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Speaker: The Honourable James Arreak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Baker Lake)

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(Rankin Inlet North)
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Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
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Hon. Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 24, 2009**

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Adamee Komoartok, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Paul Okalik, Mr. Enuq Paulosie, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. James Arreak) (interpretation): Good afternoon. Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Curley to say the opening prayer. Mr. Curley.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, and Members of the Legislative Assembly. Good afternoon, Nunavummiut.

Before we proceed, I would like to inform members that we currently have only two pages in the House. I ask that members not direct the pages to go outside the Chambers and especially not upstairs to your staff since we have don't have enough pages. I wanted to notify members of that first of all.

(interpretation ends) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Tootoo.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 034 – 3(1):
Qulliq Energy Corporation
Apprenticeship Program**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would like inform my hon. colleagues about one of the highlights that came out of the Workforce Connex Nunavut Forum held in Iqaluit on March 2 and 3 of this year. Tradespeople!

Mr. Speaker, trades have often been overlooked as careers or satisfactory jobs. However, two tradespeople, both from the Qulliq Energy Corporation, changed some minds at the forum. Albert Netser, a Journey Lineperson, and Cody Dean, an Apprentice Lineperson, spoke about their successes in the trades field and stole the show at the forum. Mr. Speaker, both are a product of Qulliq Energy Corporation's apprenticeship programs. Albert Netser was one of the first to attend Qulliq Energy Corporation's Boot Camp and to complete the four-year apprenticeship program in April of 2006.

Mr. Speaker, Qulliq Energy Corporation is committed to Inuit employment and creating opportunities for employment by producing talented tradespeople in Nunavut with a four-year apprenticeship program for linepersons, mechanics, electricians and parts persons. There are currently four filled apprenticeship positions within the corporation.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank and congratulate Grant Penny, Line Maintenance Supervisor for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, who was instrumental in the creation of the apprenticeship training and certification infrastructure at the Qulliq Energy

Corporation and can be credited with the achievement of the graduation of Nunavut's first linepersons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 035 – 3(1):
World Tuberculosis (TB) Day**

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is the World Tuberculosis Day. World Tuberculosis Day falls on March 24 of each year. This day was designed to build public awareness that tuberculosis is still prevalent in much of the world, including Nunavut, and can lead to death.

Dr. Robert Koch, in 1882, discovered and opened the path towards diagnosing and curing tuberculosis.

Nunavut's tuberculosis program was established in 2000 and provides direct patient care; supervised tuberculosis treatment; active screening for children in schools and high risk populations; and the department provides tuberculosis information sessions.

Mr. Speaker, our program sets the standards and guidelines for community health centres, public health, hospitals, and referral centres. We have a surveillance system that is well in place. Our tuberculosis program is working.

Mr. Speaker, we ensure that patients identified as having tuberculosis, whether it is infectious, active or

dormant, take medication in the presence of a nurse. This means we are assured that patients are taking the right dosage and have the support from our health care professionals. Mr. Speaker, the department has moved towards an enhanced treatment program that is showing an increase in adherence and a decrease in treatment failure rates.

While we work to treat cases of tuberculosis, we know additional work is required in its prevention, such as improving good nutrition practices and lowering overcrowding in homes. We know that the recent budget announcement from Ottawa with regard to funding for housing will begin to address the housing issues. Through the nutrition framework, we are addressing the nutrition of Nunavutmiut.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, we have pamphlets and information sheets available for the public in all four official languages. (interpretation) Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 036 – 3(1):
Energy Retrofit Project**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to inform the legislature about an energy efficiency project we have underway here in Nunavut.

Two years ago, when we carried out our community consultations for the development of *Ikummatiit*, the Government of Nunavut's Energy

Strategy, we heard the comment that the government should lead by example. Mr. Speaker, our energy retrofit project does just that. Through the energy retrofit project, the Government of Nunavut is showing that it is committed to meeting the highest level of energy efficiency.

(interpretation ends) Over the next few years, the Government of Nunavut will be retrofitting its buildings to make them more energy efficient. Making our buildings more efficient will help reduce energy consumption and operating costs. It will also help to conserve precious resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The first steps we will be taking will include the installation of a solar wall on the Qikiqtani Hospital, the installation of new energy efficient appliances as well as lighting and controls in our buildings. We will be researching other alternative energy sources, such as wind power, to determine whether they can also be used in this project.

Mr. Speaker, higher fuel prices impact government operations. Our energy retrofit project will also include maintenance training for our building operators and energy awareness programs for Government of Nunavut employees. Training and awareness will help to ensure that energy is used wisely and will assist Government of Nunavut employees in learning about steps they can take to conserve energy in the workplace and at home.

Energy conservation and efficiency is a critical goal of our Energy Strategy. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, through our energy retrofit project, our government

is showing its commitment to meeting this goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 037 – 3(1): Elders Advisory Committee Meeting

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that the Elders Advisory Committee on the Environment will be meeting for the first time in Iqaluit in April.

This committee is both a legislated requirement under Nunavut's *Wildlife Act* and a critical source of knowledge for the Department of Environment. This committee will provide advice and recommendations to me on the administration of the *Wildlife Act*, especially as it relates to incorporating the principles of IQ into wildlife management, conservation, and environmental protection in Nunavut.

The members of this Elders Advisory Committee on the Environment are Guy Kakkiarniun of Kugaaruk, Bob Konana of Gjoa Haven, Tommy Pigalaak of Kugluktuk, Laisa Ningsiuk of Grise Fiord, Paniloo Sanguya of Pond Inlet, Quvianatuliak Tapaungai of Cape Dorset, Peter Alageak of Arviat, Jacob Ikinilik of Baker Lake, and John Kaunak of Repulse Bay.

I look forward to hearing what they have to recommend to the Department of Environment. I am certain their wisdom and insights will only improve the way my department handles all

environmental issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 038 – 3(1):
Baffinland Tour**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to report to Members of this House on the brief visit I had with Premier Aariak and Minister Shewchuk to the Mary River Iron Ore Project and of course, to the community of Pond Inlet.

We left to travel up island last Friday afternoon, and the immensity and beauty of our land is no more evident than from the window of a plane flying over the mountains and fiords of the northern reaches of Qikiqtaaluk.

The residents of Pond Inlet welcomed us to their community with an evening of entertainment consisting of performances by the local theatre group, drum dancers and musicians, all of whom are involved in the making of a feature film and to a wonderful feast of traditional food.

The next day, we travelled to the Mary River Iron Ore Project to gain a better understanding on how such a mine will operate in the future and to see the site itself.

Mr. Speaker, our trip to Mary River provided us with firsthand knowledge to see proposed developments for the Mary River Iron Ore Project. To see the freight transfer point at Milne Inlet, the tote

road to the large campsite, the runway at Mary River, and the proposed rail route south to Steensby Inlet on Foxe Basin, is to realize the scale of the opportunity that the mining industry can bring to the territory.

I feel, Mr. Speaker, that the Mary River Iron Ore Project could potentially produce 500 jobs annually over a period of 25 years. It will stimulate the development of infrastructure in our communities and open up business opportunities across the territory. We all know the risks the mining industry faces today, but to visit this site is to gain optimism and hope for the future of our economy and its ability to support our people.

Mr. Speaker, in order for Nunavummiut to capture these opportunities, we have a lot of work to do. Above all, we need concentrate and focus on our education and training needs to ensure that we are ready for the jobs and business opportunities that present themselves, and Mr. Speaker, this trip gave us the confidence that we can do it.

It points to the fact that in Nunavut, we have a diverse economy, with opportunities in many different economic sectors, in addition to development of our natural resources. Our participation in this diverse economy depends on the creativity of our people and we saw that in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

>>Applause

**Member's Statement 066 – 3(1):
Pauktuutit Annual General
Meeting**

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House of this morning's excellent meeting between the Regular Members' Caucus and the delegates at Pauktuutit's annual general meeting. We shook their hands, introduced ourselves, and they reciprocated with the introduction of their board members.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of Pauktuutit, the national organization that represents Inuit women. Pauktuutit is holding its annual general meeting in Iqaluit this week. Members were pleased to have had the opportunity to join delegates this morning as the organization reflects on its successes during the past quarter century and looks ahead to the challenges of the future.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Pauktuutit is well respected for its commitment to ensuring that the voices of Inuit women from across the nation are clearly heard. The organization does excellent work in such areas as HIV/AIDS prevention, residential school hearings, midwifery promotion, supporting women entrepreneurs, and the protection of Inuit cultural and intellectual property rights to name just a few.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to Pauktuutit's 25 years of success. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. Taptuna.

