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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk

(South Baffin)

Minister of Environment; Minister of Health and Social Services

David Alagalak

(Arviat)

James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

Deputy Speaker; Chair of the Committee of the Whole

James Arvaluk

(Tununiq)

Hon. Levi Barnabas

(Quttiktuq)

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

Hon. Levinia Brown

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Peter Kattuk

(Hudson Bay)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Steve Mapsalak

(Akulliq)

Hon. Patterk Netser

(Nanulik)

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

Hon. Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

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

Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

Hon. Ed. Picco

(Iqaluit East)

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

David Simailak

(Baker Lake)

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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

Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

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Law Clerk
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Sergeant-at-Arms
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, September 12, 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 morning. Before we begin, I would like to ask Mr. Curley to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning, Premier, Ministers, Members, visitors in the Gallery and all Nunavummiut. I send my greetings to the residents of Qikiqtarjuaq. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Picco.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 211 – 2(4): Training Partnership with Baffinland Iron Ore Mine and Nunavut Arctic College

Hon. Ed. Picco (interpretation): Good morning, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce to the House that a Memorandum of Understanding, or MOU, between the Department of Education, Nunavut Arctic College and Baffinland Iron Ore Mine have been finalized. Mr. Speaker, this agreement will link together employment programs, training, apprenticeship and trades for the people of Nunavut. It was developed as part of the implementation of our Nunavut Community Skills Information System, or NCSIS, in the Qikiqtaaluk region this summer.

The objective, Mr. Speaker, of this MOU is to establish a partnership in developing a cooperative approach to education, labour force research and training around mine-related industries and activities in the Qikiqtaaluk region. Mr. Speaker, we have committed to working together to develop education and training programs. In addition to activities related to career planning, orientation and development for students and beneficiaries, this will build capacity and facilitate their acquisition of transferable skills.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education is working with the three regions to promote the development of employment and training programs associated with our mining sector. We have been working diligently to identify the appropriate means to cooperate and provide effective services to Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, this latest MOU will help ensure that more of our beneficiaries can take advantage of our territory's emerging economy by linking employment opportunities with the appropriate skills training.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Baffinland and Nunavut Arctic College for their commitment to helping Nunavummiut train and acquire skills here at home and for seeing the potential right here in Nunavut. I think, Mr. Speaker, we can all take pride in realizing our future successes. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 212 – 2(4): Wildlife Symposium Planned for Early 2009

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning, my colleagues. I am pleased to announce my department will be hosting a wildlife symposium for early 2009. The symposium is a direct result of concerns expressed by hunters, HTOs, RWOs and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated regarding certain practices being used for researching wildlife in Nunavut.

The broad goal of the symposium is reviewing and renewing the Nunavut wildlife co-management system and the relationship with our co-management partners. Discussions at this symposium will include: rebuilding trust and relationships; effective communication and consultation; wildlife handling and research methods; and balancing *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and science in a context of growing external scrutiny and pressure.

To make sure the development of this symposium in an open and collaborative manner, the planning and coordination will be done by a small steering committee consisting of delegates from the GN, the Wildlife Secretariat, NTI and the NWMB. However, we are anticipating a large number of interested parties will attend this multi-day symposium.

Mr. Speaker, I have always viewed the protection of Nunavut's wildlife as one of this government's most important priorities. With this symposium, we are taking steps to strengthen bridges between all concerned parties and to ensure the health of our wildlife will be strong for generations to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 213 – 2(4): Literary Book Prize

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I stand today in celebration of five successful consecutive years of Titiraliritti. In 2002, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth launched the Titiraliritti Nunavut Literary Prize to increase the amount of published material available in the Inuit language.

An annual thematic writing contest takes place with changing themes and prizes to encourage continual participation by Nunavummiut. The theme for 2007-08 was Kamaqut Unikkaat, (a strange event or an event that amazed you). Over 80 stories were submitted by youth and adult authors. Since the start of the program, CLEY has received more than 800 submissions.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce the publication of a commemorative book of the winning stories from the first five years of Titiraliritti. This published collection includes 22 stories written in themes including, but not limited to: humour, legends, and amazing stories. The launch will take place here at the Legislative Assembly at two o'clock this afternoon and we encourage the members to take these books authored by Nunavummiut to peruse at their leisure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Curley.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 522 – 2(4): Rethinking Polar Bear Management Practices

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the need to rethink something that has to do with wildlife and I would like to thank the minister for mentioning that in his Minister's Statement. We never used to think about all these rules that we have to follow today. These are the lessons that we learned from our parents: to respect the wildlife. I rise today to address the need to rethink existing polar bear management practices in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, although I have spoken clearly on many occasions on the need to ensure there are wildlife management practices that fully respect Inuit traditional knowledge, it is quite clear to me that more must be done.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we are approaching a crisis of trust and confidence between communities, HTOs, and government. Matters have reached to the point where leaders are now talking about civil disobedience.

Over the last several months, the Kivalliq has been deeply concerned about cuts in the total allowable harvest of polar bears in Western Hudson Bay. I will again say, Mr. Speaker, what I have said before: the minister should not accept any recommendations to cut quotas until we know how polar bears are counted. Mr. Speaker, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board has apparently written to the minister on this issue but hasn't received a response yet.

I'm glad that the government has stated that it will work to reduce the use of invasive wildlife research methods.

I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I thank my colleagues. Like I said, I for one call for a moratorium on the use of things such as helicopters and tranquilizers, especially because there are different types of things that are not very good for the polar bears. They should not use tranquilizers and helicopters anymore. The government will not be spending as much money on research as well.

Mr. Speaker, on August 28 of this year, the federal Minister of Environment called for a national roundtable discussion on polar bears. I believe that Inuit must be strongly represented as any such meeting because Inuit know best about their animals. This is the position that the President of ITK has taken.

Mr. Speaker, some voices have called for renewed efforts to establish mutual respect between the parties involved in wildlife management. Inuit should be involved because they know what's best for their animals. They should not have two cultures clashing. They should look for ways to look for better management practices in Nunavut. I would also like to thank the minister for making a statement on this issue. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 523 – 2(4): Terry Fox Head Shave

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As it is a Friday, I rise today to announce a light-headed affair, the annual Terry Fox Head Shave.

Today's fund-raising event will see four of Iqaluit's brave firefighters lose some of that extra weight above their ears as they face the barber at the Iqaluit Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, Iqaluit Firefighters Ian Parsons, Terry Rogers, Saul Tagak and Chris Rumsey will all lose their lovely locks of hair. The barber will be a former dispatcher with the Fire Department, Steven Baillie. I'm sure that's a duty that everyone wanted to do, so I congratulate him on being the successful person being able to do that. I'm sure he will enjoy himself very much. I would like to acknowledge the generous donation of time (and hair) to be made by these individuals.

Mr. Speaker, the Terry Fox organization plans and promotes a number of activities to raise funds for cancer research. This is the second year that this specific group of true Canadian heroes, firefighters and emergency personnel from across the country, have taken part in the head shave event. Last year, I believe about \$1 million was raised.

Mr. Speaker, today's head shave event will be held at two o'clock at the Iqaluit Fire Hall either in the parking lot or in the bay. Everyone is welcome to come out and watch and, of course, pledges and donations are welcomed to the Terry Fox program.

Mr. Speaker, if it is any consolation to the four firefighters who will no longer have that extra layer of insulation to keep them warm as the days get shorter and colder, at least they won't have to worry about the mosquitoes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Member's Statement 524 – 2(4): Kitikmeot Volunteer Firefighters

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate all of the Kitikmeot firefighters who attended the Level I Training course held in Cambridge Bay this summer.

Mr. Speaker, during two weeks in July, volunteer firefighters from Kitikmeot communities participated in firefighting training to learn vital new skills that will prepare them to effectively and safely respond to many types of fires. The two-week training program is in addition to the many hours of practice that they undergo in their home communities with their own fire departments.

Mr. Speaker, I attended the firefighters graduation banquet on July 31 and was extremely impressed by their enthusiasm and eagerness to serve their communities in what is likely the most dangerous and life-threatening volunteer position in any community. I was very proud to accept and wear the firefighters T-shirt that they presented to me.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, being a firefighter is a dangerous occupation and there is no guarantee that when a firefighter responds to a blaze that they will escape serious injury, or possibly even death. They are aware of the inherent risks of their volunteer profession. Nevertheless, they are willing to assume this risk for the greater good of their communities.

