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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	4717
Ministers' Statements	4717
Members' Statements	4718
Returns to Oral Questions	4724
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	4724
Oral Questions.....	4726
Tabling of Documents	4745
Second Reading of Bills.....	4746
Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery	4747
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	4748
Point of Order.....	4779
Report of the Committee of the Whole	4782
Third Reading of Bills.....	4783
Orders of the Day	4784

A.

Daily References

Thursday, September 11, 2008..... 4717

B.

Ministers' Statements

209 – 2(4): End of Life Vehicles and Scrap Metal Removal from Iqaluit (Akesuk) 4717

210 – 2(4): Nunavut Advanced Management Diploma Program Delivery in Rankin Inlet
(Barnabas)..... 4718

C.

Members' Statements

516 – 2(4): Ceremonies Recognizing Inuit Special Constables (Peterson)..... 4719

517 – 2(4): Advice from Elders (Curley) 4720

518 – 2(4): Remembering Jimmy Elvis Ekho (Okalik)..... 4721

519 – 2(4): Transparency or Secrecy: The Choice is Ours (Tootoo) 4721

520 – 2(4): Federal Election and the Lack of Docking Facilities in Nunavut Communities
(Tapardjuk) 4722

521 – 2(4): The Need to Keep “Inuuqatigiittiarniq” (Kattuk) 4723

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 630 – 2(4): Lobbying Federal Government to Exempt GST to
Nunavummiut (Okalik)..... 4724

E.

Oral Questions

631 – 2(4): Use of Foreign Vessels in Nunavut Waters (Curley).....	4726
632 – 2(4): Timeframe of Devolution Negotiations (Peterson).....	4727
633 – 2(4): Response to Written Question 15 – 2(4) (Tootoo)	4730
634 – 2(4): Moving the Medical Travel Office from Pangnirtung to Iqaluit (Arvaluk).....	4732
635 – 2(4): Status of Remediation of Old Power Plant Site in Baker Lake (Simailak).....	4733
636 – 2(4): Hydroelectric Projects in James Bay and Environmental Impacts (Kattuk).....	4734
637 – 2(4): Fuel Consumption by Qulliq Energy Corporation (Curley)	4735
638 – 2(4): Nuisance Bears (Peterson).....	4738
639 – 2(4): End of Life Vehicle Removal Outside of Iqaluit (Kattuk)	4740
640 – 2(4): Response to Written Question 15 – 2(4) (Tootoo)	4742
641 – 2(4): When Will GN Complete the Fuel Purchase for 2008-2009? (Tootoo)	4744

F.

Tabling of Documents

278 – 2(4): Towards a Representative Public Service – Statistics as of March 31, 2008 (Barnabas)	
.....	4746

G.

Bills

Bill 40 – An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act – Second Reading.....	4746
Bill 41 – Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2008-2009 – Second Reading	4746
Bill 42 – Miscellaneous Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2008 – Second Reading	4746
Bill 43 – Write-Off of Assets and Debts Act, 2008-2009 – Second Reading	4747
Bill 39 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee	4749

Tabled Document 216 – 2(4): Government of Nunavut’s Request for Proposals for Standing

Offer Agreement for Medical Travel on Scheduled Airlines – Consideration in Committee

..... 4770

Bill 36 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No 4, 2007-2008 – Third Reading 4783

Bill 37 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2007-2008 –

Third Reading 4783

Bill 38 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2008-2009 – Third Reading 4783

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, September 11, 2008

Members Present:

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Honourable Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Peter Kattuk, 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. James Arreak)(interpretation): Good afternoon. I would like to ask Mr. Simailak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Premier, Ministers, Members, and Nunavummiut. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 209 – 2(4): End of Life Vehicles and Scrap Metal Removal from Iqaluit

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues. (interpretation) I send my regards to the residents of Cape Dorset and Kimmirut. I say "I love you" to my wife.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased to announce that the first significant project to remove End of Life Vehicles, or ELVs, and scrap metal out of Nunavut is nearing its completion for this year, and its success can be seen on the streets of Iqaluit. More than 200 derelict vehicles, along with old skidoos, broken ATVs and scrap metal have been collected and processed for shipment to a recycling company in Quebec.

Because of a small window during which this activity could be done and the huge amounts of ELVs and scrap metal, we were unable to complete the project in one summer. Our plan is to finish the metal clean-up activity in Iqaluit next summer.

The Department of Environment continues to monitor and gather information on all aspects of this project closely. We want to learn as much as possible about the logistics along with the cost and legal implications so we can expand the program into other Nunavut communities. Mr. Speaker, what we learn from the Iqaluit project will provide the information needed to develop a comprehensive Nunavut-wide program for implementation in 2009 and beyond.

This project was supported by the Departments of Environment, Economic Development and Transportation, and Community and Government Services, in partnership with the City of Iqaluit. We are proud of this and other initiatives that assist Nunavut communities in cleaning up solid waste and scrap metal that in many cases have been around for decades. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 210 – 2(4): Nunavut Advanced Management Diploma Program Delivery in Rankin Inlet

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues. I send my regards to my wife, my children, and my grandchild.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Department of Human Resources continues to expand professional development opportunities for Nunavut government employees.

I am pleased to announce we have partnered with Saint Mary's University to deliver the Nunavut Advanced Management Diploma Program in Rankin Inlet this September. Previously, this program was delivered in Iqaluit only.

The Nunavut Advanced Management Diploma Program consists of ten modules providing "hands-on" experience. Faculty from Saint Mary's University will travel to Rankin Inlet to deliver each module. Nunavut government participants will be required to complete group and individual exercises that gives them practical knowledge for immediate application in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, participants completing the program will earn a Nunavut Advanced Management Diploma from Saint Mary's University. Although the courses being offered do not carry university credit, Saint Mary's will consider the completed diploma for acceptance into some of its executive development programs.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative demonstrates the commitment by the Nunavut government to Ilippallianguinnarniq: Continuing Learning, as well as the provision of management training for leaders in their own communities. I look forward to congratulating those who successfully complete the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Moving on to Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 516 – 2(4): Ceremonies Recognizing Inuit Special Constables

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update the House on an important issue that I have raised on a number of occasions during the past two years.

Mr. Speaker, I have previously informed the House that there were four individuals in our community of Cambridge Bay who we believed used to serve as special constables with the RCMP.

However, they had never been properly recognized for their services through the placement of an official RCMP headstone at their gravesites.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to tell the House that three individuals have now been identified as special constables.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, August 23, 2008, family and friends gathered at the old cemetery to honour Special Constable John Tologanak. It was a moving ceremony and the weather seemed fittingly appropriate with some wind and rain while the sun shined. There were five RCMP officers present at the ceremony in their dress uniforms. Their presence was very much appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, the attending minister recognized the services of all special constables and RCMP officers, past and present, who have put their lives on the line to protect our Nunavut communities. The ceremony brought closure to the family by the formal recognition of their father's invaluable services to our community and the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, Special Constable Jimmy Nahogaloak's family is planning a graveside ceremony for their father. His RCMP headstone is in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, the family of Special Constable Andre Evaglok is planning a ceremony for their father next year when his headstone arrives. In speaking to some family members, they are very happy and proud that their fathers are being recognized.

Mr. Speaker, we have found photographs that may help to identify and confirm that the fourth individual was a special constable. That information has been sent to the RCMP for review. We have our fingers crossed in hopes that the information confirms his position.

Mr. Speaker, the families are very grateful to the many people who have assisted in identifying their fathers as special constables and making the ceremonies possible. In particular, Ms. Sue Coogan at the RCMP office in Iqaluit has been very helpful in dealing with the RCMP archives in Ottawa.

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

Speaker (interpretation): 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.

Sergeant Louis Jenvenne at the Cambridge Bay Detachment devoted his free time preparing the graves with the headstones. And, of course, former Special Constable Johnny Lyall of Cambridge Bay has been the inspirational force behind the effort to recognize his colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the House to join me in saluting the services of the special constables in Cambridge Bay and special constables across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 517 – 2(4): Advice from Elders

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make an announcement with respect to a reminder of our past lifestyle. Our elders are a foundation of our knowledge, so when they discuss these issues with me, I have to share them with other Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, this is what I wish to make a statement on. I could have made a written statement, but I never got around to it.

Mr. Speaker, when discussing issues with an elder, it jogged my memory and I believe this applies to all the communities in Nunavut. This elder noted that due to the changing environment, several of the streams and rivers in the vicinity of Rankin Inlet that contain anadromous char are experiencing changes affecting the fish.

He stated that the characteristics of these watersheds are changing, with some of the rivers experiencing erosion problems, especially more so during the spring melt. Some of these streams and rivers, which originally had char, are being affected both due to the lack of water or barriers affecting the upstream migration of the char. The barriers include rocks and boulders which are blocking the upstream migration in these bodies of water.

This would comprise an excellent summer project for unemployed youth. If we are to try and preserve the fish in these rivers, then we need to clean up these rivers. If we are to continue to have char in our diets and to share them with our people, then something has to be done about these streams and rivers.

I told the elder that this is a matter for the wildlife organizations as well as government departments to be resolving these issues. However, he stated that this is not a single case

in the immediate vicinity of Rankin Inlet, but that there are several streams which are now too shallow and the rocks are impeding the migration of the char. It would be a glorious employment and knowledge building opportunity for our youth and the government ought to explore options for these cases.

DFO should be collaborating with the local communities and HTOs, especially with our esteemed elders to deal with these rivers as they know exactly which streams and rivers require work to repair them. If we are to retain our diet to include fish, we will have to preserve and maintain these rivers so that char can continue to use them.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to refer this to the Cabinet for their deliberation. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Member's Statement 518 – 2(4): Remembering Jimmy Elvis Ekho

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we think of all the people who suffered hardship when the 9/11 catastrophe happened.

We all knew the late Jimmy "Elvis" Ekho from Iqaluit. He was from my riding and died this spring from an illness. We have his family members in mind, his children and his sisters, who deeply felt his loss.

He used to work here at the Legislative Assembly during our sittings as well as all over Nunavut. He contributed a lot to our communities and showcased our culture. We thank Jimmy Ekho for all the contributions he made. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank him for what he did for us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 519 – 2(4): Transparency or Secrecy: The Choice is Ours

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address a choice that we have: transparency or secrecy.

Mr. Speaker, in June of this year, I posed a written question to the government on the issue of disclosures and withdrawals under our *Integrity Act*.

As members are aware, section 15 of the Act sets out the procedure to follow when an MLA or minister has reasonable grounds to believe that he or she has a conflict of interest in a matter.

The Act requires that every disclosure and withdrawal that occurs at a meeting of the Executive Council be recorded.

Mr. Speaker, I asked a simple question: how many times has this occurred since March of 2004?

Mr. Speaker, the government's response which was tabled this week creates more questions than answers. The response simply stated that all such meetings are confidential.

Mr. Speaker, by contrast, when I asked a written question last year concerning how many meetings of the Executive Council took place between June and September and who attended them, an actual number was provided, although the names of participants were not disclosed.

Mr. Speaker, I simply do not see the value of keeping this kind of information secret.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Mr. Tootoo: It serves no useful purpose and only causes the public to be even more suspicious of their elected representatives than they already are.

Mr. Speaker, there are better approaches that we could adopt. For example, the language in British Columbia's *Conflict of Interest Act* that deals with the issue of disclosures and withdrawals is similar in some ways to ours.

However, it goes further by making records available for public inspection.

Mr. Speaker, better disclosure in this area would serve to enhance our credibility in the eyes of the public. I believe that this is the right choice to make. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Member's Statement 520 – 2(4): Federal Election and the Lack of Docking Facilities in Nunavut Communities

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to send my greetings to my constituents in Hall Beach and Igloolik.