**Member's Statement 067 – 3(1):
Kugluktuk Hosts Soccer
Tournament**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week, the community of Kugluktuk hosted the Under 17 Boys Territorial Soccer Tournament, with teams representing Baker Lake, Cape Dorset, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, although Kugluktuk has hosted soccer tournaments in the past, I am proud to announce that this was the first time that boys under the age of 17 from Kugluktuk received a silver medal coming in second place. I would also like to congratulate the under 17 boys soccer team representing Iqaluit for winning the gold medal and to the Rankin Inlet team for winning the bronze.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is also important to recognize the time and dedication that parents and coaches put into developing student soccer skills. Without their support or the support of officials and volunteers, these kinds of events would not happen.

Once again, my congratulations go out to all the teams that participated in the soccer tournament and I hope my community of Kugluktuk will be able to sponsor many more such events in the near future. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 068 – 3(1):
Importance of Recreation for
Youth**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about sports events for our youth to other communities, which I would like to acknowledge for its benefits and that I want supported as well. As members here are aware, the youth in Nunavut outnumber adults and it is only due to being elected that we are here representing our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, when those of us with greying hair were still young, we were always advised to play outside when it was windy and to participate in all outdoor activities. Whenever we were concerned, we were told to play outside as adults and children because it's conducive to improving physical and mental health.

Our youth today love to play sports and it is a pleasurable activity that assists in teaching them about fair play, about controlling their temper, and it warms the heart of the parents to watch their children. Parents tend to be proud when they are watching youth play sports happily.

Sports also allow these children to learn about new communities and to develop friendships in these sports that can last for many years, Mr. Speaker, and to meet new people who also enjoy those sports. Physical activity benefits your body as you are growing, assists you spiritually and mentally.

When youth attend to different sports events, it allows them to see parts of Nunavut they didn't know about. Let us provide more funding for these sporting events so that our youth can attend events and take into consideration that by providing support to our youth now and into the future, we are benefiting their futures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

**Member's Statement 069 – 3(1):
Baffin Regional Youth Council**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my appreciation to the Qikiqtani Inuit Association Youth Department for its invitation to make a presentation at the meeting of the Baffin Regional Youth Council that was held last week.

As a long-standing volunteer with youth in Arctic Bay, I was very pleased to have had the opportunity to speak about Nunavut Youth Consulting, our non-profit youth organization in Arctic Bay and the many worthwhile activities and programs that they have done.

I was also honoured that two of the members from Arctic Bay, who are now living in Iqaluit, I guess as a testament to the program, were able to help present as well and at the same time, one of our youth is now the vice-chairperson for the Baffin Regional Youth Council.

Mr. Speaker, youth from across the Baffin were in Iqaluit last week for the

election of the Baffin Regional Youth Council executive. As members are aware, the Baffin Regional Youth Council provides a forum for the discussion of issues that concern youth.

Mr. Speaker, the youth department is part of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association's social policy department. Regional youth coordinators act as advocates for youth issues in the region. The primary function of the youth coordinator is to provide support, guidance and assistance to the Baffin Regional Youth Council and to act as an information and resource centre for the youth of the Baffin region.

The youth department of the social policy department was established in 1996 to deal with youth issues in the region. Since its creation, the youth department has grown in size and now has three staff and an increased budget. It offers a number of programs and services for the benefit of youth across the region.

Congratulations to the new executive council that was elected and to the Youth Coordinators Becky Kilabuk and Thomas Johnston.

I ask all members to join me in supporting the activities of this organization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

**Member's Statement 070 – 3(1):
Support for Pangnirtung Fisheries**

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to express my support for the activities of Pangnirtung Fisheries.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my Member's Statement of last week, the winter fishery is currently in progress. I had the opportunity to speak with officials at the plant yesterday and they informed me that the fishermen have brought in a little over 104,000 pounds of turbot in the past couple of months.

Mr. Speaker, Pangnirtung Fisheries directly employs around 60 on a full-time basis in my community. At the present time, there are 22 fishermen out in the Cumberland Sound, along with 19 helpers. So we have a little over 40 people employed out at the Cumberland Sound right now and when they bring the fish into our community, it employs another 20 people in our fish plant. For a small community such as Pangnirtung, these jobs are extremely important and I support measures to help Pangnirtung Fisheries expand its operations.

Mr. Speaker, Pangnirtung Fisheries is a subsidiary of the Nunavut Development Corporation. I am pleased to note that NDC's most recently published annual report indicates that the company is moving towards becoming financially independent.

Mr. Speaker, the sustainable harvesting of our natural resources is a key component of Nunavut's economic development potential. I look forward to partnerships and progress that will help lead to year-round fishing activities in

our community of Pangnirtung.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Mr. Kusugak.

**Member's Statement 071 – 3(1):
Rankin Inlet Hockey Champions**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform my colleagues about the young boys who went to play hockey in Thompson for the McMunn & Yates Center Cup. They played four games, which they all won, and the residents of Rankin Inlet are proud of their accomplishments.

They were: Elliot Adams, Tia Adams, Hunter Alorut, A.J. Curley, Bret Fotheringham, Jacob Adelbow, Anthony Kataluk, Bryce Kusugak, Qaritaq Kusugak, Tuugaaq Ningeongan, Ala Ottokie, Jada Pilakapsi, Nanauq Qiyuk, Avaalaq Sabourin, Brad Sigurdson, Jay Ell Tagoona, and Braden Ulurksit, and the coaches were Pujjut Kusugak, Patrick Tagoona, and David Ningeongan.

They won all their games and I am so proud of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. If there are no more, we will move on to Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Curley.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

**Return to Oral Question 019 – 3(1):
Medical Travel for Inuit and Non-Inuit**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 17, 2009, the hon. member from South Baffin expressed his concern that some individuals from his community who were on medical travel in Iqaluit have had to find their own accommodations.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity to personally discuss this matter with the member and have advised him that the department will be addressing his concerns.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House today that when our boarding home in Iqaluit is at full capacity, it is the boarding home that is responsible for making alternate accommodation arrangements for clients. When this situation occurs, clients may advise Tammaativvik that they choose to stay with friends or family in Iqaluit, or the boarding home will choose a private billet from a list of individuals that are willing to take clients on short notice. If there are no private billets available, clients are accommodated at local hotels. Clients and escorts do not pay for their accommodations out-of-pocket; the boarding home issues payments directly to the private billet or hotel.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services recognizes that medical travel can sometimes be a stressful experience. The department wishes to assure members and all Nunavutmiut that the clients' time away

from home goes as smoothly as possible and they do not pay out-of-pocket expenses while on travel for medical reasons.

Mr. Speaker, the department is fully committed to review any concerns regarding the quality of care and services provided to Nunavutmiut.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 058 – 3(1): Status of Sanikiluaq Water Fill Station

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, the water truck fill station in Sanikiluaq is very old and plagued with problems. Can the minister update the House on the status of the new water fill station for Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fill station was one of the projects that we approved during the supplementary appropriations last week. Once the new fiscal year starts, the department plans to get the request for proposals out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Can the minister confirm whether the new water fill station will have its own backup power generator system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Thank you.

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

Question 059 – 3(1): Housing Issues in Kugaaruk

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to my friend, Minister for Housing.

What I'm going to be asking him about is the unfortunate problem that arose from housing construction back in 2007-08 before the minister took office. Mr. Speaker, my question is: what steps are taken to ensure that similar situations that we experienced in Kugaaruk do not happen in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member pointed out, yes, there were issues that happened prior to me being the housing minister, but if he could clarify what particular issues he's talking about, I would be able to respond to him.

There are all kinds of housing issues that have gone on over the last while all over the territory. So maybe if he could clarify specifically what issue he was talking about, I would be more than happy to respond to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That reminds me of things that I used to clarify in the old Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The major problem we had was a new house burned down just before the final inspection and there were other leaks in the new homes back in 2007-08. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for clarifying that. Mr. Speaker, I know that the issue of the unit that burned down that the member's referring was a MAP client of the Housing Corporation. And my understanding of the process is that through the Material Assistance Program, if an applicant is approved, the Housing Corporation provides the material for that unit and it's the clients themselves that find a contractor to construct and do the construction of that unit.

