



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

4th Session

2nd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 66

Monday, June 2, 2008

Pages 4373 – 4446

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq

(Nattilik)

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

Hon. Levinia Brown

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services

Hon. Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk

(South Baffin)

Minister of Environment

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

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk

Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant

Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk

Susan Cooper

Sergeant-at-Arms

John Avaala

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

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	4373
Point of Privilege.....	4373
Ministers' Statements	4374
Members' Statements	4375
Returns to Oral Questions	4380
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	4381
Oral Questions.....	4381
Point of Order.....	4394
Reports of Standing and Special Committees	4402
Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills	4416
Tabling of Documents	4417
Notices of Motions	4418
Motions.....	4419
Second Reading of Bills	4419
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	4420
Point of Order.....	4441
Report of the Committee of the Whole	4443
Third Reading of Bills.....	4444
Orders of the Day	4444

A.

Daily References

Monday, June 2, 2008 4373

B.

Ministers' Statements

193 – 2(4): Nunavut Household Allowance - Update (Tapardjuk) 4374

194 – 2(4): Coastal Resource Inventory Continues to Develop (Akesuk) 4375

C.

Members' Statements

468 – 2(4): Congratulations to John Hickes (Simailak) 4375

469 – 2(4): Concerns Regarding the Rising Cost of Fuel (Alagalak)..... 4376

470 – 2(4): Impact of Rising World Oil Prices on Small Nunavut Communities (Kattuk) 4377

471 – 2(4): National Tourism Week (Peterson) 4378

472 – 2(4): Inaugural Meeting of the Kitikmeot Chamber of Commerce (Aglukkaq)..... 4379

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 586 – 2(4): Suspension of a Government of Nunavut Employee for Pre-employment Criminal Charge (Barnabas) 4380

E.

Oral Questions

588 – 2(4): Contracting Process for Medical Travel Contract (Tootoo) 4381

589 – 2(4): Update on Suicide Prevention Strategy (Evyagotailak)..... 4383

590 – 2(4): Update on Baffin Bay Polar Bear Population (Arreak) 4384

591 – 2(4): Update on the Implementation of the Remainder of the Small Crafts Harbours Strategy (Arvaluk)	4387
592 – 2(4): Dispute between EDT and Nunavut Tourism over Core Funding (Peterson)	4389
593 – 2(4): Mention of World Oil Prices at Western Premiers Conference (Kattuk)	4391
594 – 2(4): Breakdown per Airline for Medical Travel for Baker Lake (Simailak)	4392
595 – 2(4): Replacement for Aging Airport Terminal for Qikiqtarjuaq (Arreak)	4396
596 – 2(4): Statistical Methodology for Nunavut Graduation Rates (Peterson).....	4397
597 – 2(4): Date Proposals Were Received for Medical Travel Contracts (Tootoo)	4400

F.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Committee Report 003 – 2(4): Report on the Review of the 2007 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation (Tootoo).....	4402
---	------

G.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report on Bills 014 – 2(4): Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act (Mapsalak)	4416
Committee Report on Bills 015 – 2(4): Bill 34, Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act (Tootoo)	4417

H.

Tabling of Documents

252 – 2(4): Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut 2008 Annual Report (Okalik)	4417
253 – 2(4): Nunavut Association of Municipalities Annual General Meeting – 2008 Reaffirmed Resolutions Forwarded to Ministers of the Government of Nunavut (Peterson).....	4417

254 – 2(4): Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability – Materials	
Provided in Response to its Subpoena of February 6, 2008 (Tootoo)	4418
255 – 2(4): Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability – Materials	
Provided in Response to its Subpoena of December 7, 2007 (Tootoo)	4418
256 – 2(4): Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability – Information	
Package Provided as Follow-up to Committee Hearings on the Report of the Auditor General	
on the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation by the Department of Economic Development	
and Transportation (Tootoo)	4418

I.

Motions

041 – 2(4): Extended Adjournment – Notice (Picco)	4418
039 – 2(4): Reappointment of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut (Peterson)	4419

J.

Bills

Bill 35 – Energy Efficiency Act – Second Reading	4419
Bill 34 – Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act – Consideration in Committee	4420
Bill 30 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2008-2009 –	
Consideration in Committee	4437
Bill 31 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act, 2008 – Third Reading	4444
Bill 32 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act, No. 2 – Third Reading	4444

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, June 2, 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. Joe Allen Evyagotailak, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Honourable Patterk Netser, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Mr. David Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Premier, Ministers, and Members. Have a good afternoon. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Point of Privilege

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to rise on a question of privilege. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 19, I wish to raise a question of privilege in relation to comments that were made by the Minister of Human Resources in this House at our sitting on May 30, 2008.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the minister conceded, in his response to my question, that he was, in fact, the Minister of Human Resources at the time the former President the Status of Women Council was appointed to her position by Cabinet.

Although the minister also said that he agreed with my statement that his earlier comments to the House on the matter were inaccurate, he declined to take full responsibility for his words and apologize to this House for having provided false information.

Mr. Speaker, one of the fundamental principles of debate in our House is that members and ministers should not knowingly provide misleading information to the Legislative Assembly. I believe that the minister's failure to apologize to the House is a breach of privilege of the Assembly as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members, Rule 19(3) permits the Speaker to allow debate. I would ask the Minister of Human Resources to indicate if he wishes to add anything to this matter. Government House Leader, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to Rule 19(1), any time a Point of Privilege is raised, a Point of Privilege has to be raised immediately, not 48 hours or 72 hours after a period of time. It has to be raised immediately after the suggestion a Point of Privilege has been moved. In this case, Mr. Speaker, the timeframe hasn't moved.

I believe, when looking at the ex-officio *Hansard*, the member, when we follow-up in the *Hansard*, as the member has indicated, the minister did admit and said yes, he agreed with the statement made by the member. So I would ask, Mr. Speaker, on the ruling, that when we look at our Rule 19(1) that, indeed, there would be no Point of Privilege. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Order, please. Just bear with us for one brief second, members.

(interpretation) Thank you, Members. I would like to thank the minister for his clarification. I will take the question of the Point of Privilege to my office and I will return to the members after a review.

We will now go back to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 193 – 2(4): Nunavut Household Allowance - Update

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Budget Address, I announced a new housing allowance for members of the public service. I am pleased to provide an update to members on the success of this allowance.

As of the middle of May, we have 572 households receiving the allowance.

I believe that this program is an important way that we are recognizing employees who are making a commitment to our territory by supporting a strong private sector housing market.

Mr. Speaker, most applicants received their first allowance payment at the beginning of April, the first month that it was available. I am sure that you will join me in thanking my staff at the Department of Finance for their hard work in rolling out this allowance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I would like to note to our visitors in the Gallery, (interpretation ends) just a notice to our visitors, headsets are available outside of the Chambers if you want to listen to proceedings in the House. Thank you.

(interpretation) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 194 – 2(4): Coastal Resource Inventory Continues to Develop

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the development of a Community-based Coastal Resource Inventory for Nunavut. A pilot project, supported by my department has now been completed in the community of Igloolik. Additional support for this project was provided by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Coastal Resource Inventories involve collecting information on the species found in and around Nunavut waters and how they are used. This information is mapped to assist in resource development, management and conservation. Data is collected from community interviews, reports, research and maps, and integrates *Inuit Qaujimagatunangit* and science.

Inventories of coastal resources allow government and communities to better understand and plan for coastal activities. Nunavut is lacking in this type of data and it was identified as a need in the 2005 Nunavut Fisheries Strategy.

To date, feedback on this project has been very positive and next month, department staff are returning to Igloolik to present final results back to the community. We will be expanding this program to additional communities in the years ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 468 – 2(4): Congratulations to John Hicke

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say hello to my constituents in Baker Lake, especially my father, who had his birthday last weekend and he is now 76 years old.

>>Applause

Thank you, my colleagues. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a well-known Kivalliq resident, John Hicke, for being named Nunavut's Businessperson of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Business Achievement Awards were announced last month at the 2008 Nunavut Trades Show. Nominations for these awards were sought from across

the territory. This award was for an individual who has achieved something out of the ordinary during 2007 and who has a positive influence in the business community.

Mr. Speaker, John Hickes needs little introduction to Members of this House. His entrepreneurial spirit is legendary in the Kivalliq, as is his dedication to public service. John is the former President of the Nunavut Development Corporation, whose Baker Lake subsidiary, Jesse Oonark Limited, is an important part of the Baker Lake community and economy.

I have known John for many years and I can attest to his strength of character and passion for success. His vision of his community and Nunavut as a whole is one based on healthy and prosperous communities, shared success, and meeting the challenges of tomorrow. So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all the employees of the Jesse Oonark Centre in Baker Lake, I ask all members to join me in congratulating John Hickes on his achievement. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 469 – 2(4): Concerns Regarding the Rising Cost of Fuel

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my constituents' concern over the continual increase over the last few years in the price of fuel.

Mr. Speaker, every day, our people see through the media that fuel prices are rising around the globe. Private homeowners are becoming very worried. Many doubt that they will have enough resources to keep their houses warm in the months to come.

Mr. Speaker, this concern is especially high among those people who have limited incomes. They have already been struggling in the past few years to buy enough fuel for their houses and they know that it will not be any easier this coming winter.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the government does provide support such as the elders' fuel subsidy program. However, many homeowners are not elders and they will not qualify for assistance under these programs.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of people in Arviat are not elders and own their own homes, so they have to pay for fuel costs themselves and this is causing financial hardships for them.

Mr. Speaker, this government needs to find alternative ways to heat homes. There are a number of possible ideas out there. For example, we can use firewood or coal from within Nunavut. There are others forms of energy besides oil that this government can explore, identify, and utilize. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs...

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry, Member Evyagotailak. As soon as we get to the appropriate item in the agenda, I'll let you ask your question. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 470 – 2(4): Impact of Rising World Oil Prices on Small Nunavut Communities

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say Happy Birthday to the people in Sanikiluaq who are celebrating their birthdays with me today.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I have served as a Minister for Petroleum Products and every morning when I wake up, I am grateful that I am not Minister for Petroleum Products anymore.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, the rising prices of oil is of great concern worldwide and the rising cost of gasoline and fuel is also of concern for my constituents as this government is tasked with having to purchase fuel.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I know that the government has three basic choices when this happens - we can either raise prices that the consumers pay, keep the prices the same and cut funding for other government programs, or hope for additional assistance from the federal government. I know that these choices are difficult.

Mr. Speaker, people in the smaller communities need to be given clear information from the government on this issue, explaining the reasons how and why the government makes its decisions. I also want to say that the government needs to look very closely at fuel prices.

In my community of Sanikiluaq, not many people drive large trucks or cars, they use snowmobiles and ATVs for hunting. I think we need to look very carefully at whether we should be subsidizing the price of gas for large trucks. After all, we hear that these machines are contributing to global warming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 471 – 2(4): National Tourism Week

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House that June 2 to 8 of this year is National Tourism Week in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I had the privilege of visiting your community of Pangnirtung last weekend. During my all too brief time in the community, I was awestruck by the beauty of the fiords, the majesty of the mountains, and the warmth of your constituents. I recommend a visit to Pangnirtung to everyone.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut has many natural wonders that cannot be found anywhere else on the planet. Our land, waters, and wildlife are among world-class destinations and attractions.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to inform the House that the Bathurst Inlet Lodge was recently listed in the Fodor's Green Travel Guide as one of the top 100 resorts around the world. This is a tremendous achievement for them.

Mr. Speaker, the tourism sector in Canada is a \$70 billion a year industry. In Nunavut, it is estimated that tourism contributes around \$30 million annually to our economy and creates a significant number of local jobs.

Mr. Speaker, our tourism industry association, Nunavut Tourism, promotes all of our communities in the global market and provides support services to tourist business in Nunavut. It does so with limited resources and must compete with 12 other well financed provincial and territorial tourist associations to attract business to our territory. It is a daunting challenge and they need the full support of our government.

Mr. Speaker, in the Economic Development and Transportation's 2008-09 Main Estimates, the core funded organization, Nunavut Tourism, disappeared without a trace. The Nunavut Economic Forum, the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation, the Nunavut Economic Development Association, and the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association all remained clearly identified in the main estimates. Nunavut Tourism, however, was replaced with the Tourism Development program.