I would like to make a festive announcement about an event that occurred in my constituency this summer. As most of you are aware, a bowhead whale hunt took place in Hall Beach this past August. The hunters were successful in that they caught the bowhead shortly after receiving their license. I think the whale caught was 44 feet long.

I would like my colleagues to join me in celebrating the immense ability of these hunters, and as many know, Inuit are skilful hunters and they know their marine environment. They also know the traditional hunting skills that enable them to survive, which they apply when hunting marine mammals.

Be that as it may, I would like to speak to the federal election, which seems to be gearing up and we would like to enlist all of the federal candidates' support to fight for more infrastructure in Nunavut as the majority of our communities are void of even the most basic infrastructure, such as docks and small craft harbours.

We have to work with the MP to advocate for the construction of these important infrastructures in our communities to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and that this is becoming an urgent matter. This is especially the case in Hall Beach where they don't even have protection against the rough seas, although they have talked about a floating dock, and they don't even have a breakwater built in that community.

With that and with my colleagues, who are representing communities with no wharfs or breakwaters, I would like to work together with them to get those facilities built. Mr. Speaker, it is something that we are not going to forget anytime soon and we will have to urge the federal government to make sure that those facilities are built. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 521 – 2(4): The Need to Keep “Inuuqatigiittiarniq”

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have never said this before, but there was a family member in Sanikiluaq who had passed away a long time ago. He told us that we should all work together to help each other. That's the model of the Inuit people and that's the belief of the Inuit people: to work together.

He wanted people in Sanikiluaq to be able to help each other, to assist each other, and one of the things that he said before was, “Don't make other people look small beside you. Don't talk down to them.” I see here in Nunavut that a lot of people are belittled by other people and people know people in Nunavut who belittle other people. That's the kind of thing that that individual in Sanikiluaq said not to do. People in Nunavut hear all

the time of individuals belittling others, and that's what we do here in this House to our constituents and to our fellow Inuit.

We were told by our elders that it doesn't matter what kind of a person an individual is, you shouldn't belittle others. That's not our way and we have to remember what the elder is saying that as long as we live, we shouldn't belittle anyone. Whether they have a different ethnic background or not, you have to treat them the same way as you would treat yourself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Members' Statements. If there are no more, (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Premier.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 630 – 2(4): Lobbying Federal Government to Exempt GST to Nunavummiut

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I had a question from the Member for Iqaluit Centre. I tried to respond to him but I didn't respond to him properly about marine service fees.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as you know, the marine service fees are administered by the Government of Canada and I was not aware at the time that the current government has currently changed their rules on this program. They have placed a three-year moratorium as of last June. These fees are not applicable for shipments of goods to Nunavut.

So I want to thank my colleagues and also recognize your efforts in lobbying this current government in changing these fees. So I want to congratulate this current government for hearing our concerns and that I want to see this program removed indefinitely, not just a three-year moratorium. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker and (interpretation ends) my apologies to my colleague.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Premier.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a group of Swedish Parliamentarians who are visiting us today.

They are Members of the Committee on the Constitution in Sweden and have the responsibility for ethnic minorities and relations with the Sami Parliament. They're missing one future Montreal Canadien called Mats Sundin, so I look forward to seeing him in a Montreal uniform.

>>*Laughter*

I am very pleased to recognize today Ms. Daret Abner, MP and Committee Chair,

>>*Applause*

Ms. Margareta Cederfeldt,

>>*Applause*

Ms. Helena Petersson,

>>*Applause*

Mr. Billy Gustafsson,

>>*Applause*

Ms. Marianne Berg,

>>*Applause*

Ms. Phia Andersson,

>>*Applause*

Ms. Annie Johansson,

>>*Applause*

Mr. Mikael Johansson,

>>*Applause*

Ms. Åse Matz, and

>>*Applause*

Mr. Mikael Eriksson.

>>*Applause*

Welcome to our House.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Welcome to the Chambers.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to send my regards to my family and to the people of Baker Lake. During Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, Mr. Speaker, I would like welcome my middle son, Craig Simailak. He's the Deputy Mayor and Councillor of the Hamlet of Baker Lake, and he works for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Curley.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 631 – 2(4): Use of Foreign Vessels in Nunavut Waters

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, recently this summer and earlier this week, I raised concerns in relation to the use of foreign-flagged vessels delivering sealift services under contract to the Government of Nunavut. It is a matter of public record that Nunavut Eastern Arctic Shipping, which is a recognized Inuit-owned firm, not only in Nunavut but also in Nunavik, has officially raised concerns with the federal Canadian Transportation Agency regarding the use of foreign vessels by other companies providing sealift services.

My first question to the minister is this: what is the Government of Nunavut's official policy on the use of foreign vessels with foreign flags by companies providing sealift services under contract to the GN? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question in regard to that matter. With respect to the particulars, I do not have that information and therefore, I can't speak directly to it. However, I imagine this occurs on occasion.

I believe that this information is the right one and I don't wish to hazard a guess. However, the community of Pangnirtung was to receive the materials for their new

bridge. The original specification for the bridge was 40 metres, but after further review of the situation, the specification called for a bridge at twice that length.

I believe that the materials have been shipped, but since I don't want to presume that this is the case, Mr. Speaker, I will look into this matter with my staff as they are listening into the proceedings. I will take this as notice and respond to the member once I have the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley, your question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Question 632 – 2(4): Timeframe of Devolution Negotiations

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Premier announced the signing of the Nunavut Negotiation Devolution Protocol and I congratulate the Premier, NTI, and the Government of Canada on signing that. It was a long time coming, so it's good to know that it's done.

There was an interesting statement he made in his statement yesterday where he said, "... the Prime Minister said that we need to use it or lose it," referring to the North. That statement made me wonder what the Prime Minister meant since we are already using the North. Then I started pondering that if the Americans start sailing through the Northwest Passage or if the Russians lay claim to it, do we, as Nunavummiut, suddenly become Americans or Russian? So I was curious about this statement.

I know that the Premier talks to the Prime Minister quite often and has a chance to meet with him, but I'm wondering if the Premier could indicate to the House what exactly the Prime Minister meant by his statement "that we need to use it or lose it." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have made it clear to the Prime Minister that we have used it all the time and will continue to use it for a very long time as it's our home. I think the Prime Minister's main point is that they have a lack of presence in our territory, so that's where I think he's alluding - to trying to get more presence in our territory through the military and other measures.

So he's trying to explain to the broader Canadian public that we need to show more Canadian presence, not just our territory as Inuit but we need at least more investment from the Government of Canada to show that we are open for business. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that clarification. When the Conservative candidate comes to Cambridge Bay, I'm sure I'll have an opportunity to ask her what the Prime Minister meant as well. I understand she is coming up very soon.

I read through the protocol agreement this morning and I was wondering; there is no indication of a timeframe to conclude devolution negotiations. We have talked in the House many times about when it would be concluded. I think the end of 2008 was one of the dates and then I think the end of 2010; I wonder if the Premier could give us an indication today of when he expects the devolution negotiations to actually conclude. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Our goal, when we first started discussions on devolution, was to have an agreement-in-principle in 2008 and that was four years ago.

Unfortunately, the government has changed and different priorities were set, and the current agreement took quite some time to reach, it's a framework and it's a protocol. So I'm waiting for the new government to be formed so that a mandate could be put in place and initial discussions could then begin, and that will help us in determining how long it might take.

So I can't answer that right now, but the structure is there now. It's a matter of filling in the gaps and determining how long that might take. It's difficult for me to determine at this time, it's a three-party process that will take a little bit of time, but hopefully the new government, not just our government but the new federal government, will start the negotiations fairly quickly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that information. I'm aware, from the NWT and the Yukon experience, that it could take considerable time to conclude negotiations. I certainly hope we don't have to wait as long as they had to reach a satisfactory agreement.

Mr. Speaker, in reading through the protocol agreement, it refers to a human resource strategy to be developed and implemented parallel to devolution negotiations. I have asked this question before, Mr. Speaker, whether the Canadian government will provide training dollars to Nunavut to train people to be ready for the devolution jobs when the agreement is concluded.

I'm wondering if the Premier can indicate to the House if the federal government intends to provide any training funds to Nunavut to train people during the devolution process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, our goal is to have this matter resolved quicker than the Northwest Territories. I believe the NWT has taken over 20 years to get to where they are today. That's far too long in my opinion. At least we have the precedent in the Yukon and hopefully the NWT in place, so that would make it a little easier to reach an agreement on various areas.

But as you refer to the protocol, it also outlines that the Government of Nunavut and NTI's position is that there has to be *Article 23* provisions honoured and met in the negotiation process. So we will insist that there be training put in place during our negotiations so that we will have significant Inuit employment when that responsibility is transferred to our government in the future.

So that will be an ongoing discussion for us but it's our insistence along with NTI. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that answer. I certainly hope the federal government does provide training funds because there's a great need for training in Nunavut for these important positions.

Mr. Speaker, in the Minister's Statement yesterday and earlier today in answer to my questions, he mentioned the military exercise that the Canadian government has conducted. They are also planning to build a deep sea port in Nanisivik and they recently announced a new icebreaker. These are things that send a message or signal to the rest of Canada and around the world that Canada does have a presence in Nunavut.

I wonder if the Premier could indicate if the Canadian government intends to invest in non-military infrastructure, such as deep sea ports and road infrastructure, in areas where we can develop our mineral resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm not a candidate for any government other than my own. So that's difficult for me to answer but maybe an appropriate question for candidates that are running for the various parties.

It's always our position that we need assistance at the national level to build up our infrastructure and provide better services to our citizens and reduce our costs. So I look

forward to commitments being made by all parties running federally on this important file. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 633 – 2(4): Response to Written Question 15 – 2(4)

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier. There's no surprise as a result of my Member Statement.

Mr. Speaker, in his response to my written question that was tabled the other day, the question I had asked was: how many occasions since March 2004 has the Secretary to Cabinet recorded a disclosure and withdrawal under subsection 15(1) of the *Integrity Act*? In his response, it indicates that all Executive Council documents are strictly confidential.

Mr. Speaker, I wasn't asking for a document, I was asking for a number. I'm just wondering if the Premier can indicate, as I pointed out also earlier when I asked how many meetings they had, I got a number, why this time we don't get a number. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I had this very question and I asked it amongst my officials, and I was advised that the contents and the proceedings of our meetings are confidential for a purpose and that I could not disclose the minutes of our meetings. Those minutes are protected, so I could not provide the minutes to my colleague. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not asking for minutes, I'm just asking how many times something like that has happened. How many times has withdrawals happened under the Act - once, none, ten? I'm not looking for any contents of any minutes, any information that's private.

It seems to me that we have these rules and as the Premier has stated here in the House, he insists that there is no potential or perceived conflict. It's all nice to have all these rules in place on that but we can't tell you if we follow them or not, or if they have been adhered to. So I don't understand when you ask him to explain how a number is considered a document or the contents of the minutes of a meeting, I just don't understand that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I do my utmost to be open wherever I can and I will continue to operate that way. I'm bound

by legislation that minutes and proceedings of our Cabinet are protected and so, if I could provide a number, I would. So I'm not pretending to do anything, but unfortunately, we have proceedings in place that prevent me from disclosing certain information to the public. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand what the Premier is saying and again, I don't believe I'm asking for anything that's confidential. I'm not asking for what happened, I'm just asking: has this section ever been utilized or recorded, yes or no, and if so, how many times? I don't see that as a breach.