In this particular case, Mr. Speaker, and I know there was a fire report that I provided to the member on that, I don't know if it clearly states what the cause of the fire was but preliminary indications said it was a result of heaters being used by the contractor that started the fire and that's an issue the client or

the individual should be taking up with the contractor.

As far as the other issues that he mentioned, after he mentioned those leakage issues the other day, I checked with my staff at the corporation and they weren't aware of any of these issues being brought to their attention. But I would suggest that if there are any particular cases that the member is aware of...

And I don't even know if they're in public housing units or private homeowner units. If they're public housing units, then those issues should be reported to the local housing organization for them to action and if there are more serious issues related, they would forward that information on to the district office in the Kitikmeot in Cambridge Bay. And if it's a homeownership unit that the member is referring to, it would depend on when it was built and who did the construction under what program, and there are all kinds of issues there.

So without the particulars of the situation, I can't provide any more information than that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his answers. In the recent times around January of this year, we had people coming in from the Cambridge Bay regional office. They had taken some drywall from a new home and they had also visited my daughter's house where the bathroom was leaking, the drywall was spongy,

and the floors were flooded, so those are the things.

So having said that, what steps will the minister take to ensure those kinds of problems don't arise in the future?
Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Before I have the minister respond, I would like to recognize an individual who just walked into the Assembly and to also welcome him, Senator Willie Adams.

>> *Applause*

Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery.
Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for pointing out the particulars of this individual case that he's talking about. But again, without knowing what kind of program the unit that he's talking about was built under, whether it was a purchase of an existing building or built under a housing program, then that funding provided would determine that.

But I know in any projects where the corporation itself is involved in the construction that it is the role of our technical staff within the regions to go out and do inspections on units that we are actually involved in constructing.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Going back to my initial question, what steps will be taken by the department to

ensure that we don't experience similar problems in the future in Kugaaruk?
Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, any project that the Housing Corporation is involved in as the contractor or getting it built, it is the role of our technical staff to go out and do the inspections on units at various stages throughout their completion and as a result of the terms of the contract, payment is not made until these inspections are done to ensure that the work that has been done to date had been done adequately.

As far as if it's a contract by an individual to a contractor, maybe the corporation could look at providing information out there for individual homeowners and the private people of what types of things should be included in the contract as far as making sure, if it is work being done on behalf of a particular client or an individual and a contractor, to ensure that the work that they're getting done for them by a contractor is being done adequately.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am hesitant to name a particular contractor, but will the minister ensure that they consider to make sure that those kinds of things don't happen again in the future in Kugaaruk, if that can be controlled? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really do appreciate the member bringing this issue forward and I can understand his reluctance to discuss any particular contractor here in the House, but I want to also let him know that I would be more than happy to sit down with him in person and discuss the issue where if there's a specific contractor or individuals involved that we can take a look at.

And I assure the member that any contractor that is performing work for the Housing Corporation that these things are to be inspected. It's right in the terms and conditions of the contract, but the corporation doesn't have any control on contracts between private individuals and contractors.

If it's an issue with a contractor doing work for the corporation, I can commit that those things should be looked at. If it's an issue between a private individual and a contractor, that's something that we don't, as a corporation, have any control over. But I again would be more than happy to sit down and discuss the particulars with the member outside of the House here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 060 – 3(1): Backup Generators for Airports in High Arctic

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions with respect to airports are for the

(interpretation ends) Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

(interpretation) It is generally obvious and particularly in the winter, the airports have no backup generators and I would like to inform the minister that they don't have any alternative energy sources. In Pond Inlet, our power went out several times over the course of the winter.

In the High Arctic, during the dark period, even during the daytime, you cannot land on the airstrip without any runway lights. Does the government have a policy for the High Arctic communities whereby they are supplied with a backup generator in the event of a power failure?

For example, health centres and government offices have backup generators, and I believe the schools have them as well. Perhaps it's time for the government to look at a policy specifically for the High Arctic communities where the airports have backup generators, especially in communities that experience 24-hour darkness in the winter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question, hon. member from Tununiq. There is a process in place to make sure that most of these airports in Nunavut have emergency generators put in place, but then again, I, for a fact, know that Pond Inlet does not have one. In looking at

that, we will be trying to alleviate and get some more information on the logistics of that and once we have that, we will get back to the hon. member. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response and for the review of that issue. When talking about this issue, I am not only referring to Pond Inlet but also the other communities that experience dark periods in the winter. If the generator at the airport breaks down, aircraft cannot land because there are no lights.

The communities I am referring to are Clyde River, Igloolik, Hall Beach, Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet, and Arctic Bay. These are communities which experience dark days during the winter. Can the minister check to see if all the airports in the High Arctic are equipped with backup generators? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. Of course, I'll be looking into that. I'll work with my counterpart from CGS and I can assure the member that we will be looking into that not just for Pond Inlet, as you have mentioned, there are some other communities that may have some older, outdated generators. Once I have all that information, I will be getting back to the member. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Question 061 – 3(1): Medical Travel for Inuit and Non-Inuit

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, going back to the answer on the written question that I've asked... sorry, it's for the Hon. Tagak Curley of Health and Social Services. I asked two questions on that.

He answered the question on the boarding here in Iqaluit, but he did not answer the question: why do non-Inuit have to pay the first \$250 of the plane ticket when they fly and Inuit don't? Does it come from a special Inuit fund, which would be understandable, or does the money come from the government? I did not get an answer on that one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services, (interpretation ends) Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, MLA from South Baffin. I think the member knows that in all of Canada, all of our health plans require a \$250 deductible for any service, particularly for transportation, even with the Non-Insured Health Benefits for Inuit. But in this case, the federal government contributes that portion to a recipient which is the Government of Nunavut.

In all of the plans, that \$250 is deductible and therefore, that is probably why that was applied, but to Inuit who are covered under the Non-Insured Health Benefits, it should have been covered by our department. In that case,

I will look into that in a bit more detail and provide the information back to you. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 062 – 3(1): Client Services Coordinator for Nunavut

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, even though I have been in this position for a very short time, my constituents are turning to me more and more with problems that they are facing. In some cases, these problems are highly personal in nature, often relating to medical services, diagnoses, and treatment.

As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I am committed to assisting my constituents. However, when it relates to matters of such a personal nature, considerations of privacy and disclosure make it more difficult for me to provide assistance.

Can the minister advise me and this House what does his department have in place to provide assistance to Nunavummiut who are having problems or complaints with medical services, or have family issues or children issues that they feel are not being addressed? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure I fully understand the exact nature of the question because

if the issue is related to medical are not being addressed, there is very little that the department can do about it.

I can only offer to my colleague that if there are questions that arise from his constituents, which may be confidential, they can certainly be provided to our departmental officials. We have I think one of the best confidential systems that we have in place and we are obligated to keep all information confidential and we treat them as such.

So if the member feels that he has a confidential issue, he certainly can sit down with me and we can find appropriate medical officials or senior members of my staff to look into them. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you. So if I understand correctly what the minister is saying, we funnel all of our questions to his office and there's no personnel or person like a client services coordinator in place. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. From the community perspective, obviously, the local health officials are the first line of contact.

But with respect to regional issues, we certainly have regional operation centres that take care of our regional issues, including client travel or any other operational matters. They are handled by the regional staff that are based in Pangnirtung in this case. In my community, all the regional medical

issues are handled by the regional director at that level. So there are regional operations at every community and certainly they can be addressed.

But if the member has an urgent matter that he feels should be addressed, my deputy minister is prepared to look into all of these on relatively short notice. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: I would like to thank the minister, but I'm still just a little confused. I recognize that as a result of problems relating to medical travel arrangements, a new travel coordinator position will be established in Pangnirtung.

It was my understanding that when this position was originally proposed well over a year ago, under the title Client Services Coordinator, the individual in that position would also be handling complaints and issues related to health services. So a specific position was set aside for specific complains. Can the minister confirm if that is still the case and if not, what will the exact responsibilities of this new coordinator position be? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the question. I think the department has already hired the client travel manager who will likely be located in Iqaluit, but the travel group remains in Pangnirtung at this moment.

My department continues to evaluate whether or not this system is the most

effective. That is one thing that I'm doing is continuing to have an operational review of the progress, more or less, to ensure that the client travel is not compromised in order to meet this specialist that is normally here for a short time, as well as those that require specialist treatment beyond Nunavut.

