this \$70 million to \$85 million hit or more, you know, it could have lessened that blow on us as a government. Why did the government not pursue what they're doing now at the beginning? Why did they wait until after? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are not just waiting. Just to let the members know that we did not wait for prices to increase before we looked into the matter. Like I said, it is very complicated.

Further, on March 24, 2007, it was approved by the Financial Management Board, so yes, that part is true. However, our staff from the Department of Finance had to do further research due to its complexity and technicalities, so we had to find a person well versed in the business. There are quite a few reasons, but during our current fiscal year, we will not be using it.

What I'm trying to say is that we are now working on this matter and further, we hope to use it in the near future. However, we have to ensure that we explore all of the issues, what with prices still in limbo and since we have not completed our research into the matter, we could find ourselves in a precarious position if we tried to use it. We could

lose a large amount of funds if we were to utilize this, instead of saving money on these futures.

Due to the way it is setup, we are not in the situation by virtue of purposefully avoiding it, but rather because of the complexity of this matter and due to wanting it to be as prepared as possible. There is no doubt, however, that it will be improved to satisfaction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a little concerned; the minister indicated that they couldn't use it because it was not set up right. When they approved it last March, didn't they look at it to see if it was set up right? Did they approve a policy that wasn't set up properly? I mean, how do they look at things like that? Is the minister saying that they approved a policy that was flawed? Is that what the minister is saying? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. We approved the policy in May 2007. The regulations do not form part of the policy because those regulations have to be developed after the policy is established. When it comes to policies, we proceed to work on the regulations based on the parameters of the policy. This is not an easy task and that is the reason why we were delayed, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 571 – 2(4): Funding for the Development of Inuktitut Curriculum

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education and it's partly related to the question that I asked the minister earlier, but I didn't get a clear response.

Mr. Speaker, two days ago, the minister repeatedly alluded to the fact that the new education legislation would have to be in place before additional funds could be allocated to developing further Inuktitut curriculum materials.

Can the minister clarify for this House whether there is anything in the current *Education Act* which would preclude or prevent the allocation of additional funds for Inuktitut resources?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm so happy that the member asked this question so that we can actually clarify some of the misstatements that have been made in the House. So, for the record, I would like to clarify something.

The question that the member asked and the member suggests in his question that it wasn't answered completely by the minister, and some other questions that have been raised in the House concerning the *Education Act* and why we can't put money into the department, as it were, without passing the legislation, so let's say, for the record, and I'll try to make it clear, if, in the legislation, and in this case, in the legislation, it states, for example, there would be a guaranteed pupil-teacher ratio, guaranteed amounts for elders, guaranteed classroom sizes, guaranteed resources, guaranteed curriculum, and so on, because it's in legislation, so when the legislation is passed, the money will flow.

If the House, right now, wants to take \$10 million or \$14 million and vote to give it to the Department of Education, it can do that. The minister can bring forward a proposal and the \$14 million can go in and it will go in the base, the core funding of the Department of Education. But next year, because of rising oil prices, because the world collapses, the government of the day, the newly elected Members of the Legislative Assembly in November, six months from now, will say, "We've got to cut," so they can cut from the Department of Education. But if there are amounts in legislation, not only would they have to cut from the department, they would actually have to go in and change legislation, and that takes away the guarantee.

So in legislation, the difference is it's legislated. There are legislated amounts and you have to do something. If you want to just take money and put it in, that would be great, if you had the money to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was a good performance to confuse the question. The information provided is really completely not related to my question. Nunavummiut Inuktitut teachers would like to get more money so that they can have classroom materials to teach students, so that they can pass their grades, succeed, and go on to contribute to the development of Nunavut.

The minister says he cannot do that with the current Act. My first question was: what prevents him from providing additional money with the current *Education Act* so that the materials can be translated and developed? What's the problem? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now I'm confused. The member has on his desk copies of the Inuktitut curriculum resources from grades one through 12 and kindergarten, in Inuktitut and English available to all schools.

What the member is saying is that the resources that the teachers have requested, we are putting \$3 million or \$4 million a year, especially into the high school levels starting with grade seven through to 12 for new materials because we haven't been doing that. In the past, we have been concentrating on K-5. So those monies are going out there and the material is there.

Now, part of the curriculum framework, and the member has it on his desk, gives him an overview. Nothing stops the department from putting money into resources because there is a budget item. And when you approve the Department of Education's budget, there are monies for our TLSs, or teaching learning centres. There is one in the Kivalliq, there is one in the Baffin, there is one in the Kitikmeot region, and there is one in Pond Inlet; there are four of them. That ongoing work of all those Inuit – Mark Kalluak, we have talked about it in the House, Nunia Qanatsiak in Arviat – these guys are working everyday putting together curriculum resources.

The difference is that in the new *Education Act*, so that we can implement a fully bilingual education system, we need more resources to do that. So the *Education Act* has extra money in it to be able to provide that Bilingual Education Strategy that was tabled here in the House in 2004.

So hopefully that is clear for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is good information to have, but it still doesn't answer the question.

Inuktitut teachers and DEAs are asking for additional money so that they can have their teaching material translated into Inuktitut and developed for those individuals who choose to do so, which they currently do. What prevents the minister from allocating, for instance, \$5 million or \$10 million toward Inuktitut programming right now? What hinders you from doing so with the current Act? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I can paraphrase what the member is saying when he says what is stopping the minister from putting \$5 million or \$10 million with the current Act that's in place into the budget.