Mr. Speaker, the firefighters in my community of Cambridge Bay are a very well-trained and motivated group. Our community owes much to them for the security and comfort that they give us while we live in our homes and work in our businesses.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years our Cambridge Bay firefighters have responded to two major fires that threatened vital facilities. In the first incident, they saved our community hall to the extent that it was able to be repaired within a year. Last year, in a second incident, they saved our brand new Kitikmeot Health Facility and it was back in operation in six weeks. The loss of either or both of these buildings would have been devastating to our community.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut must continue to invest in firefighters training, modern equipment, and upgraded facilities. The Government of Nunavut should ensure that volunteer firefighters receive adequate workers' compensation coverage and life insurance effective from the moment they leave home to respond to a fire or to take training to the moment when they return home.

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

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

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

I was also pleased to note the commitment in this year's Budget Address which indicated that volunteer firefighters in Nunavut will be able to take advantage of a tax credit of \$500 starting January 1 of this year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in recognizing the volunteer firefighters in Cambridge Bay and throughout the Kitikmeot and Nunavut who make our communities safe places to live.

I would also like to acknowledge and recognize Assistant Fire Marshall Robert Tremblay and his training staff who organize and facilitate the firefighter training in the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Question 623 – 2(4): Tax Issues

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to respond to Member Tootoo's question regarding the progress of the implementation of tax initiatives introduced in Budget 2008.

Three initiatives that I announced will be included as part of the 2008 Nunavut Income Tax and Benefit Guide. Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut will receive these credits when they file their 2008 tax returns.

Those credits are:

- An increase in the pension amount from \$1,000 to \$2,000;
- A \$500 tax credit for volunteer firefighters; and
- A textbook tax credit for students of \$65 per month for full-time students and \$20 per month for part-time students.

Mr. Speaker, a fourth tax incentive is the Business Training Tax Credit. That tax initiative requires consultation with the industry itself. Those consultations will begin this month. We are hopeful that this initiative too will be in place for 2008.

To ensure Nunavummiut enjoy tax incentives as early as possible, Mr. Speaker, it is not unusual for legislative amendments to the *Income Tax Act* to lag behind implementation. That is the case here. The initiatives are in place now for the 2008 taxation year and we expect the legislative changes to be introduced in the First Session of the Third Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure this morning to introduce to the Gallery a very distinguished group of individuals who are here in Nunavut on some economic opportunity that may present itself over the coming months, especially on this occasion when we just announced this morning on the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, or MOU, with Baffinland.

So with us today, Mr. Speaker, and join with me in welcoming to the Gallery, first of all, Mr. Gord McCreary, who is the President and CEO, he needs no introduction to the people here in this House, of Baffinland from Toronto.

>> *Applause*

We also have with us Rod Cooper and Rod is the Vice-President of Operations and also the Chief Operating Office for Baffinland in Toronto. Ron, welcome.

>> *Applause*

We also have Al Gorman from Baffinland's office in Toronto. Al, who is with us.

>> *Applause*

We have Len Kutchaw and Len is here, the Director of Health and Safety for Baffinland in Toronto. Len, welcome.

>>Applause

And another guy who needs no introduction, he was a long-term resident of Pond Inlet and lived in the north for a long time, Mr. Sean Maloney, who is the Manager of Business Development from Baffinland in Toronto. Welcome, Sean.

>>Applause

Baffinland invited several financiers and bankers from the international community to come forward and come up to Nunavut. And this is the third trip they have done with different bankers, so I would like take this opportunity to welcome a group of bankers that are here from all over the world.

So, Mr. Speaker, starting off with Mr. Michael Frilegh, who is a Consultant for Baffinland in Toronto.

>>Applause

Tim Lwin, who is with the Economic Development Corporation out of Ottawa. Tim, welcome.

>>Applause

Alexis Johnson from the Economic Development Corporation, from Ottawa.

>>Applause

Wolfgang Behler and he's with the KfW-IPEX Bank, one of the largest banks in the world from Frankfurt, Germany. Thank you.

>>Applause

Donald Carrillo and Donald is from Caterpillar Financial out of Nashville Tennessee. Welcome, Donald.

>>Applause

We have Hugh Rowan-Legg from GE Commercial Finance out of Toronto. Welcome.

>>Applause

We also have Remco Van de Walter from ING, “Hands in your pocket,” some of us remember that...

>>*Laughter*

... from New York City, New York. Welcome.

>>*Applause*

We have Steve Kelley from the Bank of Montreal in Toronto.

>>*Applause*

Robert Dyck from West LB in Toronto.

>>*Applause*

And we have Cyril Amadi from West LB, London, England.

>>*Applause*

And we also have Roch Ledoux from the National Bank of Canada in Montreal.

>>*Applause*

Welcome to the Gallery.

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 642 – 2(4): Requirements of Photo Identification for the Federal Election

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a very short question about some concerns in our community. The federal general election will be held October 14, 2008. This is in regard to the new requirements for photo identification in federal elections. This morning when I was having a discussion with the elders, they raised concerns about the issue as they were concerned that they may be unable to vote since they don't have any photo ID for the federal election.

Due to this reason, as well as this requirement for photo ID, this legislation may prevent many Inuit from exercising their democratic right to vote due to the fact that many communities don't have the photo ID equipment. It's (interpretation ends) very simple, Photo ID is a piece of cake, you know, (interpretation) the photo ID can be produced quite readily.

Therefore, based on this premise, my question to the Premier is: can the Premier indicate to the House if he raised this photo ID issue with the appropriate federal authorities? I raise this because we have a limited number of days prior to the federal election. Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This requirement is not cast in stone and there are several options available. You can be vouched for by an eligible voter even if you don't have a photo ID. But yes, we were concerned about the issue of requiring photo ID in federal elections. It's out of our control as it is a federal issue. I'm sure that we will iron out the kinks after this election. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very briefly, right now, we have a concern. If it's going to be a federal requirement, there are a lot of elders out there who do not have photo IDs. A lot of the younger people do have photo IDs but not the elders. Could the Premier assure the House if he could bring up this issue with his counterparts? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, it's not too late for eligible voters to get photo IDs in the majority of the communities. We have an office that they can call. We can also get the assistance from the hamlet councils to make sure that all eligible voters exercise their democratic right to vote. It's not too late to acquire photo IDs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 643 – 2(4): Dust Control in Smaller Communities

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning. I send my regards to the people of Baker Lake.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services and it is regarding dust control on roads. In my community of Baker Lake, Mr. Speaker, increased economic activity has resulted in more vehicles on the roads, thereby creating even more dust.

In June of this year, the minister told the House that she could look into whether the \$48,000 that is currently provided by her department to communities for dust control is

adequate to meet actual needs. Can the minister update this House and the people of Baker Lake on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the member is correct; there is a program in place for the communities of Nunavut. The minister is correct; there is \$48,000 in place for the funding of dust control.

Yes, I am also investigating if, in fact, we could get further funding because the \$48,000 amount is no longer sufficient for some communities as the communities are growing. In fact, my staff are talking with the federal government to see if we can add to that funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. The health issues associated with breathing in significant quantities of road dust are of concern to me and the people of Baker Lake. Can the minister advise the House today what steps she has taken since June to work with the Departments of Health, Environment, and Economic Development and Transportation to address this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) The member is correct; it is about concern of this government. I will have to talk with the other departments and we will be required to do a study. I will be working with the Department of Health and other departments because this is a concern and we would like to make sure that something is done about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 644 – 2(4): Political Interference in Criminal Justice

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Justice.

Mr. Speaker, last March, I asked him some questions about comments that were aired on the radio in February about the allegations of political interference in a certain issue regarding a supervisor. Someone had testified in court that their supervisor had pushed to seek imprisonment of someone because an unidentified politician was pressuring them.

At the time, Mr. Speaker, the minister had indicated that he would get back to us and I think we all agree that whenever allegations of political interference are made, it's very serious. He had indicated at that time last March that he would notify the Members of this

House on that investigation. So I'm just wondering if the minister could update us on that now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Justice, Honourable Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm sorry for not getting back to the House earlier, but I wanted a thorough investigation to assure myself that there's no interference and it was found that there's no such interference from any elected official from this House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate, through his investigation, if there was identity to the unidentified politician that was alleged to have put that pressure on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, there's no such pressure coming from this House, so there's no politician from this House involved. So that's what the extent of the investigation was, to assure this House that there is no such pressure coming from any elected official from our Assembly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the minister will recall in February that someone had testified in court and he had indicated last March that they were getting the transcripts for that. Can he indicate if he reviewed that and if those allegations were actually made in the courts or not after they reviewed the transcripts that they were waiting for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, there is no one that can make a claim in any court. We would assure ourselves that any claims that may be in court have to be looked at very seriously and that's what took place with our officials. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From that response, if anyone can make a claim or allegation, it would indicate that that allegation was made in court, and I would assume under oath or whatever. Can the minister indicate how they determined or looked into the

fact of whether or not those allegations were, in fact, valid or not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I had my staff review this as I took it very seriously and they interviewed the parties that had any role in this entire affair. And it was assured to me that no such influence took place from any elected official from this House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 645 – 2(4): Critical Housing Shortage in Cambridge Bay

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

Mr. Speaker, Cambridge Bay has a critical housing shortage that's placing tremendous pressures on our individuals and families. I have written to the minister about this problem. Mr. Speaker, overcrowding is a serious issue and years on the waiting list is not uncommon in Cambridge Bay. Some people have been on the waiting list for two or three years.