Maybe if the Premier has been given advice that it is, if he could provide that advice to us so that we can look at it and maybe have a second view of it and question it, and maybe we will be convinced that that argument is correct. But right now, we have no way of knowing. Again, we have these rules in place, but no one has the right to know if they're being followed. So what's the use of having the rules? So would he provide that information to us to review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I think the Speaker tabled documents which indicate that I did my role in enforcing some of our laws and conflict of interest. So I think I can assure the member and Members of this House that we're doing our utmost to ensure that all the laws in this area are being enforced for the protection of the general public. And I will provide information wherever and whenever I can. So I will continue to have a very active role to assure the confidence of this House and the public. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that. I'm not questioning that and the Premier didn't answer my last question. I asked: will he provide us with a copy of the advice that made him decide that releasing those documents or that number would be a breach of Executive Council privilege so that the members could look at it and be convinced that, in fact, by providing that information, it would be a breach of Executive Council privilege?

So will he provide that advice, or decision, or whatever he got to make up his mind to put that response in his question for us to look at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Legal advice is considered solicitor/client privilege and it's confidential. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 634 – 2(4): Moving the Medical Travel Office from Pangnirtung to Iqaluit

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I think he's had that portfolio for a long time, possibly two days.

>> *Laughter*

The minister indicated during the winter of last year, and I have been asking questions about this issue, that in July, the transportation office would be moved to Iqaluit. I'm only saying that because we have been told that, but the office hasn't been moved to Iqaluit yet. Could I get an update on the status? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services, (interpretation ends) Honourable Olayuk Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) To date, the matter is still being worked on. I had a meeting this morning with my staff and I asked about the status of moving the transportation office.

They are currently working on it and we will be setting up a position so that everything will be coordinated in relation to the office. We will have a manager of medical travel to oversee the whole thing in order to improve the transportation services provided to medical patients. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. Could the minister inform us of the status and give us an update before the end of this session? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure my staff is listening and I'll make sure I get the information and see how long it's going to take to complete the process, but I can't commit to giving a response before the end of this session. Thank you.

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

Question 635 – 2(4): Status of Remediation of Old Power Plant Site in Baker Lake

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

On February 26 of this year, I asked a number of questions to the minister concerning the clean-up of the site where Baker Lake's old power plant is located. In his responses to me at that time, the minister indicated that remediation work would take place in the summer of 2008. Now that summer is over, can the minister update the House and the people of Baker Lake today on the status of this important work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question. Over the past few years, with the history of the project, we have built a new plant in Baker Lake and we're in the process of decommissioning the old plant which, it's my understanding now, has been incomplete. I want to thank the Hamlet of Baker Lake for continuing to follow-up on the project and they have been very cooperative.

We also had another problem in Baker Lake, as the member raised, that was a very serious concern and that's the leaching of oil through the ground, which means we had to spend almost \$500,000 to put a Waterloo Barrier in place. And that project is also continuing this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The old power plant building itself that is still there and it's still very ugly, especially for people that live close to the site, it smells. Does the minister know when that building is going to be torn down and the land totally remedied? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two issues in Baker Lake with the remediation of the plant, they actually do flow. We have spent considerable sums of money over the last two years on the subseive oil leaks and we have traced this back, and we believe there is a liability issue with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, or INAC, on the costs. We have a legal opinion that tells us that and we're trying to recover that.

The secondary issue is the remediation of the old plant in Baker Lake. Again, it's not just a removal of a building, there's also the remediation of the soil, and so on, in the community of Baker Lake. And that work, as I had indicated, will continue. It is my understanding, again, that the building itself will be removed in the next 12 months, but the soil has to be remedied first.

We have also been working, as the member knows, on the other big issue with the oil leach in the community and the placement of the Waterloo Barrier. Again, the hamlet has been very proactive in there helping us, not only logistically but financially and administratively, with some of those issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your second supplementary, Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. As the minister indicated that our government feels that the federal government has some responsibility, can the minister clearly indicate today what discussions he has had with Ottawa on this issue and what commitments he has obtained from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was considerable... maybe that's the wrong word. There were several oil spills at the old plant in Baker Lake that was owned by the Northern Canada Power Commission, or NTPC, and that occurred in the 70s and indeed in the 80s. Because of the elevation, because of the sloping of the land near Baker Lake, that oil has leached into the soil and it's getting very close to Baker Lake itself, to the water, so we put the Waterloo Barrier in place.

We have gone back to the federal government, we have indicated to the federal government, in several letters, as well as correspondence and legal opinions, that we believe that there is a fiduciary responsibility on behalf and for the federal government to take serious action in this matter. They, however, seem to indicate that they don't believe they are liable.

The next step for us would be to look at some legal recourse. However, there are some conversations and communications between the Power Corporation, the hamlet, and the federal government on next steps. We don't want to proceed to a legal situation and work this out in the courts. We would like to be able to do that government-to-government-to-government, and when I say government-to-government-to-government, I mean the hamlet, the federal government, and the Nunavut government. That's the direction I have given to the Power Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Question 636 – 2(4): Hydroelectric Projects in James Bay and Environmental Impacts

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

The Premier knows how concerned we are about the environment, especially when there are projects planned for James Bay waterways. I'm not sure whether the federal government's environmental staff are going to do a good job.

The people of Sanikiluaq are worried or concerned because they're not sure whether or not the study is going to be adequate. There has not been any work done by the federal government with regards to environmental studies.

I was encouraged by my constituents who approached the federal government to ask them when the environmental studies will be done. I wonder what response the Premier has received from the federal government with regards to the letter that I wrote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, Honourable Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an ongoing process and I wrote the Minister of Environment from the federal government asking to work with him with regards to this project. I have not received a response to date. We have been encouraging the federal Department of Environment to do a good study on the James Bay Project to address the concerns of the residents of Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier. Can you inform me of the things you have raised and can you give me a copy of the correspondence you wrote on this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I have already given the member copies of the letters and I apologize if he hasn't received them. I will forward them to him again and I will continue to pursue this concern that I share with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 637 – 2(4): Fuel Consumption by Qulliq Energy Corporation

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Energy. It is concerning fuel charges that the minister normally charges back to the consumers by way of various policies. Number one, how much of the annual fuel supply purchased were used by Qulliq Energy it charged back to the ratepayers in Nunavut?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I closely listened to the question of the member yesterday and over the last couple of days in the House, and I know we've had some questions on this area and issue in the past.

First of all, the government doesn't make profit on fuel. We purchase the fuel and we sell it, and it's done through legislation. We also have, as the member's know, the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund and what we try to do on that is break even.

When the price of fuel is increased, then the Power Corporation also has to cover its costs. However, they cannot apply for extra money to get those costs. What it can do, through regulation, like every other jurisdiction in Canada, is to put on what's called a fuel rider just to cover off the extra increases and expenses that are in place at that time.

If the question from the member is how much fuel the corporation will buy and what the price and cost of that fuel is, I don't have that number right now because we haven't finished the completion.

As I said in the House earlier, we have only purchased about 50 percent to date of all of our fuel supply and had it delivered, so we don't have that firm number. That will be available to us in about six weeks and then we would be able to look at if there's a need for increase or indeed a decrease because we see what's happening in the world market. However, it's too premature to be able to make that decision today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the response but I think Nunavummiut are looking for clarification. So my first question was really simple: what percentage or part is charged back to the consumer? We don't know. Is it at the whim of the minister? "It might be good time to put a rate increase." That's how it currently operates right now.

What I'm trying to get at is: is there a policy rule where you establish ahead of time what percentage will be charged back to the consumers? If we do know that, then we would obviously have to deal with the other larger percentage of the fuel cost that may be. Again, my second question is this: how much of the fuel bought by QEC in whole or in part is charged back to the consumers through the general pump prices throughout Nunavut?

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I'm going to try to be clear. The price that the Power Corporation charges to generate electricity and to demonstrate a profit is called the rate. That rate is in place and the Power Corporation, as everyone knows here in the House, went through a general rate application and that general rate application was agreed to by the URRC about two and a half years ago.

However, on top of that, when increases in fuel occur, and that's an expense outside the control of the Power Corporation, they can put a fuel rider on. But before they can put that fuel rider on, they do have to apply to the URRC so that they can recover the costs that they would be expending based on the cost of the increase of fuel. The URRC will monitor that and if the Power Corporation makes more money, or takes in more money, they have to rebate that back to the consumer. So those dollar values are in place and I think it's safe to say that they are pretty transparent.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, the question that the member is raising is a good one, and that is, what's the total cost of the nominated fuel I believe is what the member is saying. The Power Corporation buys fuel in two ways – one, at retail prices from the Government of Nunavut, and two, in bulk prices from the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, it is obviously very clear that there's no standard procedure for requesting a charge back policy.

What I'm trying to get at is that there's no general or specific rule where the percentages of fuel bought, whether it be nominated or on cost basis, is going to be charged back communities. I think it's important that the minister should consider establishing guidelines for Nunavummiut at what percentage of the fuel used or bought by QEC should be charged back to the community, otherwise, we will continue to be living under uncertainty.

To make it more transparent, would the minister consider establishing guidelines and ask his officials to make it more fair and transparent for Nunavummiut to see whether or not part of the fuel that they are charged with through the pumps is part of QEC's expenditures or is it just a CG&S general public consumption use? So it would help if the minister can help us establish a clear guideline so that Nunavummiut are not confused about what they're paying for. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the member is raising three or four real issues, and we can't compare apples to oranges. We have to compare apples with apples and oranges with oranges.

What I'm saying to the member is number one, there are regulations and rules in place and the Power Corporation cannot charge anything above what is allowed through the Utility Rate Review Council and the URRC looks at that. There is no rate increase for the Power Corporation. We did that two and a half or three years ago.

What is occurring right now is that when the Power Corporation goes out into the marketplace, whether it's for the GN or on world market prices, if they have an increase

in their costs, and in this case, we know there's an increase in costs because we have all seen the price of oil going up, the Power Corporation has to recoup those costs and it can't make a profit on those costs. That's transparent, that's a regulation, and that's in legislation. If the Power Corporation charges a rider for their fuel, right now, at 12 cents and they make \$100,000 more than they're supposed to, that has to be rebated back to all customers and consumers of the Power Corporation.

The second point that the member is making, which again is comparing apples to oranges, is what is the nominated cost of fuel? The Government of Nunavut makes no profit on fuel; the government does not make money on fuel. The government purchases the fuel at bulk prices and it is run through a Petroleum Products Revolving Fund. The price that is set at the pump by Nunavut when the Government of Nunavut says that the increases is 22 cents, then that 22 cents is supposed to cover off the Nunavut government's cost of purchasing, supplying, and transporting fuel.

The price at the pump that a retailer charges is a little bit different because they have to make a profit. If the Baffin Gas Bar, for example, is selling gas, they have employees, they have to pay their light and phone bills, and so on and so forth, so they have to make some kind of profit to be able to operate a gas bar. That's a little bit different.

So hopefully that helps clarify the amounts and so on. There are regulations and there is legislation in place to guide and give us direction when we look at the cost of fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Question 638 – 2(4): Nuisance Bears

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

Mr. Speaker, a number of my constituents in Cambridge Bay have raised the issue of nuisance grizzly bears with me. As the minister may be aware, the number of bear sightings near the community has increased in recent years. Just over the long weekend, Mr. Speaker, a mother bear and three cubs were observed approaching a cabin that had 20 people at it. Fortunately, the bears were distracted by a herd of musk ox and ran off after them. Mr. Speaker, cabins that are near the community have also been ransacked by bears. A constituent told me last night that they had a bear on the roof of his cabin, but it fell off and ran away.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that sections 74 and 97 of the territorial *Wildlife Act* address the issues of dangerous animals and the defence of life or property.

However, many of my constituents don't know what the law allows them to do in different circumstances. One of my constituents told me last night that he's worried that if he shoots a bear, he will be charged. So he's unclear. I'm wondering if the minister could tell me how his department works with local wildlife offices and HTOs to ensure

that the general public is clearly aware of the law and how it is enforced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) During this week, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board held a meeting on this very issue and how they're going to be dealing with grizzly bears in Nunavut. They don't want the people to face safety issues and we're hoping that our department can work very closely together so that they can deal with the grizzly bears and nuisance bears around our communities.