The member has been a minister and the member has been sitting here for at least four years in this House, almost, as with the rest of the members. Any monies voted into this House for a budget, whether it's Education, Health, Economic Development, has to be approved by the Assembly. So if the member would want me to put an extra \$4 million into the Department of Education and dedicate that \$4 million directly for curriculum and curriculum resources, that can be done by the House, but already in the budget of the department, there is I think it's \$3.5 million that we put in every year and expend because

all of us approve the budget here in the House on curriculum and curriculum resource material.

I have met with our Inuit teachers and I have actually met with some of them in Inuvik, and I know I have received a letter from one of the teachers in Rankin Inlet, and I have met with the teachers and the staff in Rankin Inlet at the high school. One of their concerns is, is that we have thematic units in place and a thematic unit means a theme.

So in the Inuktitut curriculum, if it says, a theme on families, we provide all the documentation on the theme. Sometimes the teacher has to find different examples of families, there's the family in Nunavut or a family in Russia, and that's the photocopying and that's the kind of work that you're talking about doing. That is underway and that is happening at our four TLCs that we have just talked about.

So yes, I would welcome extra new \$4 million or \$5 million and put it directly into the department and we can do that from the House, but next year, because it's not legislated, that could be taken right out of the base.

So hopefully that helps clarify the member's concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sort of helps, you know, the minister is saying that everything that he's doing currently and cannot do is all hypothetical. So unless members on this side of the House do a certain actions that he has prevented from going on and continuing to lead the Department of Education. I believe that's what he is saying. He cannot lead unless this part of the group to approves certain actions.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we have deferred the O&M supplementary estimates, which gives the minister an opportunity to give some leadership. The minister does not seem to want to lead the Department of Education. Why does he not just submit his resignation today? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: I will if he will resign with me, because what he is saying is that facetious. Mr. Speaker, as the member knows, there is a supplementary appropriation in front of the House, it has nothing to do with Education.

We all know the fiscal situation that we find ourselves in and we have built, into legislation, a fiscal framework for the Department of Education, contingent on the passing of Bill 21.

So for me, as the minister, to somehow stand up in front of all 19 Members in this House and say, "Will you agree to put an extra \$5 million into the Department of Education for Inuktitut materials," when I haven't even expended the total Education budget that's in

place, that was only passed on April 1, less than two and a half months ago, and if there is extra money available within my Department of Education, I can move money around, which I do on a regular basis.

I believe that does show some leadership in the Department of Education and I believe I demonstrated some leadership since 2004 with the member. I resent very strongly his facetious comment to resign and when he resigns, I might be with him, but I doubt it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 572 – 2(4): Health Services in Winnipeg

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

Mr. Speaker, I have received a number of calls from my constituents about their concerns with the quality of health services being provided in Winnipeg. There are issues with the quality of health care, which is unacceptable. The patients that are going to Winnipeg for medical reasons, either for check-ups or surgery, people who have to go to Winnipeg for medical reasons; there are too many people who have raised their concerns.

Can the minister advise me whether she is aware of any ongoing problems with the level of service provided to the patients travelling to hospitals in Winnipeg, either at the Inuit centre, or Ublivik, or for that matter, anywhere else in Winnipeg? Has she been apprised of any problems related to the quality of health care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When concerns are raised with me related to Winnipeg, a majority of those issues relate to the boarding home and not so much the care and services provided by the hospitals that are there. So as issues are raised with me, I try to follow those up with the staff in the Kivalliq region who oversee patient case management and they deal with the boarding home staff to address some of those questions, but not related to the medical services *per se*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased that the minister acts upon some issues that are raised to her right away. Can the minister inform me of what processes are in place to monitor the quality of medical services that are provided to Nunavut residents while they are in Winnipeg? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand the member's question correctly, he's asking, when patients are sent out for a particular treatment, are they also given an opportunity for any other concerns that they may require assistance on? Is that correct? I'm not sure of that, but I could look to see what options are available.

And normally, when we refer people outside their community for medical tests or procedures, it's usually surrounding a particular condition or whatnot that they are made referrals to by specialists and/or doctors. If there are other issues that come up between the patient and the doctor that's examining the patient, then one would assume that those types of questions are addressed at that time.

So I'm not sure if I understand the member's question correctly but I don't know if it relates to the treatment and examinations of a patient or other services offered by the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps she will understand if I ask my question in English. (interpretation ends) Because there are more and more concerns being raised about deteriorating conditions regarding the quality of medical services in Winnipeg, I'm wondering if the minister could advise me and the people of Baker Lake, and indeed, the people of the Kivalliq, what processes are in place to monitor the quality of medical services on an ongoing basis in Winnipeg. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will certainly look to see what processes are in place to address deteriorating medical services, and perhaps with the member's assistance, and to be more specific as to what the situation is for a follow-up.

But normally, what we do as a department, we have arrangements in place with hospitals in not only in the Keewatin but also in the Baffin, as well as Yellowknife, in terms of services that are offered by hospitals and so on. So services that are offered by those institutions would be no different than services offered to individuals in that jurisdiction.

So if it's a particular case management issue and/or incident that occurred, I can follow that up, but normally, when physicians and nurses see patients, they are treated no differently than any other patient travelling here or anywhere else. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. I would strongly urge the minister to make sure that there are systems in place to monitor the quality of medical services on an ongoing basis, rather than the minister trying to respond on a case-by-case basis all of the time. I think that would go a long way to greatly improving medical services in the Kivalliq.