Mr. Speaker, under the Nunavut Housing Trust, Cambridge Bay is supposed to receive 33 units over three years beginning last year. My question for the minister: can the minister inform the House and the people of Cambridge Bay when the 33 units will be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We continue to implement the \$200 million Nunavut Housing Trust which we received from the federal government and we have allocated to his community according to the tenants within the community. As for when we will finish the construction allocated for the community of Cambridge Bay, we hope to do it by the end of next summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's answer, but Mr. Speaker, the construction of the first five-plex in Cambridge Bay took one year, where I believe there are going to be five five-plexes. The construction of that five-plex began on August 1, 2007 and tenants only began moving in August 2008, so there are four more five-plexes.

The minister indicated that the construction would be all completed by next summer, so you can obviously see there's a long construction period in Cambridge Bay for five-plexes. I'm wondering if the minister can explain to the House why it is taking so long to construct the Nunavut Housing Trust Units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are experiencing difficulties in other communities in terms of the construction of the Nunavut Housing Trust program, but other communities are doing much better. We continue to work with the LHOs on delivering the program.

As I've said, some communities are doing well, others are not, but we hope to get 47 journeypersons out of this program and we will continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the answer. Mr. Speaker, I think we all recognize that training and employment is important and helpful to our communities, but there's a need to balance that training and employment against the health and social wellbeing of the residents of our communities. I'm very concerned in Cambridge Bay, I have many constituents who come to me on a weekly basis asking for help and wondering why we can't provide more housing.

I understand that the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation was in Cambridge Bay earlier this year and he met with the local developers to discuss how to construct the houses faster in the housing market.

I'm wondering if the minister could explain to the House and myself what plans the Nunavut Housing Corporation has to speed up construction and delivery of housing in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said previously, we are continuing to implement the Nunavut Housing Trust program and we want to spend as much money as we can within the communities so that the beneficiaries will benefit from this program.

We continue to work with the LHOs to try and speed up the construction program but we are having difficult issues with people coming to work, etcetera. So we continue to work with the LHOs. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Cambridge Bay, there are four or five developers who hire a lot of local people as trades people and as labourers, and they have invested significantly in their businesses to construct houses and office buildings.

I would suggest to the minister that a lot of the economic benefits from the Nunavut Housing Trust would flow to the community of Cambridge Bay if the Nunavut Housing Corporation was to remove some of the restrictions on this type of project and tendered the contracts out, at least some of it, not all of it. There are five units, maybe two of them could be training units and three could be tendered out in the private sector.

My question for the minister: can the minister indicate if the Nunavut Housing Corporation has considered tendering out construction with some of the five-plexes and removing construction restrictions to speed up delivery in Cambridge Bay, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This summer, I believe we are going to put \$11 million into the pockets of Nunavummiut and it's never been done before. We will continue to work with the LHOs into delivering the Nunavut Housing Trust program. Thank you.

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

Question 646 – 2(4): Status of Two Five-Plex Housing Units for Sanikiluaq

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

In January of this year, the minister wrote me a letter in which he indicated that two five-plexes, or units, were scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2008. Can the minister update me today on the status of construction of Sanikiluaq's new public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just looking at the Sanikiluaq... my apologies, Mr. Speaker. According to my briefings, the Sanikiluaq one five-plex, which was constructed in 2006-07, is occupied at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Occupied? My next question: can the minister indicate to me how many residents of Sanikiluaq have obtained employment or

apprenticeship opportunities with this year's public housing construction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said before that we are hoping to produce up to 47 journeypersons out of this program. As per individual community, I do not get into details of how many people we have in terms of apprenticeship programs. That is something I can get from the corporation as I do not get into details of that scope of work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. My next question: concerns have been raised with me about the design of the new five-plex units. I understand that some people would like to see eaves installed over the doorways in order to protect residents and their children from ice falling. However, I have been told that building codes may not allow this. Will the minister commit to having his officials review this issue and get back to me with their findings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are very concerned over the safety of our tenants, so I can commit to the member to addressing his concerns with the staff. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Our harsh arctic environment requires that our housing be suited to winter. Can the minister indicate to me how the Nunavut Housing Corporation works with local residents to ensure that public housing designs are suited to the needs of the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I think we have been around long enough to address the needs of the tenants and indeed, across Nunavut, I understand we have won the award for best design in terms of efficiency, etcetera. And I think we have done really well in terms of addressing energy needs within our Housing Corporation programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 647 – 2(4): Dilapidated Office Building in Kugaaruk

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, I raised a question to the minister in regard to the government office in Kugaaruk where I identified that this building was dilapidated and past its useful life. It is unacceptable due to its age and the building requires many renovations.

When I posed the question to the minister, I requested that the minister provide a written response while we were still in session. I have yet to see any correspondence on this matter. Has the minister looked into the matter that I was raising? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking the question. With respect to the issue, it was raised after we had completed the capital plan. The community of Kugaaruk will have to be reviewed so that we can include that building replacement in the next capital plan. We were working on the immediate replacement requirements for the community and this project was not included in the initial list of capital items.

There were quite a number of items that required replacement or renovation and we also have to adhere to federal regulations applicable to each item. Further, some of these items are ineligible for inclusion into the plan, but we are continuing to work with the community and others as we are inundated with more requests for office replacements than we have funding for.

There are many communities in the same boat with old buildings that require replacement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, to reiterate the scenario, I had asked if her departmental staff could inspect the building or to work with the community via correspondence on the issue.

Has the minister tasked any of her officials to deal with this issue or to inspect the building? It definitely requires renovation as I have visited the office several times and it's quite old when you walk in. The roof leaks and it has quite a number of issues to remedy. Has she tasked any of her officials to conduct an inspection of the hamlet office building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the issue the member has raised, I will commit my staff from the regional office to go and inspect that building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her commitment to conduct an inspection. Is there a possibility of receiving the names of her staff who will conduct this investigation of the office building in Kugaaruk immediately after this sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will inform both the Hamlet of Kugaaruk as well as my senior regional staff of CGS about this issue. The regional staff are the ones that travel to their outlying communities and I will ask them to prepare for a community visit. I will ensure that the member receives a copy of the correspondence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 648 – 2(4): Update on GN Policy on Smoking in Apartment Buildings

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, in May of this year, I asked the minister some important questions on the issue of the GN's policy on smoking in apartment buildings, the effects of second-hand smoke in particular.

I would like to thank Nunavummiut who, although they smoke, are now aware of the effects of second-hand smoke inside of a building and many of them now smoke outside. We thank them as they are assisting us to deal with the hazards associated with smoking.

At that time, I indicated to the minister that concerns have been brought to my attention by residents of Rankin Inlet who have been suffering from second-hand smoke in their units, in particular elders and children. Due to these reasons, the minister stated that there was no government policy in place to ban smoking in those apartment buildings.

However, I told the minister that they could deliberate on other options and a prime example of that are hotels, where they have certain floors which are non-smoking. Can the minister update me on any developments, if any, since the minister agreed to look into the matter? Have you dealt with this issue already? Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those units that you were referring to, the units of NCC or Northern Properties, are owned by these businesses and as such, are subject to their rules and procedures. We can, as a government, inform them that we prefer all the units to be non-smoking units and which we have indicated as our preference. However, since they are private businesses, it is up to them to adhere to the regulations. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Just recently, we heard the government allocates funding to the communities for healthy communities and quality-of-life programming. For this reason, this policy ought not to apply only to workplaces.

The government already has the power to deal with the workplaces and they have regulations in place for them. I will use the House as an example. This building is not owned by the government, it is leased by the government. With respect to these apartment buildings, the government also leases these units. The government has the power to enact regulations or policies and make it voluntary for the owners to adhere to these policies.

As I stated earlier, many Inuit are already voluntarily smoking outside of their homes because the government is not pushing for non-smoking policies in workplaces. Second-hand smoke is quite foul and unhealthy, especially for younger children. I was informed that within these apartments, the corridor as well as the utilidor stank of cigarette smoke and it enters non-smoking units.