So I believe the department has been able to address most of the complaints that have come in and certainly we would like to reduce any complaints coming in but that will take time. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So if I understand correctly, the position is no longer assigned to Pangnirtung, the person is actually in Iqaluit, and they are no longer in terms of being a client service coordinator, they are just a travel agent.

If that's the case, then I feel that if it was originally proposed that a year ago, they were going to have a client service person to handle these issues, what is the government going to do to see that these issues are addressed? The issues that I'm dealing with are more than just travel issues, they are health related issues and there's confidential information that we don't want to be giving out.

So if the minister could make a commitment, yes or no, whether there is going to be a client service coordinator. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I don't want to get into whether or not the appropriate title is this or that one. We can certainly provide the information to you, whether or not the exact title will satisfy the member.

We do have an operational system in place that is well able to address any issue that is put forward, whether they are medically related or travel related, and so on. All of our regional staff are well-established to address them. I also assure the member that if he has any more urgent issues that he feels should be addressed, surely, our senior staff are able to address them as well.

But with respect to confidentiality, we will continue to respect that and will not compromise any confidential and medical issues that the member's constituents may face. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Curley... sorry, Mr. Okalik

>> *Laughter*

Question 063 – 3(1): Completion Date of Multiplex Units in Iqaluit

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps he will be moving to my riding.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Housing. He knows that here in Iqaluit, we have a long list of people waiting to get into public housing and many of my constituents are on that list.

There are two multiplexes that are being constructed near the shore and they have been worked on for quite a while. Could the minister give us an update on what is happening with the two multiplexes that are being built for people on the waiting list for housing? I would first like to get an update on their status. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for raising that question. I know that, not only here in Iqaluit but in every community across Nunavut, housing is a serious issue and you can never get them up fast enough.

Mr. Speaker, the units that the member is talking about are the units that are in the process of being constructed under the Northern Housing Trust program. The units here in Iqaluit are being constructed by the Iqaluit Housing Authority.

I had an opportunity to tour Minister Aglukkaq and Minister Strahl through one of the five-plexes that is being built down there right now. They were working very hard on it and I assume that they're hoping to have those units probably occupied by next winter. They're closed in right now and they're working at getting them done in time hopefully to be able to have them ready to be moved into some time next fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it would be good to have those five-plexes completed as soon as possible, although there are some projects where we cannot rush.

Mr. Speaker, there used to be some units down by the shore, which were standalone units, used by some of my constituents. I'm wondering whether these units are still there or if they have been moved elsewhere. I was trying to find out if these units were still inhabitable and whether or not they could have been utilized again as interim housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe if I can get the member to clarify this. The houses that are being removed, is that what he's talking about or is it the houses that are going up in the place of the ones that have been removed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The minister wants you to clarify your question. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These units were down by the shore and they were occupied by some of my constituents, but they seemed to have disappeared into thin air. I just wanted to find out if these houses were reusable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for clarifying his question. Mr.

Speaker, that whole area down there where a lot of those units were, those are the ones that I was talking about yesterday that are older than me and older than the member himself, those are part of the 1,000 units that the corporation has identified that we need to replace.

One of the issues that the corporation had with the trust delivery here in Iqaluit is land availability and what the local housing authority decided to do here in Iqaluit was to take those old units, get rid of those old units, they have ended up at the landfill site, and replace them with more energy efficient and newer units.

Also, with the space that those individual units were on, we have been able to take those units, I think there were 18 units taken out of that particular area, and put in over 20-some units. So I think the local housing authority has decided to make better use of the land that they have available and replace some of the aging units that it had in stock to replace them with more and new units.

Hopefully that answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was why I asked where they had gone as they seemingly disappeared into thin air. Thank you for your response.

My next question is in regard to these units currently under construction. Since they are in close proximity to the shore

and I know that they will be inhabited by people on the list, what I'm wondering is if there will be sufficient storage space for their belongings, especially for equipment used by harvesters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just clarified for the member that the Housing Corporation decides on who goes into public housing units. That responsibility and authority has been passed on in every community to the local housing organization.

The local board of directors determines their waiting lists and their priorities for allocation of units. So that's something that has been devolved and controlled at the local level. And I assure the member that the corporation doesn't interfere in the local boards doing their jobs as far as determining priority for allocation of units within their responsibilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason for raising that question was because these units are in close proximity to the shore, which is much better for the hunters' access, so it would seem perfect to house hunters in those units. That's the reason why I asked if these units are roomy enough to house the equipment that they use for hunting.

These units would be perfect for local hunters with the immediate access to the shoreline and many Inuit, original

Iqalummiut in this community, are ardent hunters and that's why I asked if there was sufficient room to be used for storage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I know where the member is coming from now. I have received a copy of a letter from an individual that he received last week.

Mr. Speaker, under the allocation formula that the housing authority in any community sets, if you're a single person, you're eligible for a one-bedroom unit, or a bachelor unit, if there are two individuals requiring and it's a couple, they may be eligible for a one-bedroom unit, if you're a couple with a child, depending on the age of the child, you're eligible for a two-bedroom unit, and so on and so forth.

But, Mr. Speaker, in the particular case that the member is referring to, my understanding is that the individuals involved were an elderly couple that recently moved into public housing after selling their home. Based on the criteria, they were eligible for a one-bedroom unit and that's what the housing authority allocated them. A one-bedroom unit is what they were eligible for based on their criteria.

As far as a storage area, Mr. Speaker, the housing authority and the corporation are not in the business of providing storage areas. They're more concerned about providing adequate housing to Nunavummiut throughout the territory and that would be my response to that.

I don't believe that the criteria that the housing authorities set is how much equipment you have is taken into consideration when determining what type of unit that the individuals are eligible for. They would be just looking at how many people are going to be living in the unit and that's how they determine what type of unit is allocated to the applicant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Nattilik, Mr. Pauloosie.

Question 064 – 3(1): Transportation for Elders

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for CLEY.

In my two communities of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, from what we hear and understand, our elders have a vehicle that they're supposed to be using for transportation either for an appointment or to go to the elders' centre.

However, our elders are constantly going on local radio looking for rides from either their family or anybody that can give them a ride to the elders' centre, or for appointments, or to the airport. From what I understand, they have a vehicle that they could be transported with, but the problem we have in our community is they don't have any drivers for that vehicle.

When I inquired about the drivers, I was told that there was no funding to hire a driver for the elders' vehicle in their communities. Can the minister tell me if that's the fact and if he could find some

funding to hire a driver for the vehicle? I would like the minister to tell me if that's true. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, (interpretation ends) Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to my knowledge, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth does not provide funding for vehicles specifically for elders and we have not set aside any funding to be used for transportation vehicles as that is not our responsibility, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) In our community, we have been advised by the local elders that there's a phone number for elders to call if they want to be picked up. We also see that vehicle in use around town by maintenance as well as health centre staff. The elders assume that this is the vehicle that has been allocated for that use and they have advised us about this.

Can the minister inform us whether there's an allotted vehicle for the elders in our community? I would like to find out if this vehicle is the one set aside for the elders but it is not used for them. I'm not sure which minister I should direct my question to, but I would like to find out about this vehicle. If someone can provide me with the clarification, I would appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know for a fact that in some communities, there is a specified vehicle for elders, but I believe that this is administered locally either by the hamlet or the health centre. The health centres also have service staff that handle these types of services.

Although the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth may be responsible for elders' services, they don't provide other services or transportation services within the community for elders. The Department of Health and Social Services as well as Community Government and Services, via the hamlets, are generally responsible for services such as the transportation of local elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Pauloosie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am grateful for his clarification, but I will check into this matter further and once I have found out more details, I will raise this issue again later in our session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Pauloosie. Yes, we will wait for your question. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Question 065 – 3(1): Specialist Services in Baker Lake

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Tagak Curley.

I understand that the responsibilities inherent in this portfolio lend themselves to a stressful position and personally, I believe it to be one of the biggest portfolios. I'm not intentionally asking these questions to cause problems, but I have been asked to raise these issues that I will follow up with written questions later on.

My constituents have passed along their concerns with regard to your officials, more specifically the dentists and optometrists who arrive in our community, that there are no public notices about their visits. Perhaps the officials can try harder to inform the public prior to the arrival of these specialists because many people require new eyeglasses and dental work on their teeth, and they keep missing the specialists.