Mr. Speaker, I recently received a very disturbing complaint regarding a patient in Winnipeg and no doubt, other Kivalliq MLAs receive a number of them also and some of these are very disturbing. Would the minister be prepared to work with us, the Kivalliq MLAs, to find ways to greatly improve medical services in the Kivalliq, and indeed, in Churchill and in Winnipeg? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there are concerns related to medical quality services, absolutely, I would be prepared to discuss those issues with the members from the Keewatin. I know, in the past, we've also had previous ministers that have travelled to Winnipeg to also address concerns related to the boarding home and some of those concerns are being addressed on a regular basis. But to also talk about ways of better improving, that's something that we should do on a regular basis.

I do know that the staff also work very hard to maintain a good working relationship with the service providers that provide services for us outside our territory, that we're not able to address here in our own territory and if there are ways of improving that, I know we have good working relationships with those jurisdictions to address services. So absolutely, I would commit to that and set a time to invite regular members from the Keewatin to discuss what those issues may be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 573 – 2(4): Funding Recreational Facilities

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

Mr. Speaker, is the funding for recreational facilities, for renovations, or for additions still available and is it still set at the \$200,000 cap? Is that fund still there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is still funding available for that program for existing facilities' repairs. Out of all our subsidies, this is the least used one and we rarely get applications for funds, but we are very interested in receiving applications, whether it's for recreational facilities, community facilities, or for swimming pools' repairs and upgrades, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is the largest amount that we can apply for from that funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to my memory, the largest amount that you can apply for is \$200,000 for capital items. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If that's the case, perhaps it could be used for purchasing Zambonis for our arena. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can look at the applications as to whether it can be used for capital items such as for recreational facilities. We assisted Cape Dorset on a similar case where we provided some assistance for capital furniture in their youth hall. Yes, we can look at the applications provided that they apply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the minister can provide me some information by way of correspondence as to whether the funding could be utilized for arenas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I can commit to it and we will let the other members know of the policy towards that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 574 – 2(4): Technical Assessment of Health Centre and Airport Terminal in Qikiqtarjuaq

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

In Qikiqtarjuaq, the two buildings that I refer to as being dilapidated due to age are the health centre and the airport terminal buildings. It seems I am met with disbelief every time I state that these two buildings are the oldest ones in Nunavut, especially without documentation. They don't believe it unless there's an inspection report. So will the department conduct a technical assessment of those two buildings in Qikiqtarjuaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his questions. The officials in Community and Government Services always believe the information provided to us and they work to the best of their ability when urgent cases arise.

Yes, for the issue that you raise, there could be assessments done this coming summer. We can definitely do an assessment, however, there are no funds set aside for renovations or repairs of these two buildings. We don't have anything budgeted, so I cannot really say what will happen. Perhaps after an assessment, our staff can meet with the hamlet officials or council to discuss these two buildings that the subject of concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. I would also like further clarification as the minister stated that there are no funds set aside. Is she saying that there's no funding for conducting a technical assessment or replacement of these two buildings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to prepare a Five-Year Capital Plan and include their replacements. I can't find the information here in relation to Qikiqtarjuaq, although I'm searching for the information here. I cannot find it here, but I can look for the items in the prepared documents.

What I can say here is if you need a technical assessment done on the buildings, I can direct my staff to assist you in that assessment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. The \$242 million Building Canada Fund from the federal government was slated to be used for schools, health centres, and large capital projects. Can the minister include these two items into the capital plans from these funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the funds received through the Building Canada Fund, the federal government has directed us on the eligible projects. Some of the funds can be used for large capital projects, such as health centres and municipal services provided at the community level. We haven't completed the plans yet, so I can look into the matter and get back to the member to give him the information he requires. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 575 – 2(4): Midwifery Assistance Training Program in Kitikmeot

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Minister of Education didn't accept my colleagues offer to resign before I ask this question.

>>*Laughter*

I have been talking about the Kitikmeot Health Facility for quite a few years. It seems to go through different phases and now, I'm trying to find out when it will become a fully operational.

I wrote a letter to the Minister of Health about that situation/ She responded to me with a very informative letter. One of the issues she mentioned in her letter is that a birthing program is scheduled to become operational by fiscal year 2010-11 in the facility to coincide with the completion of the Nunavut Arctic College Midwife Assistance Training Program.

My question for the Minister of Education: can the minister tell the House what Nunavut Arctic College is doing to promote the Midwife Assistance Training Program in the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been a lot of exciting things happening with the Midwifery Program and on the midwifery front over the last few years. And it goes back to Rankin Inlet and the wonderful work done by Nowyah Williams and her group in Rankin with midwifery and now it's culminated in the opportunity to bring forward midwifery legislation specifically for Nunavut and the incorporation of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*.

This September, we would like to begin the training program for midwifery, but again, there is some contingency on the legislation being approved also in the House. 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. Could the minister be a little clearer? Could he tell me if there has been any midwife assistant training programs developed and offered to date in any of the regions in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education and Minister responsible for the Arctic College, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been some training programs offered for midwifery and I talked a little bit about the birthing centre in Rankin Inlet which has done tremendous service. Instead of many of our wives, many of our sisters, and many of our mothers having to be sent to Winnipeg, as an example, to have a baby, they were able to facilitate that, in many cases, in Rankin Inlet. So that's part of the process that we're talking about in midwifery.