Mr. Speaker, in its previous years' main estimates, Economic Development and Transportation clearly identified Nunavut Tourism as being the recipient organization for the department's \$2,175,000 in annual funding.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this change is worrisome. It implies that the Government of Nunavut does not support Nunavut Tourism as a core funded organization. It suggests that the government may be looking at redirecting its tourism funding. It is important that all our core funded organizations receive strong government support.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Mr. Peterson: In the situation with Nunavut Tourism, we must fully support them to compete in the national and international stages to promote Nunavut's tourist destinations.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that a strong Nunavut tourism sector will help us to weather the days when other sectors of our economy are experiencing downturns.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will have some questions for the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member Peterson. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Member's Statement 472 – 2(4): Inaugural Meeting of the Kitikmeot Chamber of Commerce

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon. Before I start with my Member's Statement, I would like to wish my good friend, Jean Kusugak of Rankin Inlet, a Happy Birthday today. (interpretation) Jean, if you are listening, I send my love and best wishes today.

(interpretation ends) My Member's Statement relates to the inaugural meeting of the Kitikmeot Chamber of Commerce. I would like to offer my congratulations to the members that participated in a conference that was held in Gjoa Haven to re-establish the Kitikmeot Chamber of Commerce earlier this spring and members like Wilfred Wilcox, Christine Lyall, Gee Kakiarniut, and Mary Qayaqsaq were participating in the meetings, amongst other people.

I was honoured to be at their meeting for a brief discussion with them just to stress the importance of forming collectively on issues that affect the private industry in the

Kitikmeot, particularly when it comes to the impacts of decisions and the global issues that we deal with around the impact that it has in the private industry. One good example is the cost of fuel in the north, and the impact that has on the private industry and the construction industry, and so on.

I would like to just offer my congratulations to the founding members to re-establish the chamber of commerce again for the Kitikmeot. From what I understand, this group will also be joining the Nunavut Chamber of Commerce, forming, for the first time ever, a Nunavut-based chamber of commerce.

So my congratulations go to all the individuals that have worked very hard over the last year or so on this initiative. At the same time, I would also like to thank the Baffin Chamber of Commerce for their support as well in forming this group. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Item 3. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Barnabas.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 586 – 2(4): Suspension of a Government of Nunavut Employee for Pre-employment Criminal Charge

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question was asked by Mr. Keith Peterson on Friday, May 30, 2008. (interpretation ends) I'm responding to the question raised by Mr. Peterson in the Legislative Assembly on May 30, 2008, regarding the suspension of a Government of Nunavut employee for a pre-employment criminal charge.

The following outlines the criteria used when a Government of Nunavut employee has been charged with a criminal offence. Firstly, the individual circumstances of the case are reviewed to determine the cause to discipline and whether the employee will be put on leave with or without pay pending investigation of the matter. Factors considered include:

- Length of employment;
- Type of charge(s);
- Condition of employment set on hire;
- Type of employment (i.e. position of trust).

When the criminal offence is not directly related to employment with the Government of Nunavut, the case is reviewed to determine if there is a relationship between the charge and the employee's employment with the Government of Nunavut.

As each case is considered individually, there is no Government of Nunavut-wide policy governing this issue. However, the process used by the Department of Human Resources to review and evaluate situations as they arise is applied consistently. The Department of Human Resources intends to document this process and include it as policy in its Human Resource Manual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. If there are none, Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you. I don't think there are any, but... Someone is raising their hand. Premier Okalik.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are fortunate enough to have visitors, among who is our MP, Nancy Karetak-Lindell, is here. Welcome to her.

>>*Applause*

I would also like to welcome her committee member colleagues and their staff as they are here to seek what more economic development initiatives are needed with the cooperation of the federal government. I will be meeting with them tonight. I welcome all of you to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 588 – 2(4): Contracting Process for Medical Travel Contract

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services.

I know there have been a lot of questions raised in regard to the RFP and the contract that was awarded for medical travel. Everyone seems to say it was the Department of Community and Government Services that did it all, so I would just like to ask the minister if she could walk us through the process her department used in advertising, receiving the award, opening the bids, evaluation, and the decision on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for his question. (interpretation ends) Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The role of

CG&S' Procurement Department is to ensure an open and fair contracting and procurement process is followed.

At any given time and in any give RFP process, the issuing body, in this case, the GN has a duty to be fair to all the proponents. The courts have upheld the duty of fairness consistently in many past court examples for RFP process where they contain language that allow for our process to be cancelled or any other related process. The notification of evaluation results were sent to our proponent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate whether it's through the review that the department did the evaluation of proposals? Was it her department that said, "Okay, this is the one that we're going to choose," or did they just put forward the options for whoever to make whatever sponsoring department to make that decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process that was used for the medical travel contract at the time was that we had to be sure that the RFP included an NNI application directive, which outlined how the NNI Policy worked, and there was a committee and a group of people who were together at the time to review this. Also, there was a Cabinet presentation and Cabinet approval. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that response. She had indicated that there was a presentation made to Cabinet. Was it her department or her officials that gave that presentation, or was it the sponsoring department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, indeed, our department was involved and helped assist to make the presentation along with our client department, the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just wondering if, in that presentation... I know it's been raised by the Minister of Health a lot of times that there were perks outlined in the proposal by one of the proponents and I'm just wondering if those perks were included in the presentation that was made to Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not understand “perks.” That language is not used within our procurement and contracting, I do not understand that line. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 589 – 2(4): Update on Suicide Prevention Strategy

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for being in a rush for questions. It’s been a good weekend and I’m all energized.

>>*Laughter*

I can see the persons across this House are all energized, too, and I’m quite happy.

Mr. Speaker, thank you. I would like to ask my questions to the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

In June of last year, the government announced its new Suicide Prevention Strategy. Last week, the Minister of Health and Social Services indicated that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is taking the lead on implementing this strategy.

Mr. Speaker, can the Premier provide an update on when he will be tabling the government’s implementation plan for the new Suicide Prevention Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There has been some activity taking place, not just over the last year. The government has been active in making sure that the frontline workers get the best training possible in suicide prevention. That has taking place over the last number of years.

In addition, we have been coordinating activities as a department with other departments. And right now, we hired a coordinator to coordinate all government activities within EIA and that was at the end of May. They will not just examine what’s taking place in Nunavut, but outside, what are the best practices available to other jurisdictions elsewhere. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier. Earlier this month, I had a constituency meeting in Kugluktuk. People had told me that suicide prevention is a major priority for the community. Can the minister update me today on what plans the government has for specific suicide prevention initiatives in Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I said, we will be looking to other jurisdictions as well on seeing what they have been doing and working with communities throughout Nunavut and making sure that we have the most effective plan that can be implemented for all of Nunavut. Suicide is a Nunavut-wide problem that we have to tackle with every resource available to us. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier. Can the minister update this House on how the government is working with the Embrace Life Council? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Of course, we will be working with the Embrace Life Council and communities that bear the burden of the important responsibilities sometimes and carry a lot of the workload in these unfortunate cases. So we will work with as many partners as possible because it's a responsibility shared by all organizations and government, as well as citizens. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 590 – 2(4): Update on Baffin Bay Polar Bear Population

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I proceed with my question, I would like to say hello to the people in Qikiqtarjuaq. Please live together in harmony. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment, even though he is right beside me.

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board held public hearings in Pond Inlet on April 22 and 23 of this year to consider proposed modifications to the levels of the total allowable harvest for the Baffin Bay polar bear population. The Government of Nunavut has requested that a decision be made on this matter in sufficient time for a management response to be implemented by July 1, 2008.

My question to the minister is: can the minister update the House today on whether the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board has forwarded a decision to the minister for acceptance or rejection? Has the minister accepted or rejected their recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not received a recommendation from the board yet and they have deferred that issue until September 2008, but they have sent a letter outlining their reasons for the deferral to my office. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. In its submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, the Department of Environment proposed four options. All of these options proposed reductions from the current total allowable harvest of Baffin Bay polar bears. Can the minister clearly explain why his department believes that a reduction is necessary for the Baffin Bay population? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, once we get the information from NWMB, the issue will become clearer as to which option we would look at. But at this time, I cannot explain to the member as to which option I would follow prior to receiving a submission of the decision made by the NWMB.

We will have to take into consideration all of the population estimates, as well as the recommendations made by the NWMB and by September, we will have a better idea as to which direction we are going and whether there would be a reduction in the quota or if we will keep the status quo for the total allowable harvest of polar bears in the Baffin Bay population. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question was: can the minister clearly explain why his department believes that a reduction is necessary? I would like the answer to that question, please. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's really up to the minister and the NWMB to decide whether we should reduce the quota up there. And I do believe that, unless I got the proper numbers from my staff or from NWMB's recommendation to my department, I think it's important that I, myself, make a decision that comes from NWMB and also my staff.

If a recommendation comes in from the NWMB, I would have to think of whether to reduce or to keep it where the quotas are. Again, we want to work very closely with the Greenland government to make sure that the population in Baffin Bay is stable for us to have those quotas and the quotas will come from... we're waiting for the recommendation from NWMB on whether we should reduce the quota or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. His response seems to be suggesting that there might not be a reduction in the number of bears that can be harvested in that population.

Every time we bring up the issue of the Baffin Bay population, the government keeps highlighting the Greenland effect. The issue of Greenland hunters harvesting polar bears in the Baffin Bay population continues to be a major concern. Can the minister update the House today on the status of his talks with the Greenlandic government on the issue of polar bear management? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been trying to make an appointment to meet with the Greenland Home Rule Government, but we still haven't had an answer from them.

Again, it's an international issue. We have to work closely with the federal government to try and meet with them and if we can get a meeting before we start the session again in September, we will be happy to meet with them to make sure that we have good communication between us and the Home Rule Government of Greenland to make sure that the polar bears in Nunavut and Greenland are stable in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 591 – 2(4): Update on the Implementation of the Remainder of the Small Crafts Harbours Strategy

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

First of all, to refresh his memory, when I was posing questions this winter, he stated that he would set up another meeting with the federal government in regard to the fact that the only facility approved was a deep water docking facility in Pangnirtung. Since a few months have gone by, can the minister state whether he has met with his federal counterpart and update us on the status of these discussions? Can he inform us of the response of the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are very pleased that they are going to be building that facility in Pangnirtung. There are six other communities that are listed in the Nunavut Transportation Strategy to receive small craft harbours.

This morning, I was able to meet with the Senate Committee and brought up the issue of the other communities that were supposed to get small craft harbours. When we presented our position paper on the small craft harbours this morning, the Senate Committee stated that they want to see the construction of these small craft harbours as well. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Is the minister telling me that he has not had any discussions with the federal government prior to this meeting with the Senate Committee this morning? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government is well aware of our urgent need to get those facilities. The six communities are already identified to get these facilities, but with respect to these small craft harbours, we will probably need more based on demand. We will continue to maintain our discussions with respect to this issue. The Premier also met with his colleagues last week and we were told that the Western Premiers support Nunavut in the building of these facilities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premiers who are in support of this, but they're not the federal government. What I'm trying to ask is I don't think the minister had an official meeting with the federal government, but I would like to thank the Premier for lobbying for the small craft harbours.

However, in regard to the Department of Transportation, how can they work harder to implement this initiative? Is the department planning to negotiate with the federal government? The federal government will be planning their budget soon. So prior to the federal government officials preparing their budget plan, are your territorial officials in meetings with the federal government to stress the importance of including the other communities who are listed as getting these small craft harbours? That is what I was trying to ask. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an ongoing issue with the federal government with respect to the huge infrastructure deficit that Nunavut is faced with.

One thing all of us know and have experienced is that when it comes to turbot fishing or the quotas, they don't even consult us when they are allocating quotas for the adjacent fisheries in Nunavut. The DFO is extremely hard of hearing with respect to Nunavut's arguments at this time, but we are continuing to discuss these issues with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, you would think because it's a Conservative minority government, you would think that they would have softened their position with this minority.

When the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* was being completed, the Conservative majority government was very difficult to deal with. We had to undertake lobbying efforts by visiting places from Vancouver to Newfoundland to argue our case. We would make presentations about our fight, we would go on the radio, and we would meet with rotary clubs and seek support for the Canadian Inuit fight for self-reliance. Have they started to lobby the federal government with respect to these small craft harbours? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. The Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs will respond to that question. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister has worked extremely hard on this issue and we have collaborated in pushing the federal government on this issue. We rarely get heard in our fight to be treated like other Canadians since we

are such a small territory with respect to infrastructure and so on. That is why I brought it up at the Western Premiers' Conference.