My question to the minister is: can his officials work harder to inform the public in each community prior to the arrival of the dentists and eye doctors into their communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services, (interpretation ends) Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that

question. Some communities are not given enough notification prior to the specialists arriving. The same people don't always travel to the same communities either. This is also the case in Rankin Inlet. When the contractors arrive, they're not always the same ones.

I appreciate your question and perhaps we could provide schedules or the community health workers could provide public notices. I know that we can make improvements, especially if our officials can prepare a schedule because community visits are funded out of the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

Due to that reason, I can tell the member that we can certainly work towards improving our notification efforts and I will inform my officials accordingly. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 066 – 3(1): Problems with Access Housing Units

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

In November 2008, when we were here, I asked the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation in regard to access housing units. For many years now, we have been hearing that it is more expensive to live in access housing than in HAP housing units.

It seems like there hasn't been any prior review done on access houses. When I first met with the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, he said

that he would ask his officials to look into this matter. Therefore, I would like to ask the minister if this review has been initiated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The access program that the member is talking about is something that the Housing Corporation hasn't been delivering for quite some time now. I understand that the units that he is referring to, it was brought our attention that there were some issues regarding heat loss to these units and I just want to again thank the member for bringing that issue forward to our attention.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for bringing that concern forward to Mr. Scott, the president, and then myself. The Housing Corporation representatives have gone into the community of Coral Harbour, as a result of the concerns raised by the member, and did blower door tests on a couple of public housing units as well as a couple of private access design homeowner units that the member is referring to.

Mr. Speaker, the results of the blower door tests that were done on February 24 and 25 this year, the initial results indicated that most of the leakage was occurring around the windows and doors of not only the access units but also the public housing units. At this point, Mr. Speaker, I think it's premature to determine the actual cause of the leakage. It could be a multiple number of issues, anywhere from the lack of maintenance to the design of the building or even construction practices.

I want to assure the member that the results from those blower door tests are currently being reviewed by our district office staff in the Kivalliq and hopefully soon, we will be able to get the report on that review and analysis of that information to determine what, if any, next steps the corporation will take in this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, I will cite an example that actually occurred in Coral Harbour. When they were trying to repair some drywall that had broken in a unit, they noticed that the whole unit apparently had no vapour barrier in the walls. That leads me to ask if these staff workers have been asked to check into whether other units were also constructed without the vapour barriers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These houses were built back in the NWT days and I could only assume that the NWT Housing Corporation, and I think our former Speaker was the district manager in the Kivalliq back then, had steps in place to inspect these types of construction. In this particular case, I'm not aware of whether or not that was the case, Mr. Speaker.

But I just want to assure the member that from the corporation's point of view, once this analysis gets done, if it looks like further evaluations need to be done

to determine exactly where those heat losses are occurring from, if it's from within the walls, I think the next step would be for our staff to request from the Department of Community and Government Services. They have an infrared camera and trained individuals that work within that department to go in and have those done to these particular units to determine more accurately and exactly where the heat loss is coming from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had tabled a document with respect to this concern and I imagine the minister is now aware of it. People who live in access houses are living in them to work towards owning them and they now know that maintaining a house is quite expensive, especially when you are operating it by yourself.

Many people are concerned both in Chesterfield Inlet as well as Coral Harbour. While I was on the local radio, it was plainly clear that access houses require major repairs compared with HAP houses. In addition, access houses have been found to be far more expensive to operate. Mr. Speaker, I again reiterate this question to the minister: can his officials look into this?

Many people contemplating the program are now being put off by all of the problems and expenses associated with access units. Is there any kind of orientation program that potential homeowners can take? They are giving up even considering the program since

they have seen nothing but problems. When you want to own your own house and all you hear about is problems associated with access units, you would obviously have reservations with that kind of scenario told to you. Will there be a review of this concern?

My question to the minister is: can there be some kind of orientation or assistance program that can be offered to potential homeowners that may have trepidation about owning a problem unit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member for his diligent work on this issue on behalf of his constituents. Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the member that he can inform his constituents that the Housing Corporation will do what it can to try and help them determine exactly what the issues are with their particular units.

Like I said, once an analysis of the blower door tests are done, if it is determined that more steps need to be taken, I'll commit that, as the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, I would consult with the Minister of Community and Government Services, that has the equipment and the trained personnel to do infrared scans of buildings, to determine exactly where the heat loss is coming from.

Mr. Speaker, again, depending on the cause of the problem and whether or not those problems can be addressed within any of the existing homeownership programs that the corporation has... there's the Emergency Repair Program,

the Homeownership Energy Efficiency Rebate Program, there's a number of different programs that are already there offered by the corporation for homeowners.

Like I said, once we determine exactly what the issue is, we will take a look at it and see if it's good that we take a look and see if they fit within any of our existing programs and then hopefully that would resolve the matter. And if not, then we would have to take a look at if that's something else that we may have to address, depending on the seriousness of the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 067 – 3(1): Increase Funding for Sports

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Minister Louis Tapardjuk and I believe he's the Minister responsible for Sports Nunavut.

I wish to pose a question to the minister. As we and the minister knows, in order to live a healthy lifestyle, one must play sports and travelling to other communities is very beneficial for young participants, especially once they have met other athletes with whom they renew their acquaintances and also make new friends at these events.

Therefore, I would like to ask this question to the minister: will funding for sports be increased in this Third Assembly at some time? The reason why I ask is because our young population is

increasing and young people enjoy attending these events. When young people are happy so are their parents and that's the way life is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, (interpretation ends) Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, our department does indeed allocate funding for sporting events, especially for sports associations.

There are different funds allocated to certain areas, such as providing operational funding and also funding for attending sporting events in different communities, including subsidized travel and other travel related costs that we provide to the athletes, teams, and different agencies involved in various sports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. Recently, during one of the hamlet's sports-related AGMs in Kugaaruk, I heard that a youth representative from their youth council asked them several questions.

He asked why it was that a lot of the sporting events were no longer attended by members of their community. I support the minister, especially in this area, and that is why I'm asking about increasing the available funding. Will funding be increased to meet more of these requests? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to funding for these events, in the 2008-09 fiscal year, we allocated \$260,000 for these types of events for use by various sporting bodies.

However, I can tell the member, Mr. Speaker, our colleague, that the funds we allocate to this category were, as a matter of fact, increased at the beginning of this year. We recently re-profiled some of the budget line items, which I was able to get consent for from my fellow Cabinet colleagues, especially in arguing for increases to the funding allocation for various sporting events.

Every year, funding is always insufficient to meet the requests that we receive. We are trying to handle this properly and I feel that we will be better able to meet our challenges in this upcoming fiscal year, Mr. Speaker. At least, that is what I think. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for his response. Now, if this information is not confidential, as certain government documents are labelled confidential, is it possible to release this information perhaps via written correspondence? I would like to get a copy of the funding allocations for sporting events. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I agree with that and we want the public to be aware of our programs, especially what funding is available for sports. As a government, we acknowledge the benefits associated with sports and I will be very pleased to provide more information on the developments to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Question 068 – 3(1): Electrical Code for MAP Units

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to get the last question in today. It's for Hon. Hunter for the Housing Corporation.

Going back to the MAP II units, can he explain to me if all the electrical drawings that have been done for the MAP II units are done according to the latest electrical code? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was saying that I'm happy the member got his wish of having the last question with time running out.

Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that under the MAP program, there are a number of designs that are offered to MAP clients to choose from that are

done by the Housing Corporation. As far as I'm aware, Mr. Speaker, all those designs are done to code. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the hon. member knows where I'm going with this one here. I have a constituent in Cape Dorset that has had a lot of electrical issues with a MAP II housing unit. Now, the Power Corporation says it wasn't their fault, they changed the transformer, an electrician went in, and they said everything was done according to code.

But unfortunately, this gentleman has had two electrical fires there. He put them out with his own fire extinguisher and just hasn't seemed to find out what the issue is, and it seems to be dragging on a bit there, Mr. Speaker. And I know there has been a change in the Power Corporation. Peter Mackey was supposed to look into it and unfortunately now he is the president, so I guess he would have to deal with somebody else.

My question is: when is the minister going to try to find a solution for the gentleman? He is getting very impatient, it has been about three months, and he spent about \$40,000 in replacing appliances in his house. And I guess unfortunately, he is also the Minister of the Power Corporation, he is the Minister of the Housing Corporation, and this gentleman, the last time, had to move out of the house because of the fire, he is also the Minister of

Homelessness, so I would like an answer on that, please. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to have my officials arrange a meeting with all three of those ministers.