The key on the legislation part, of course, is that when the legislation is approved, then a midwife can be certified here in Nunavut under our legislation and that's one of the reasons for the expedient process that we would like to see in place for that legislation. 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. Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt that the Midwifery Program will be valuable to all our regions and I'm sure it could be very valuable to the Kitikmeot. I'm sure there will be a lot of very interesting candidates on that program and I'm hoping that the minister's college is actually promoting it in the Kitikmeot.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, can the minister inform the House if all graduates from the Midwife Training Program will be guaranteed employment with the Government of Nunavut in their chosen career? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education and Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Midwives would be hired specifically for full-time employment through the auspices of the Department of Health and Social Services.

However, what I can say is that if we can get the midwives trained, if it's a three or four-year program, and then if they can receive their certification, then, of course, they would have the opportunity for full-time employment within that certification process. 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. In the Minister of Health's letter, she indicated that to achieve the target goal for full usage of the facility, the Kitikmeot Health Facility will require 58.6 person years and that's by 2010-11. She also said that part of the overall goal of the Government of Nunavut and Health and Social Services is to train Inuit and Nunavummiut for various health care professions for planned expanded services in Nunavut.

My question for the Minister of Education: can the minister explain to the House how the Nunavut Arctic College coordinates with Health and Social Services to identify and offer appropriate training programs and courses to Inuit and Nunavummiut who wish to pursue health care professions in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education and Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say for the record and on the record that I congratulate the Minister of Health for really going out there and taking on the advocacy role for midwives and maternity care workers in Nunavut, and moving the legislation forward itself. That's something that's been a long time coming and the minister deserves some serious recognition for that.

What the process is, Mr. Speaker, very quickly, is that individual departments will identify a need, whether that's a need for a Journeyman Carpenter Program, or a Nursing Program, or a Midwifery Program, once the department identifies that type of program, we would like to be the trainer of choice, where possible, and that's the Nunavut Arctic College. And they would bring a proposal to the college and say, "Can you deliver this program?" And then we would look at the classroom activities that would be needed - the logistical, administrative, and the financial supports - to put it in place, then the college

would go back to the sponsoring department and say, “Here’s what we think the cost will be. Can we deliver it?” And that’s the process that occurs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 576 – 2(4): Handling of Air-Chartered Building Materials

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

We know that last summer, there was a fiasco with the marshalling contract and the construction materials that were slated to go to the communities were ultimately delivered. In Sanikiluaq, however, we received housing materials not slated for Sanikiluaq. There were plywood sheets, 2x4 lumber, plumbing materials, and all kinds of materials that came into our community. Approximately four or five charters came into Sanikiluaq and brought in materials that we didn’t need or want.

My question to the minister is: how many communities in Nunavut received housing materials that they did not expect? 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. With respect to the materials that were just recently flown to the communities by chartered aircraft to bring in the proper materials that were sent to the wrong communities, this was a direct result of the errors committed at the dock in Montreal last year whereby materials were sent to the wrong communities.

After our department did an assessment of the deficiencies of the materials that arrived in the communities, we shipped the missing materials to the communities and I’m not aware of any incidents where materials were sent to the wrong communities with the last shipments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was the case in our community; the materials came in but they were not the materials that Sanikiluaq needed.

What is your department going to do about those materials that we do not require? Is Nunavut Housing Corporation going to take them back? Do we give them to the housing association or residents in our community? What are your plans for these materials in the communities? 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 aware of materials getting shipped to the wrong community or if that even occurred. I will look into the matter and get the information to find out what transpired. If errors did occur, that would definitely be maddening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I prefer not to be the subject of his anger.

>>*Laughter*

However, it is the contractors who are constructing the buildings who advise me that they keep finding materials they did not request. I believe four charters came into Sanikiluaq, and this is the truth. Please don't get mad at me, Mr. Minister.

>>*Laughter*

I seem to recall you stating that these charters were completed. Has the shipment process been completed? 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 will not blame and direct my anger at my colleague in case he takes it out on me.

As I stated earlier, the mistakes that were made last year occurred prior to my appointment to this portfolio and we resolved that with aircraft charters to ship the materials to the right communities. The reason was that we wanted to start the construction earlier in the spring, Mr. Speaker, but I'm not aware of any materials going to wrong communities. I will commit to looking into that issue. (interpretation ends)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 577 – 2(4): Government Directory in Phonebook is too Confusing

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I originally started asking questions regarding this issue outside the House to find out from other avenues. However, I'm tired of being labelled as the directory assistant, so I will be posing questions in the House and this is in regard to information that the government pays to be

included into the phonebook directory. It is quite confusing and difficult to find information.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services, more specifically the IT Division under her department.

The government directory is a mystery to regular Inuit, particularly unilingual Inuit. They don't know what services the government offers and they cannot find references to government employee phone numbers when they are searching for a particular employee. Is this issue being reviewed so that the next government directory will be easier to wade through, especially the departmental staff? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question regarding the government directory.

With regards to the phonebook, back in 2001, the Government of Canada asked the phone companies how they wanted the information laid out and what ought to be included in the directory. This was done under the premise of making the directory easier for people to digest.