I requested the support of my western colleagues and I obtained the support of the Western Premiers. This is part of our overall strategy - to get support from our fellow governments because if we get the support of all the Premiers, it would make the federal government more amenable to our requests. This situation definitely needs to be improved. This is not going to end anytime soon, so I will continue to work with the minister on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 592 – 2(4): Dispute between EDT and Nunavut Tourism over Core Funding

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, in March, we posed detailed questions to him and his officials during the COW review of the Economic Development and Transportation budget. He indicated that he was going to meet with the Nunavut Tourism Board of Directors to discuss their funding.

My question for the minister: can the minister update the House today on the status of what is obviously a dispute between Economic Development and Transportation and Nunavut Tourism with respect to their core funding arrangements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had a very productive meeting with the Nunavut Tourism Board of Directors and the outcome was quite positive. I understand that we have a working relationship with Nunavut Tourism as of the moment. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that response. Nunavut Tourism has indicated that quarterly payments make it extremely difficult for them to operate on an annual basis. The tourism industry being what it is, they have to plan sometimes a year or two years in advance for their operations. It presents critical cash flow problems at peak times.

I mentioned to the minister that the federal government has alternative or multi-year agreements to help organizations deliver many federal government department programs

and the minister said he would look into them. My question for the minister: can the minister inform the House if he has investigated the use of alternative funding agreements to assist Nunavut Tourism with cash flow problems since our March session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, I understand that we a good working relationship with Nunavut Tourism at the moment and I haven't heard anything in terms of short cash flow problems. We have to adhere to the policy that was approved by Cabinet in terms of delivering the program. 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, I have heard contrary information that Nunavut Tourism is having financing difficulties in adhering to quarterly payments. With quarterly payments, you have to spend the money, account for it, and then you have to wait until you get your next quarterly funding. In the past, they have received 50 to 75 percent of their funding in advance, which allowed them to plan more easily to deliver their tourism programs.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister: can the minister indicate to the House if Economic Development and Transportation has any internal plans to contract a non-Nunavut Tourism entity to deliver tourism programs for Nunavut?

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I only know of our dealings with Nunavut Tourism in terms of Nunavut tourism development within Nunavut. That is all I can say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I'm sure the minister's staff will be willing to update or brief him later today on Nunavut Tourism.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my Member's Statement, Nunavut Tourism was formerly a core funded organization and it was known under the minister's main estimates as Nunavut Tourism, and this year, they were changed from Nunavut Tourism to Tourism Development Contributions.

My question for the minister: will the minister commit today to restore Nunavut Tourism to the status of a core funded organization in Economic Development and Transportation's 2009-10 main estimates, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our term expires October 27 and he is asking for a commitment for 2009-10. I can't make that commitment at the moment unless I happen to be on this side of the House again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 593 – 2(4): Mention of World Oil Prices at Western Premiers Conference

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Premier. My question is in regard to the Member's Statement this morning concerning the rising cost of petroleum products. As the minister was just returning from Saskatchewan, was the rising cost of petroleum products discussed at the Western Premiers' Conference? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we discussed this topic as Nunavut will suffer the greatest impact in all of Canada from the rising oil prices. We discussed this further as some people who want to run for federal elections want to add additional taxes on top of the rising costs. We very much opposed this proposal and we were supported in our opposition.

The majority of ministers did not want this because it is going to be very expensive and if they're going to put further tax on it, we will suffer even more. We also discussed finding alternatives to fuel, such as the use of wind power, tidal power to generate electricity. We were seeking assistance from the other premiers and they were very supportive of us. We are going to try to work together to find ways to use less fuel and we all came to an agreement that we will work together on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier. Yes, that is very encouraging to hear. Even though this is going to be a long process and will be a process with the federal government, my question is: when will he be speaking about the topics that were discussed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have spoken with some of the representatives of the federal government who wish to add further taxes that when it comes time for federal elections, I will be voicing my opposition. Any additional taxes will be a big problem for us. It is geared towards southern Canada, but it will impact on us negatively.

What we're going to try to do is in western Canada, they're looking at ways of producing energy through wind power, but they don't operate very well in cold weather. So we're going to try and help them find alternative forms of energy and if they find a solution, it will be very beneficial to us.

In British Columbia, they're developing tidal energy to produce electricity. Those are options that we're looking at and we will be kept informed of the potential adaptation of these new sources to our region. I know it's for future use only, but we have to start looking at how we can reduce our dependence on oil. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. I don't know if I should direct this to the minister based on what he stated. He mentioned the production of electricity using tides. Different communities have different tides. In Sanikiluaq, we only have about four feet of tide. There isn't much flow. Even though tides are different in every community, would they be beneficial to every community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We thank them that they're looking into alternative options which they will give us the results on. In that way, we will be able to work together and I will work with the minister further on this. I was happy because I asked them to support us. We want to be able to help each other and find solutions by doing so. So I wish to thank my fellow premiers for being willing to work with us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 594 – 2(4): Breakdown per Airline for Medical Travel for Baker Lake

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like direct my question to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services and it's in regard to patients

from the Kivalliq region that go to Churchill, Rankin Inlet, and to Winnipeg and their airfare.

(interpretation ends) I wonder if the minister could explain to me and to the people of Baker Lake, according to tabled documents, where there is the summary of the market share awarded, how the government decided that. For example, communities to Rankin Inlet would be 61 percent Nunasi, Canadian North, and 39 percent Kivalliq Air; and communities to Winnipeg would be 63 and 37 percent; and communities to Churchill would be 62 and 38 percent respectively. I'm just wondering if the minister could explain how those percentages were arrived at. 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. From the process that the Minister of CG&S explained, it was the committee that had reviewed the proposals and some of the proposals that were distributed also indicated their terms and conditions as to when they want, what share of the market that they wanted to provide services in, and whatnot. So it was based on a combination of information provided by the company from what I understand.

I'm not familiar with the specifics, but again, through a committee, those proposals were examined and based as well on individual companies' own conditions as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. In answers to questions from our colleague, Mr. Curley, on Friday, May 30, the minister stated that, in part, "the government made... a great decision for the north in developing a distribution of a market in the north," and that was in relation again to medical travel.

Can the minister confirm that, in fact, in part of that answer she did say that this contract award, and I quote, "allows citizens that are going on medical travel a choice in airlines"? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The choice in airlines from what I remember of that Question Period, I'd have to go back to the Blues and review that, related to, in the past we had no contract in the Kivalliq, as an example.

In the last five years, there was no contract in place. An RFP process was conducted, and companies had an opportunity to put forth submissions to the RFP process. Those were examined based on the conditions and criteria that I provided the Members of this House,

and based on that, a recommendation was made by the committee to Cabinet and a decision was made.

In the past, there were no contracts in place; there was no choice in place. In the Kitikmeot, we had one airline; there was no choice in that as well. Now with the two companies, there is a choice, as an example. In the Kivalliq, there was nothing. So those were comments to that, but again, I have to review the Blues and see what the member is referring to. But that's generally what transpired. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I may, let me just quote briefly from the Blues for Friday, May 30...

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: A Point of Order.

Speaker (interpretation): Just wait a moment. I apologize, (interpretation ends) Ms. Aglukkaq, please proceed.

Point of Order

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very clear in the Blues, it says, "Do not quote." You cannot quote anything from the Blues and the member says, "May I quote from the Blues." That's my Point of Order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Simailak, I would like to ask you to rephrase your question and I'll allow you to continue with your questioning. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first question, Mr. Speaker, was regarding the percentages that different airlines now have between the communities of Rankin Inlet, Churchill, and Winnipeg. The minister stated in the House on Friday, May 30 that "This contract award allows a more fair equitable distribution of the government contracts." She also stated that "it also allows citizens that are going on medical travel a choice in airlines." Did that statement that she made in this House on Friday actually does it, in fact, mean that the patient has a choice of which airline or airlines she wants to travel when it comes to medical travel? 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. Generally speaking, when I spoke to the RFP process, I'll give you one example. In Iqaluit, we have two airlines to choose from - Canadian North or First Air - to Ottawa. That's the choice. The fair distribution,

it's clear in the correspondence that I shared with the members, there are two airlines that we can now use under the contract.

In the Kivalliq, we also have Canadian North, Kivalliq Air, and Calm Air, so that's a choice. We have choices to use, whereas before, we had no contract. In the Kitikmeot, we had one company contracted for four years. We couldn't use the other airlines. Now, we have two contracts, 50/50 is what's there, so that's a choice.

So that's the point that I'm trying to make in the House is that there are some changes to the contract on how we do business, but not only that, the other information that I also shared in the House is that there are also choices to people that are travelling that are not going on medical travel. The general population now has choices with the new routes that are established with the companies that are available to consumers where they have a choice in pricing and they have a choice in different companies to fly with, whereas before, they never had that choice.

So in that respect, I said the decision was good for Nunavut, it allows people in Nunavut to have a choice in airlines, as opposed to going back to 20 years where we had no choice. That was the point related to Mr. Curley's question on Friday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that clarification. In the Kivalliq, we have always had that choice of airlines. In fact, as per the contract, there are only two airlines in the Kivalliq that have the medical contract and they are Canadian North and Kivalliq Air, and then there's Canadian North subcontracting, I guess, to Calm Air.

But the minister's statement on Friday stated that "it also allows citizens that are going on medical travel a choice in airlines." Again, would she clarify that statement, please, as to whether it's the patient, himself or herself, that can make a choice, or if it's the health centre or a doctor that makes that choice on behalf of the patient? And if the patient himself or herself can make a choice of which airline to travel on, can she relay that clearly to the health centres in the Kivalliq? 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. As the members wish, I will relay that to the health centres so that it's clear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 595 – 2(4): Replacement for Aging Airport Terminal for Qikiqtarjuaq

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

I have stated previously in this House that the Qikiqtarjuaq Airport terminal is one of the oldest buildings in use here in Nunavut. This building is extremely small and it is also getting to the point where it will have to be replaced. I would like to get an update on whether this airport terminal has been included in the list of buildings requiring replacement and whether this has been looked into. That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are aware that the terminal at the Qikiqtarjuaq Airport is past its useful life. We know that it requires a replacement. We will be going in this summer to ascertain the estimates to replace the terminal building in Qikiqtarjuaq and we will also be conducting a technical assessment of this facility. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for that commitment. With respect to your statement that there will be a technical assessment, can the minister inform me today, once the assessment is done, of whether or not his department will include it in the list of communities that require new airport terminals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, we have not found any funding available, but what we are leaning toward is to put the facility onto the replacement list and fund it through the Building Canada Fund. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. If you find that the terminal has to be replaced, will you be planning on actually replacing the building rather than just making repairs to it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said with regards to the terminal in Qikiqtarjuaq, we will be going over there this summer to look at it and find out how much it would cost. We really don't know exactly how much it would cost to renovate it right now, but we will be sending a consultant to Qikiqtarjuaq and once he reports back to us, we will approach the Executive Council for funding under the Building Canada Fund. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Question 596 – 2(4): Statistical Methodology for Nunavut Graduation Rates

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

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, in the *Nunatsiaq News*, there was an article about Bill 21 and the minister is quoted in the article saying, "Only one in four children in the territory will finish school."

Mr. Speaker, we seem to get a lot of information about education statistics and Bill 21 from the media. I was wondering: can the minister clarify or explain to the House where you arrived at these figures? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the member is not trying to needle me. I'm not trying to look around the room pensively and flick my pen and look for sympathy, but I can't really comment on what the *Nunatsiaq News* has said. What I can say is that based on our statistics, and we do have statistics on graduation rates, over the last few years, the standard number we have been using is that for every 100 children that enter kindergarten, 25 would graduate, so that would indicate a drop-out rate of about 75 percent.

However, over the last couple of years, that rate has actually changed and we're now looking at about 27 or 28 children that enter school who actually graduate out of that 100, so that percentage has gone up. 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 information and clarification. Mr. Speaker, in the same article, the minister said that the absence of parenting apparently tops his list of reasons why kids stop attending classes. My question for the minister: can the minister clarify what role he thinks parents play in the lives of those kids who attend school and graduate from grade 12? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here we have I think it was two full days of committee hearings in public and two paragraphs go into the newspaper out of eight, or 10, or 12 hours of committee hearings, and members of the committee are in this room today. So I think it's a bit unfair that we only get those four sentences of some very good debates from the members and from the minister in question, and so on.

What I can say and what I tried to say at that meeting several different times is that when we look at the *Education Act*, the *Education Act* can't cure all the ills that we see in our communities and in our families when it comes to issues in schools. There are outside issues that affect our students' successes, like any jurisdiction. Some of those concerns include when children come home and they're hungry, when kids don't have a proper place to sleep, when you have overcrowding in houses, when you have these types of socio-economic conditions that affect the child's life.