Perhaps the government can reflect on their options, especially if you are going to be leasing or renting buildings and ask that the non-smoking policy be followed. Even the ability to choose a non-smoking unit would improve the situation. So I would like the government to look at their options and allow the people to have choices. Can the minister agree to look into this matter further? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps when we are renewing or signing new lease agreements, we can request that this policy be followed and this will alleviate some of the issues our people are facing. I also am in agreement with the member's position that smokers ought not to smoke inside buildings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 649 – 2(4): Update on Investigation of Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Files by RCMP

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

Mr. Speaker, another issue that has been ongoing for some time now is we know that the Comptroller General referred files relating to the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation to the RCMP to review. I'm just wondering if the Minister of Finance can give us any update as to where that investigation is at. Have they heard anything from the RCMP on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Finance, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's still under investigation and it was initiated in November 2007. The RCMP investigation is still ongoing, so I can't provide an update on this file at this time. All I can say is that this process is not completed yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't expect the minister to respond on the investigation itself, I'm just saying, have they had any meetings? Is he aware if any of his officials had any meetings with the RCMP recently in regard to that investigation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, our staff have had ongoing meetings with the RCMP investigators and as a matter of fact, in July 2008, there was a final meeting on the issues. However, since these matters are still under investigation, I don't foresee an immediate conclusion to the investigation and it's still open until they have submitted their findings on the file. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the minister had indicated that the officials from their department met with the RCMP in July. I'm just wondering if he could indicate if they gave his officials or his department any idea of when they expect to have this investigation completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The consequences of that meeting you refer to led to more files being requested for their investigation, as well as more documentation for review. We have submitted the files they requested at this time.

We cannot even say with any certainty when this investigation will be completed at this time. The RCMP investigation still has to go through the legal system and all I can say with any certainty is that the investigation is still ongoing. I don't even have a timeline as to when this matter will be closed, but this is an ongoing matter and that is all I can say, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response. There's no control over an RCMP investigation, but I'm just wondering, I know we're all finished up here probably some time next week and the minister still remains the minister until the new Assembly comes in, if something does come in between now and then while he's still the minister responsible, would he inform or make sure that that information gets out there to the public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the NBCC, they have their own board structure as well as being a standalone corporation. In regard to the investigation, the government will wait patiently for the results.

The NBCC board will have to review the matter upon the completion of the investigation prior to the government receiving the file. I imagine that the NBCC board would, upon being apprised of the findings of the investigation, notify the minister responsible for the file.

I can only say with some certainty that this matter will be divulged when the NBCC board has made their decision with respect to the investigation. I presume that they would work with the minister on their options and the consequences to the corporation, and they are the ones who will have to resolve this issue, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 650 – 2(4): Update on New School for Sanikiluaq

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

This morning, I wanted to raise this matter immediately since what I have to say is important. I'm trying to speak slowly and perhaps if I were to speak at my natural dialectal speed, then perhaps the minister can respond with the same speed.

I want it noted that our dialects are different here in Nunavut and I enjoy the different dialects being spoken. As an example, *Alianaigijara* is translated as 'I find it very funny,' and *Aliagijara* is translated as 'scared or afraid,' but it means the opposite in my dialect. I would like to clarify the words later on

However, with respect to some of my questions to the minister, he generally responds, but he has yet to respond to me today on a question I posed earlier which my constituents want more details on. The people in my community are wondering about the new school and I would appreciate the minister updating myself and my constituents on the status of the new school Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Indeed, I would like to try to use different dialects and words, and I would say that I am very *Aliasuk* to answer the member's question. I'm not scared or afraid, but happy. Hopefully the member would understand that.

Mr. Speaker, we have moved forward and I'm very pleased to say that myself and the Premier had an opportunity to be in the member's community this past June for their graduation in Sanikiluaq, but also to begin the process of the building of our new school in Sanikiluaq, and indeed, we actually did a little bit of work with shovels and put a sign up to indicate that the school is moving forward.

I want to thank the member, indeed, for his hard work on behalf and for the people of Sanikiluaq, not just on the school but over the last several years, as MLA and as a minister representing the community.

The school is moving forward and everything is on schedule, it is my understanding, so we're quite pleased with the activity. The new school for Sanikiluaq should be completed and ready for the students in 2010. That gives us the timeframe of a year and a half to have the building completed and turned over to the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't quite understand, he said that the school will be completed in 2010. My question is: when is the construction going to be started? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The majority of the materials for the school itself will be arriving on the ship next year. Construction would be starting in earnest in

the summer of 2009, in less than 11 months. The construction schedule that will be followed, indeed, the construction should take place between a 12 and 14-month period and thus, be in place and ready for occupancy in early 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 651 – 2(4): Update on Assistance for Bathurst Inlet and Umingmaktok

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

Mr. Speaker, I have stood in this House on several occasions over the life of this Assembly to ask the minister about her department's support to communities like Umingmaktok and Bathurst Inlet. Last winter, the minister indicated to me that she would look at how the Government of Nunavut could help the two communities.

My question for the minister: I'm wondering if the minister could update the House on what activities her department has taken since last winter to help the two communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To update the Member for Cambridge Bay, our senior staff in the Kitikmeot region have, in fact, gone to meet with both communities, Umingmaktok and the other community. I have the minutes of those meetings that were held and I could share them with the member and give them to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. I would sure like those minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I visited both communities in August and I heard from the people of those communities that they're disappointed that the Government of Nunavut calls them outpost camps. I noted in the minister's response to me that she referred to them as communities, so that's a good sign.

My question for the minister: can the minister inform the House exactly when the two communities went from unorganized community status under the Government of the Northwest Territories to outpost status under the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I meant to say they're referred to as unorganized communities in our policy within the GN in the place for recognizing unincorporated communities that may exist in Nunavut. There is also no mechanism in place for municipal services in any unincorporated community within Nunavut at this time. Also, the *Hamlet Act* does not allow for incorporated communities with less than 25 adults. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's candidness. I'm fully aware of what the *Hamlet Act* says, but under the Government of the Northwest Territories, they were recognized as unorganized communities. They had special status and they were provided with a level of funding assistance for their community needs. When Nunavut became Nunavut, they suddenly became outpost camps when the government developed their policies.

My question for the minister and I asked her about it last winter: can the minister indicate if the Government of Nunavut is developing a policy similar to the unorganized communities policy that would recognize the special status of communities with populations of under 50 or under 25 people? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut, as I mentioned, has no policy at this time in place for recognizing unincorporated communities that may exist in Nunavut, nor is there any policy or programs for funding municipal or government services in unincorporated communities.

CGS does deliver fuel oil to those places. However, we need to talk with other government departments, which may be the Housing Corporation and also possibly the Department of Health. We are doing our utmost to make sure they have fuel oil in those two places and that has been ongoing from the perspective of our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister again for that information. Mr. Speaker, there was a nice story in *Nunatsiaq News* this summer about Bathurst Inlet. If you have an opportunity to read it, I encourage you to read it.

The people there believe in their communities. They are very upset and offended by the fact that they're referred to as outpost camps, and I think the minister probably recognizes that. There is an Act, there is the law, and there is what people think. In the Kitikmeot, the people think these two communities are communities and they need help.

We're very concerned, with the lack of ongoing help and annual assistance that is guaranteed, that people are going to move away from those communities. It's already happening in Bathurst Inlet this year. In the upcoming year, I don't think there is going to be anybody there and that's unheard of in the history of the community.

I'm wondering if the minister could tell me today if she will commit to developing a policy similar to an unorganized communities policy that will provide a guaranteed level of funding annually to the communities of Bathurst Inlet and Umingmaktok. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Member, for raising those issues. I would like to refer to my briefing notes because this year alone, the situation has changed.

Representatives from Health and Social Services, CG&S Department, DOE, EDT, and the Housing Corporation flew to Bathurst Inlet on August 28 of this year to discuss concerns with community members. However, weather did not permit them to visit Bay Chimo. At this time, it was determined that Bathurst Inlet will not be inhabited during the coming winter. Community members plan to relocate elsewhere for the upcoming cold winter months and returning in the spring of 2009.