In the contents of the phonebook, they tried to indicate a particular department, for example, for birth certificates, or building permits, or drivers' licenses, or passports. They tried to provide that kind of organized index in 2001. Now, I have learned that it still not adequate in 2008 and I feel that changes need be made, so I appreciate his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If my wife doesn't tell me her phone number at work, I will not find her number in the phonebook. Under CLEY, there was a recording on Elijah Erklou's number and no other number at all. He is an elder advisor and if he is out of the office at a meeting, then you can't find CLEY, so will the minister look into this?

One of the problems I have is that only if I know the departments or positions, as government employees do, if I only know the names and their titles, then I can find them with no problem. Will you be planning to go back the way it used to be, organized by department, for 2009? 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'm advised that they are done annually and if there are changes and complaints, then they try and correct them.

With regard to his question, the 2009 phonebook directory... yes, I personally share the need for improvements because it is also translated into Inuktitut and it is too complicated. I will definitely look into this and work with my staff, although we, ourselves, are not responsible for anyone who is not at their office or leave a recording. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies. The government has paid for and probably has a contract on what the phonebook directory should look like in the blue pages. Who has the contract or are we, as taxpayers, the ones who pay for it? It's a waste of taxpayers' money if it's not usable and here we have the government spending that hard earned taxpayer money, and that's why I'm asking the minister.

Since you pay the telephone company to specify the kind of blue pages they should provide, you probably have specified that in the past in a contract because I don't think they would put together something without terms of a contract. So when they publish the next directory, will you specify, through a contract, that you would like the directory to be prepared the way it used to be, by departments? 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. Agreed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, it's regrettable that not all members had an opportunity to ask their questions as Question Period is now over. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 241 – 2(4): Extended Health Benefits Policy

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a copy of the "Extended Health Benefits Policy" as well as the "Extended Health Benefits Policy Guidelines." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 242 – 2(4): Code of Conduct, Outside Employment and Conflict of Interest for Government of Nunavut Employees (Human Resource Manual Sections 202, 203, 204)

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table documents relating to the Government of Nunavut's Code of Conduct. Three of these policies are from the government's Human Resource Manual relating to Code of Conduct, outside employment and conflict of interest. I'm also including an excerpt from the *Public Service Act* which describes the kinds of political activity and public criticism that employees may not engage in.

I have carefully read through these documents and I encourage my colleagues to do the same. To me, the documents are clear, but the recent interpretation by the Department of Human Resources is not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear.

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

I'm trying to be very patient here. Item 13. Table of Documents. If there are no more, Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Education and Energy, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member... Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. I remind my colleague to stick with the agenda as presented.

(interpretation) Thank you. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. If there are none, Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Thank you.
(interpretation ends) Government House Leader, Mr. Picco.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 32 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act, No. 2 – First Reading

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's a bit of duress here today. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act, No. 2*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 32 has had its first reading.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Government House Leader, Minister Picco.

Bill 31 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2008 – First Reading

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 31, the *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2008*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called.

Thank you. We had a slight misunderstanding. To the motion. Question was called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 31 has had its first reading.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Government House Leader, Minister Picco.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to our Rule 62(2), I will seek consent of the House to waive the one-day notice period in order to allow Bill 31 to be read for the second time today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The Government House Leader is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 62(2) to allow for second reading of Bill 31. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Minister Picco.

Bill 31 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2008 – Second Reading

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 31, the *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2008*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* to clarify the provisions respecting the oaths that are taken by members and to correct technical errors.

This bill also amends the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act* to increase the maximum age for contributions, years of service and commencement of allowances from 69 to 71 years of age. The bill also ensures that an election for a lump sum payment

includes the option of transferring a portion of that value of the allowance and corrects technical errors.

Finally, the bill amends the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act* to increase the maximum age for contributions, years of service and commencement of allowances from 69 to 71 years of age and corrects technical errors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. The motion is carried and Bill 31 has had its second reading.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Government House Leader, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you. On a Point of Order, Mr. Speaker, I seek the unanimous consent of the House to waive Rule 67(2) and have Bill 31 moved into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Government House Leader is asking for unanimous consent to waive Rule 67(2) to have Bill 31 moved to Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 31 will be moved to Committee of the Whole.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Mr. House Leader, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to our Rule 62(2), I seek the consent of our House to waive the one-day notice period in order to allow Bill 32 to be read for the second time today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Government House Leader is asking for unanimous consent to waive Rule 62(2) to allow for second reading of Bill 32. Are there no nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Minister Picco.

Bill 32 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act, No. 2 – Second Reading

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to our colleagues. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act, No. 2*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Nunavut Elections Act* to exclude the constituency of Hudson Bay from the need for an Electoral Boundaries Commission in the period between the mandatory 10-year review of boundaries and to exclude it from the calculation of the electoral quotient.

The Chief Electoral Officer will be obliged, before an election, to inform the public of persons who are ineligible to be candidates in the elections because of failure to file a financial return or because they were expelled from the Legislative Assembly for an offence.

It also, Mr. Speaker, will do a minor housekeeping amendment to correct a typographical error which is also included. 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 32 has had its second reading. Government House Leader, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a Point of Order, I ask and seek the unanimous consent of our House to waive Rule 67(2) and have Bill 32 moved into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The Government Leader is asking for unanimous consent to waive Rule 67(2) so that Bill 32 can proceed directly to Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays and Bill 32 is moved into Committee of the Whole for today. (interpretation) Thank you.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 26, 27, 30, 31, and 32 with Mr. Arreak in the Chair. Just before we proceed with Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:13 and Committee resumed at 15:41*

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak)(interpretation): Thank you for returning. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 26, 27, 30, 31, and 32. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to review Bill 31, followed by Bill 32 and once completed, we will report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Do you agree to deal with Bill 31 and Bill 32, and once completed, report progress?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 31 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2008 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): I would now like to ask our Law Clerk (interpretation ends) to join us. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: There she is (interpretation) and she will be waiting there. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask the Speaker to make his opening remarks. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear today before the Committee of the Whole to introduce Bill 31, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2008*.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 31 addresses a number of technical issues that the Management and Services Board has identified. I would like to take some time to highlight these for members today.