And as we said earlier, Mr. Speaker, when you go to a graduation anywhere in Nunavut, and that was quoted in the article, too, I would suggest to you that 95 percent of the time, even when we were in Kugluktuk last week, many of the students stand up and the first thing they say on graduation day is they thank their parents for helping them get out of bed in the morning.

I have tried to indicate at that time and we have heard some of the committee members also emphasize the same situation, that there are a lot of socio-economic problems that go on in our communities and it does affect our students' success. You can't blame everything on the school system. 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 answer. I tend to agree with minister. I know the education system gets blamed for a lot of things but I know that in Cambridge Bay, there is a lot of hard work and dedicated teachers and educators who are doing all they can to help the kids over there. I'm very fortunate that I have two sons that went through that system, so I know what it takes as a parent in meeting with the teachers and how the community is involved.

Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that by and among communities is important. Mr. Speaker, the district education authority in Cambridge Bay is worried that Bill 21 will dump more work on volunteers without providing additional funding for administration and they currently have a half a person year helping them.

My question for the minister: can the minister explain if Bill 21 will provide additional administrative support for district education authorities in Nunavut to help them carry out their new roles under Bill 21? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. In the new Bill 21, one of the proposals in there is to look at some of the areas around responsibility toward DEAs and what types of roles and responsibilities they would take on under the new Act.

Part of that includes administrative funds for hiring extra staff. So if there are responsibilities under the new Act, then there would actually be funding to help them carry out that work, so I think that's good news. We had a good meeting with the DEA chairs in Cambridge Bay, including the DEA Chair from Cambridge Bay, and that question was posed and the member had an opportunity to sit-in with us.

I think we can safely say that there is a lot of support for the bill out there, there are some concerns and we're trying to address them with the committee and with the stakeholders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Mr. Speaker, the minister was out in Cambridge Bay, it was a very good meeting, I was able to attend and I heard a lot of concerns. Some of the concerns I heard from the Kitikmeot DEA was that principals can override the suspensions of students, and then there were concerns that long suspensions can result in losing students from the school system. I'm not sure if the minister was able to answer those questions clearly at that time.

My question for the minister today: can the minister explain how the use of suspensions under Bill 21 will encourage kids to stay in school and continue their education through to grade 12? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of good things happening in our schools.

When we look at the graduation rates, as an example, when we track our kids through school, the children who attend 80 percent of the time from K-12 are graduating, they're successful. We have to help the kids when it gets to grades 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11. If the kids are only showing up for a day and a half or two days a week, they start to fail. That would be no different than any other jurisdiction.

It's about time, I think, Mr. Speaker, and the member heard me say at the meeting in Cambridge Bay and when I was at the NAM meeting, as leaders, as elected people in this room, we have to start talking about issues around teenage pregnancy, we have to talk

about gambling, and we have to talk about drug and alcohol abuse. It's not nice out there and the end result is that a lot of our children are having issues, so that's outside of what the Nunavut *Education Act* can do.

The member is correct; there is a new disciplinary policy in the Act and what the new disciplinary policy says in the Act is this: instead of taking a child who is suspended and kicking him out of school for a week, or two weeks, or three weeks, in the new Act, we have allowed for, and in legislation, in-school suspensions. So instead of asking little Eddy that will be kicked out of school for a week, and where he would have to go home, and maybe at home there wouldn't be parental support because the parents might be working, for example, and wouldn't have an opportunity to do homework, and so on, little Eddy would be disciplined in the school where he would do an in-school suspension, he wouldn't be allowed any extracurricular activities, he would actually have homework to do from nine to three during the day, and he would be supervised by the school itself.

There would be extra resources for the DEA to be able to do those types of in-school suspensions. We believe that's a more proactive and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* way to deal with a child, instead of just telling him to go home and come back in a week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 597 – 2(4): Date Proposals Were Received for Medical Travel Contracts

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services. It just caught my interest during my colleague's exchange with the Minister of Health when she outlined the airlines listed of choice now.

Mr. Speaker, I believe, from the tabled document, it listed three different airlines - First Air, Nunasi Canadian North, and Kivalliq Air. So my question to the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services is: when the proposals were initially received by the department, were those the only names that were on the proposals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last time we had a sitting, the same question arose and I'm sure I answered that question before where there were so many airlines or proponents that were asking for their contract to be reviewed. So I believe there was more than that number that the member asked about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. My question was: were the names that were there that are listed on the tabled document, were they the names that were on the initial proposals that were received by the department from them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize some of those that were on the contract list. There were a few others, I don't have them in front of me and I can't recall them all, but those were the airlines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm that no changes in the names of the proposals that they came in under were made after they were initially received? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to your question, I responded to those questions last fall and we dealt with them last fall. I don't have any information in front of me, I apologize. If you want all that information, I can table that information because we try to work openly and be transparent, and keep the public involved because this is public information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response and I look forward to getting confirmation that all the names that were listed as proponents of the contracts were, in fact, the names that were on the proposals when they were first received and that there were no changes. So would the minister commit to providing all the names under which the proposals were received and also if there's any difference between the names that the contracts were issued under? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I remember being asked those questions and they were tabled last fall during the session. And in regard to your question, yes, I can provide that information, especially to the member asking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Members, Question Period is now over. We will move on with our 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. Member from Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Committee Report 003 – 2(4): Report on the Review of the 2007 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My fellow committee members and I will be making this presentation and it isn't the shortest one. We have the honour today of presenting the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability's Report on its review of the 2007 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly on the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the permanent public record, I would like to begin today by providing the House and the listening public with a comprehensive chronology of critical events related to this report and the standing committee hearings and activities in relation to it.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, you tabled the Auditor General's Report on the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation on November 5, 2007. Subsequent to it being tabled, the report was referred to this standing committee for review. On November 6, 2007, the standing committee announced that its public hearings on the report would begin on November 27, 2007.

On November 6, 2007, the former Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Simailak, announced a number of measures in response to the observations and recommendations contained in the report. These included:

- A suspension of the NBCC's lending activities;
- The acceptance of the resignation of three members of the Corporation's Board of Directors, including its chairperson;
- The issuing of ministerial directives under the *Financial Administration Act* to require the NBCC to provide monthly management and financial reports to the Department of Finance;
- The preparation of a comprehensive action plan to address the recommendations in the Auditor General's report; and
- The referral of matters of financial records and controls to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for consideration

On November 9, 2007, the former minister announced the appointments of four serving deputy ministers of the Government of Nunavut to the Corporation's Board of Directors for one-year terms. This announcement also indicated that the corporation would resume its lending activities, and I would note that the fifth deputy minister was subsequently appointed to the board in February of 2008, following the departure from the board of one of its members.

The standing committee held its first round of public hearings on the Auditor General's report from November 27 to 29, 2008. A number of witnesses appeared before the standing committee, including the Auditor General and her staff, senior government officials with current and past responsibilities and relation to the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the corporation and the Vice-Chair of its Board of Directors. The committee's hearings were televised and open to the public to observe. Transcripts from the hearings were subsequently posted to the Legislative Assembly's website on December 17, 2007.

In light of the Auditor General's unprecedented denial of opinion on the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's 2005-06 financial statements, the standing committee was of the view that a ministerial appearance was warranted and appropriate. Invitations to ministers to appear before a standing committee in the course of its review of an audit report are not customary, but they are not without precedent. The standing committee had the opportunity to pose questions to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation during his appearance before the standing committee on November 29, 2007.

Prior to the convening of its hearings, the standing committee had written to the responsible minister in order to request a number of items for the committee's review, including a comprehensive listing of the companies and individuals that had received loans from the Business Credit Corporation. This information was provided to the standing committee on the morning of November 27, 2007.

The GN's draft action plan in response to the Auditor General's report was also provided to the standing committee at the beginning of its hearings.

A number of developments occurred during the period of time between the standing committee's two rounds of public hearings. During his testimony before the standing committee on November 29, 2007, the minister indicated that three of the companies in which he had an interest appeared on the list of Nunavut Business Credit Corporation loans that was provided to the standing committee at the beginning of its hearings.

On December 6, the standing committee approved a formal motion to issue a subpoena, pursuant to its authority under the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, for copies of certain records in relation to the entities listed in the disclosure statements of the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. A formal subpoena was issued on December 7, 2007.

On December 11, 2007, the Premier announced his acceptance of the minister's resignation.

On December 17, 2007, the NBCC's Comptroller and former Acting Chief Executive Officer, who appeared before the standing committee at its November hearings, commenced a period of leave without pay. Subsequent to the committee's hearings, news media reports indicated that the individual was facing charges under the *Criminal Code* in relation to incidents alleged to have occurred in the course of his former employment with a private company.

On December 19, 2007, the former Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut, the Honourable Robert Stanbury, exercised his authority under the *Integrity Act* to commence a review of the former Minister of Economic Development and Transportation's actions in relation to his testimony before the standing committee and his disclosure statements filed under the Act.

On December 27, 2007, the Secretary to Cabinet provided materials in response to the standing committee's subpoena. Later today, at the appropriate time, I will be tabling a copy of the subpoena and the materials received. I would note that these items were initially entered into the committee's record and publicly released on February 7, 2008, following the passage of a formal motion during the committee's deliberations.

On January 14, 2008, the new Chief Executive Officer of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Mr. Phillip Bhagoutie, commenced his duties.

On January 18, 2008, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's Board of Directors announced its approval of the action plan to address the recommendations in the Auditor General's report and its consideration of the NBCC's 2008-2011 Corporate Plan.

On January 28, 2008, the standing committee announced that its second round of public hearings on the Auditor General's report would begin on February 5, 2008. The standing committee's announcement indicated its hope that the testimony of former Credit Corporation office-holders, including the former chairperson of the board of directors and former senior managers, would assist the standing committee in clarifying for the public record the reasons for the breakdown in the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's financial management and lending practices that ultimately led to the Auditor General's denial of opinion. The standing committee was also motivated by the belief that learning from the mistakes of the past helps to ensure that they are not repeated in the future.

The standing committee held its second round of public hearings on the Auditor General's report from February 5 to 8, 2008. A number of witnesses appeared before the standing committee, including staff from the Office of the Auditor General, senior GN officials, the newly-appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and six former Credit Corporation office-holders. An updated GN action plan in response to the report of the Auditor General was provided to the standing committee on February 6, 2008.

I would like to note that five of the six former office-holders who appeared before the standing committee did so voluntarily. In only one case was the standing committee required to exercise its legal authority to compel the appearance of a witness. All former office-holders who appeared before the standing committee were formally sworn-in before providing testimony.

The standing committee's February hearings were televised and open to the public to observe. All transcripts from the four days of hearings were posted to the Legislative Assembly's website by February 18, 2008.

A total of over 800 pages of transcript from the standing committee's seven days of public hearings have now been produced and made available for public scrutiny. I encourage all members to review them with care.

On February 5, 2008, the standing committee approved a formal motion to issue a subpoena for copies of additional records in relation to the entities listed in the disclosure statements of the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. A formal subpoena was issued on February 6, 2008.

On February 6, 2008, the NBCC announced the resignation of their Comptroller and former Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Allan McDowell, following his conviction on charges of fraud.

On February 8, 2008, the standing committee approved a motion to publicly release and enter into the committee's record a package of information that had been received by the standing committee in response to requests made during its November 2007 hearings. I would note that certain references in the documents that referred to individuals unconnected with the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation were removed from the package prior to its release in order to safeguard their privacy. Later today, at the appropriate time, again, I will also be tabling this package.

On February 19, 2008, the Report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut concerning Mr. David Simailak was tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

On February 20, 2008, the Government of Nunavut's 2008-09 main estimates and business plans were presented to the Legislative Assembly. This documentation included the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's 2008-2011 corporate plan.

On February 21, 2008, the Secretary to Cabinet provided materials in response to the standing committee's second subpoena for documents. Later today, again at the appropriate time, I will be tabling a copy of that subpoena and the materials received in response to it. I will also have further comments to make on this issue later in this report.

On February 28, 2008, the Legislative Assembly approved without opposition a formal motion to accept the report of the Integrity Commissioner and its recommendations. On February 29, 2008, Mr. Simailak formally apologized to the House for his conduct.

On March 10, 2008, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's 2005-06 Annual Report was formally tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. I would note that the corporation's annual reports for 2006-07 and 2007-08 have not yet been tabled.