>> *Laughter*

No, no, Mr. Speaker, we say that in humour and laughing, but, Mr. Speaker, this is a serious issue that the member raises and I just want to again acknowledge that the member representing his constituents in bringing this issue forward is aware, and I have met with the member and the individual as the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, recently, I sent off a letter acknowledging that meeting, outlining to the individual the next steps to be taken.

I also left the door open to state if that individual thought that there was anything that I missed as a result of our meeting to please feel free, whether he wants to do it through his representative, Mr. Schell, or directly through my office, to let me know if there's anything that he feels that I have missed as a result of our meeting.

Mr. Speaker, as far as I know the Power Corporation has contacted officials from Community and Government Services to find out if there is anyone with the particular expertise to be able to go in and determine if the appliances were damaged or what the situation is.

Mr. Speaker, his constituent, himself, myself, and everyone involved is just as concerned about this issue. No one seems to have been able to determine what's causing the problem. I know that his constituent is aware that, whether it be the Power Corporation or the Housing Corporation, no one wants to say, "Yes, we're going to go in and fix something," if they're not liable for it.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I know that his constituent understands that and I want to assure him that we are just as concerned to try to figure out what the problem is so that it can be addressed, so that individual can feel safe in their own home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for the answer to that. I guess my next question is, obviously, my constituent wants to know roughly the timeframe that would be involved in trying to set something up again.

I do appreciate that we did meet with him here at the last session when we had our committee meetings here and he did look into it. It's just that he's getting impatient and I can't blame him. So I would like to kind of get an idea as to what the timeframe would be to look into this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can certainly acknowledge and sympathize with the member and his constituent. As I indicated earlier, I know that the officials at the Power

Corporation have contracted officials with the Department of Community and Government Services.

I'm not exactly sure where they are at right now or if they have received a response, but I will commit to the member that over the next couple of days, I will determine exactly whether or not the Power Corporation has received any contact back from Community and Government Services and let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please note that Question Period is now over. We will move on to Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to go back to Item 5 if I can get approval from the Assembly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. The member is asking for unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Okalik.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues. (interpretation ends) I would like to welcome a couple of people back to Nunavut. In particular, our very own wonderful artist, with a new CD called Swagger, Lucie Idlout. (interpretation) Welcome.

>>Applause

(interpretation ends) She is here with her guitarist, Jonny James. Welcome.

>>Applause

They are here, as you know, for Pauktuutit's 25th anniversary that are meeting here in Iqaluit. (interpretation) Thank you and welcome.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) 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 1 with Mr. Pauloosie in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:21 and Committee resumed at 15:58

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

Chairman (Mr. Pauloosie): Order, please. Order. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In

Committee of the Whole, we have the following item to deal with: Bill 1. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 1 and the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by the Department of Justice, and if time permits, we will deal with the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement that we continue with the capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2009-2010 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: At this time, I ask the committee if they are agreed that Minister Tootoo and his staff go to the witness table. Are we agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, (interpretation ends) please let minister and his staff go to the witness table.

We were on questions yesterday. Are there any questions on the capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Please let the record show, Mr. Tootoo, if you could recognize your staff to the members.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, on my right is the President of the Housing Corporation, Mr. Peter Scott, and on my left is the Chief Finance Officer for the corporation, Mr. Eric Whitworth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Are there any questions on the capital estimate for the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my opening comments, I outlined the concerns that members have expressed regarding the Nunavut Housing Corporation's plan to spend \$900,000 on fencing in the upcoming fiscal year. I have also had the opportunity to raise this matter directly with the minister and I have appreciated his willingness to listen to these concerns.

As I indicated in my opening comments, I recognize the importance of good inventory controls. I have a number of years of experience in working with Sanikiluaq's local housing association and recognize the challenges that they face.

Mr. Chairman, I have a motion that I would like to move concerning this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Mr. Rumbolt, please read your motion.

**Committee Motion 001 – 3(1):
Recommendation to Rename and
Expand the Scope of Work of the
NHC’s “Fencing Secured Yards”
Capital Project**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the “Fencing Secure Yards” project in the 2009-2010 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation be renamed “Secure Storage” in order to allow for the project’s scope of work to be expanded to incorporate the construction of enclosed facilities to safeguard local housing organization materials. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: The motion is in order. Before we proceed with debate on the motion, I have a few comments to make as to procedures.

Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total time of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first. The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply which closes the debate. To the motion. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Speaking to the motion, again in my opening comments and throughout yesterday, we have all expressed our concerns with the fencing issues. So I think this recommendation is a good one for the better of all of the communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are there any more comments from the members? Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to first off acknowledge and thank the member for raising this issue with me when we’re here for our standing committee reviews of the main estimates, of the main capital estimates; I mean the only capital estimates.

I just want to make it clear that the rationale the corporation has taken in providing secured areas for the housing organizations throughout the territory, one of the main concerns was that it was an issue that was raised by the Auditor General in her audit on the corporation.

The second issue of concern of doing this is just the fact of a potential liability issue to the corporation by not having secured areas for the housing organizations to store their goods. But as the member clearly pointed out in his motion, this will allow the corporation to have some flexibility in moving forward for secured storage areas for the LHOs.

Mr. Chairman, I know in some communities, the suggestion that the member brought forward was something like a building. If it were just to be a building, the unfortunate thing is that, with the way some housing associations’ lots are laid out, they don’t have the opportunity to be able to put a building with that kind of a footprint down on their lots.

So with this motion, it does and will allow us the flexibility to adapt to local housing organizations’ needs and specific requirements on a case-by-case basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Question has been called. All those in

favour, please raise your hand. All those opposed, please raise your hand. All those abstaining, please raise your hand. The motion is carried.

>> *Applause*

Bill 1. L-3. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$18,546,000. Does any member have any questions on that? Are there any questions on the Nunavut Housing Corporation, L-3? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why is there a difference between the revised capital estimates of \$19,125,000 and the current capital estimates of \$18,546,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I could just ask the member, I didn't quite understand his question, if he can try and clarify it for me again so that I can respond appropriately. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation) The minister didn't quite understand the question. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why is the budget for 2009-2010 lower than the budget for 2008-09? The actual expenditures for 2007-08 is \$69,608,000. What's the reason for the decreases and in particular, why are the estimates for 2009-2010 less than the revised estimates? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for clarifying that. My understanding is that the actual expenditures for 2007-08 of \$69,608,000 included some of the Northern Housing Trust dollars. The reason it's smaller here, it's only \$18,546,000, is because that doesn't take into account the trust delivery that's going on in this current year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Where can we find the item for the Nunavut Housing Trust if it's not in here? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to confirm what I thought already. The dollar amounts for the Housing Trust delivery for this year were just approved in the capital supplementary appropriation last week or the week before during this sitting. I think there was around 60 million to 61 million dollars in that approval for the Housing Trust. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): This is my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the amount of actual expenditures for 2007-08 remain the same?

For instance, if we add \$18,546,000 to the supplementary appropriation and about \$61 million, it will be the same as the amount for 2007-08 without any substantial increases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 2007-08 figures that the member is referring to there is the actual expenditures of the corporation on capital for that year and like I said, that included, when we were reporting, we were budgeted a certain amount.

For this year, \$18,546,000 is the budget amount and hopefully next year, it will say that the revised main estimates will be the same. In a couple of years, when the actual expenditures are shown in the books, they will have a total of \$18,546,000 plus the dollars that were allocated towards the Housing Trust for this current fiscal year coming up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials for coming back.

Yesterday, in your opening comments, you mentioned that you provide funding for seniors and disabled persons. It would be appreciated if elders and disabled persons were informed about what types of assistance the Housing Corporation provides to them.

That's more of a comment than a question. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. (interpretation) I don't believe there was a question. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From the NWT perspective, about 10 years ago, every house was built through the homeownership program so that you could actually build two public units. I wonder if the Nunavut government has a similar belief in nature. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't recall that view being an issue with the NWT Housing Corporation when I worked there just prior to division.