Firstly, Bill 31 corrects the spelling of the name of the constituency of Tununiq to ensure that the English version accurately reflects the original Inuktitut. I would like to thank the Member for Tununiq for having drawn this issue to our attention.

Bill 31 also clarifies certain provisions respecting the oaths of allegiance and office that are to be taken by members by ensuring that a member is not required to take the same oath on more than one occasion.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, Bill 31 also provides for a number of technical measures in relation to the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act* and the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*.

Mr. Chairman, as you may recall, the 2007 federal budget amended the *Income Tax Act* to change the required retirement date for federally-regulated retirement plans to the end of the year in which the member of the plan reaches the age of 71. The previous age limit was 69. This change makes our Acts compliant with federal income tax and pension legislation.

At present, Mr. Chairman, members who retire have the option of transferring the value of their *Retiring Allowances Act* pension to their own personal RRSP. However, the Canada Revenue Agency limits the amount that can be transferred from the RAA to an RRSP. The maximum value of the transfer may leave a residual cash payment which, when received, is taxable at the maximum rates. (interpretation) This amendment, Mr. Chairman, to our legislation allows for the member to have a smaller portion of the payout transferred to an RRSP and the residual cash value paid out as a pension over a period of years to age 65. This will be taxed at a lower marginal tax rate. I would note that in developing this amendment, an advance ruling was sought and received from the Canada Revenue Agency.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I look forward to responding to any questions or comments that members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Speaker Kilabuk. Do you wish to have your officials brought to the table? Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if you don't mind, I would like Rob Vandersanden from Hewitt Associates to join us at the witness table. He will respond to any questions that you may have, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You already mentioned your official's name, but for the record, could you introduce him, please. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. On my left is Rob Vandersanden from Hewitt Associates who deals with pensions for the members. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. 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? Since there are none, we will proceed with the clause-by-clause review of Bill 31. (interpretation ends) Bill 31, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2008*. Clause 1. Do you agree? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under clause 1(4), the word Tunnunig will be changed to Tununig to follow the Inuktitut spelling. However, I do not see any reference as to when Bill 31 will come into effect. Perhaps if I could be shown where that reference is, I would appreciate it. Maybe it would be best to ask this question: will it be enacted in time for the next election so the name is changed to reflect the Inuktitut spelling? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After the bill has been passed by the Legislative Assembly, we will disseminate the correct spelling to the public, including the people who are working with us. It will also be included in the materials of the Chief Electoral Officer and constituency electoral officers about this name change. We will send out a notice of the name change shortly after the legislation is passed by the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn to page 3. (interpretation ends) Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn to page 6. There's nothing there, so that's it. Does the committee agree to Bill 31 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 31 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for agreeing. Now that Bill 31 is concluded, I would like to ask the Speaker if he has opening remarks on Bill 32. Speaker Kilabuk.

Bill 32 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act, No. 2 – Consideration in Committee

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some opening remarks, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You can proceed with your opening remarks on Bill 32. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear today before the Committee of the Whole to introduce Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act, No. 2*.

As members will recall, a number of amendments to the *Nunavut Elections Act* were introduced and passed by this House earlier in the Fourth Session. The bill before you today includes a number of additional measures that your Management and Services Board have approved for members' consideration in advance of the upcoming general election. Many of these measures have been introduced in response to concerns and suggestions made by Members of this House.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 32 amends the *Nunavut Elections Act* to exclude the constituency of Hudson Bay from the need for an Electoral Boundaries Commission in the period between the mandatory 10-year review of boundaries and to exclude it from the

calculation of the electoral quotient. As members are aware, the Act currently provides that if the difference between the population of a constituency and the electoral quotient is more than 30 percent of the electoral quotient, an adjustment is required. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, Sanikiluaq's size and unique location are such that an adjustment would be automatically triggered unless this provision is enacted.

Mr. Chairman, as you and members are aware, the *Nunavut Elections Act* requires the Chief Electoral Officer to prepare a report no later than the 90th day after each general election certifying whether a constituency requires the adjustment of its boundaries. The Chief Electoral Officer is required to inform the Speaker of the need to establish a boundaries commission. I anticipate that the Members of the Third Assembly will have the opportunity, if they so choose, to revisit issues that this Assembly considered during its recent review of the report of the First Electoral Boundaries Commission.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 32 provides that the Chief Electoral Officer will be obliged, before an election, to inform the public of persons who are ineligible to be candidates in the election because of failure to file a financial return or because they were expelled from the Legislative Assembly for an offence. This was an issue raised by members during their consideration of the Chief Electoral Officer's report on the administration of the second general election.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to take this opportunity to note for the public record that your Management and Services Board has given consideration to the issue of amending the Act to increase the range of circumstances in which persons are ineligible to stand for election to the Legislative Assembly, such as the case where a potential candidate may have been convicted at some point in the past of a criminal offence. The board has determined that the existing provisions in the Act with respect to candidate eligibility are sufficient.