We have to place a priority on the people of Nunavut and make sure that there are no safety issues. If anything comes out, I will make sure that there is correspondence going out to the communities and how we can include or involve our personnel to make sure they work with the communities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that informational update and I certainly hope they have successful meetings this week.

Mr. Speaker, this issue of nuisance grizzly bears was recently discussed by Cambridge Bay's Hamlet Council, and constituents and residents of Cambridge Bay have raised that issue with them as well. Will the minister commit to writing directly to hamlet council on this matter and offer to have departmental officials brief the hamlet council on the issue of how to deal with nuisance bears near the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that commitment. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, grizzly bear sightings near Cambridge Bay have increased in recent years. Mr. Speaker, grizzly bears are not an indigenous species to Victoria Island. We usually have polar bears up there but not grizzly bears. I wonder if the minister could indicate to me if his department has conducted a grizzly bear population count for Victoria Island. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of now, the GN has developed a draft Grizzly Bear Management Plan and up to now, we haven't done enough consultations. Once that is done, we will make sure that we do the counts in the future.

Without a management plan, I don't think we have decided to do inventory on the polar bears. Once that management plan is developed and finished, we will certainly make sure that we have the inventory of the grizzly bears in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is estimated to be 20 to 30 grizzly bears on Victoria Island and many of them are near the community and some are as far north as Hadley Bay. I wonder if the minister, when he's preparing the Grizzly Bear Management Plan, can consider relocating the grizzly bears on Victoria Island back to the mainland where they will be indigenous to their area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess we will have to work very closely with NWMB, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, to come up with ideas on how we could deal with grizzly bears in the future. Again, we will also consider that in our management plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Question 639 – 2(4): End of Life Vehicle Removal Outside of Iqaluit

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Environment.

The minister told us that they're doing a clean-up of end-of-life vehicles and scrap metal removal from Iqaluit. Could the minister indicate to the House if they have identified the other communities outside of Iqaluit that will be cleaned up? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) We haven't identified the other communities at this point. There were a number of communities that were doing an inventory of the amount of end-of-life vehicles and scrap metal that has to be removed, and also the cost estimates.

We will make sure that all the paperwork and everything required is completed before we identify which communities are going to have this activity done after the Iqaluit project. We will have to look at all the specifics before we find out which community and which year the clean-up would be started. I think we will have a better idea next year. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They have to do an inventory and other specifics before they identify the other communities. Could the minister indicate to the House how many end-of-life vehicles and scrap metal have to be removed from the community before it's identified as a priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We haven't set up a tonnage or anything, but the end-of-life vehicles have been there for quite a long time and we have been looking at having those removed to the recycle places in the south. We want to make sure that all this scrap metal and end-of-life vehicles are sent out. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Belcher Islands and in the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq, there have been some mining activities, not very much, but there has been some activity around the Belcher Islands.

There are leftover drills and scrap metal abandoned outside of the community of Sanikiluaq, around the Belcher Islands. Could the minister indicate to the House if they were looking at cleaning up the sites outside of the municipal proper areas? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those sites are the responsibility of the federal government. We're looking at remediation of DEW Line sites and other areas outside of the communities. It would have to go through the federal government process, but I will make sure that I get the information that is required before anything is done around that area. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure it affects all the communities, but in my riding, there are scrap metal and end-of-life vehicles that have been buried. What about those scrap metal dumps and the items that have been buried? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I'll get the information. If the scrap metal and end-of-life vehicles are available and dug out, it would make it a lot easier to send them down to the recycle places in southern Canada. I'll make sure that I get all that information and provide it to the members. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 640 – 2(4): Response to Written Question 15 – 2(4)

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as I asked my third supplementary question last time, I realized I had the wrong question and the Premier did answer correctly. I should have known that solicitor-client privilege is confidential.

Now, would the Premier, Mr. Speaker, indicate what law prevents him from releasing certain information? I'm just wondering if he could be specific and inform us as to what statute, what section, or where it is that prohibits him from providing us or me with that number. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is a long established practice and convention that Cabinet meetings are confidential and considered that way, and that any information is not to be disclosed.

So that is a convention that we have followed and will continue to follow as it provides for freedom of discussion, without fear amongst Cabinet Ministers on what proceedings are taking place within Cabinet will remain in Cabinet. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, I'm a little confused. Earlier, he said he is prevented by law from providing that information and now, it's just a long-standing tradition.

Maybe if I could just get a clarification. Is it a law that's preventing the Premier from providing, not any information of what happened, I'm asking what I was asking, if a number, if a certain clause was ever invoked or used in their meetings. Is it a law, as he stated earlier, or is it a convention that's preventing him from providing that information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is a convention that has been in place for every government that is following the British system that we are practicing today. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know and I respect the traditions of Parliament as I know in a lot of cases in the past here, I fought to protect the privilege of the House

and the Assembly for all members and I respect that. But I fail to understand and see how providing a number breaches that. Maybe we can just get an explanation from the Premier on how providing a number is a breach of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I said, contents of meetings, what is discussed in Cabinet remains in Cabinet and that is the convention that we are following today and will continue to practice for Cabinet Ministers that are going to be in Cabinet today and tomorrow and in future governments so that they can have the confidence that the proceedings are protected, so they are free to discuss what is of concern to them and raise issues and matters for Cabinet.

So that is the practice that we have followed today and will continue to follow.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I totally agree with the Premier on that, but I fail to see... I'm not asking for the contents of any meetings, or minutes, I'm not asking for any discussions. I'm simply asking how many times a section of the *Integrity Act* has been invoked or not. That's it, just the number.

What does that have to do with anyone's ability to be worried about saying anything or doesn't divulge any information? I'm not asking for whom, or about, or why. I'm just asking and the question was clear: how many times has that section of the Act been invoked?

Maybe with that, the Premier could clearly and concisely inform me and other Members of this House and the listening public how that's putting out information that is confidential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I cannot say how many times but I can assure the member that my colleagues have been very upfront and forthright in our proceedings and have taken extra precautions.

Even when they don't have to disclose information, they have freely provided information before proceedings and have continued to do so to this day, and have been very cooperative in making sure that all the procedures and precautions are taking place if there is potential for conflict. So that is something that we have continued to practice to this day. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 641 – 2(4): When Will GN Complete the Fuel Purchase for 2008-2009?

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance, or the Minister of Energy, or the Minister of Community and Government Services, but I want an answer to this from whomever.

I think it was mentioned the other day that the government hasn't yet completed purchasing its fuel. So I was wondering if we could get indication as to when it anticipates all the fuel that we need for this year's re-supply will be completed being purchased. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking the question. We order a large volume and I'm sure that the member knows that on December 7, 2006, during the session, there was a ship that was docked here and it was carrying petroleum. I don't want to make a guess but it will probably be here again in November. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past, I remember that ship in the ice out there a couple of years ago and I know in previous years, I don't recall deliveries being that late in the season. I'm just wondering if the minister could give an indication as to why the delivery seems to be happening later and later than they were previously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that in every community, the population is growing and the ice stays out a lot longer, or it doesn't ice up. It's a little bit different here in Iqaluit, the ships come in later and later all the time because they have the coast guard to help the ship out, and that's why they come here into Iqaluit.

We encountered a danger in Rankin Inlet last year, and I can still remember it, so I emailed a letter in regard to that because it's dangerous to try to have a ship come in. How can we, as a government, provide more assistance? How can the Department of Community and Government Services provide leadership or encouragement on the shipment dates of these transportation ships? They are liable to sink if they run into ice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I know at the time when that ship was here in December, I believe one of the local companies that does the supply refused to have their people out there just because of the dangerous conditions along the fuel line for the re-supply.

Mr. Speaker, like I said, this is something that has happening more and more just recently. I'm just wondering if the minister can indicate if it is a result of the new contract that was entered into by the government for the provisions of re-supplying the fuel to Nunavut. If not, what issues are causing it to be that late in the year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's high time that the GN look at the regulations with the Coast Guard and see what they have in place as a safety net for these late comers because it is becoming a safety issue. I would like to talk with my senior officials to see what can be done to address that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that and I certainly look forward to hearing any information or ideas that they do come up with. Can the minister indicate if it's a result of the new contract that they have for fuel delivery that's causing the delays or is it an internal problem that is causing the fuel to come later and later every year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, the member's questioning is a good one. Certainly, we would have to put in a monitoring mechanism for sure because this is a concern to a lot of us.

Like I say, we have different contractors with different shipping companies and we don't tell them how to ship their goods because they're a company. The scheduling is set up by each company, but I think we can raise our concerns that have been raised in this House, by this Assembly, to the companies. I will make sure that it is conveyed to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question Period is now over. (interpretation ends) Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 278 – 2(4): Towards a Representative Public Service – Statistics as of March 31, 2008

Hon. Levi Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the following document: Towards a Representative Public Service Statistics as of March 31, 2008. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Can we have that document brought forward, please.

Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Brown.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**Bill 40 – An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act – Second Reading**

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nanulik, that Bill 40, *An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act*, be read for the second time.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 40 has had second reading and is referred to the appropriate standing committee.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister Tapardjuk.

Bill 41 – Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2008-2009 – Second Reading

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for South Baffin, that Bill 41, *Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2008-2009*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the forgiveness of a debt in accordance with section 83 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 41 has had second reading and is referred to the appropriate standing committee.

Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Bill 42 – Miscellaneous Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2008 – Second Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 42, *Miscellaneous Justice Statutes Act, 2008*, be read for the second time.

This bill corrects inconsistencies and errors in certain Acts of Nunavut and updates one Act to change references that relate to the Northwest Territories to refer instead to Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I seek unanimous consent of the House to waive Rule 67(2) and have Bill 42 moved to the Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The minister is asking for unanimous consent that Bill 42 proceed directly into the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 42 is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Tapardjuk.

Bill 43 – Write-Off of Assets and Debts Act, 2008-2009 – Second Reading

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 43, *Write-Off of Assets and Debts Act, 2008-2009*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the write-off of assets and debts in accordance with sections 24 and 82 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand, please. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 43 has had second reading and is referred to the appropriate standing committee.

Second Reading of Bills. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Ms. Brown.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to go back to an item on the Order Paper.

This individual is from Rankin Inlet. Tagak and I usually don't have an opportunity to recognize individuals in the House. So I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an RCMP member, Peter Pilgrim from Rankin Inlet, and also one of my constituents. He is well-known throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 19. Consideration in the Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 39 and 42, and also Tabled Document 216 – 2(4), with Mr. Kattuk in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:17 and Committee resumed at 15:51*

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

Chairman (Mr. Kattuk): Thank you, Members. I would like to call the meeting of the committee. Members, before we proceed, I have something to read.

Thank you, Members. Before the Committee of the Whole begins its deliberations today, I wish to outline the appropriate boundaries within which discussion may take place.

The subject matter covered by Tabled Document 216 – 2(4) is the Government of Nunavut's Request for Proposals for Standing Offer Agreement for Medical Travel on Scheduled Airlines.

Members are asked to keep their questions and comments focused on the document before the House.

This is not, for example, the appropriate time for detailed discussion of the government's client travel policy.

It will be allowable for members to pose questions concerning the GN's monitoring and enforcement of service standards provided for in its medical travel contracts.

However, members will not be permitted to attempt to use this time to reopen debate on the location of the Baffin medical travel office, given that this was the subject of Motion 8 – 2(4), which was considered and defeated by the House at its sitting of March 27, 2007.

I ask that all members keep this in mind as we proceed today, and I wish to advise the committee that your chair will exercise discretion with respect to keeping our proceedings moving forward in an orderly manner. Thank you.