On March 12, 2008, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation tabled the GN's Interdepartmental Working Group's February 2008 *Report on the Future of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation*, as well as the April 2007 *Crown Agencies Assessment* report, which was prepared by a private consulting company, RT & Associates.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to at this time to ask Mr. Alagalak, my committee member, to continue with my report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like Mr. Alagalak, Member for Arviat, to proceed. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On March 13, 2008, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation rose in his place in this House to deliver Minister's Statement 172 – 2(4), in which he announced that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's offices would be relocated from Cape Dorset to Iqaluit.

The minister's announcement indicated that three unspecified positions from the Department of Community and Government Services would be relocated to Cape Dorset, as well as a position associated with the Department of Justice's Corrections Branch.

The Minister's Statement also indicated that other options concerning the future of the NBCC could be considered following the implementation of the Auditor General's recommendations.

The GN's Interdepartmental Working Group's report recommended that the GN "undertake the development of a model for a new 'made-in-Nunavut' economic development corporation, to be located in Rankin Inlet. This new corporation will replace the NBCC and the Nunavut Development Corporation. The recommended design for the new economic development corporation should be prepared in consultation with the public, the Inuit organizations, the board[s] of directors of the territorial corporations, the Nunavut business community and the federal government." The report recommended that this work be "presented to the third Government of Nunavut for review and decision in April 2009."

Mr. Speaker, this brings us to the present day. I would now like to highlight the observations and recommendations of the standing committee.

As members will appreciate, the unprecedented denial of opinion on the NBCC's 2005-06 financial statements necessitated an unprecedented degree of scrutiny on the part of the standing committee. The standing committee was pleased to have had the opportunity to review in detail the Auditor General's findings and recommendations concerning this important Crown agency. The standing committee was pleased to note that the government formally agreed with the report and its recommendations.

I would, however, also note that the quality of the government's responses to various reports of the Auditor General and the standing committee has varied considerably over the years, as has its performance in taking action to fully implement accepted recommendations. As a result, the standing committee, in its 2006 report to the Legislative Assembly, began the practice of providing a detailed status report on the government's actions in response to outstanding issues. This practice will continue in the future, as required.

The standing committee was gravely disappointed at the failure of the government to take decisive action at an earlier time. Past reports of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly clearly revealed serious problems with the NBCC and provided warnings with respect to the risks of error and fraud associated with weaknesses in the GN's overall financial management system.

In June of 2004 and April of 2006, this standing committee held public hearings, questioned witnesses and subsequently tabled its own reports and recommendations.

Despite the assurances given to the standing committee by GN and NBCC witnesses at the time that action would be taken to address the Auditor General's concerns and warnings, the problems at the NBCC were allowed to worsen until it was too late to avoid the denial of opinion on the corporation's financial statements.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's 2007 Report on the NBCC contained 15 specific sets of recommendations and government responses for improvements to the management of the corporation. These recommendations addressed a number of thematic areas, including:

- Management and monitoring of loan files and documentation;
- Evaluation of loan applications;
- Control over disbursements;
- Compliance with laws and regulations;
- Adequacy of information technology and data storage;
- Corporate governance; and
- Training of employees and Board members.

For the record, Mr. Speaker, the standing committee formally concurs with the recommendations in the Auditor General's report.

Mr. Speaker, a number of themes and priorities for future action have emerged during the standing committee's review of the issues raised in the Auditor General's report. The standing committee's recommendations are as follows:

1. Implementation of the Government of Nunavut Action Plan in Response to the Report of the Auditor General

As I noted earlier, the GN has formally agreed with the Auditor General's report and recommendations. The Government of Nunavut's action plan in response to the Auditor General's report sets out a number of short-, medium- and long-term actions. A number of these actions involve the creation of new manuals, procedures and other documents to address identified deficiencies in the NBCC's operations, including the lack of due diligence in its review of loan applications.

The Standing Committee recommends that the GN table a status report on the implementation of its action plan during the fall 2008 sitting of the House, prior to the dissolution of the Second Legislative Assembly.

2. Enhancement of Performance Measurement and Fulfillment of Corporate Mandate

The *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* establishes the Crown corporation and sets out its mandate and powers. Section 5 of this legislation provides that the corporation "may, for the purpose of stimulating economic development and employment in Nunavut, make loans to business enterprises, guarantee loans made by financial institutions to business enterprises, provide bonds to resident business enterprises and indemnify bonds provided by bonding companies to resident business enterprises."

The NBCC's 2008-2011 corporate plan, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly earlier this year, states that its mandate "is to function as an agent of the Government of Nunavut to stimulate economic development and employment in Nunavut by supporting, financing, and investing in resident business enterprises."

During its scrutiny of the Auditor General's report and related materials, the standing committee was disturbed by the lack of data to indicate whether or not the NBCC is actually fulfilling its fundamental function of "stimulating economic development and employment in Nunavut."

The GN's Interdepartmental Working Group's February 2008 *Report on the Future of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation* cites an important observation in the *Crown Agencies Assessment Final Report*. This report indicated that the "NBCC has provided a significant level of loan capital to Nunavut

businesses since 1999, but its true effectiveness as an agent of economic growth cannot be determined due to a lack of performance measurement data.”

The report concluded that the “NBCC does not track the jobs created or maintained as a result of its loans, nor does it track other measures such as other capital leveraged, or wealth created. As a consequence, NBCC’s effectiveness cannot be measured.”

The standing committee is of the view that the NBCC’s lack of success to date in quantifying such key performance measures as the number of jobs for Nunavummiut that have been created as a result of its loan activities is unacceptable. The NBCC does not exist to simply assist companies in need or generate a return for the government. It has a clearly-defined mandate to contribute to broader socio-economic goals.

By contrast, the Nunavut Development Corporation’s annual reports have improved significantly in recent years with respect to measuring and accounting for its performance in the area of job creation and maintenance. Its experience may be instructive to the NBCC in this regard.

A review of the methodologies used by the GN’s NNI Secretariat with respect to monitoring contractors’ compliance with Inuit labour content requirements may also be of benefit to the NBCC.

Page N-9 of the NBCC’s 2008-2011 corporate plan provides a detailed breakdown of the corporation’s loan portfolio by region and supported industry sector. The standing committee noted significant differences between the territory’s three regions.

During the standing committee’s questioning of witnesses, members raised the issue of which sectors of the economy and what size of business the NBCC should focus its efforts on to best ensure compliance with its core mandate of stimulating economic development and employment. Discussions took place with respect to whether the NBCC should focus on providing assistance to smaller businesses or larger entities. Discussions also took place on the job creation potential of different sectors of the economy.

The standing committee recommends that the NBCC develop quantifiable performance measures and annual reporting practices that will enable Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public to objectively assess the corporation’s success in fulfilling its statutory mandate to stimulate economic development and employment in Nunavut. The NBCC’s 2008-09 annual report should explicitly address this issue.

The standing committee recommends that the NBCC enhance the rigour of its loan approval process with respect to requiring loan applicants to substantiate the number of jobs that their projects will create or maintain.

The standing committee recommends that the NBCC conduct a review to identify which industry sectors and what size of business should be the future focus of the

corporation's lending activities. The review should incorporate an evaluation of the job creation impact of loans provided to entities in the real estate sector.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We still have a ways to go. (interpretation ends) I will ask Keith Peterson to continue with this report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just warn my colleagues that when I'm finished, then we have another chapter or two to go.

3. Enhancement of Corporate Transparency

Mr. Speaker, over the past several years, this standing committee has consistently called on the government to enhance the transparency and accountability of its operations and spending.

Since 1999, a number of important improvements have been achieved. These include the tabling of departmental and Crown agency business plans, the inclusion of information in the Government of Nunavut's main estimates concerning prior years' actual expenditures, the tabling of annual reports on the Government of Nunavut's procurement, contracting and leasing activities, the tabling of ministerial letters of expectation to Crown agencies and the responses of the agencies, and the tabling of annual reports on the government's grants and contributions expenditures. I would note that while in some cases, these documents are tabled in a timely manner, in other cases, they are not.

However, there has been too little transparency at the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation for too long.

In the context of its review of earlier reports of the Auditor General, the standing committee has already made recommendations in this area. Although the 2006-07 ministerial letter of expectation to the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation echoed the standing committee's call for greater disclosure of which individuals and companies receive public funds in the form of loans, this information has not been annually reported to the Legislative Assembly and the public.

By contrast, the annual reports of the Northwest Territories' new Business Development and Investment Corporation publicly disclose detailed information that identifies the individuals and companies that receive public funds. Section 31 of the *Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation Act* provides that:

31. The annual report that the Corporation is required to submit under section 96 of the *Financial Administration Act* must include a specific category setting out the following information in respect of each business enterprise that the

Corporation provided financial assistance to or in which it made an investment in the financial year:

- (a) the name of the business enterprise;
- (b) the name of the owner or owners of the business enterprise as determined in accordance with the regulations;
- (c) the total amount of financial assistance provided to or investments made in the business enterprise;
- (d) the name of the community in which the business enterprise or its head office is located.

The standing committee has also been concerned that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and other Crown corporations do not report annually to the Legislative Assembly on their procurement, contracting and leasing activities. This information is now reported annually with respect to the activities of GN departments and the Legislative Assembly itself.

The standing committee was also disturbed by the Auditor General's observation that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's "collection efforts are lacking and that follow-up action on payment arrears varies, from little effort in some cases to a lot of effort and involvement in others." This observation calls into question the fairness and consistency of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's past practices in the sensitive area of collections. It is important the public has confidence that the government's Crown corporations will approach such matters in a fair and consistent manner.

The standing committee recommends that the government amend the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act* to require more detailed annual disclosure and reporting of its lending activities.

The standing committee recommends that the GN's Crown Agency Council direct the NBCC and other Crown agencies to report annually to the Legislative Assembly on their procurement, contracting and leasing activities.

The standing committee recommends that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation review its collection practices to ensure that they are applied fairly and consistently.

The standing committee recommends that an updated Nunavut Business Credit Corporation bid bond security policy be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, as per the observations in the June 2006 Report of the Standing Committee on its review of the 2005 Report of the Auditor General of Canada.

4. Disclosure of Status of Ongoing RCMP Investigation

On November 6, 2007, the Government of Nunavut announced that it had referred matters of financial records and controls to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for consideration. While the standing committee recognizes that the RCMP must be

permitted to do its work without interference, its findings will ultimately be reported to the Government of Nunavut.

The standing committee recommends that the government table in the Legislative Assembly the final report that it receives from the RCMP on this matter.

5. Review of the Location and Structure of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

During the standing committee's hearings of November 29, 2007, members were informed that "the government has determined that [the] Nunavut Business Credit Corporation should remain in Cape Dorset." This statement was subjected to intense scrutiny by members, who posed a number of questions to determine whether the benefits of keeping the corporation in that location outweighed the operational problems that its location had evidently caused.

This theme was revisited in the committee's February hearings. Members expressed a clear view that the corporation would benefit from relocation. The standing committee was particularly struck by testimony from the former Chairperson of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's Board of Directors, who indicated that the Board itself had previously recommended that the corporation be relocated.

On March 13, 2008, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation announced that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's offices would be relocated from Cape Dorset to Iqaluit. The minister's announcement indicated that three unspecified positions from the Department of Community and Government Services would be relocated to Cape Dorset, as well as a position associated with the Department of Justice's Corrections Branch. To date, the government has not publicly clarified exactly which Community and Government Services' positions will be relocated to Cape Dorset.

The Government of Nunavut's Interdepartmental Working Group's February 2008 *Report on the Future of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation* indicates that "there have been six major studies of one or both of [the NBCC and the NDC] conducted between 1998 and 2004." The working group's report recommended that work to develop a model for a "new, 'made-in-Nunavut' economic development corporation" be presented to the third Government of Nunavut for review and decision in April 2009.

The standing committee recognizes that there are different perspectives with respect to the appropriate model for the delivery of economic development programs and services in the territory, including the question of whether the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation should be amalgamated into a single entity. Some view the two entities as having sufficiently complementary mandates to warrant amalgamation. Others maintain that the corporations should remain separate entities.

The standing committee recognizes that a final decision on this matter would be premature until such time as the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation adequately addresses the issues identified in the report of the Auditor General. The standing committee also notes that any fundamental changes in this sphere would require significant legislative changes, which could not proceed without the approval of the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee recommends that the government proceed with work to develop options for consideration by the Members of the Third Legislative Assembly with respect to the potential creation of a new economic development entity, but stresses the importance of soliciting input from the Nunavut business community in this process.