Right now, our average cost per unit to the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery has been around \$275,000 per unit, keeping in mind that that is in the form of a multiplex design that naturally is going to be not as expensive as it would be to build a single family dwelling unit. I would be guessing now, but I think our range in that is between \$300,000 and \$340,000, depending on whereabouts it's being built in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Do members have any more questions? Mr. Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to clarify, I did make a little bit of a mistake earlier. Our

estimates for a single family dwelling are \$350,000. I just wanted to make sure that it is on the record at the right amount. Thank you and I apologize. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. No more questions? L-3. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Capital Expenditures. \$18,546,000.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page L-2. Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mission. Details of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$18,546,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Is the committee agreed that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Tootoo, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Bye. No...

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to thank all the members for the issues and concerns that they raised and suggestions for improvements in the use of the limited capital resources that we have available to us as a corporation to deliver throughout the territory.

I think that this is again another great example where, as I have always said and our government has said, we're here

to listen. I would like to thank the members for raising the issues that they did and suggesting improvements, and allowing, through the member from Hudson Bay's motion, the corporation the flexibility to be able to deal with the issue that he raised. I think this is a great example of our government's commitment to working together and I look forward to more of that happening as we move forward in this term.

With that, Mr. Chairman, the only other thing that I would like to say is I wanted to acknowledge my daughter, who was here in the Gallery, but she must have had a premonition that I was going to acknowledge my daughter, Eden, being here and left. So she's probably upstairs in my office getting mad at me right now for mentioning her name here, but I just wanted to thank her for being here and welcome her to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's what happens when I don't write things down; I always forget to say something. I just wanted to also take this opportunity to thank the staff of the corporation and the witnesses who are here with me and also all of the hard work that the rest of the staff in the corporation put in to be able to provide the information that we have before us today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. We would like to thank your staff as well. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, (interpretation ends) could you let them out, please.

I would now like to ask Minister Peterson of the Department of Justice to make his opening remarks.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2009-2010 – Justice – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to take this opportunity to present the proposed 2009-2010 Capital Estimates for the Department of Justice.

The total 2009-2010 Capital Estimates for the Department of Justice is \$17.1 million. The majority of this amount is comprised of two major projects; the men's correctional facility in Rankin Inlet and the women's correctional healing facility in Iqaluit. This figure also reflects our minor capital requirements.

The men's correctional facility in Rankin Inlet is in the final phase of design and development. This facility can accommodate up to 48 inmates and is currently on time and within the estimates provided by Community and Government Services. Construction is set to begin during the fall of 2009 with an expected occupancy date set for 2011. Building the new men's correctional facility in Rankin Inlet will help alleviate some of the overcrowding issues currently faced at the Baffin Correctional Centre.

The women's correctional healing facility was re-tendered on February 13 and closed on March 16, 2009. Bids are currently being reviewed by officials within Community and Government Services. The opening of the new women's correctional healing facility is

targeted for late 2009. The facility, slated for Iqaluit, has the capacity to house up to eight women. It is necessary to construct a women's facility in order to provide appropriate accommodation and security for female offenders, while addressing their unique cultural and rehabilitative needs.

We are allotting minor capital funds for vehicles at the Baffin Correctional Centre, replacement of departmental computers, and for office renovations.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I would be pleased to take questions.

Chairman (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson, do you wish to have witnesses with you to assist in answering questions?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Do my colleagues agree to have his officials at the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials in.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Although I already know the officials beside you, minister, for the benefit of my colleagues, please introduce them for the record. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Rebecca Williams, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Justice. To my left is Mr. Ted Dingle, Director of Corporate

Services for the Department of Justice.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. Mr. Ningeongan, do you have any opening comments?

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the Department of Justice's proposed 2009-2010 capital estimates. Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for 2009-2010 is \$17.1 million, primarily for two new correctional facilities. The department's capital budget was \$1.9 million in 2007-08 and \$2.9 million in 2008-09.

Members recognize that there is an overwhelming need for additional space to accommodate Nunavut's inmates. Sending inmates out of the territory is very expensive and costs will only increase as time goes on. Members have noted that the only Nunavut correctional facility currently operating - the Baffin Correctional Centre in Iqaluit - is extremely overcrowded. As demonstrated in other settings, overcrowding is not healthy at the best of times. In a correctional setting, it can quickly become extremely dangerous for both inmates and staff.

Mr. Chairman, members have noted with some concern that statistics show a steady increase in the number of incidents such as assault, disruptive behaviour, and suicide attempts at the Baffin Correctional Centre. Careful monitoring of these types of incidents will be an important performance

measure for the future in evaluating the value of opening new correctional facilities.

Mr. Chairman, members are in full support of the construction of the Rankin Inlet Correctional Centre for men. Members look forward to seeing what plans the minister and his officials have in place to provide training and local employment opportunities for Nunavutmiut. An important aspect of keeping inmates closer to home while serving their sentences is in ensuring cultural understanding and sensitivity.

Mr. Chairman, the second major project in the Department of Justice's proposed 2009-2010 capital estimates is a women's correctional centre in the community of Iqaluit. In the past, female offenders from Nunavut were sent out of territory to serve their sentences in places like the Fort Smith women's facility. Occasionally, women served very short sentences in RCMP detachment cells in their home communities.

Members have noted that the Department of Justice transformed an external building at BCC to house female inmates in 2007 and for some time, it did not appear that there were any plans to build a new facility. Members are pleased to note that a new such facility will now be built with space for up to eight female inmates. It is important that as many Nunavut inmates as possible, both male and female, are able to serve their sentences in their home territory and receive appropriate counselling and training.

Mr. Chairman, members strongly encourage the minister to work with his

federal counterparts in giving consideration to the establishment of a federal correctional facility in Nunavut. Currently, federal inmates from Nunavut are away from their home for very long periods of time and are completely removed from their families and environment. For some of the older Nunavut inmates, this situation is especially difficult.

Mr. Chairman, while members recognize that funding to support outpost camps for offenders generally comes from the department's operation and maintenance budget, members urge the minister and his officials to consider setting aside capital funds that could be used in order to establish new outpost camps.

Members were pleased to note that all operating outpost camps have now been issued with satellite phones which further improve their ability to communicate and their level of safety. Members recommend that the minister and his officials ensure that policies and procedures relating to the operation of outpost camps and the use of any related equipment are clearly communicated to outpost camp operators on a regular basis.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2009-2010 Capital Estimates of the Department of Justice. I am confident that my colleagues will wish to offer further comments of their own. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Before we proceed, I would like to remind my colleagues of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and

according to Rule 77(2), subject to my discretion as the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that whenever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials for appearing before the committee. Ever since Nunavut was created, the Department of Justice has been looking to apply Inuit ways to better rehabilitate inmates.

Mr. Ningeongan commented on the O&M part, but I do want your department to consider, as we see here for the facility in Rankin Inlet, \$37,250,000 is a huge amount and its O&M will have to be determined.

We send inmates to outpost camps, but we haven't really worked on it. We don't even train communities on that. Although we have a men's healing facility in Kugluktuk, it's for the Kitikmeot only. There are some inmates from other communities who are incarcerated in Iqaluit for four months or a little bit longer and then sent back to their communities after they have served their time. After two months or so, they commit crimes again and they just keep going back and forth. Why can't we house those inmates at the local level?

Using Pond Inlet as an example, why not build a minimum security correctional facility? That would create employment

opportunities in non-decentralized communities and save on high transportation costs. Maybe you could start funding for employing local people rather than using that money to pay for transportation costs.

As Mr. Ningeongan stated, when inmates are housed far from their homes, they are removed from their families and environment for long periods of time. More importantly, the security guards are not from Nunavut in most cases. Sometimes inmates go back home and forget their Inuktitut, such as terms related to the outdoors. I am talking about men, the majority of inmates being men. I will be asking questions in regard to that when we get to that page, Mr. Chairman.

We will most likely have to start considering, as Nunavummiut, better ways of dealing with our inmates so that they lead healthier lifestyles and how best to house them. It has become quite clear that some inmates who break the law were either from broken homes, picked on too much, or residential school students, and there are other contributing factors which have led to their pain and frustration.

I urge your department to start looking at each community specifically. I am sure you know which communities that we receive inmates from the most. Perhaps you can consider incarcerating inmates at the local level if they have short-term sentences, let's say three months or a little longer.

There are various entities in communities, such as elders groups and others, that can be responsible for dealing with such inmates and I am

urging the minister and the department to consider that. We have security guards at the local level and they also take care of people who are intoxicated. Sometimes these security guards make more money than we do when they are required to work on a daily basis.