In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bill 39, Tabled Document 216 – 2(4), and Bill 42. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 39, followed by Tabled Document 216 – 2(4), and if time permits today, Bill 42. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 39?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 39 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Is the committee agreed that Minister Tapardjuk and his staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort Minister Tapardjuk and his officials to the witness table.

Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk, can you introduce your staff to the committee? Minister Tapardjuk.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Yesterday, we were at 2008-09 Supplementary Appropriation. Operations and Maintenance. Finance. Operations and Maintenance. We were on page 10. Centrally Administered Funds. Total Centrally Administered Funds. Do you have a question? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, I'm a few pages behind my document here, but I know that yesterday, we were on a particular item with respect to a QEC item, I believe the hydro project. Was that agreed to or are we still on that item or not? Okay, thank you.

I have a question with respect to that item there. I know that the Minister of Finance allocated \$100,000 to do an assessment study or a review of possible hydro projects. My question is directed to the minister. I want to understand exactly how the surveys are carried out. Do you hire your own official from within staff? Do you walk around the

bush? How do you go about studying various projects? \$100,000 seems to be a bit small for the whole of the region, or are you just zeroing in on one specific location when you are looking at possible sites for hydro projects? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. I think Minister Picco was answering those questions yesterday, so I will allow him to answer the question. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I was saying yesterday during the debate on the amount of money that was allocated for the Kivalliq study, the desktop study, it was \$100,000 and that money would be used to look at some of the other studies that have been done.

We know, for example, there was a pre-feasibility study done by the NCPC, Northern Canada Power Commission, in the late 1990s. In that pre-feasibility study, they had actually identified several hydro sites in the region, specifically around Arviat and close to the Manitoba border. There were also a couple of sites identified near Baker Lake and adjacent and close to Rankin Inlet and Coral Harbour.

So this money is a desktop study to take all that information that we have in place to review it, update that information, and then to look at next steps for hydrological work in the region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I understand that a little more clearly now. I'm surprised that it's only a desktop kind of study because I would think that you need to be provided with advice a little more perhaps serious than collecting various reports and so on.

I would have thought that you would have actually hired maybe some consultants that are qualified really to look at various potential sites and make a very serious proposal to the government. We can't afford to play around with nickel-and-dime kind of projects right now because of the energy situation and the challenges that the consumers face with respect to various energy utilities is really too serious.

Could you be a little more serious in explaining exactly why you cannot be more proactive in getting various potential sites to the attention of this Assembly? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have two roles to play here. One is the Energy Secretariat and we have talked about that a little bit before. The member is correct, this is a serious issue and indeed, serious money needs to be put forward.

We have introduced several energy efficient and energy effective programs, including the Energy Efficient Rebate Program, Residual Heat Programs; we have put several million dollars in retrofitting all of our GN buildings across Nunavut to make them more energy

efficient; we've got a proposed *Nunavut Energy Efficient Act*; we're drafting a green procurement policy for the Government of Nunavut; and we have an Energy Efficiency Public Awareness Program; we also have a Home Renovation Program up to \$15,000 for energy efficiency. That's seven or eight items just right off the top of my head.

The \$100,000 that we see in the budget right now, for the first time, we're looking at taking all the data and there's considerable data that has been in place, and I'm sure the member knows, in the region. Now, taking that data, updating it, and being able to take a categorization of it, putting it in a category of potential and that's the study that would be taking place with the \$100,000.

The next step now, after the desktop study is done, is to look at what has been highlighted for potential and to see what other monies that would be needed to be brought forward, and so that's where we are with it right now. I think it's a pretty good first step and then we will go from there to see what comes out of that desktop study. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, this is exactly why I used the verb "nickel-and-dime" earlier because many of the programs that the minister mentioned, I consider them nickel-and-diming projects. For instance, residual heat projects that the government has been investing in a couple of locations, two or three at the maximum, really is benefiting the government and the contractor itself, not the private homeowners and so on. It doesn't move near providing extra benefits to people who pay taxes and own their own homes, and so on. So that's what I'm looking at.

With respect to the study of this nature, feasibility study for various hydro projects, I would have thought that we would go on a lot more proactive scale and really offer more than one community because for \$100,000, you really are not going to do very much. Am I correct in assessing that statement? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: No, of course, again the member is not correct. Indeed, he's incorrect. And I just want to clarify again for the record; the Residual Heat Program alone will put in place several millions of dollars worth of savings, not only to the government but at the end of the day, the departmental users and in some cases, the private sector. We have residual heat projects, as the member indicated, in Sanikiluaq that runs in the school, in Iqaluit, for all the major buildings in Rankin Inlet, in Taloyoak, it's not just in one, or two, or three locations.

The \$100,000 that we're putting forward here is the first time we're actually going to take all the accumulated data in that region and be able to look at what are our next steps, what are the next areas to look at for hydro, specifically in the Kivalliq region. We know

there's considerable potential there because there have been other studies done. However, those need be updated.

A good example of that is the work that was done here in Iqaluit. For years and years, the Power Corporation and the Northern Canada Power Corporation, or NCPC, kept saying the best solution was to harness the Sylvia Grinnell River, but when we actually got in there and did some real work, we realized that the size of the dam that would have to be built and the damage to the river and the fish and everything just did not make it acceptable. So up to and including 2001-02, with the new work that we were able to bring forward, we found out that it wasn't feasible. It's the same thing in other regions.

This \$100,000 will be able to take all that information together and then to be able to prioritize. We know, for example, in Coral Harbour, there's a huge opportunity for hydro and the amount of work that was done there is so small, so insignificant that a lot of the money, we know, and this tabletop study would be devoted to that area alone because we believe there is an opportunity to provide a cheaper form of energy.

Mr. Chairman, we have to get away from oil and I think everyone agrees to that. That's what our Energy Strategy says, we debated that here in the House, and all the members had an opportunity to bring it forward. And indeed, we were just recognized nationally in Canada, and I'm sure the member has seen the national news, where we have gone from D minus on energy efficiency and energy related areas to B and only behind one other province or territory in the country, so that's pretty amazing in a two-year timeframe.

So, yes, we'll take this \$100,000, thank you very much, and we will be able to move forward on looking at other opportunities for hydro feasibility and energy efficiency. This kind of thing takes time. If the question is could we use more? Yes. Could we use more money? Of course, any of the government department, any position of the government could use more money. But we would be very pleased to take this \$100,000, complete a desktop study, and then go to the next steps. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was useful information but the minister is speaking from both sides of his mouth. He is saying that this amount is going to contribute greatly for reducing the number of possible energy related projects or utilities in Nunavut. But for \$100,000, you're not really going to be... if we're serious about finding possible hydro sites, we have to do it with more than \$100,000 and I think the state of the energy situation demands that we do more than that.

The various little projects, the nickel-and-dime stuff that he mentioned, are not really making a dent to the consumer at the pump where it makes a difference. It may be benefiting the department itself but not the consumers, so that's where my difference with the member is.

I have another question to the Minister responsible for Energy. I know that he has been studying this and all aspects of energy options, and so on. Has he considered how he is going to eventually finance those development projects? Will it be mainly dependent on government coffers? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: There's probably no one in the House that enjoys conversation and debate with the member better than me and I don't appreciate him saying that I'm talking out of both sides of my face at the same time because that is inappropriate language in our House.

I do, however, suggest to the member that when we look at what we have done and what we have been able to accomplish in the last four years is pretty substantial. We have introduced legislation for energy efficiency, we have a contract in place where we're spending millions of dollars to upgrade units, and we have put more subsidies in place for homeowners.

The member keeps talking about "at the pump." At the pump, 60 percent of our families, at any given time, are on income support and we cover those costs for them in social housing. The private individual who goes out to hunt, for example, we have a fuel subsidy program in place for them that the member is aware of and we also have a program in place for our elders. We have subsidies across the board. Right now, almost 35 percent of our total budget goes into energy, energy related matters, and subsidies. There is no other government, Mr. Chairman, who puts that type of money into the program, into subsidizing. You're shaking your head. Tell me another government that does that. Not even close, sir.

So what I'm suggesting to you is the \$100,000, if I could get more money, Mr. Chairman, yes, it would be fantastic, but we have to use what dollar values are available within the fiscal equation that presents itself. At this time, that \$100,000, from the experts within the Energy Corporation and the Energy Secretariat tell me that they will be able to put together a good desktop study and go to the next steps.

I think it's important... this is not like mines or mining where we're trying to dig holes in the ground and find uranium, or iron, or diamonds. We can look very easily at areas in Nunavut and say, "Wow, that's a big river. Is there an opportunity?" And that's what the pre-feasibility study did in 1997-98. Now, the information is to take all of that together, collaborate with that information, and ascertain the next steps. The \$100,000 should be enough to do that.

I thank the members and I thank the member for not only raising the issue but for their support in accessing this money so that we can move forward for the good people in the Kivalliq region so that we can actually ascertain what other resources we can get in energy there and in this case, hydro. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. We're not debating any government policy, we're really debating non-government policies and that's why we debate things because we're attempting to get the minister to have a clear set of guidelines and policies.

If the minister indicated that, you know, I'm debating questions about energy prices or whatnot, no government charges, for instance, any provincial government doesn't charge for the amount of the government consumption of fuel that they purchase. They don't pass it on to the consumer; they do it through excise tax, yes, which is clear, and gas tax.

But we do charge back to the consumer perhaps 100 percent of the fuel brought in, even their own government consumption is charged back to the consumer and that is why our prices are higher. No individual, the unemployed guy, no wonder, is able to afford prices at the pump because he's paying for someone's consumption charged to the pumps, whether it's government institutions or whatnot.

My question really was about whether the minister is also considering financing these various projects publicly or is he just relying on public financing. Has he ever considered establishing private funding to raise capital for these various major projects or is he just opting out for public financing altogether? I think it's worth looking at now before we start building hydro projects seriously. I think that's an important question. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is an important question. The Government of Nunavut has never been in a position where we have looked at building a project greater than \$50 million and this project, we know, over four or five years, will cost between \$150 million to \$300 million.

What we have done and we have said is we've had conversations with our federal partner to look at if there's an opportunity to underwrite the program, underwrite the project, and come forward with a loan guarantee, which would give us the luxury of being able to go outside of the current fiscal arrangements and be able to borrow those monies. We're also looking at options for P3, which would be a public-private partnership.

So we haven't narrowed down the field to any given first choice. What we're trying to do is see what we can do as a government to find the best monetary vehicle to be able to construct, build, and own the hydro facility. The good part here, Mr. Chairman, is that a hydro facility, the amortization cost is done over 20, 30, 40 years and because of that, you can lower that investment cost and you can get a larger payback for an investor, whether that be a public-private partnership situation or indeed, through our partner, the federal government.

On the second issue, and I think it's very important again to maybe explain to the member, is that number one, the Government of Nunavut does not make any profit on oil.

Number two, when the member says that we're charging the consumer for all of the fuel that we bring in because the GN is paying for some of it and so is the person at the pump, we have to realize that, by going out as a government and buying a 100 million litres of fuel, we get a better price than if you're only buying 10 million or 5 million. The number three point is how would you differentiate what would be sold at the pump and who would be buying it at the pump, as opposed to who would be paying for it in the community as a whole.

So let's take a given community, let's say it was Clyde River. So in Clyde River, you have a school and a health centre, so that's probably your two biggest government buildings. The biggest user of power in Clyde River is social housing, 60 percent of the units are social housing units, and the rest of the houses would be private and a mixture of federal, RCMP staff housing, and so on and so forth.