As members are aware, Mr. Chairman, any attempt to limit the rights of citizens to stand for election to the Legislative Assembly, as provided for by Section 3 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, would be potentially subject to a court challenge. Ultimately, it is up to all of our constituents to make their own decision at the ballot box as to who is best qualified to represent them in this House.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 32 also provides a minor housekeeping amendment to correct a typographical error.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments, and I look forward to responding to any questions or comments that members may have. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would you like to have your officials with you at the witness table? Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two witnesses that I would like to bring to the witness table. Thank you.

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

Mr. Speaker, for the record, please introduce your officials. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Sandy Kusugak, who is the Chief Electoral Officer, and to my left is the (interpretation ends) Chief Legal Counsel to Elections Nunavut, Patrick Orr. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you and welcome. At this time, do members have any general comments? Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker, and your officials. There is reference to Hudson Bay in the bill, so I would like to make a short comment.

Perhaps I'll state first that in the past, when the electoral boundaries were being established during the NWT days, I travelled to Yellowknife to represent the community of Sanikiluaq. At the time, my constituents viewed our language and our culture as being quite unique. For that reason, we were very proud to take part in the First Electoral Boundaries Commission.

Bill 32 still recognizes Sanikiluaq as a unique area, along with its residents. Future candidates for the constituency will be quite proud to run for the Sanikiluaq riding. This is all I wanted to say, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. General comments. There being none... I'm sorry. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Sandy and Patrick, for being here. I wanted to raise a question that I had raised with you as it relates to issues around elections in Nunavut and impacts of other jurisdictions' issues.

Generally speaking, recently, I had requested our Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut to review the impacts of the federal legislation on federal elections and whether that will have an impact in Nunavut and whether we would have to change our legislation or try and get the federal government to change their legislation so that Nunavummiut can vote in the next federal election.

The amendment to the federal *Elections Act* requires that citizens show on their identification card a civic address. We know that in most communities, we don't have that, which would greatly decrease the number of people in Nunavut who can vote in the next federal election and to be able to participate in a democratic process of selecting our next MP for Nunavut.

Having said that, I have written our Chief Electoral Officer in Nunavut to examine the implications of that legislation. Just recently, I have written our Premier to try and address that for Nunavummiut so they can participate in all elections - municipal, territorial, as well as federal.

Having said that, I understand it is a federal legislation but was there an examination as part of our own legislation in Nunavut, we would have to keep current and update our own legislation on a regular basis. So the question I have for you is: were we able to examine whether we would be required to produce civic addresses for Nunavut in our current legislation down the road? Is that something that we might have to address in Nunavut as it relates to that, or what has been your general response to date and what are some of the issues that we need to raise as elected officials in Nunavut to have this issue addressed?

So I wonder if I can ask for your thoughts on some of those as to where we are at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to this issue, Ms. Kusugak reviewed the documents, so I would like her to respond to that question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Kusugak.

Ms. Kusugak: I think what I can offer you, in addition to what I wrote, is opinion only that I think we're going to be affected by this addressing thing more and more through our lives because in the scale of the world, the world is not going to change for us. And it's probably on a federal scale, etcetera, so it seems to me that we will be required to have civic addressing. I suspect that anybody that ever orders anything on the Internet discovers that you can't order from a box number. Even that is a small thing that people either invent street addresses or they use one that's in place. I have a personal interest in it.

As Nunavut gets larger, the ability of us to divide a community into a number of constituencies depends on civic addressing because you need to know where people are in space. You can't just decide that you want to be on that side because your friend or somebody is running there, we have to locate people. So there's that issue.

I believe, as a citizen, I have noticed that there's also some difficulty as our communities grow often with emergency services, etcetera, the RCMP, ambulance, and people needing to get to somebody. Not everybody knows everybody anymore, and often saying, "I might. I lived across the street from Cathy's house," may be not enough for people to, you know, "Who is that woman? Where is she? What's her problem?" So I mean, personally and also as part of my job, I think it's important.

In the Kitikmeot, I discovered, through doing plebiscites there in Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk for instance, all people know their street address. They will tell you I live on 7, Okpik Street; even the oldest people know that. I think it's just become a habit and I think it seems to me, gradually, as the communities grow, this is probably something that we will have to do.

I don't see that the rest of Canada is always going to waive all things and say, "Well, that's Nunavut and postal addresses are enough," box number or something. I think there will be increasing demand as the more security, etcetera, continues on, but that's partly opinion and partly my professional interest in it because I think that it would personally make my work easier as our communities become larger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Kusugak. I would like to remind members that we're dealing with Bill 32, *Nunavut Elections Act*. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I raise this issue for two things. We talk about in the opening comments around boundary issues and I think a civic address relates to boundary issues within our own community and municipal structures when it comes to setting boundaries for Nunavut. And I think, in my view, the issue around civic addresses is one that will have to be considered sooner than later by Chief Electoral Officers of Nunavut for the obvious reasons as described by our chief electoral officer and in my letter, more and more so in the next little while, and not just to be triggered by population growth but also the boundaries commission review has to also, I think, examine the issue around civic addresses and identification, and so on.

I appreciate the chief electoral officer's comments and I know in her work as our territorial chief electoral officer, she also tries to convey to the federal chief electoral officer some of the challenges of Nunavummiut in voting and participating in the democratic process of selecting MPs, and so on. So I appreciate the member raising that issue for Nunavummiut.