6. Status of the Review of Business Development Centres

On October 29, 2007, the government announced that it had initiated a review of Nunavut's three business development centres. The announcement indicated that "the study will review the policies and procedures of each organization, and to identify and to recommend the standards and best practices to ensure that all Nunavutmiut have access to good quality business services. These services are delivered by the Kitikmeot Community Futures Incorporated, the Kivalliq Business Development Centre, and the Baffin Business Development Centre, with each reporting to its own regionally-based board of directors."

The results of this review have not yet been tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Both the 2004 and 2007 reports of the Auditor General contained observations on the relationship between the Government of Nunavut, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the business development centres.

The standing committee recommends that the results of the review of the business development centres be tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

7. Review of Board Governance and Membership

A significant portion of the standing committee's hearings addressed issues related to the roles and responsibilities of the various parties involved in the governance of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, including its Board of Directors, CEO, the Financial Management Board, Cabinet, the Minister and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. The standing committee was particularly concerned by the Auditor General's observations regarding changes in the reporting relationship between the CEO of the corporation, the board of directors and the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

Given Nunavut's small population, the standing committee recognizes the challenges facing the government with respect to identifying qualified individuals to serve on the

Boards of Directors of Crown agencies. Many of these boards are responsible for exercising oversight with respect to complex operations and programs.

While the question of whether or not to maintain the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation as separate entities remains an open one, the knowledge and competencies required for individuals to serve effectively on either of the two corporations' boards of directors are clearly similar. The appointment of individuals to serve on both boards has synergistic potential.

The standing committee recommends that the government consider the advisability of appointing individuals to serve on the Boards of Directors of both the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation.

The standing committee recommends that the government's ongoing review of board governance issues also addresses the question of ministerial participation in the loan approval process.

Mr. Speaker that concludes my portion of the report and I would like to turn it back to the Chairman, Mr. Hunter Tootoo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

8. Screening of Applicants for Senior Management Positions

Members were shocked to learn that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's former Acting CEO faced criminal charges at the time when he testified in November of 2007 before the standing committee in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly. Although the standing committee recognizes that criminal record checks do not indicate if individuals are under investigation, the laying of criminal charges is a matter of public record. Given the news media's ability to determine and report on the facts of the circumstances in this particular situation, the standing committee is of the view that additional background checks must be undertaken when hiring executive-level employees for Crown agencies and other senior Government of Nunavut positions.

Testimony delivered in February of 2008 by a former CEO of the Business Credit Corporation was also disturbing. In his opening statement to the standing committee, the former office-holder stated that "In my interview, when I first took the job, I admitted to having no experience in the financial sector, so in retrospect, it's not surprising that I failed to uphold the standards necessary. I didn't know what the standards were and the previous CEO's knowledge was, I don't think, very much better than mine, so there was no history to lean on."

While the standing committee is supportive of mentoring and training approaches to entry-level and junior staff, especially in relation to the government's IEP goals, it is not

unreasonable to expect that the individual hired to be the most senior leader in an organization should arrive on the job with the necessary core skills.

The lessons of these two experiences are self-evident. Fundamental standards of professional competence and personal probity cannot be compromised when hiring the most senior executives of public agencies.

Therefore, the standing committee recommends that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and other Crown agencies work with the Government of Nunavut's Department of Human Resources to review the process by which background checks are conducted on candidates for executive-level positions.

The standing committee recommends that minimum qualifications be established for executive-level positions in Crown agencies and that applicants who do not possess these qualifications be eliminated from further consideration during the pre-employment screening process.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to conclude by addressing the issue of conflict of interest and certain matters related to the provisions of our territory's *Integrity Act*. As all members are aware, certain information came to light during the standing committee's November 2007 hearings that ultimately led to the tabling of a report of the Integrity Commissioner.

As I noted earlier in this report, the standing committee approved a formal motion to issue a second subpoena for copies of additional records in relation to the entities listed in the disclosure statements of the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. A formal subpoena was issued on February 6, 2008.

However, I want to make it clear for the public record today and also for the editors at *News/North*, that the standing committee itself is not investigating the former minister. That is not within the scope of the committee's mandate. No standing committee or no individual member has the authority to render a final determination with respect to another member's compliance or non-compliance with the *Integrity Act*. Our legislation is very clear in this respect, as is the process for initiating a review under the *Integrity Act*.

Having given careful consideration to the materials received as a result of its February 2008 subpoena, the standing committee formally approved a motion on May 30, 2008, in support of the chair of the standing committee making a formal request pursuant to section 36 of the *Integrity Act* in relation to the materials received by the standing committee in response to its subpoenas of December 7, 2007 and February 6, 2008.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 91(5), the standing committee formally requests that the government present a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

With that, I move that the Report of the Standing Committee be received by the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Does the House agree that the Report of the Standing Committee be received and adopted by the House?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The report will be received and adopted by the House.

Members, we will have a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:52 and resumed at 16:17*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you for coming back, Members. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report on Bills 014 – 2(4): Bill 33, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 33, *An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 86(6) and have Bill 33 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Just let me clarify whether you would like to waive Rule 68(6). Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a mistake; I should have said Rule 68(6). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 33 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 33 is moved into Committee of the Whole for today.

Report of Committees on the Review of Bills. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Committee Report on Bills 015 – 2(4): Bill 34, Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 34, the *Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 34 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 34 moved in to Committee of the Whole for today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 34 is moved into the Committee of the Whole for today.

Item 12. Reports of Committees on Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 252 – 2(4): Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut 2008 Annual Report**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document:

- The Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut's Annual Report for 2006-08.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Can we have those documents brought forward to the Clerk's table, please?

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

Tabled Document 253 – 2(4): Nunavut Association of Municipalities Annual General Meeting – 2008 Reaffirmed Resolutions Forwarded to Ministers of the Government of Nunavut

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today the resolutions from the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and I encourage all members to review them with care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Tabled Document 254 – 2(4): Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability – Materials Provided in Response to its Subpoena of February 6, 2008

Tabled Document 255 – 2(4): Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability – Materials Provided in Response to its Subpoena of December 7, 2007

Tabled Document 256 – 2(4): Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability – Information Package Provided as Follow-up to Committee Hearings on the Report of the Auditor General on the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I noted earlier, I wish to formally table today a copy of information I was provided to the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Accountability in response to its subpoena of December 7, 2007. This was initially entered into the committee's record in February of this year.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to formally table the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability, subsequently that we got, in the response to its subpoena of February 6, 2008.

Also, as I noted early, I would like to formally table information that was initially entered into the committee record in February of this year, the package of information provided to the standing committee from the Department of ED&T. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Can we have those documents brought forward to the Clerk's table, please?

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. If there are no more, Item 14. Notices of Motions.
Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 041 – 2(4): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, June 4, 2008, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Akulliq, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until September 9, 2008. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Member Peterson.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 039 – 2(4): Reappointment of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 188 of the *Nunavut Elections Act* provides that the Chief Electoral Officer is appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly to hold office during good behaviour;

AND WHEREAS the term of office for the Chief Electoral Officer is seven years;

AND WHEREAS the appointment of the present incumbent expires on November 28, 2008;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to recommend an appointment to this position;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that the Legislative Assembly recommend to the Commissioner of Nunavut that Ms. Sandy Kusugak be reappointed as Chief Electoral Officer, effective November 28, 2008. 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 would also like to acknowledge Ms. Kusugak for her reappointment. Thank you.

Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item Minister of Education and Energy, Minister Picco.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 35 – Energy Efficiency Act – Second Reading

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 35, the *Energy Efficiency Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed *Nunavut Energy Efficiency Act* is part of Nunavut's plan to lower energy costs, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, and increase the availability of energy efficient products on the market here in Nunavut. This legislation will set energy efficiency standards for a wide range of energy products, including household appliances,

office equipment, and items such as boilers, furnaces, portable heaters, lighting, and humidifiers.

Mr. Speaker, we have followed the direction of the House and the standing committee, and have made substantial additions to the items covered in the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, over the last three months, we have been in contact with retailers across Nunavut and I am pleased to say that their response has been very positive.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important and it's especially important that we are introducing this legislation right now because the price of oil continues to go up. Nunavut's dependence on oil is expensive and Mr. Speaker, it is not sustainable. As a government, we need to lead and demonstrate our commitment to energy efficiency as well as conservation.

Mr. Speaker, we look forward to further discussions on our proposed legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 35 has had second reading and is referred to the standing committee.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 26, 27, 30, 33, and 34, and I am proud to say that Mr. Kattuk will be the Chair for the first time in Committee of the Whole.

>>Applause

Before we proceed with Committee of the Whole, we will take a five-minute break while we prepare.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 16:29 and Committee resumed at 16:43

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

Chairman (Mr. Kattuk)(interpretation): Can you hear me? (interpretation ends) Thank you, Members. I am very proud to be in this chair. I'll try to direct you where I want to direct you to, so bear with me and don't get mad at me. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In the Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 26, 27, 30, 33, and 34. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to deal with Bill 34, Bill 30, Bill 26, Bill 27, and then Bill 33, in that order. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Are we in agreement we will first deal with Bill 34?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 34 – Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would now like to ask the Minister of Finance to make his opening remarks. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before members today to speak to Bill 34 – *Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act*. This bill will create the Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund. It defines how eligible outfitters, guides and tourism establishments can access limited indemnity coverage for comprehensive liability claims.

Any outfitter who is unable to buy liability insurance from a private insurance company can apply to the Government of Nunavut for liability protection under this Act. Once approved, they would sign a contract with the Government of Nunavut. The contract will clearly outline the type and limits of the coverage the applicant is receiving.

This program is fee based, with the initial fee set at \$3,500 per year.

This bill is designed to assist Nunavut outfitters, guides and tourism establishments who cannot obtain liability insurance in the private market. The Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund offers them up to \$1 million in limited liability coverage. This coverage is limited to maximums of \$1 million per occurrence and \$1 million per outfitter, per year. The entire fund is capped at \$2 million per year in payments. If there are more than \$2 million in claims in any given year, any additional claims would not be covered by this fund.

Any actual claims will be handled by a professional outside firm and then paid out of the fund, as necessary.

The Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund is designed to eventually be self-sufficient. The Financial Management Board has approved an initial capital contribution of \$5 million to the fund. Of that \$5 million, \$2 million would come from the Government of Nunavut over a two-year period, and \$3 million would come from the Federal Community Development Trust. All fees and premiums, as well as interest earned, would be credited to the fund to allow it to grow to a maximum of \$10 million. Any claims payments would come out of the fund itself and not come from a departmental budget.

In keeping with Government of Nunavut's commitment to strengthening financial management, an annual report will be tabled outlining the assistance provided, the claims received, and the financial status of the Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund.

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

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, please.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. (interpretation) Minister Tapardjuk, for the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Peter Ma, my Deputy Minister with the Department of Finance, and on my right is Andrew Campbell from the Department of Justice and he is a legislative drafter, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations have any comments? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my first time calling you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability has scrutinized Bill 34, the proposed *Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act*.

The standing committee recognizes that this bill has been introduced in order to fulfill the commitment made in this year's Budget Address to provide assistance to outfitters in obtaining liability coverage. The Budget Address indicated that "it has been difficult for Nunavut outfitters to obtain suitable liability insurance. Policies available on the market require high premiums for little coverage, and typically exclude the kinds of activities that outfitters offer their clients."

Mr. Chairman, during the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues concerning the implementation and administration of the proposed legislation. The standing committee supports the government's desire to assist outfitters in obtaining adequate liability insurance coverage. Tourism is a critical sector of our economy, and measures to enhance opportunities for entrepreneurs to achieve success are to be welcomed.

However, members raised a number of cautionary notes with respect to this initiative and areas where further work will need to be undertaken in the context of the development of regulations and policies under the Act.

As the minister noted in his opening comments to the committee and today, outfitters will be able to obtain up to \$1 million in limited liability coverage. The entire fund will be capped at \$2 million per year in payments, as he had indicated in his opening comments. While the standing committee recognizes the need for the government to carefully assess its own exposure to risk, it is essential that outfitters who apply for coverage clearly understand the program's limits and clearly understand that if there are more than \$2 million in claims in any given year, any additional claims would not be covered by this fund, which potentially could result in situations where outfitters would not have any coverage at all.

The standing committee urged the government to give careful consideration to a number of other issues, including the question of whether HTOs that act as outfitters will be able to take advantage of the program. The committee stressed the importance of working with appropriate partners, such as the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission and Nunavut Tourism, in order to help ensure that safety training is available to outfitters and to assist them in obtaining insurance coverage for their equipment.