So how would you expect the four million litres of fuel that you bring in to Clyde River to be subsidized by maybe the 30 or 40 people who would actually take money physically out of their pockets and pay for it? All of those monies are subsidized through the hamlet subsidy program that we put in place because the majority of that fuel in Clyde River will be used either by government trucks, water trucks, and sewage trucks. If 60 percent of the units are social housing, all their fuel costs are covered by the GN.

And the biggest expenditure we have as a government is the electrical cost of generating electricity. So if we bring in 100 million litres of fuel, 80 million will be diesel to run our power plant. So I think that's important to point out for clarification and for clarity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I think the minister knows very well that I understand all of these. He chose to pass the cost to all consumers whether they use it or not. I believe the government uses about 60 percent of the fuel supplied to Nunavut, 40 percent are solely the private sector and homeowners. Why should they be paying 100 percent for the fuel that they're not purchasing, they're not buying? That's what I call "caps" and I don't even know what the minister calls it, so I say it's taxing individuals more than what they really are buying.

I think we live in a situation now if we were to triple the population today, even tomorrow, we would triple the cost of fuel at the pumps and they would be paying at astronomical prices because we're not a private sector. We buy at the world market, yes, that's a private sector level, but when it comes to the government fixing their pricing and instituting it, it becomes, I don't know, confusing.

My last question to the minister is: will you be consulting with the private sector and various options? I think it would be good to have a discussion with the private sector on various hydro project possibilities just for discussion purposes, at the same time, to seek advice from potential investors. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Your time is up. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct, we will be talking with the public and the private sector to see what opportunities may be there as we move forward with this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Questions? We're on 2008-09 Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) No. 2. Finance. Page 10. Centrally Administered Funds. Not Previously Authorized. Total Centrally Administered Funds. \$2,375,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$4,182,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the next page. Page 11. 2008-09 Supplementary Appropriation. Human Resources. Operations and Maintenance. Directorate. Total Directorate. Not Previously Authorized. \$187,000. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just need clarification on Item 2, "To provide funding of \$75,000 to cover the increased costs of utilities," etcetera. Can you tell me what that is in reference to Human Resources? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Ma will answer that question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Okay. Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What that is, it is to recognize the fact that there will be indirect impacts to all government departments. Because of the fuel price increase, we already know that airlines have raised airfares. From time to time, government officials have to travel on business, so that's to recognize that airfares will be going up. And it's throughout the document. I think it's the first time you may have noticed it in a particular department, but it is in every department pretty much throughout the sup bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So every time I see this sort of a vague explanation, then I will know that that's for the staff travel that will have the increase for most of the departments. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, that's true. These are the estimated increases we will incur as of July 1, 2008 for our government operations. The amounts we are using are effective from that date onwards. These figures are listed for travel and transportation, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Questions? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I want to ask the minister with respect to Item 2 on the page. It says here that this is to offset probably the increases in various utility costs for the various fields. I want you to help me understand exactly. One thing I do understand is that through the consumption and fuel prices that the airlines and consumers use, most of the fuel that we buy is recovered through various prices that the GN has instituted into the fuel prices. Would I be correct in assuming that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Ma will elaborate on that.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the member is correct on what he's saying. Basically, when the government purchases its fuel, we take into consideration all of the costs that are necessary to purchase that fuel and get it to all consumers, including the government. Some of those cost factors will be things such as transportation and obviously, the direct cost of each one of the particular products that we buy, and then based on those costs, we then develop the price to fully recover the cost of whatever it costs us to bring the fuel in. So, yes, the member is correct in saying that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. With respect to this particular item, an increase of \$187,000, could the minister perhaps be clearer exactly how it's going to help offset the cost of various prices of fuel? We believe that we have been asked to vote so that you can have that expenditure available to cover these various increases, but where does it go from there? Do you pay the consumer, do you pay the distributor of that price so it goes directly to the pump prices, or who do you spend it with? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. I think in Item 2, the figure is \$75,000, not \$187,000. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Ma will explain that further.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this particular case, the appropriation is for the additional travel costs that would occur as a result of the indirect impact of the fuel price increase.

As I stated earlier in my response to I think Member Arvaluk, we're recognizing the fact that because of the fuel price increase on July 1, there will be an impact to the travel budgets of various GN departments and that impact comes from the fact that there would be and there have, I guess, been some increases on airfares. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. (interpretation) Are you finished? (interpretation ends) We're on Human Resources. Directorate. Total Directorate. Not Previously Authorized. \$187,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Staffing. Total Staffing. Not Previously Authorized. \$266,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Community Operations. Total Community Operations. Not Previously Authorized. \$131,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will go to page 12. Human Resources. Operations and Maintenance. Job Evaluation and Organizational Design. Total Job Evaluation and Organizational Design. Not Previously Authorized. \$45,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Inuit Employment Plan. Total Inuit Employment Plan. \$34,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Training and Development. Total Training and Development. \$168,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Human Resources. Operations and Maintenance. Employee Relations. Not Previously Authorized. Total Employee Relations. \$64,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department. \$895,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next topic is Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Directorate. Total Directorate. Not Previously Authorized. \$887,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Law Enforcement. Total Law Enforcement. Not Previously Authorized. \$160,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Lawyer Support Services. Total Lawyer Support Services. Not Previously Authorized. \$168,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will go to page 15. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Registries and Court Services. Total Registries and Court Services. Not Previously Authorized. \$356,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Corrections. Total Corrections. Not Previously Authorized. \$909,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Community Justice. Total Community Justice. Not Previously Authorized. \$123,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department. \$2,603,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 16. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Operations and Maintenance. Directorate. Total Directorate. Not Previously Authorized. \$223,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Official Languages. Total Official Languages. Not Previously Authorized. \$112,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Culture and Heritage. Total Culture and Heritage. \$112,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next page is 17. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Operations and Maintenance. Community Programs. Total Community Programs. Not Previously Authorized. \$78,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sport Nunavut. Total Sport Nunavut. Not Previously Authorized. \$81,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department. \$606,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next page is 18. Education. Operations and Maintenance. Directorate. Total Directorate. Not Previously Authorized. \$237,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Policy and Planning. Total Policy and Planning. Not Previously Authorized. \$79,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Corporate Services. Total Corporate Services. Not Previously Authorized. \$205,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next page is 19. Education. Operations and Maintenance. Income Support. Total Income Support. Not Previously Authorized. \$109,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Adult Learning and Post Secondary Services. Total Adult Learning and Post Secondary Services. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,412,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next page is 20. Education. Operations and Maintenance. Career and Early Childhood Services. Total Career and Early Childhood Services. Not Previously Authorized. \$518,000. Agreed? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification purposes, Career and Early Childhood Services, that's for mostly kindergarten and day care services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Perhaps the Minister of Education could respond to that question.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the member could just rephrase that question for me. Thank you.

Chairman: Rephrase your question to the minister, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Career and Early Childhood Services, does it mean it's for children in kindergarten or is it also for day cares? It doesn't exactly say what it's geared towards. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct, that is for our school system, it's for the different directors within the Department of Education and in this case, it's the Early Learning and Childcare Program that includes the employees within that secretariat or department within the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. (interpretation) Are you finished, Mr. Arvaluk? (interpretation ends) We're on Total Career and Early Childhood Services. Not Previously Authorized. \$518,000.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Curriculum and School Services. Total Curriculum and School Services. \$504,000. Agreed? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the Finance Minister can refresh my memory. Those items that were not previously authorized are not proportionate in the increase. Is that because they had enough money already in that particular division? Some require more in terms of percentage, but others are less. Can you tell me what the rationale is behind having differences in proportions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. The percentages are based on the number of employees in the department or division. The number of employees in each department is used to set the percentages listed here, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): With respect to the number of employees, is this percentage set on the actual number of employees within the department or is it based on the number of PYs listed for that department? Which figures are used to make the estimates? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, these figures are based on the number of employees in 2007-08. Additionally, these figures were used during the collective bargaining process and these figures are for employees with the government to today. As well, there are some estimates included in these figures and these figures roughly represent the total number of employees who worked for the GN on that date.

We incurred costs for the total number of employees after the collective agreement was completed that we had to pay. Prior to the collective agreement being signed, an estimate of the numbers of employees who had worked for the GN was put into this document and these figures were the ones followed, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Are you finished? We're on (interpretation ends) Education. School Operations. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have a quorum. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): We now have a quorum. (interpretation ends) We're on Education. School Operations. Total School Operations. \$3,699,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department. \$6,763,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 21. Health and Social Services. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure as to whom to pose this question to, but I'm sure that the minister in question will know who should respond. With respect to the funds we appropriate for the Department of Health, we expend a huge amount of funds to deliver health services in Nunavut.

In our community of Pond Inlet, we no longer have a resident doctor. We were extremely lucky to have had a doctor who resided in our community for several years and wanted to remain up there. We also know that in Rankin Inlet, doctors are on a rotational basis for all of Kivalliq where they spend an allotted period in the community, not to become a resident doctor.

Additionally, we were informed that we are always short of nurses here in Nunavut. We end up using agency nurses to meet the shortfall of nurses. How extreme is our shortfall? What developments have occurred to meet this challenge in areas such as the training program for nurses? Are the numbers of students increasing? Are they succeeding in their courses? Additionally, I would like to know how many students have now graduated from this program and are now working as nurses. Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): With respect to his questions, I don't have any pertinent information on hand for the member. With regards to the Nursing Program and whether the graduates have been successful in being placed in the nursing positions, perhaps the Minister of Health and Social Services is in a better position to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. We're on Health and Social Services' Directorate. (interpretation) This question seems largely irrelevant to what we are discussing at this time and perhaps when we reach the page identifying Public Health, you can reiterate that question. That may be the more appropriate time for that question there, Mr. Arvaluk.

(interpretation ends) Health and Social Services. Directorate. Total Directorate. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,093,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Specifically on Directorate, I'm not sure what "Directorate" means. These are the directors in the different divisions of Health has been

totalling about \$24 million just to order people around? What does the Directorate consist of mostly? What kind of workers are these people? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): We currently don't have an existing business plan and we have no information with regards to that question. I will ask Mr. Ma to respond to your question to see if we properly understood the context of your question.

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

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Typically, when we go through the main estimates or the budget process, that description of what Directorate is and other revisions within a particular department would be described.

I'm going on my memory, obviously, I don't have the main estimates with me, but typically for most departments, the Directorate would be the deputy minister's office and all the support and services that the deputy minister's office would provide. Obviously, this is something of importance to the member, I will get that particular description and I will provide it to the member after we're done here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. (interpretation) Are you finished, Mr. Arvaluk? (interpretation ends) We're on Health and Social Services. Directorate. Total Directorate. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,093,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Social Services. Total Social Services. Not Previously Authorized. \$414,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Public Health. Total Public Health. Not Previously Authorized. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that particular question I wanted to ask the Minister of Health: how is that Nursing Program doing? Are we on schedule? How many are we graduating? Are we successful?

I'm very worried that Public Health will continue to deteriorate if we don't have a good program. Can he assure me today that we have a good Nursing Program and that we are graduating in the speed that we expected? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

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

Chairman: Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I probably can't answer as well as the new Minister of Health and Social Services, but I do vaguely remember some facts and hopefully I'm correct in what I'm about to say.

My memory is that there are four or five recent nursing graduates. I think four of them were Inuit and one was a non-beneficiary, and that's I think as of last year. My memory is that there are currently eight students at the Nunavut Arctic College.