I think the member's questions are valid. However, I alone cannot make a decision to make that policy; I need the other departments to make that decision with me. I brought this proposal to my colleagues on the Cabinet and I would still have to talk to the Cabinet. However, maybe the next government will have a more promising situation for the Member for Cambridge Bay and I thank him very much for always representing those two places. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 652 – 2(4): Responsibility of Uninhabitable Units

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

Mr. Speaker, my question is about government staff houses that are leased. Once they're not leased anymore, who becomes responsible for those units? Are they still under the responsibility of the Housing Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very nice to be called honourable. Houses that are rented by the Housing Corporation are put under lease agreements only when they are ready. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I didn't make myself sufficiently clear. In Repulse Bay, there was a unit rented by the government and part of it is used as an office. This unit is now unusable and is now boarded up as it is uninhabitable. When units or buildings become unusable, who assumes responsibility for the disposition of those units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) In regard to the Repulse Bay unit, I was told that this building cannot be occupied due to safety hazards. I haven't been told what the status of that is to date, but all I know is that the building has been closed due to safety reasons. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister get back to me and give me an update on what will be happening with this unit? We will have to be prepared to dismantle it before the winter. Could the minister assure me if he can give me a response so that we can be prepared to do something about it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can provide the member with that information. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Question 653 – 2(4): Secure Young Offenders' Facility

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have another follow-up question to the Minister of Justice.

Last spring, I was asking questions to him regarding the young offenders' facility here and he had indicated that they were looking at different options and trying to work out a solution. They were looking at options to determine how to ensure that we have a secure facility here in Nunavut for young offenders. I'm just wondering if the minister could give us an update on that situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Justice, Honourable Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I said, I'm committed to ensuring that the facility remains open and that it's operational for young offenders here in our territory.

I'm committed for this term where I have control, but at the same time, we're juggling inmates. I believe we have about 75 inmates outside the territory, so it's a real challenge to try to manage this issue for the territory, but it's something that we will continue to work on. I hope that we can move quickly on a women's facility and we're working away on the Rankin Inlet facility.

So it's something that will require ongoing attention for future governments.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Premier. It's unfortunate that we need those facilities and that they are full.

Just in his response, I know one of the concerns that was raised that I questioned him on before was the fact that they were looking at turning the current young offenders' facility into space for adult offenders from BCC. I believe he just indicated that is not something they're planning on doing, they're planning on keeping the young offenders facility a young offenders' facility. So could I just get confirmation on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We can't bind future governments. As I said, I'm committed to making sure that we have a young offenders' facility here in our territory and that the current facility will remain that way during our term. I cannot make decisions on behalf of the future governments.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 654 – 2(4): Changing Scientific Methods Currently Practiced in Nunavut

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

We all know that Inuit are saying, in the Inuit way, they know that there is a danger out there with regards to the wildlife that is being studied. We have a lot of differences in our opinion on doing research on animals. For that reason, can the minister state whether the department would be involved in wildlife research? If they are involved in wildlife research, perhaps the minister can come up with a better way of determining wildlife populations. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) We will commit to helping the people of Nunavut and the people who do studies on wildlife. We will make sure that we follow the rules that we have set out with regards to conducting research on wildlife and to involve the NWMB and wildlife organizations in the communities.

As the Department of Environment, we will make sure that the information is out there, that when there are people conducting studies on animals or research on animals, they respect the Inuit, the HTOs, and other organizations. We will be writing to make sure that it's followed. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand that there's going to be a meeting, but I'm saying that the government should provide some funding to use next year for polar bear studies and it has to be approved in January.

What I'm trying to say, Mr. Minister, is that Nunavummiut have to have a leader with regards to wildlife studies. It is high time that consultations or further rounds of discussions are stopped since it's quite obvious that Inuit and scientists are in complete disagreement about the matter. This is a core disagreement between *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and Western Science on the proper method of conducting polar bear studies.

Inuit completely disagree with the current method of using a helicopter to chase down the bear, shoot it with a tranquilizer dart, even if they are on pack ice. These scientists may not be totally aware that the ice the bear is on is moving since that is not their field of expertise. For that reason, why are you reticent to put a stop to this abhorrent practice? You can provide leadership on this matter since that is part of your mandate: to deal with wildlife matters.

What we are recommending here, or rather, I am recommending, that this practice be stopped and the funding not approved for projects utilizing these methodologies where they use helicopters for surveys. Can this be included in this review? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to this matter, we have discussed the recommendations put forward as a result of that meeting, and I would like to come to a common understanding as to how we can conduct these types of surveys.

Additionally, we work with NWMB on these matters and we try to come up with the best possible practices when reviewing wildlife surveys. We also receive recommendations from the NWMB outlining their preferred methodology for these surveys, including conditions. As the minister, I also have to include these recommendations in my review of these projects and my staff also submit their briefing notes on the issues, but I generally tend to place more weight on recommendations stemming from the board.

With respect to possibilities of changing the methodology of wildlife surveys, perhaps if we deliberated on just this one issue and come up with a Nunavut-wide policy, it would be easier to deal with this matter once the majority support or recommend a new method. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the meeting has to occur first, but this is a glorious opportunity to provide leadership based on the minister's mandate. The minister ought not to just meet with NWMB or the regional wildlife organizations, or to consult solely with these bodies.

Many Inuit have expressed their concerns about this matter and Nunavummiut have stated that the minister ought not to rely solely on western scientific methods and this was a statement I heard as a radio excerpt. The person on the radio implored the minister to listen to the people and if you were to listen to their concerns, then you would probably make this statement.

Wildlife cannot be mistreated during research surveys and we know that invasive research procedures result in deaths or affect the animals in such a way as to affect their survival. I have been told by many Inuit hunters that they spot polar bears that are suffering trauma and cannot relax at the time of day they were tranquilized. One hunter observed a bear that was very trepid and that could not relax for a week, and this was during the summer.

However, this government does not include these animals in their population survey. They do not count the animals that are affected, only the ones that are successfully tagged and captured. This is not fair. If you are going to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, then you have to stop funding invasive research practices. Will you commit to not funding these invasive research practices? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are under the microscope, as it were, with the whole world commenting on the practices used for polar bear research and management.

I had an opportunity to present the position of Nunavut on polar bears to the federal committee looking into the status of the bears. I also met with my federal counterpart to

ensure that he understood the position of Nunavut and Inuit. He understood a lot more of the issues revolving around polar bears after my meeting with him.

With respect to the invasive research practices, I know we have room to improve the methodology. As my colleague just pointed out, the issue requires all of the parties to work together to come to a common understanding and I don't wish to pursue this unilaterally. I also know that my staff recommend options such as alternative practices.

We understand the Inuit position in regard to the practice that they abhor, but polar bear research allows us to be able to present data and it shows the world that we are serious about managing our population. We have had lobbyists putting pressure on the government to improve our methods for population surveys, so I cannot ascertain exactly what will happen but I can assure you that all options will eventually be explored. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand where the minister is coming from, but to date, with respect to *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, the government is haphazardly incorporating IQ, seemingly without any plan or direction.

With respect to IQ and polar bears, many Inuit have stated that their observations lead them to conclude that many populations are too numerous and that this is affecting the bears. I believe in my fellow Inuit and their observations because they are discussing actual observations.

Due to this reason, the world knows about the Inuit position as it relates to polar bears, but the scientists dismiss this knowledge outright. That is the reason why the international committees that meet to discuss polar bears are also irrelevant to Inuit. This irrelevancy is why Inuit forego scientific methods. If you were to utilize *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in these matters, then the world will have no choice but to acknowledge this base of knowledge.

The internationally accepted survey methods seem to be the only methodology this government will undertake, but the invasiveness of the helicopters and tranquilizers is the reason why Inuit do not always believe the data. These methods are counter to Inuit ways of wildlife management. Due to this reason, I would ask that you defend Inuit and their beliefs strongly. Can you commit to utilizing more Inuit including elders and not just the wildlife organizations? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Our government is committed to resolving this issue and further, in the coming months, we will be meeting with the elders' committee once the elections have been held and the Executive Council is appointed.

The Department of Environment will work with this committee and there will be an advisory body that will deal with these issues. In my opinion, the elders will contribute greatly to our department when we are discussing wildlife matters.

As well, the advisory committee, which ought to have a different name since the connotation is that this is only a committee, will be a body comprised entirely of respected elders and I believe that they will make a big difference to our government and to incorporate more *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* into our government practices in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please be aware that 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. 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. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 42, Tabled Document 216 – 2(4) with Mr. Kattuk in the Chair.

Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, we will break for lunch and I ask members to return at 12:45.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:39 and Committee resumed at 12:59*

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

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The wish is to continue the review of Tabled Document 216 – 2(4) and if time permits today, onto Bill 42. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Tabled Document 216 – 2(4)?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is my Deputy Minister, David Akeagok, of CGS, and on my right is the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, Alex Campbell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Are there any questions on the Tabled Document 216 – 2(4)? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the minister and her officials, including Mr. Akeagok and Mr. Campbell.

Yesterday, during my questions, I indicated to the committee that this committee of the Assembly, during the winter session, advised the minister and that it was the best we could do as we don't have an influence as to how the policies of the government are developed. We did consider that the medical travel contract was a very important government instrument to have an impact on the air transportation policy.