The committee also expressed its view that outfitting companies which may operate in Nunavut but are headquartered in another jurisdiction should not be eligible to take advantage of the program, and was pleased to receive assurances that the policies under the Act will clearly provide that the program is for Nunavut residents. The standing committee also suggested that the NAMIX experience may be of benefit to the government in its implementation of the legislation.

As all members are aware, the government has proposed that \$4 million be allocated towards the establishment of this new fund. This amount is included in the proposed supplementary appropriation legislation currently before the House. The standing committee would like to note for the public record that section 59 of the *Financial Administration Act* provides that, and I'll quote it, "no revolving fund shall be established except by Act." Bill 34 contains appropriate language in this regard and which I might say is exactly why we're doing it in the proper order now - the legislation before the funding.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee congratulates the minister and his officials for bringing forward a bill that includes a requirement for an annual report to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, which is usually one of the generic recommendations of the committee anyway, so kudos for that. Annual reporting to the Legislative Assembly is a critical element of transparency and accountability. Members recommended that the annual reports tabled under this Act include detailed information concerning how many outfitters receive coverage under this new fund and all the other information that the minister stated in his opening comments, as well as how many outfitters are refused

coverage under the fund. This type of information is necessary to enabling the government and members to evaluate the success of this initiative.

The standing committee was also pleased to hear testimony from government witnesses that indicated that periodic reviews of the program will be undertaken. The standing committee also looks forward to the opportunity to scrutinize and comment on draft regulations and policies under this Act.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The standing committee recommends the passage of Bill 34 to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken. Are there any general comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also welcome Bill 34. I remember during the NWT days, we kept bringing this issue up but the tourism outfitters with boats had to pay a \$2,500 premium. The majority of the outfitters who faced this fee were unilingual and older then. I was the CEDO in Coral Harbour at that time. I wanted to assist the outfitters and looked through all the programs, but they still had to pay that \$2,500 premium out of their own pockets.

I welcome this bill because it recognizes our uniqueness and the fact that we, as a government, are starting to prioritize the interests of our people in the communities and not just the priorities of the government. As I have maintained, the interests and wishes of our constituents have to be protected, especially children because they have no voting rights, and especially when we are considering recreational facilities, such as community halls and arenas.

Other infrastructure such as docks and useful items for the hamlets such as community freezers are more reasons why I welcome this bill and its content. It will be a welcome relief to tourism operators and those who own boats and snowmobiles, as well as the polar bear sports hunt operators, if, in fact, that industry will survive with the extenuating circumstances we face today.

We all know that the tourism industry is not going away anytime soon, given the beautiful scenery of Nunavut lands. We are one of the few remaining pristine areas in the world and there is a lot of potential. I would like to urge the government then, as Mr. Tootoo said, that we will have to set the regulations properly and we will have to make sure that the information goes out at the community level.

We would like Bill 34 not just to be an impediment to those who are going to be seeking this type of coverage. We would like the government and the future Members of the Legislative Assembly to know that. I'm sure that the regulations will outline how you

would be eligible for this coverage and how you could be rejected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be in support of Bill 34. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation ends) General comments. I have no more names on my list for general comments. We will now to proceed to the clause-by-clause review of the bill starting with page 1. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials to the Committee of the Whole today. I'm one of the members of the standing committee and I would like to get some on-the-record statements from the minister and his officials with respect to how this program works.

The opening comments of the minister and our chair indicated that the liability insurance covers per incident is up to \$1 million and that's the liability portion. Who would be responsible for liability claims larger than \$1 million per incident? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I will have my deputy respond, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way the fund is proposed at this point in time is that if there is an amount over \$1 million, it would not be covered by the fund. So the outfitter would have to basically come up with it out of his own funds if there is such a claim above \$1 million.

What I would say to the Committee of the Whole is that it's our understanding, in our research that we have done, that the Canadian Tourism Commission, for liability claims then, was the average down south is about \$50,000 per claim. Obviously, that doesn't preclude something being greater than that, and obviously, our costs are a lot higher than in other jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Ma for that information. So would the Government of Nunavut, through the Department of Finance I take it, ensure that the outfitters are aware that their liability coverage is up to \$1 million? They may believe that they're insured for an infinite amount, so that would have to be clear to them and their customers as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will try to keep outfitters informed about these regulations. If we work with Economic Development and

Transportation, we will definitely keep the outfitters informed about the liability insurance limits. Once this is passed, we will definitely inform those Nunavummiut who will be affected the most by the passage of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. Minister, in your opening comments, you said that the entire fund is capped at \$2 million per year in payments and if there are more than \$2 million in payments in any given year, any additional claims would not be covered by this fund. We certainly hope that there are no claims but in your legislative proposal, you indicated that there are 90 outfitters who require this assistance.

So if we have 90 outfitters paying up to \$3,500 per year in premiums, in theory, the first two claims, which are potentially up to \$1 million each, would max out the program. What would the other outfitters do if that occurred? They wouldn't have any insurance if you maxed out at \$2 million for the year. How would they deal with that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): We will keep the outfitters informed as to what they can expect within the year. If we can't pay anymore because of the cap, we would let the outfitters know that we have reached our maximum. We're only in the initial stage and I'm sure that as time goes by, we will continue to fine-tune the regulations, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. Would the Department of Finance, who would be the administrator of this program, refund the insurance premiums that the outfitters paid if the \$2 million per year claims were exceeded? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps my deputy can explain that, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The short answer is no, we would not refund the premiums to the outfitters that we provided the coverage to. Once the maximum is reached on an annual basis of \$2 million, then that would be it. It may have been in the minister's opening comments or a reference might have been made by the chair of the

standing committee, but it's similar to a NAMIX type program, everybody shares in the risk and everybody shares in the rewards of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Ma for that information. Again, it goes back to my earlier question: will the Department of Finance ensure that outfitters are fully aware that this is not your normal insurance program, it comes with qualifications - you are insured but you are not really insured - depending on how many claims are against the program in a given year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I will have my deputy answer that question.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With a program like this, the member is quite correct, the Department of Finance provides the necessary communications to potential outfitters or clients, I guess, so to speak. Obviously, that communication plan would include things such as what the maximum amount would be, which is \$1 million per claim and the annual maximum of \$2 million per year, but once those maximums are reached, basically there will be no coverage for other participants in that particular plan.

So the member is quite correct, I think it's imperative on us to provide the necessary information to people that may be enrolled in the plan. Certainly, we are working currently on an appropriate communications plan and information that we can provide to potential clients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Ma for that information. Earlier this year, minister, you had indicated in your Budget Address that a single organization will represent the outfitters in the territory and that the Government of Nunavut would enter into an agreement with that organization and offer this insurance. In your opening statement there, you said that the outfitters would basically deal with the Government of Nunavut directly. Is that the way that you envisioned this program continuing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is quite correct. In the minister's Budget Address, at that time, the Department of Finance had thoughts about using a single organization to deliver this particular program. Subsequent to that, as we continued with the design and the drafting of the bill, we realized that perhaps that was maybe not the best course of action to take. What we recognized after that was that perhaps it would

be best left for the Department of Finance to deliver this particular program and I'll state the reasons for that.

First of all, my department has responsibility for risk management within the government overall, so we do have some expertise and some resources within that can provide that particular expertise, so to speak.

Second of all, the organization that we had contemplated at that point in time probably doesn't have those resources and we would probably stretch them to some extent. There was some discussion within our briefing to the standing committee, but perhaps we could even use the participants of the NAMIX program. But we feel this is sort of a somewhat specialized area, we don't want to take away from the good that the NAMIX people are doing, so I think it would be best at this point to leave it in Finance.

I think thirdly, and I think it was mentioned by the chairperson of the standing committee that we have committed to bringing back into this House an annual report. In order for that to happen, it's probably best within a particular government department because then we are sort of legislated to give that report back into the House.

So those are some of the thought that we had after the fact and I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the information from the minister and Mr. Ma. Having said that, minister or Mr. Ma, by the government entering into agreements with outfitters to provide them with this insurance funding, are you exposing the government to potential liability issues if there are any claims against the outfitters and their insurer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I'll have Mr. Ma explain that.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member raises a good question that was given careful consideration. Obviously, there's always the possibility of a lawsuit being brought against government. However, I think that the work that we have done to get the bill to this stage will mitigate that. Obviously, we were limited to \$1 million and a \$2 million cap would be there. Also within the legislation that you are going to be going clause-by-clause through, there is some language also to protect the government further in that respect.

Certainly, I could ask our legal counsel to comment further if the member would like, but we have certainly looked at that possibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Ma for that information. I think, Mr. Chairman, it would be appropriate if the legal counsel could offer an opinion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I'll have Mr. Campbell elaborate on that.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the member raises a good point and I think there's always a possibility of a lawsuit flowing to the government. I think in the Act, the department has sought to manage this risk in a number of ways. This will be managed by the cap that Mr. Ma has discussed and also by the eligibility criteria and the underwriting criteria that will be part of the application process. This will also be managed in the contracts that are issued between the government and the outfitters under this Act.

And then finally, there is a limitation of liability provision in the Act which seeks to prevent claims in what would be called collateral contracts or tort, which are claims based on people or outfitters thinking that they're getting coverage that they're not getting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Campbell for that information. Minister, in your Budget Address earlier this year, you indicated that it has been difficult for Nunavut outfitters to obtain suitable liability insurance. I guess that's why we're attempting to develop this program, but can you tell us, for the record, why it has been difficult for outfitters to get liability insurance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of factors that impact why people can't get appropriate liability insurance coverage. First of all, even if outfitters can get coverage, the cost is somewhat prohibitive, and I think the member from Pond Inlet indicated that in his comments earlier, so that's a bit of a deterrent to the outfitters. So even when they can get insurance, it's so prohibitive that it's probably not worth running your season, for example, boating season.

One of the other reasons is also the fact that insurers in the field are not willing to make a market. What that basically means in laymen's terms is they're not willing to take the risk or to make the effort to provide insurance in our particular territory. Likely, the reason for that is because there's a limited number of tourism operators and so that's probably a bit of the rationale behind it.

We have certainly had conversations with a number of major international insurers to see if they could provide coverage. So this is an issue that has been ongoing, certainly in my lifetime up here, which is now 14 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that answer from the minister and Mr. Ma. In the development of Bill 34, did the department hold any consultations with Nunavut Tourism, and if so, what was their opinion of the proposed legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I'll have my deputy respond to that question.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I actually honestly don't recall if my director spoke to Nunavut Tourism or not, I think he may have. He is currently down on a federal/provincial meeting. However, whether he did or not, I think that this is something that Nunavut Tourism and certainly its membership has obviously wanted. I think we have heard that through a number of venues, not just to the department but I think they have also spoken to various MLAs. I think Mr. Arvaluk is an example of that.

Certainly, from personal experience, I know that this is a product, if you will, that tourism outfitters would like from somebody. And I guess I'm particularly proud that perhaps our department can help deliver that product to our outfitters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that answer from the minister and Mr. Ma. Minister, in your opening comments, you said, "Any outfitter who is unable to buy liability insurance from a private insurance company can apply to the Government of Nunavut for liability protection under this Act." I guess there are estimates of 90 outfitters in Nunavut, so would all 90 be eligible for this insurance program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The outfitters in Nunavut are the ones who deserve to benefit from this legislation, including dog team owners who take tourists out on the land or anyone else who is in the business of catering to tourists.

In the legislation, it states that the people who are trying to get insurance will get coverage and will be approved right away from the minister. We will ensure it is open to all Nunavummiut who have outfitting and tourism businesses. Those are the people who will benefit from this legislation, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Given that there are roughly 90 outfitters in Nunavut and obviously, they all have risky businesses because they can't get the liability insurance, who works with the outfitters to ensure that they have equipment that are up to standards, are safe, and that their employees are well trained in all the safety requirements to offer a product to the travelling public or tourists visiting Nunavut? Who would oversee that and ensure that, "Yes, we certify this outfitter to be a safe operation and they are eligible for insurance"? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I'll have Mr. Ma explain that.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If my memory serves me correctly, I think the regulation of tourism outfitters is through the Department of Environment. Previous to that, I think it was part of the Department of Sustainable Development. The split had happened some time ago and I think that responsibility was left with the Department of Environment, although I could stand corrected.