I forgot the second part of Mr. Arvaluk's question. Pardon me? I believe we are. What I can do, on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Services, is to provide the actual information again to you after we're done here today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ma. (interpretation) I think the minister would like to add to that. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of now, we have 18 graduates and 50 percent of those graduates are Inuit. So we will make sure that we will have a job open for them at the end of their term. I had asked my staff this morning to update me a bit more on those training programs on nursing. Up to now, there are 18 graduates and nine of them are Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akesuk. (interpretation) Are you finished, Mr. Arvaluk? (interpretation ends) We're on Health and Social Services. Public Health. Total Public Health. Not Previously Authorized. \$306,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next page is 22. Health and Social Services. Treatment. Total Treatment. Not Previously Authorized. \$6,911,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Health Insurance Programs. Total Health Insurance Programs. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,243,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department. \$9,967,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next page is 23. Environment. Operations and Maintenance. Corporate Management. Total Corporate Management. Not Previously Authorized. \$278,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Program Management. Total Program Management. Not Previously Authorized. \$732,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department. \$1,010,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next page is 24. Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. Directorate. Total Directorate. Special Warrants. Not Previously Authorized. \$460,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Community Support. Total Community Support. Special Warrants. \$500,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Not Previously Authorized. \$328,000. Agreed? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not a substantial increase at all. Are these monies being given to the hamlet councils?

For example, when the collective agreement was negotiated, there was an amount of \$328,000 to reflect the increased costs of compensation and benefits that will be included in the \$54 million, which is quite minuscule. Do you give this amount to the hamlets? Are the hamlets part of the agreement or why do we have to give them an additional amount when they're not members? Thank you.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ma.

Mr. Ma: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I understood what the member is asking. The amount for the \$300,000 odd for compensation does reflect the recent increase in the new NEU Collective Agreement and all these associated benefits that come with that. How we calculate that within each particular division of a department is based upon the number of employees and the wage envelope.

We took whatever the percentage increase was and all of these other things, did the calculation, basically gave them the amount of money we felt that they were going to need for the rest of the fiscal year. I think what may be causing some confusion is the reference to the Special Warrant and that was to provide some O&M costs to deal with the Pangnirtung situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Special Warrant is clear, that's for "Pangnirtung during the flooding of the Duval River." Is this community support, is that a contribution to the hamlets, or is it somewhere else? If it's not hamlets, then what I'm confused about is Community Support is for \$54 million and Government Services is for \$63 million, just below that. So that's over \$100 million to look after hamlets? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, this is under Corporate Services, but I don't have the departmental information. Perhaps Minister Brown can clarify this for you, but according to our understanding, the Department of Community and Government Services is structured that way. The Minister responsible for CGS can respond better than I can, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. We're on Community Support. (interpretation) Minister Brown, would you like to respond?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These monies are directed towards our CGS support staff. This is for our employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Brown. Mr. Arvaluk, are you finished? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) But \$54,776,000 is not just for staff only. Is that for part of the contribution to the hamlets, too, and that only a small portion of it is for CGS staff only? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're not directed towards the hamlet councils, they're for the department's support services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brown. (interpretation) Are you finished, Mr. Arvaluk? (interpretation ends) We're on page 24. Community and Government Services. Total

Government Services. Okay, sorry. We're on Community Support. Total Community Support. Not Previously Authorized. \$328,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Government Services. Total Government Services. Not Previously Authorized. \$7,231,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next page is Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. Protection Services. Total Protection Services. Not Previously Authorized. \$152,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Total Capital Planning and Technical Services. Not Previously Authorized. \$1,044,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department. Special Warrants. \$500,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department. Not Previously Authorized. \$9,215,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next page is 26. Economic Development and Transportation. Operations and Maintenance. Corporate Management. Total Corporate Management. Not Previously Authorized. \$277,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Economic Development. Total Economic Development. Not Previously Authorized. \$465,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Transportation. Total Transportation. Not Previously Authorized. \$320,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department. \$1,062,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Next page is 27. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Corporation. Not Previously Authorized. \$5,115,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Corporation. \$5,115,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page 2. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation. \$43,005,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to Bill 39 in your legislation binder. Bill 39, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2008-2009*. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 2 of your Bill 39. Schedule. Supplementary Amounts Appropriated for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2009. Vote 1. Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$43,005,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$43,005,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go back to page 1. Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to Bill 39 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 39 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you, Minister and Mr. Ma, for your patience and your answers.

Thank you, Members. I would now like to ask Minister Brown, responsible for CGS, to make her opening remarks on Tabled Document 216 – 2(4).

Tabled Document 216 – 2(4): Government of Nunavut’s Request for Proposals for Standing Offer Agreement for Medical Travel on Scheduled Airlines – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Committee Members. The previous contract was not extended for Baffin and there were no existing contracts for Kivalliq or the Kitikmeot.

In an ongoing effort to ensure open, fair, and transparent contracting practices, Health and Social Services decided not to extend the current contracts and go out to open market competitions for medical travel.

The RFP was issued in October of 2007 for medical travel. Contracts were awarded to the various airlines based on the evaluation criteria contained within the RFP document.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Sorry, Minister Brown, we don’t have a copy of your opening remarks, so we will break for the next five minutes or so. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 17:03 and resumed at 17:21*

Chairman: Thank you, Members. We will proceed with our proceedings this afternoon. We will now proceed to Tabled Document 216 – 2(4). I'll ask the mover to brief the committee on Tabled Document 216 – 2(4). Does the mover have any opening comments? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a short one. Mr. Chairman, when we were in consideration of this issue, we were dealing with the issue of RFPs this winter. Some of the factors that were spouted included better control over the financial expenditures.

The government stated that there was going to be an improvement in regard to the contracts that they wanted to finalize in the regions. As an example, in the Keewatin area, they didn't have a medical contract for several years but the airlines were sharing the passengers. The government stated to the Legislative Assembly that if they're going to be doing an evaluation of any contracts, they were going to consider all of the economic impacts on businesses out there.

For example, if there was a change in the airline awarded the contract, it would have a negative economic impact because the government doesn't have a transportation policy. The medical contracts have a big effect on the economy of Nunavut. If there's a sudden change in the awarding of the medical contract, it has a negative impact on the airlines and includes other issues, such as competitiveness of the airlines.

We asked the minister to carefully consider all of the impacts when conducting an evaluation. We would like to hear from the government whether they have met their targets and the impact it had on the economy of Nunavut as a whole, as well as on the airlines. That was what I wanted to comment on. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Please keep in mind the caution I put out earlier with respect to this matter. I would like to ask Minister Brown if she would like to bring her officials to the witness table. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to have my officials with me at the witness table. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, bring the witnesses in to the table.

Thank you. Minister Brown, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is my Deputy Minister, David Akeeagok, and on my right, the Director for Contracting and Procurement, Mr. Mike McCulloch. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Are there any general comments from the members? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do want to make a general statement because I think it is a very important document that we have in front of us, the standing offer agreement, as well as some background information that we have. There are a number of questions that will be put forth by my colleagues and myself.

In terms of the services itself, I think the Minister of Government Services should agree with my assessment that in view of the fact that the Government of Nunavut has no transportation policy, that the medical travel policy is the one that is really guiding the transportation policy, particularly with airline services in Nunavut. Without that, I think our general airline passenger services would be in a very different situation.

So it is important that the minister clearly explain to this committee and Nunavummiut because we're not just a group of a few people here, we are Nunavummiut representing all communities in Nunavut. Transportation is very important and economic impacts do happen when evaluations and assessments are not clearly done.

My general statement is that I'm not satisfied that the assessments that were assumed to have been carried out in certain contracts awarded to a number of airlines is given to certain airlines. So therefore, Mr. Chairman, I will be asking specific questions as to whether or not the minister is satisfied with the service to date and whether or not this current arrangement with the medical travel contract with various airlines is really working for the benefit of Nunavummiut and for certain communities to and from southern points.

So it will be the minister's responsibility to answer those questions fairly and accurately, and to ensure that corrective measures be taken if possible. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. We're on general comments. Are there any more general comments? Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of very short comments on medical travel and this contract in particular.

The Department of Health regional offices in Rankin Inlet have known for many years the serious issues that people have with medical travel out of Baker Lake, especially to Winnipeg. Most of the time, a person gets on a plane in Baker Lake at 8:00 in the morning and finally gets to Winnipeg at two o'clock, six hours, and that's after three, sometimes four stops.

Sometimes a patient trying to get home from Winnipeg, especially when after a serious operation, gets on a plane in Winnipeg and takes up to three different aircraft just to get home to Baker Lake from Winnipeg. In a lot of cases, these are elders who have just had very serious operations. They take over six hours to get home from Winnipeg and use three different aircraft, the same carrier with three different aircraft, getting off the plane in Churchill, their luggage comes off, it gets transferred to up to three different aircraft just to get home to Baker Lake.

On the newer contractor that's getting some of the medical travel out of Baker Lake, if a patient is put on that flight in Baker Lake, ends up in Rankin Inlet and sits there for a number of hours waiting for the aircraft to get back to Rankin Inlet from farther north, and then finally heads down to Winnipeg.

In every case, this is a medical patient. Some of them are very sick and they end up sitting at the Rankin Inlet Airport with no services and no help from the department, and they end up sitting in Rankin Inlet at the terminal. That's not right. And the Department of Health has known that for many years and yet, they award contracts that don't do anything at all to address those issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Are there any more general comments? I have no more members on my list for general comments. Are there any questions from the members? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I think it's important also that, if time permits, the Health officials should also be prepared to assist the Minister of Government Services because, by and large, they do administer the medical travel contracts.

I don't believe that CGS will be able to provide the nature and the policy aspects of this contract. So therefore, I can understand why CGS is being asked to sit on the witness table, but a lot of it has to do with medical people that take responsibility for decisions daily for the patients. The reason I'm saying, Mr. Chairman, is because the heart...

Chairman: I'm sorry, Mr. Curley. We have no quorum right now.

We have quorum now. Proceed, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: The reason I'm saying the issues that I raised is not only are our patients, like my colleague just indicated, elders are not only sick, ill, or have just come out of very serious operations, where they shouldn't be lugged around like luggage. Most of the

time, their hearts are bleeding and really, it has become a very difficult situation for those of us in the riding to see why the government continues to operate the way it is.

Mr. Chairman, my first question will start with the general financial areas. The first one is: the introduction to the GN's RFP for medical travel on scheduled airlines indicates that the government's expenditures in this area increased by approximately 43 percent between the 2003-04 fiscal year and the 2006-07 fiscal year. In 2006-07, the government spent \$25,841,296. How much did the GN spend in 2007-08 and approximately how much has it spent to date in 2008-09? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are very excellent questions but I believe that they should be directed toward the Department of Health and Social Services. I think that department can respond to that question because we just deal with the processing aspects of this service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Brown. Perhaps (interpretation ends) the Minister of Health and Social Services (interpretation) can respond to that question. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the information handy. Perhaps we could have one of my officials sit at the witness table to provide answers towards questions raised towards our department.

As I stated, we don't have the information readily available at this time. With respect to a question stemming from this document, I would prefer if he would give us the page numbers so that we can see which item he is referring to and if we can answer it. I would like them to identify the page numbers if possible. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. We can probably have one of the officials respond if it's okay with the members to have the Minister of Health and Social Services sit at the witness table. I'm asking the committee members. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I was clear, all the questions coming out of the documents that are in here or if it's coming from here, I would like to see which page it is before I get our staff.

I was thinking that Mr. Campbell would sit down there with Ms. Brown as the document we're dealing with is a CGS document. If we have to, maybe our deputy could sit down there along with Ms. Brown as the document is from CG&S. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akesuk. I think that there's a question from Mr. Curley. (interpretation) Maybe you can respond to the minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, it's pretty hard to respond to a question when a question has not been raised. As I stated earlier, I believe that the officials from the Department of Health should be at the witness table. As well, the minister is already here and I don't think it's necessary to have him sit at the table. All he has to do is direct the question to one of his staff and they can respond.