In view of that, I cautioned the government at that time that the minister, including I believe the officials or whoever was considering in shaping up this contract, it is, in my opinion, one of the most important policy initiatives that could have negative or positive impacts and in many respects, could have a tremendous impact, even negatively, on the economy as a whole. So I believe that's what happened.

The official, Mr. McCulloch, indicated to me that they did not specifically talk about economic development when they were evaluating the process and the criteria that were provided to these sets of contracts. But I cautioned them long before the criteria was developed that they should take into account the potential impact on the economy as a whole because, in view of the lack of policy in air transportation by this government, the medical contract is, in a sense and in my opinion, what drives the economic air transportation policy.

So Mr. McCulloch indicated to me that things were going so great after they awarded the contract that one airline expanded staff, expanded services, and so on, and things were

going great. Could the minister indicate to us exactly which region is benefiting from that contract and expanding staff and services? I haven't seen it in my region. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's quite premature to evaluate the success of the medical contract because it's only been four months. If Mr. McCulloch has stated those, I think I can believe him very well because, in fact, one of the airlines had announced their added routes in an earlier part of the contracts. So we know of that for sure because of the announcement that was made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I was really seeking clarification because I quote Mr. McCulloch saying exactly this, "... 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." What I'm saying is, Mr. Chairman, I haven't felt that in the Kivalliq, so I wanted to know exactly where that good news story is actually happening. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My Deputy Minister, Mr. Akeeagok, will respond to that, please. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The airline increases that we have seen have been throughout the territory.

Some of the communities that have benefited are Cambridge Bay, Igloolik, and Iqaluit that will see three more flights a week. The connection between Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet are now five days a week. There are increases in flight frequencies in Igloolik, Nanisivik, Pangnirtung, and Pond Inlet. There is also new scheduled service, which is three times a week, between Winnipeg and Sanikiluaq. Also, new services are out of Baker Lake and Arviat that have started as a result of these components to this medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that information, Mr. Chairman. During our discussion yesterday on the free market aspect of the medical contract, I want to make it clear that when I talk about free market, I normally mean non-government intervention because the airline services in Nunavut cannot compete with government. What I mean by that, Mr. Chairman, is that once the government issues a contract to one or two

airlines, other players are out of the loop, out of the game, and therefore, they cannot compete with the government.

I want to ask the minister: in view of the fact that the government has announced some good news impact of the medical service contracts for some of the regions and some airlines, has the minister actually seen the other side of the coin and have seen any negative impacts on the airlines that were actually competing with the routes and being part of the service that were providing medical transportation to and from Nunavut to other points in other provinces in all of the regions? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My Deputy Minister, Mr. Akeegok, will answer the question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As a result of this contract from the previous contracts that we had, we have seen increases in air schedules throughout.

There is one airline that, for their business purposes, has indicated that they will not be flying a certain route. I don't think it is as a result of this RFP because there was no contract in place for that particular airline for that route. I'm speaking just on this RFP and on what transpired on this.

So what we have seen is increased services to areas where we have contracted and the new contracts that we have. To add to his supplementary, there were four bids from four different organizations and all have received parts of the contract as a result of this Request for Proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I appreciate that information. I think, in view of the information provided by the ministers as well, they have not had an opportunity to evaluate that.

Before I address that issue, I want a response to some of the points made. I want to ask the minister or her officials: was that particular airline that the deputy minister just referred to experiencing impact? Did that particular airline involve in carrying passengers prior to the awarding of the contract, prior to April 1, 2008? Thank you.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The answer is yes, the airline in question did provide services for some of our medical travel clients flying to Winnipeg from Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response when the deputy minister says that yes, responds “yes” to my question, they did provide for passengers and medical patients from Rankin Inlet. That does not mean that the patients were just from the Rankin Inlet location alone, they were probably from other communities as well, brought in by other airlines and continuing on to Winnipeg. Would I be correct in assuming that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I have another question. The government indicated that they have not had an opportunity to respond, at least had not had an opportunity to evaluate the contract. But it was indicated earlier that there were some good news stuff going on that they even expanded and hired during the last four months.

Could the minister indicate to this committee as to exactly when the evaluation of this report will be carried out, both positive and negative, considering also the routes and the cancellation of any passenger services as a result of the contract and whether that evaluation, once done, will be carried out either internally or externally? And if so, would that report be tabled in this legislature or next legislature? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. I will direct that to be responded by Mr. Campbell.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) First of all, the contract that was awarded is a three-year contract. It is the plan of the department to do annual evaluations of the contract to see how the contract is working. We would likely do the first evaluation for this current year some time in April and May of next

year. As soon as we complete that evaluation, yes, the department will provide that information to the members at that time.

In addition to that, the department will be doing regular monthly monitoring of the contracts for all the airlines. We will also be having regular meetings with the airlines, starting with the first meeting next week with one of the airlines, and then we will be having follow-up meetings with the airlines as well.

As I indicated yesterday, we haven't fully implemented a system of monitoring and following up on some of these issues with the airlines, but we will be finalizing the system at the end of this month, September, and then we will be monitoring the contracts on a monthly basis by the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to follow up a bit on the information that is important to this committee. It was indicated that all airlines, particularly in the Kivalliq region, were participating prior to April 1, 2008 in carrying passengers to and from the Kivalliq region to Manitoba points, Churchill and Winnipeg.

Can the minister indicate to the House, in view of the fact that I'm sure there is information available, what percentage, if it is established, were historical information provided during those years? Even one year, during the last year, 2006-07, to Kivalliq Air, Calm Air, and First Air in the Kivalliq, are these figures available? Thank you.

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

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The historical information that I do have dates back to 2001-02. We did have airline tickets that were issued for about 25,000 patients travelling in and out of Nunavut in the fiscal year 2001-02. In the current year, the fiscal year ending 2007-08, we had about 31,000 to 33,000 patients travelling in and out of the territory.

As I committed to doing yesterday, this is one of the pieces of information that the member wanted to know more about yesterday. I will be providing more information on the breakdown of that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: I think it's a known fact that the medical air travel contracts are very important instruments in the continuation of the modern transportation services within each region.

I think it's a known fact now that one of the airlines that was participating prior to April 1, 2008 has now filed a request, at least to its directors, that they will no longer be carrying out the route from Winnipeg to Rankin and back. Does the minister agree with me that this is as a result of this Medical Air Transportation Policy established for Kivalliq region? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. You still have 14 seconds. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Campbell will answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman. The airline is discontinuing their jet service from Rankin to Winnipeg and it's strictly a business decision that the airline has undertaken, and I'm not going to speak specifically on that. The contract that we let didn't facilitate that process as there was no contract there to begin with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every decision is a business deal. Whether or not it has a business aspect and whether or not you decide to award a contract as government, it's a business deal, positive or negative.

In view of the fact that the airline will now discontinue service, does the minister agree that if she had awarded that contract to First Air in the Kivalliq region to carry medical patients to Winnipeg or Manitoba that the airline today would continue the service, yes or no?

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Campbell will answer the question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question. The bids were evaluated on the airlines that had submitted for that portion of that medical travel contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. On my list from yesterday, I had Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and the officials. Just listening to that last exchange, I will continue on their first. I think the departmental officials indicated that although there was no contract in place, the airline that had suspended service from Rankin Inlet South was receiving medical travel patients, and that was part of their revenue, and passengers for that route.

Can the government give us an idea or a number of how many patients that was, or how much volume, or dollar-wise was spent with that particular airline in the past when there was no contract in place that shows a breakdown between the different airlines in that region that were flying from Rankin to Winnipeg prior to contract being put in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the Department of Health and Social Services could answer that because I believe it's operational and before we took over to do the RFP, so I will ask Mr. Campbell to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This is again going back to yesterday's question by the Member from Rankin Inlet and this was one of the questions that were also raised by him yesterday. So I'm hoping that this will address his question and one of the questions by the member that just asked the question.

I can give you the breakdown of the actual schedule medical travel expenses dating back to 2003-04, a regional breakdown as well as the total breakdown.

For the Kitikmeot region, in 2003-04, we spent \$3.9 million, in the Kivalliq region, we spent \$7.6 million, and in the Baffin region, we spent \$6.3 million, for a total of \$18 million for 2003-04.

In 2004-05, we spent \$4.3 million in the Kitikmeot region, we spent \$6.8 million in the Kivalliq region, and we spent \$7 million in the Baffin region, for a total of \$18.2 million in 2004-05.

In 2005-06, in the Kitikmeot region, we spent \$5 million, in the Kivalliq, we spent \$7.8 million, and in the Baffin, we spent \$8.1 million, for a total of \$21 million for scheduled medical travel for 2005-06.