With respect to the quality of products that are offered by Nunavut outfitters, I believe that responsibility falls with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Having said that, Nunavut Tourism I think also provides assistance in that regard to its membership. I think I'm generally right in what I'm saying in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Ma for that answer. There could be 90 outfitters who are eligible for insurance but that's not to say that all 90 would necessarily be approved. Could the minister or Mr. Ma tell us on what grounds an outfitter would be denied insurance under this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I'll have Mr. Ma respond to that question.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's the intention, I guess, at this point to provide coverage where possible. Obviously, we are trying to be flexible but the member is quite correct, there are going to be instances where perhaps coverage is not appropriate.

He's looking for examples, so an example might be where it's known that a particular outfitter has a shoddy history. Obviously, we would have to look at that situation a lot closer. If there's an issue with equipment, I think the member made reference to equipment, if we know that an outfitter has equipment that is perhaps not up to standard, then that would also raise some eyebrows, so to speak. So those are two examples, Mr. Chairman, with respect to the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Ma for that answer. Could the minister or Mr. Ma indicate how the Department of Finance, as administrators of this program, would know that a particular outfitter has an operation that's up to code, so to speak, or is lacking the proper equipment and training in safety for their employees and their guests? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Ma will respond to that question.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of things that we could do. Certainly, at the time that the particular outfitter comes to us for assistance, we could ask them about their operations and get some sense of it that way. We could certainly contact Nunavut Tourism, the membership organization, and then just what we call general inquiries. So, for example, I'm going to pick on Mr. Arvaluk's community of Pond Inlet.

If there's an applicant from Pond Inlet, we would generally ask around and see how that person has operated in the past, and if things come to light that require us to think further or have further discussions, then we would obviously do that. Obviously, we're not in the business of doing this on a regular basis, but hopefully we have enough common sense and due diligence in our work to make some assessments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that information. Could the minister or Mr. Ma indicate exactly how the Department of Finance would be able to participate at the community level to ensure that the application process, inspections, and all that good stuff are complete?

I'm asking that question since you have an office here in Iqaluit, you have an office in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and perhaps an office in Igloolik, but you wouldn't have Department of Finance staff in every community. So how would you administer this program to ensure that there is an uptake and the entire application process is complete? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said earlier, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation will be providing information to outfitters and we will provide the money for insurance for outfitters.

The Department of Economic Development is the department the people approach in order for them to inquire about those types of things in the communities. We have the staff in the communities and the department will also keep the outfitters in the communities informed about the program, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that answer from the minister. Can the minister give us an indication of the total number of jobs and employment benefits that the outfitters sector in Nunavut provides, and then give us an indication of the revenue that the outfitting industry generates for Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I would like to ask the Minister for Economic Development and Transportation if he has those numbers, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information with me at the moment, so I would have to get back to the member. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the ministers for that information or no information. I think it's quite important that when we're investing in this type of program, we have some data on the revenues that are generated by this insurance program.

I indicated earlier today in my Member's Statement that tourism revenues are probably \$30 million to Nunavut. We're making a very significant investment of up to \$5 million with this program, so I think we should have some information on the economic impacts that are generated in terms of jobs and tourism revenues in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk: Mr. Ma.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member raises a good question and certainly, as Minister Netser has indicated, we will provide that information to members. I just don't have it in front of me, but I believe it was in our fiscal and economic outlook. I just didn't think to bring it with me this afternoon, so I do apologize to the member for that lack of foresight. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. Mr. Peterson, you have three seconds left on your time. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Ma for that response. I presume that this is probably the information you would include in your annual report and I hope that's something that you would provide to the House.

My final question, Mr. Chairman: could the minister tell the House what his counterpart departments in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon are doing with respect to assisting their outfitters with liability insurance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): According to our knowledge, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories are not dealing with that sort of thing. Perhaps it's solely the Nunavut government that's dealing with this, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Mr. Arvaluk, I have you next on general comments, I'll allow you then. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're so generous. I'm just going to make some general questions because I see that you're going to have to make a whole lot of regulations governing the eligibility criteria and who would be covered, who would not be, how it would be covered, and if you have a shabby history of being outfitter, etcetera. So regulations and guidelines, etcetera, will be developed.

Considering that boat tourism, polar bear hunting, eco-tourism, camping, hiking, mountain climbing, etcetera, North Pole trips, I mean the list is endless, so will you be

consulting with HTOs, some outfitters, MLAs, and tourism associations when you are developing a policy or regulations governing the eligibility under this bill?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): At this time, this bill is intended for the general public. We will work with all the people affected by it and resolve any problems with them. We will also explain what the *Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act* policies and regulations will be. In short, we will consult with these people, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is also another bill that is under consideration before us and I think it's the *Securities Act* or the *Lands Act* that will allow the applicants for electronic filing or electronic application, or whatever. Will that be a provision, too, unless you will be having agents in the communities, such as HTOs, or CEDOs, or wildlife officers and nobody else, especially in the smaller communities? So will there be a provision in the regulations that you can fill the applications electronically if you don't have agents? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): We will not deal with this initially, but we are now starting to set up some forms that could be used electronically. We placed an order for computers and broadband equipment for distribution to the communities.

At this time, I'm not sure if they can apply electronically but it is something we are working on, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. (interpretation) Are you finished?
(interpretation ends) Thank you. I think there are no more questions. We have Bill 34, *Nunavut Outfitters Liability Protection Fund Act*. Clause 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: And clause 16?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Is the committee agreed to Bill 34 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 34 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to thank the minister and his officials. What is the wish of the committee? I'm sorry. Minister Tapardjuk, do you want to make closing remarks?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I'm the first minister to ever appear before you as the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole and for that, I am proud of you. And to my colleagues, this legislation has been requested by outfitters and I would like to thank all my colleagues for supporting this bill. There is little doubt that tourism outfitters will now get support as a result. I would like to thank all the members for supporting this bill. Thank you.

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

**Bill 30 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1,
2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee**

(interpretation ends) Now to Bill 30, *Supplementary (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2008-2009*. Members turn to page 4 of the 2008-09 Supplementary Appropriation (O&M) No. 1. Department of Finance. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Centrally Administered Funds. Total Centrally Administered Funds. \$5,573,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department. \$5,573,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Department of Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Corrections. Total Corrections. \$75,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$75,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Department of Education. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Adult Learning and Post-Secondary Services. Total Adult Learning and Post-Secondary Services. Not Previously Authorized. \$427,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$427,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Department of Environment. Operations and Maintenance. Program Management. Not Previously Authorized. Total Program Management. \$2,292,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$2,292,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Department of Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Community Support. Total Community Support. -\$75,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Total Capital Planning and Technical Services. \$168,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$93,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I might be wrong here, but we have already approved \$2,292,000 for Environment, there's \$93,000 for Community and Government Services, and then there's -\$1,492,000 for Economic Development. I'm just looking at the bill and don't have the figures in front of me. So can you clarify that, please? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): I believe Mr. Arvaluk would like further clarification. Minister Brown, can you respond to that, please?

I believe the member saw the numbers. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies, the O&M schedules are reversed in the bill and that is why I made a mistake. I will ask a question after we finish Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: So do we start all over again? Total, okay. Total Department. \$93,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Page 9. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Economic Development. Total Economic Development. -\$1,492,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I'll start over again. I believe the Minister of Environment... I'm not sure which minister was speaking, but it was in regard to the Fisheries and Sealing Division. I believe they were moved from Economic Development to the Department of Environment. Is this -\$1,492,000 from the Economic Development Division that has been moved to the Department of Environment?

Environment has an additional \$1.2 million and this negative number under Not Previously Authorized is greater and I find that hard to comprehend. Perhaps the Minister of Finance can clear this mystery. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation) I believe Minister Okalik would like to respond to that question. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Fisheries and Sealing Division used to be part of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation was indeed moved to the Department of Environment. The funding has subsequently been transferred to the Department of Environment from ED&T. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even with the explanation of these funds, the Department of Environment still has another \$1.2 million listed here. I don't know what the purpose is of this extra funding and I believe the purpose is written elsewhere. Has this funding been transferred and is that why there is a difference here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation) Who will respond to that question? Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We put another \$800,000 into this fund and that's why there is a difference. The Community Development Trust Fund was added onto this amount that we received from the federal government and that is why there is a slight difference in the total figures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Okalik. Are you done, Mr. Arvaluk? Page 9. Total Economic Development. -\$1,492,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. -\$1,492,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 10. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Not Previously Authorized. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Department. \$850,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Turn to page 2. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$7,818,000. Agreed? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I wanted to ask a question about the Nunavut Housing Corporation but the figures are quite well prepared, so I will not pose a question regarding those. I know that it was already dealt with, but I do want to know about the mess and the materials that were sent to Sanikiluaq by mistake. Where is the funding that was used to pay for the fiasco listed or is it in here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Is he referring to the Sanikiluaq excess materials? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I am referring to the ones that went to Sanikiluaq, Pond Inlet, and Igloodik that were sent in one Sea-Can of materials. There was a whole Sea-Can in Pond Inlet that wasn't even supposed to go there as it had a completely different address.

It seems funny now, but at the time, it was a little maddening. There were materials destined for Igloodik, Clyde River, Coral Harbour, and Pond Inlet that were all put into one Sea-Can and they were all over the place. So how did that get funded and why aren't the costs listed here? Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) The supplementary appropriation that we're dealing with has nothing to do with the Nunavut Housing Trust. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I realize that, Mr. Chairman. There were some materials destined for Rankin Inlet, there were some that were for the Co-op housing projects, as well as materials that went to the Housing Corporation and they all have purposes we can understand. Where in the O&M budget or which fund out of O&M was used to pay for the costs? Was it out of our daily operational funds since there is nothing listed in the supplementary appropriation figures? That is my question. Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I don't believe the member realizes that we're not dealing with the Nunavut Housing Trust; we're dealing with the supplementary appropriation. We are still dealing with the extra work as a result of the mix-up, so I can't respond to his question. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) So when are we going to review the figures? For example, the point of shipment was from Montreal, from which they were then sent out to the communities. I believe it was an expensive amount, perhaps \$500,000. There was an estimate given and I know that it was quite expensive. When are we going to see the numbers? I believe they're going to have to come out of a future Supplementary Appropriation Bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation) Did you want to respond? Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) If the member attended the meetings everyday, he would know what's currently happening. With regards to this issue, we are still working on the situation. We have sent out the materials to the communities via the aircraft charters and we have not received the total costs of this transportation requirement to remedy this matter. We're probably won't know the total amount of the extra funds required until the fall. Thank you.

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

Point of Order

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, a Point of Privilege, (interpretation) I believe that it should be a Point of Order. The minister used unparliamentary language, so I would like him to retract his sentence. I realize exactly what he's talking about, but he could have stated right when I asked my first question that the numbers would be available in the fall. The minister has made an unparliamentary remark in the House and I would like him to retract his statement and apologize. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation) Mr. Arvaluk has made a Point of Order. Minister Netser, would you want to retract your comment and apologize? Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) If I made a mistake, I apologize, but what I was trying to say is that we're not dealing with the Nunavut Housing Trust, we're talking about the supplementary appropriation for Rankin Inlet as well as the \$500,000 that the government incurred in costs. We're trying to get the \$500,000 back and we are not talking about the Nunavut Housing Trust. If I made a mistake, then I apologize, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): There is an apology. Mr. Arvaluk, did you want to make an additional comment?

(interpretation ends) Bill 34 on page 2. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$7,818,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to Bill 30 in your legislation binder. Bill 30, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2008-2009*. Clause 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 3. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2009. Vote 1. Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$7,818,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$7,818,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 1 of Bill 30. Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: And clause 7?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Is the committee agreed to Bill 30 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 30 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak, you will get your wish.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My committee will have a meeting, so I would like to move to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. Who is the seconder? (interpretation ends) Not. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Members, Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 34 and Bill 30, and would like to report progress, and report that Bill 30 and Bill 34 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. Kattuk. He moved to have the report agreed to. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Minister Brown. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Government House Leader, Minister Picco.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good evening. 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 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. Bill 31 has had its third reading.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Mr. House Leader, Minister Picco.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would 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 third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. If there are no more, thank you. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Quirke.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of the meeting of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* this evening at 6:15 in the Tuktu Boardroom and a meeting of the same standing committee tomorrow morning at nine o'clock in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for June 3:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements

3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address...
10. Petitions

Speaker: Order, order. Can we have some order in the House, please? Please proceed, Mr. Quirke.

Clerk: ...

11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 26
 - Bill 27
 - Bill 33
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 29
 - Bill 30
 - Bill 34
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Quirke. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, June 3, starting at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:09*