We have the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services here. I think that it would be appropriate if the Deputy Minister of Health would sit up at the witness table.
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): The deputy minister will go to the witness table.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. Let the records show that Alex Campbell is at the witness table. Alex, welcome. Mr. Curley, maybe you can rephrase or ask your questions again. I will allow you to rephrase what you asked before. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. First of all, I want to start with some of the financial impact of the finances of the GN. The introduction to the GN's RFP for medical on scheduled airlines indicates that the government's expenditures in this area increased by approximately 43 percent between the 2003-04 fiscal year and the 2006-07 fiscal year. In 2006-07, the government spent \$25,841,296. How much did the GN spend in 2007-08 and approximately how much has it spent to date in 2008-09? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Alex Campbell, the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The actual... I don't know what it is... expenditure for fiscal 2007-08 is approximately \$24,984,000 at this point. I will just ask my officials to get the approximate expenditures to date. So I will provide that information once I get it from my staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Can the minister or the officials confirm that that information will be tabled during this session? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an indication from the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services that, yes, it can be tabled before the session is over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is important to have. My next question is also a finance issue. The GN's RFP at that time indicated that between the 2003-04 and 2006-07 fiscal years, spending on medical travel on scheduled airlines increased by 22 percent in the Kitikmeot, 37 percent in the Kivalliq, and 63 percent in the Baffin. What accounts for the differences between the regions? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I will refer that question to the Deputy Minister, Alex Campbell. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Again, I wasn't prepared with that kind of specific line of questioning from the member, but I will commit to providing that information to members before the session is over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. These were important as an introductory mainly to see the impacts of financial issues into the economy in Nunavut.

I also have another question that has do with the NNI Policy. For instance, we believe that Nunasi was one of the major proponents. So my question is: in its evaluation of the Nunasi Corporation's response to the RFP issued earlier this year, how did the government address the issue of Inuit ownership? Was Nunasi's proposal awarded with a bid adjustment for Inuit ownership and does the GN consider Canadian North to be an Inuit firm, yes or no? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have the DM for CG&S to answer that, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking for the NNI Policy. There has been an addendum and there are now seven additional items added. The

question was raised with respect to this matter and it's in regard to all the airlines that run inside of Nunavut and how the NNI is applied. We have an outline of how the NNI Policy applies to the airline corporations and we have corresponded with the airlines on the application of the NNI Policy.

My answer is yes, NNI was included in this evaluation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Yes, I understand the application of the NNI Policy for all contracts. (interpretation) My question was in regard to the proposal that was put up by Nunasi Corporation and they qualify under the NNI Policy as an Inuit firm. However, Canadian North is not considered an Inuit firm under the NNI Policy because they don't qualify as an Inuit firm when it comes to bidding for contracts. My question was: is Canadian North an Inuit firm, yes or no? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, Mr. Akeegok will respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, for the Inuit firm status of Canadian North, it's owned 50 percent by Inuit of Nunavut but Nunasi Corporation responded to the Request for Proposals. We conducted our evaluation using Nunasi Corporation's eligibility and Canadian North is part of the Nunasi Corporation group of companies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. The minister was advised by the Department of Health and by all of their officials in the Assembly this winter that when they're evaluating the bids, they should look at the economic impacts of awarding medical contracts and the airlines have started to operate.

Did the department look at the economic impacts depending on who the contract was awarded to? Is the outcome the way you thought it was going to be? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we need to change our officials here again. I would like to have our Deputy Minister, Mark McCulloch, at the witness table if it's okay with the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Do members agree to bring the Deputy Minister of Community and Government Services back to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thanks Alex Campbell and David Akeegok. We will come back with Mr. McCulloch.

Welcome back, Mr. McCulloch. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. McCulloch respond to the question.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Brown. Mr. McCulloch.

Mr. McCulloch: Thank you very much. That's a very good question. In the RFP document, we have issued an Addendum 7 and it was a very expensive document of about 15 pages or more and it outlined exactly how the NNI Policy would be applied because this exact question came up in the bidders' conference and they wanted to know how we would apply the policy. So we put together an example of how it would be applied and we applied it exactly the way it was outlined in the addendum.

So to answer the question, did they receive an adjustment? The answer was yes, they responded under the name of Nunasi and they did receive an adjustment. I can tell you the actual amount of the adjustments that were given to the three vendors in that they all got an adjustment. I can tell you that the largest adjustment was given to First Air, I can tell you the next in line was Kivalliq Air, and then it was Nunasi.

Chairman: After you speak, please thank the Chair. Thank you, Mr. McCulloch. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. It is important to try and understand how it is applied. I think we're dealing with a legal interpretation of provisions of the NNI Policy. My question that was referred to or alluded to earlier was that Canadian North is not an Inuit firm. Do you agree that it is not an Inuit owned firm according to NNI Policy, yes or no?

Mr. McCulloch: Thank you very much for the question.

Chairman: Wait a minute. Mr. Curley, you have to thank me first.

>> *Laughter*

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. McCulloch respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. McCulloch, go ahead.

Mr. McCulloch: Thank you very much for the question. The legal entities that responded to the Request for Proposals did not include Canadian North, it included Nunasi. The adjustments were given to Nunasi's proposal and the adjustments were based on the addendum which stated, in great detail, how the adjustments would be applied based on Inuit content, which included Inuit employment, doing business with Inuit companies, it was very detailed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. What we're getting at is really trying to find a loophole in the application of NNI provisions to try and make the contract work for specifically not Inuit firms because Calm Air is certainly not an Inuit firm, which currently does the operations in the region. Do you agree that Calm Air is not an Inuit firm, yes or no?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Brown... I didn't hear, you have a Point of Order? Minister Picco.

Point of Order

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The airlines themselves aren't on trial here in this forum and it's not up for the witness to decide: do you ask him his personal opinion, do you agree, do you disagree that this is an Inuit owned firm, this is not an Inuit owned firm. The gentleman sitting at the table, indeed, any witness or anyone here in the House, doesn't have an ownership list to tell me exactly who owns who and who owns what.

What the witness has said is that on the addendum to the contract, the company that was awarded was Nunasi Corporation in this case. First Air, for example, I believe is operatively known by Bradley Air Services, but just because they have a name, it doesn't mean it's the operating name. So that's the good example of what you have to be careful of in a case like this.

So my Point of Order is that the member should maybe just change the phraseology of his question so that the witnesses can answer. They can't answer something that they don't have ownership lists of, and so on and so forth, and you can't ask them for their opinion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Curley, to the Point of Order.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, there wasn't any. The NNI Policy is not some insignificant document. It is a very clearly stated document based on the Inuit rights and Inuit owned provisions, and it calls for provisions in the Inuit lists of firms, whether or not various

bidders that are bidding for government tenders are really qualified to be given any points based on the fact of whether they will be asked to supply a service through the contractor, or subcontract work, or whatnot. So they are all listed in the provisions that we have on the table.

It's really clear that whoever is operating an airline, for instance, for medical travel in my region, which happens to be Calm Air, I know for a fact that they are not an Inuit firm according to this list. Therefore, I'm asking how in the world they get to be given Inuit firm points when they are not legally points. So I think we really don't need to debate this issue, we want to get on with dealing with the motion and the tabled document, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. I think you will have to rephrase your question. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, my question to the minister is: why did the government allow points to be awarded to a non-Inuit owned firm when they are acting as subcontractors or supporting contractors? It appears that the government was really, in a way, manipulating the various points that Inuit have an agreement with as to who should be awarded points. These are not technicalities really, these are very important clearly spelled out points.

So are you satisfied that the contract awarded by allowing technicalities to rule is the best way to go about awarding contracts at the expense of the patients that require emergencies to get to and from point A to B? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. McCulloch will respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. McCulloch.

Mr. McCulloch: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Excellent points about the NNI Policy. In the addendum that we issued, the NNI Policy focuses on Inuit content, labour of Inuit content, Inuit businesses that are dealt with, money that is exchanged with Inuit businesses, people that are employed by the various businesses.

And in the NNI Policy, in the bid adjustment addendum that we issued, we explained exactly how that would be evaluated. So in fact, it avoids people perhaps that play the policy just by a title and in fact, gave points and put weight on the actual Inuit content. So in fact, I do think that this is an excellent way to have evaluated it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I alluded to the advice that this government recommended at that time that you considered the minister before awarding the contracts to airlines regionally, that you would consider possible economic impacts to the local region as well as the existing airlines.

Are you satisfied, in hindsight, now that you have operated for approximately four months, so that economic benefits are turning out exactly as you had planned them? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Campbell would like to respond to the question, so I will allow him to do so. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The bottom line, in response to the member, is that we don't have that statistical information at this point in time. We have only been operating now for about four months into the New Year on the new arrangement.

We are, as a department, starting to work on putting in place the reporting of the schedules, who's taking what flights, and having regular reports done up by our regional office to monitor the use of the airlines, to make sure that the percentage that was allocated to the different airlines was being consistently followed and applied across the board.

At this point in time, I am not able to provide any information on the economic impact that the new arrangement has provided to Nunavummiut. I should also point out, just to reinforce, that there was never any scheduled medical contract in the Kivalliq region before April 1 of this year.

So we are, as a department, taking some of the comments, concerns, and questions that are being raised seriously because I think it's very important to monitor scheduled medical airlines, it's costing the government between \$24 million to \$25 million on an annual basis to deliver that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I think it's really important that, given the fact that I stated earlier, and it was factual whatever happened to various regions, particularly the Kivalliq region, that the economic impact be seriously considered and that it could potentially harm the local economy, I don't want you to minimize the fact that a medical contract is just a medical contract. It's an economic airline transportation policy of Nunavut.

Before the medical contracts were awarded to the various airlines in the Kivalliq, the airlines were all participating in the system because of the free competition. So that's the best arrangement. That was a free enterprise, complete free enterprise, without government intervention. Government intervention is not always positive.

And I believe I cautioned the government and the minister at that time that before you evaluate it, consider the potential impact. Are you satisfied that that potential impact was carried out? Was it considered? If you realigned and awarded contracts, there could be consequences. Was that actually part of the consideration taken in view of the fact that we did advise you in this House? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. McCulloch also respond to the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. McCulloch.

Mr. McCulloch: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Curley, for the question. I know that when the RFP document was drafted, the evaluation criteria did not specifically talk about economic development, this was for medical travel. However, I agree with you that there are benefits in having open market free competition, and in the interest of open market and free competition, we went to market and this was publicly advertised. Everyone had the same free open market opportunity to respond to this competitive process.

I believe that, as a competitive process, as far as economic development goes, we have seen in Nunavut one of the airlines, as a result of the competition, has expanded and hired more Inuit people, employed more staff, and are spending more money in Nunavut. I think that everybody has felt that.

But I will tell you that the evaluation criteria that were outlined in the document itself did not specifically talk about points for economic development because this was focused on health travel. However, we did believe and we understood that in the interest of free market and free competition, and we agree with you that free competition is important and that it has its benefits, and we do believe that we are receiving some of those benefits now. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. McCulloch. Recognizing the clock, as per Rule 6(1), I now recognize the clock and we will report progress.

Thank you, Minister and your staff.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Kattuk.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 39, Tabled Document 216 – 2(4), and now, we would like to report that Bill 39 is 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: Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Arvaluk. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 36 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No 4, 2007-2008 – Third Reading

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Quttiktuq, that Bill 36, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 4, 2007-2008*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 36 has had its third reading and is now ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister Tapardjuk.

Bill 37 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2007-2008 – Third Reading

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nanulik, that Bill 37, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2007-2008*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 37 has had its third reading and is now ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister Tapardjuk.

Bill 38 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2008-2009 – Third Reading

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for South Baffin, that Bill 38, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2008-2009*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 38 has had its third reading and is now ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. If there are no more, (interpretation ends) Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for September 12:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 42
 - Tabled Document 216 – 2(4)

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 39

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Friday, September 12, at 10:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:13*