In 2006-07, in the Kitikmeot, we spent \$4.8 million, in the Kivalliq we spent \$10.5 million, and in the Baffin, we spent \$10.4 million, for a total of \$25.8 million for 2006-07.

For 2007-08, these are unaudited numbers, in the Kitikmeot, we spent \$4.6 million, in the Kivalliq, we spent \$9.8 million, and in the Baffin we spent \$10.3, for a total of \$24.7 million.

In the current fiscal year, we're projecting so far for 2008-09, in the Kitikmeot, we have spent \$2.9 million so far, in the Kivalliq, we have spent \$5.2 million, and in the Baffin, we have spent \$3.2 million, for a total of approximately \$11 million so far. With those current projections, we're estimating the projected 2008-09 scheduled medical travel expenses to be \$24 million, that's not including any increases in fuel prices that we may entertain through the course of the next six months.

What I'm not able to provide right now is the actual breakdown of how that's shared among the airlines and again, that's more detailed information that I may not be able to provide in the current session, but I will certainly try and provide that information.

As I committed, the department will be doing an evaluation report on the scheduled medical contracts in April or May of next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Campbell for that response. That's interesting. Last year, for example, in 2007-08, he had indicated \$9.8 million for the Kivalliq. Without a contract in place, one would assume that that was split up between the two airlines, even if it was done half, the loss of almost \$5 million a year of revenue. I would say that would be a pretty significant factor in the decision for an airline of whether they can still afford to maintain that route or not, even if it was half.

I really find it hard to buy the argument that the awarding of the contract had no effect on the decision the airline made not to suspend service in that region. It's clearly a business decision that if they have lost \$5 million in revenue, is it worth it for them to keep that route open? I would say it probably wasn't, so that's why they suspended service.

Whether it be directly or indirectly, this decision of awarding the medical travel contract just to one airline out of Rankin Inlet South did cause the other airline to suspend service. It's almost a no-brainer. "We just lost \$5 million worth of revenue, so it's not worth it for us to fly here anymore."

I'm going to go back to that. He said if there was no contract in place prior to this contract coming into force, did patients have a choice of airline or how was it handled? Did the department take turns; all the odd-numbered people that came in have to take one airline and all the even-numbered people have to take the other airline? How was it handled prior to a contract being in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Again, there are three points there that were mentioned and I will try and answer him briefly.

The bids that we did receive for the proposals that we did receive were all evaluated. If an airline did not put in a proposal for that portion of that segment of that medical travel contract, they were not evaluated. That's the question I answered earlier. We cannot, as a department or as a government, facilitate the process when it's a public tender and when one airline did not submit that portion.

On the second point, I believe there are three airlines that were involved prior to the contract being in place in the Kivalliq region. With regards to the travel and how it was handled before, it was based on, again, this is more anecdotal information from my part, but I'm sure this is the way it was handled, what airlines were available to provide that service for the department at the time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Campbell, for that response. When the Request for Proposal was put out, was the time factor of getting a patient from let's say Rankin Inlet to Winnipeg or Ottawa, or Iqaluit to Ottawa, or from any community to the health care that they needed, was that something that was taken into account?

I heard yesterday that sometimes it's six hours with a few stops in between versus I think it's two hours in a jet from Rankin Inlet to Winnipeg, something like that. It's been a while since I have travelled that way. Was that type of thing taken into account in evaluating or looking at the proposals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The short answer is yes. In the evaluation criteria, the customer service, which was rated at second, weighted at 30 percent, that took into account the number of stops, the time the individual would have to travel, and how early or how late they would go in order to get into the community or the city that they would be seen. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to hear that that was taken into account, but out of that 30 percent then, what would be the difference or what was the weight on just that, on an hour and a half to two hours with no stops versus six hours with one, two, or three stops. I'm just wondering if something like that is specifically looked at and weighted specifically. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I will ask Mr. Akeegok to respond to the question.

Chairman: Thank you. I'm sorry I said Mister. Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Customer Services, the weight was 30 percent. Within Customer Services, the bidders should have demonstrated, but not limited to, for the reservations, ticket counter, in-flight operations, scheduling, financial services, general airline operations and all passenger services. I'm referring to the RFP under 3.3.2.

In terms of breaking it down to further details on each of the weights within that 30 percent, and my officials could correct me otherwise, if need be, I believe we could table further information. I don't think there was any particular weight breakdown in terms of that 30 percent, but those were all weighed within that 30 percent. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just looking at that section on the RFP on Customer Services, there doesn't seem to be anything that gives any weight to time and number of stops in there as indicated earlier. So I'm just wondering if that was something that was actually weighted where specifically it was weighted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Within that scheduling, they are under 3.3.4.1 on page... there's no specific page on that. There are more specific requirements that allow for what type of aircraft, their speed, the cabin, seating capacity, runways, stretchers, and the exact routes proposed within each aircraft. Those are the

types of things that were all taken into consideration and I do hope that that answers the member's questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Akeeagok, for pointing that out. If you look at it, aircraft speed is the only thing that could be looked at in saying that's something that determines how quickly someone gets there. From the point of view of a comfort issue for anyone, I don't think that adequately covers that off in the process.

Maybe the department would look at including passenger comfort over a period of time, whether it is six hours versus two hours, to get someone from one place to another could be weighted or taken more into consideration based on that because I don't think aircraft speed covers that off. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I will try and answer the first part of the question and maybe a more technical answer from Community and Government Services.

I just wanted to point out that the scheduled medical travel is for people that have appointments going south. If they have appointments in Rankin Inlet, or in Winnipeg, or Churchill, those are the people that are put on the regular scheduled service. If there is urgency for medical travel patients that have to see a doctor immediately, those are medevac services that fall under a different process. I just want that to be kept in mind that these are medical appointments, that if my appointment is tomorrow, I can travel today on the scheduled medical airline.

From the department's perspective, we are very sensitive on how we accommodate this, but the airline, at the end of the day, is the one that provides the airline service, the comfort on the airline, and all that type of patient services provided when people are travelling.

Again, there are two different issues here. We're not going to leave Nunavummiut waiting to see a doctor if it's an urgent matter and they have to see a doctor immediately. Those are medevacs. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just note in a letter of April 8, it says from communities to Ottawa and there's a split between First Air and Nunasi/Canadian North, and then from other regional centres south, there's not much of a split. Those are the only two that provide jet service. I'm just wondering if you can explain how, like here for example, it's able to be split between the two jet service providers and yet, in Rankin Inlet, it wasn't. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I just want to point out again just to reinforce, the airlines that did submit for that portion of the contract were all evaluated based on their proposals. We can't evaluate airlines that did not put in a proposal for that portion. For the other airlines that submitted, we did review those proposals and we did allocate what we thought the percentage breakdowns should be for that service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess as I see it, the contract was put out and if you look, for example, from here to Ottawa, it's split, certain percentages or a certain percentage. Obviously, both of them didn't come in with the same price. Did they both come in with the same price and that's why it was split up like that? If that was the case for here, how come that avenue wasn't looked at in the other regional centres to points south? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's okay with the committee members, I would like to ask Mr. McCulloch, the Manager of Contracting and Procurement, to go up to the witness table as he is well versed in these matters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

(interpretation ends) Welcome back, Mr. McCulloch. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes, I will have Mr. McCulloch assist me. He's the Manager of Contracting and Procurement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Is he going to respond to the question that was posed earlier? Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Are you going to answer that?

Mr. McCulloch: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo, for the question. When we considered the evaluation of the proposals that were submitted, in the RFP document and throughout the RFP document, we had mentioned in the RFP document in several sections that we were looking at awarding this contract in proportionate shares. So it wasn't our intent necessarily to preclude any airline from this bid of the business knowing that this is an important piece of the industry, so proponents were invited to respond, in full, to providing this service.

We had one airline that put conditions on their proposal whereby pricing only started at a certain level of award, such that if they didn't get an award over a certain market share, they had submitted no pricing and with no pricing submitted, it means, from a procurement perspective, that the proposal is incomplete and cannot be evaluated. So we have a situation where we have an airline who hasn't submitted a complete proposal for all portions or proportionate shares. And hopefully that will help for you to understand how some airlines got shut out of the marketplace. The rest of the evaluation was done largely mathematically based on the evaluation criteria that were outlined in the RFP document.

Just to go back a little bit on customer service, we held a session with all of the vendors together in one room whereby they could ask us questions and we would submit answers. One of the questions specifically that was asked by one of the airlines, and we had submitted in Addendum 4, that went out to everybody, the questions and then the answers went out in Addendum 5.