I also shared a copy of that correspondence with my colleagues in this House and I believe that it is an area that we need to raise at the federal level to educate, as well as the challenges that we have in upcoming elections at the federal level, to say that Nunavummiut will most likely not be able to participate fully in the next federal election if this issue is not addressed.

So based on that, I would just like to offer those comments for the public record that it is an area that I think, as Nunavummiut and Members of this House, we need to raise to the federal government, the federal chief electoral officer, to ensure that Nunavummiut participate in the next federal election selections. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. That was not a question, just a comment. Your comments are well taken. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Democracy is very important, especially eligibility to vote in federal elections. The land claims agreement states in the preamble that Inuit want to be part of Canada and that's why we agreed to these rights. I believe that we are also aware of what Ms. Aglukkaq is stating.

In federal elections, they need civic addresses, such as the unit number as well as the name of the street. If that's still the case, it will be impossible to change it. Since it will be impossible to get that requirement changed, perhaps we can have the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services request information from hamlets prior to the next federal election to see if they have street names or unit numbers.

If we don't have street names or unit numbers to start preparing for the next election, many of us won't be eligible to vote, even though we are Canadians. Perhaps in regard to the question, I know that we cannot resolve this situation right now, but we should approach the Minister of Community and Government Services and ask the minister during Question Period. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We are dealing with Bill 32. Are there any more comments? Since there are no more comments, we are on (interpretation ends) Bill 32, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act, No. 2*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Chairman, I raised my hand too early. I will ask my question when we get to clause 3. Thank you.

Chairman: Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 1, Notice of Eligible Candidates, that there would be reasonable and practicable notices before the close of candidacy in the newspaper of general circulation, I think we also talked about the Assembly's webpage. Why is it not included in the Assembly's webpage, and why is it only in the newspaper of general circulation? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were just following the recommendations we had received from our Management and Services Board, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I would be right if I corrected the Speaker that in the current legislation, there is no provision to put the eligible candidates in the newspaper of general circulation right now. It only says that they should be listed in the *Nunavut Gazette*. I think this provision allows for the electoral officer now to be able to publish those that are not qualified to run in the election in general circulation.

During the caucus meeting the other day, we did propose that there be at least an advisory put on the Nunavut Legislative Assembly website referring maybe to a newspaper of what will be posted and so on. Would I be correct in stating the two points I just raised? Thank you.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. At our meeting, I didn't even think of including the Assembly's website in my opening statement during our deliberations that the member just raised and so what the member says is correct. We are prepared to approach our website designers and raise the points you have just made with them. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Speaker or his officials, clause 3 is silent on exactly who these ineligible candidates would be or who they are. So for the benefit of the members and Nunavummiut, with respect to clause 3, could they explain to us exactly what it means to be ineligible to run in the next election coming up pursuant to subsection 11(2)(1) or subclause 3 in the Act? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the current legislation under clause 11(2)... I apologize. The ineligible candidates are identified as any member who has been charged with a summary offense and who is being taken to court... I apologize.

I've got a cleaner copy now. An ineligible candidate would be a person who didn't file their financial return or anybody who has been charged with a summary offense under Nunavut's or Canada's legislation. If that person was no longer eligible to sit as a member, there would be no replacement until a by-election is held. Those are the ineligible candidates as defined under the current *Nunavut Elections Act*. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I assume that's what 11(2)(1) really meant, but we don't have it in front of us. The reason I'm asking the question is for the benefit of those that are watching, or listening, or interested, or curious about whether they qualify or not.

Assuming that the list of those qualifications or the ineligible provision in the current Act, do we have, currently, a list of former candidates that did run that are not eligible now, or do you have the exact percentage of the total ineligible candidates? Is there such a list and if not, could you or your officials explain to us, yes or no, are there ineligible candidates that would be listed in the newspapers? Otherwise, it will be a useless provision if there are no ineligible candidates. Thank you.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Following the last election, we would have names that would be under the ineligible candidates list. They won't be eligible to run at the next election.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Curley, are you finished? Thank you, Mr. Curley. We're on (interpretation ends) clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Is the committee agreed to Bill 32 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 32 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kusugak, and Mr. Orr.

(interpretation) We have now concluded our business for the day. As per the request, I would now like to rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Members. 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 the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 31 and 32, and would like to report that Bills 31 and 32 are immediately ready for third reading. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. He made a motion to have the report agreed to, so is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Akasuk. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Members, before proceeding with the Orders of the Day, I wish to address... I'm sorry. We will go to Item 21 first. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance and Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 3 – Third Reading

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 3*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

I apologize. We didn't have our mic on. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills.

Speaker's Admonition

Thank you. Before proceeding with Item 22, I wish to address a matter of concern related to order and decorum in this House.

Prior to the House resolving into Committee of the Whole earlier today, I was disappointed to note that someone present in the Chamber behaved in an inappropriate manner. I should not need to remind members and visitors that such action as the throwing of paper airplanes is childish and beneath the dignity of this House.

I would remind all members and visitors that our proceedings are open to the public to observe and are being broadcast in communities.

I would remind all members and visitors to conduct themselves accordingly.

I also wish to advise members and visitors that I will be reviewing the video record of today's proceedings, and, if required, I will revisit this matter when the House reconvenes tomorrow.

We will now proceed with the Orders of the Day. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for May 30:

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 35
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 29
 - Bill 31
 - Bill 32

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, May 30, at 10:00 in the morning.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:28*