They asked us specifically about the efficiency of routes and where and how that would be evaluated, and our response was, and it was in sections 2.3.2 and 2.4.2, the questions that were asked, and we submitted a response that stated that it was going to be part of customer service. So there is no question as far as the efficiency of the routes. The question was asked and it was important to us.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Keep your responses as brief as possible and to the point. The same applies to questions from the members. You didn't hear that? When you're responding to a question, please make it to the point and speak slowly, Mr. McCulloch, (interpretation ends) but thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. McCulloch for that. I think that clarifies it. One of the other things, I guess you can't evaluate something that's

not there. Also, were there any proposals that had additional information that wasn't asked for in the proposals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Brown.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McCulloch.

Mr. McCulloch: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for the question. In the RFP document, we requested that all proposals would give us their best pitch on providing a very broad service of medical travel. So in fact, to say that something wasn't asked for and requested really doesn't happen because we ask them for proposals and we ask them to pitch the businesses that they have to give us.

And certainly, those pitches can include things such as scholarships for nurses, which was pitched by one organization, different levels of Inuit training, different levels of Inuit employment, all of these things are included. We included those in under what we had called the broad category of customer service. However, none of those additions like that would have, however they were all evaluated, made a significant difference in these awards. Hopefully that answers your question, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. McCulloch for clarifying that. I think now we finally know what was meant by the word "perks" that had mentioned here in the past and I know that there was a concern of that.

Can the minister indicate whether all those pitches, if you want to call them instead of perks, were brought up and described when the decision was being made on whether or not to go along with the recommendation brought forward by the department to her Cabinet colleagues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. McCulloch respond as well. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McCulloch.

Mr. McCulloch: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The evaluation of those components were, while I would hate to say insignificant but by point comparison, small. So those pieces of additions would not have, in themselves, made a difference in the award. So when the information was brought forward to Cabinet, some of those specifics would have been

verbalized and communicated. However, the actual points allotted to them would not have been. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. McCulloch. Your time was up, so my next speaker is Mr. Simailak. Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Simailak (interpretation): I think we're almost coming to the end of the committee meeting, Mr. Chairman. What to do? Perhaps I will give Mr. Curley the opportunity to ask questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: My next speaker on the list is Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Simailak just stated that we're running out of time and I have a question that may require more time, so I would like to give Mr. Curley an opportunity to make an extension to what he said earlier. Both my colleague and I would like to hear the response prior to asking our questions. I would like to ask that Mr. Curley be given that opportunity. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Yes, let us proceed in that manner then. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: I appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to follow-up a number. It appears that the contract tenders were a bit confusing. They were made complicated to only about five, or six, or less airlines in the Kivalliq region and I believe they all participated. I don't think, without question, that not one existing airline was either represented or eliminated, they all participated.

It also included other holding companies that really should not have been in the call for proposal. I believe this call for proposal, Mr. Chairman, was flawed and not clear. Would the minister agree that that has resulted in the way in which the contracts have now resulted? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I believe there is a Point of Order. Minister Picco.

Point of Order

Hon. Ed. Picco: Mr. Chairman, I understand that the debate can be intense at times and that we have to be careful of the parliamentary language we use. I would ask that you ask the member, Mr. Curley, to retract his comments that the proposal in the context of fraud be withdrawn because that is not the way we do business and indeed, through the transparency of public government, that is not acceptable in any term or way to use that type of language.

So I would ask that you, Mr. Chairman, ask the member to withdraw that statement on the award of this contract, that there was any fraud involved because that has never been

the connotation and that has never been proven, and that should not be said in this forum. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Point of Order.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, I have not used the word “fraud.” Never would I consciously think of that or accuse anybody of that. I would like the member to withdraw that accusation. I said, in my view, that the contract tender was flawed. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation) Minister Picco, is that all?

(interpretation ends) There is no Point of Order. It was not “fraud,” it was “flawed.” (interpretation) Who was it that was speaking? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I was hoping the Government House Leader would withdraw his accusation against me that I was insinuating fraud when I, in fact, was continuing on the discussion of the contract tender. Would you ask him to withdraw his accusation? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Picco, withdraw your comment. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member did indeed use the word “flawed,” then that is pretty upsetting also. I thought I heard the word “fraud” and I guess you would have to review the *Hansard* and the tapes to ascertain exactly what has been said.

But if I am wrong and the member has used, indeed, the word “flawed” and not “fraud,” then I apologize to the member and would withdraw my comment to him and apologize profusely because I know that the member is an honourable member and wouldn’t use that type of verbiage out of context. However, it does upset me that he would say that the contract process was flawed and not fraud.

Again, I would ask that the Chair review *Hansard* and the tapes to ascertain exactly what the verbiage was that was used, and then in that case, Mr. Chairman, I would be most humbly obliged within this aspect to withdraw my comments concerning the verbiage that was used. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. I will check the *Hansard* and the tapes tomorrow or whenever. Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is unfortunate that we had to be put into this level of discussion.

Mr. Chairman, the medical travel contracts issued and awarded regionally have caused and resulted in suspension of one major airline's jet service, which is very critical to all regions, including Baffin, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot.

The airline in question is First Air and it stated on September 14 that it is withdrawing service on this route caused by the loss of the medical travel contract. Would the minister at least agree that the government is responsible for the suspension of air service in the Kivalliq region, yes or no?

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the government is not responsible for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, the airline stated on September 14, 2008 that it is withdrawing Kivalliq air service due to the loss of the medical travel contract. Is the minister saying in this House that she does not believe First Air executives withdrawing of the service is as a result of the loss of medical travel contract? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. McCulloch to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. McCulloch.

Mr. McCulloch: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the question. In a procurement process, we strive for it to be open, fair, and transparent in giving all proponents equal opportunity to ask questions and to respond to the same proposal and the same evaluation criteria. The evaluation committee has the responsibility to make sure we do that evaluation based on fair process. The proponents have a responsibility to reply to the RFP to the best ability that they can.

In an open, fair, and transparent process, where we have an open market, where we have competition between vendors, the vendors and the contractors make their decisions as to whether or not they're going to increase, or decrease, or continue their airline service. So this decision of First Air to discontinue service in a certain market is a result of their response to the RFP process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The airlines themselves cannot help themselves by dipping into the cookie jar and saying, "We're going to continue on the service." Someone has to award the contract, they can't just rely on their proposal and say, "Now,

we're going to continue on for the next four or five years." It's going to depend on someone signing a contract and the parties agreeing to it. So therefore, that is a result of that action.

If you look at the actual implementation of the contract and you look at the RFP, you look at the airlines that are providing services right now. For instance, Calm Air, without ever bidding on the proposal, is now carrying on at least 31 to 35 percent of the service, or 65 percent for that matter, to and from the Kivalliq region to Manitoba. How did that come about?

So therefore, I use the word "flawed" because it was a convoluted RFP, it involved all kinds of partnership deals to propose bids, other than operating companies to issue. Why did the government choose to use a convoluted proposal instead of asking the operating airlines to actually provide a clearer, transparent proposal to the government? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my understanding, Calm Air had put in a bid; they bid. To make an addition to that, I will ask Mr. McCulloch to speak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. McCulloch.

Mr. McCulloch: Thank you for the question, Mr. Chairman. Certainly Calm Air did bid. The RFP process and the document itself were fairly clear and quite simple in its content. However, we, as the government evaluators, do not have control over the complexity that the vendors choose to respond in. So the RFP, in itself, was quite straightforward and asked for prices on certain routes.

The vendors choose to put conditions on or the manner in which they respond, and certainly, they weren't necessarily complicated. The outcome, we feel, reflected exactly what was bid. So while I understand that it's the government's responsibility to award contracts, it is the responsibility of the contractors to bid on the contracts and to bid on the sections of the contracts. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. In view of the time, I would like to ask that this committee report progress. Thank you.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and I will now rise to report progress.

Thank you, Minister Brown, Mr. Campbell, and Mr. McCulloch.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the Orders of the Day. 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 Tabled Document 216 – 2(4) and would like to report progress. And, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Mr. Mapsalak. The motion is in order. All those in favour, please raise your hand. All opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. (interpretation ends) Third Reading of Bills. Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 39 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2008-2009 – Third Reading

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for South Baffin, that Bill 39, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2008-2009*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 39 has had its third reading and is ready for assent.

Third Reading of Bills. Since there are no more, Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder for meetings, at 2:30 this afternoon, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Health and Education in the Tuktu Boardroom. A reminder for Monday meetings, at nine o'clock, the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development in the Nanuq Room, and then at eleven o'clock, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability in the Tuktu Room.

Orders of the Day for September 15:

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
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Monday, September 15, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 14:13*