The communities are capable now, but they lack infrastructure and that is why they have to send the inmates to the correctional facility in Iqaluit. Maybe if we used the approach that I suggested, the facility wouldn't be so overcrowded because a majority of those inmates have short-term sentences. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask questions later on.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. That was more of a comment for consideration. As Mr. Arvaluk stated, I want our Clerk to increase my salary.

>> *Laughter*

I believe Mr. Ningark would like to make a comment. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker... Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry. I called you with the wrong title, so please bear with me.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All communities don't share the same views, obviously. We don't even think the same within our own families. Using Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay as examples, I am considerate of their feelings because I am a human being. We have to be considerate of other people because we all have feelings.

If there was a correctional facility to be built either in Repulse Bay or Kugaaruk, I would first ask them what they think and where they would want it built if they're in support of it. Some people would be shocked at having these facilities built in their community right at the present time, but I believe they can eventually be built in all communities. It has the potential of improving the quality of life in a community but only if it doesn't cause danger.

As Mr. Arvaluk stated, elders in communities are there to help, so are women and men, and youth also have their own input. I know exactly where the member is coming from. But is it safe for residents to house inmates in their communities? There were some inmates from other communities sent to Kugaaruk to live in our community for a while and they were not dangerous, but it was a concern to our people.

Yes, there are healing facilities where our people can go to and we would all like to help each other, Mr. Chairman. So I would like to thank Mr. Arvaluk and the other individuals who contributed their own comments. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Do members have any general comments? No one has their hand up. Thank you. We will now proceed with the page-by-page review of the Capital Estimates for the Department of Justice, starting with E-3. Directorate. Justice. Total Capital Expenditures. \$400,000. Are there any questions? Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): E-3 has been agreed to. The next page is E-5. Corrections. Total Capital Expenditures. \$16.7 million. Are there any questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I'm correct, I think we're talking about the planned Rankin Inlet Correctional Centre. If that's the case, I would like to ask what plans are in place for the present Baffin Correctional Centre after the Rankin Inlet project is completed. Will it remain a correctional facility for Baffin inmates and will there be the same number of PYs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I would like to point out that \$16.7 million is for the women's correctional facility and the Rankin Inlet Correctional Centre; \$15.2 million is for the Rankin Inlet Correctional Centre. Would you like to respond to the question, Minister Peterson?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The plans for the Department of Justice are to continue to use the Baffin Correctional Centre and I don't believe there will be any change in PYs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Does that answer your question, Mr. Arvaluk? Do you have additional questions?

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Yes, I do. I believe it was in the foyer of the Legislative Assembly, we were shown a model of the proposed Rankin Inlet Correctional Centre that was on display. Does that model represent the final design? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, is that frozen?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that was a mock-up display to show that when the building is completed, that's what it will look like. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the current status of the Rankin Inlet Correctional Centre? The Chairman had mentioned some of the funds which will be used for that facility. Is the project on budget and on schedule? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, if you would like to respond.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Yes, the project is on schedule and on budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Do you have any further questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just need a clarification here. When the Nunavut Housing Corporation was here, their capital plans indicated that it has budgeted \$9,075,000 for staff housing for 33 PYs at the Rankin Inlet facility for 2010-11, while your substantiation sheet indicates that \$8,750,000 has been budgeted for staff housing in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Can you tell me which one is the right one? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I wonder who the building is for. (interpretation) Minister Peterson, can you respond to that question.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Chairman, those figures for incremental housing were numbers that were provided to the Department of Justice as an information item. It doesn't affect our budget, but that was information that they provided to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk, did he answer your question?

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Yes, he did. Although it's not a huge sum of money and it's not in the millions, I would like to see something that is the same.

Once the Rankin Inlet Correctional Centre is operational, however many inmates there are being housed in other facilities outside of Nunavut, such as in Yellowknife or Ottawa, would they be sent to that facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister, let me check which figures those will be. (interpretation ends) Which figures should we use? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe those incremental housing figures were provided a year or two ago, so they have probably been updated by the Nunavut Housing Corporation since. If they are providing housing, I would rather rely on their numbers, but that's an information item. But ultimately, it doesn't affect the

budget for the Department of Justice; our budget is for the Rankin Inlet Correctional Centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): There's the response, those figures come from the Housing Corporation. Are there any further questions on this page? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had asked an additional question. Once the Rankin Inlet Correctional Centre is operational, will inmates outside Nunavut, such as in Yellowknife or Ottawa, and for whom there is no space at the Baffin Correctional Centre here be returned and housed at the Rankin Inlet Correctional Centre? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for asking that question. That's the plan, Mr. Chairman.

In the North Slave Correctional Centre in Yellowknife, there are, on average, between 35 and 40 inmates from Nunavut. A lot of them are from the Kitikmeot, so they could go to the Rankin Inlet facility and that would save us \$97,000 per year per inmate that we are currently being charged for inmates in Yellowknife.

So that would be the plan, to bring them in from Yellowknife or other areas, but that all depends on the assessments of the individual prisoners. I don't know where they would come from, but we certainly want to try to maximize the use of that facility. I think we can

accommodate up to 48 prisoners in the Rankin Inlet facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Peterson. (interpretation ends) We can't manage those costs all the time, they keep going up. So that's the added benefits, we will be able to manage it a little more. (interpretation) Are there any further questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still have three more questions. I believe this is included in the 16 million dollar figure that you mentioned. One of the members also mentioned that there's funding to support outpost camps for offenders. For example, there are outpost camp programs in Pangnirtung, Kimmirut, and other communities. Are those included in the capital estimates? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): If you look at the minister's opening statements, he didn't mention outpost camps, but a member of the Regular Members' Caucus did speak about them. So if the minister would provide a response to the opening comments of the Regular Members' Caucus. Minister Peterson, would you like to respond to that question?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question, good question. Currently, within the Department of Justice, outpost camps are funded through the O&M and the main estimates. We have noted the chairman's comments about outpost camps in his opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you. Lastly, while we're under Corrections, the Rankin Inlet Correctional Centre is going to be built. But I asked the minister if they have considered establishing a small building, maybe even a residential unit to house short-term inmates because people are usually not scared of them but rather that they believe these inmates need counselling.

I'm referring to inmates who keep going back and forth. These are usually younger people who keep going back to the correctional facility in Iqaluit. I'm wondering if you can consider establishing small units in some communities where inmates can be housed from three to four months or a little longer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, would you like to respond to that question?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question, it's a good point. I noted in his opening comments that he is interested in that and also noted Mr. Ningark's comments.

The best example of how that might come about is if there is community support. I think that's how it occurred in Kugluktuk, where the community wanted a healing type facility and approached the Department of Justice, and there was a facility there that was available. They approached the Department of Justice with a proposal and they eventually opened up the facility to accommodate the type of

inmates and prisoners that you're talking about.

So if there's a community in the Baffin that's interested, I would encourage them to come and talk to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Are there any more questions? Total Branch. \$16.7 million. Do you agree? I'm sorry, Mr. Arvaluk, do you have additional questions?

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Yes, if there are no further questions from the other members. I believe the women's correctional facility is included in the \$16.7 million. I believe that that project was identified in May of 2008 and its construction has not been initiated to date. What is the current status of the proposed women's correctional facility? Will it finally be initiated once we approve this funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I hope so because the price keeps going up. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. The project was re-tendered on February 13 and the closing date for submissions was March 19, 2009. I believe the Department of Community and Government Services is reviewing the tenders and hopefully one will be accepted. The plan is to open the facility later this year and I think the target date is December of 2009. That's the plan and we will keep our fingers crossed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I would like to be invited because I am tired of waiting for the opening. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell me if they know how many Nunavut women are currently serving prison sentences outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Can that question be answered, Minister Peterson?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is one serving a sentence outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I think I heard that it was tendered on March 19. Will it be a new building or will you renovate an existing building? What type of building is he talking about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. It will be a new building... well, if you can respond to that, minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Yes, it will be a new building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the substantiation sheets for the women's correctional facility, it indicates that it will be an

eight-bed facility. Do you anticipate that the facility will be full as soon as it opens? What is the expectation on that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, can you respond to the question? Can we perhaps obtain third party funding for this? Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hesitate to make a guess, but I hope it's not full when it opens. There are beds for eight women and I'm sure that the female inmates will appreciate the new facility. I was at the Baffin Correctional Centre a few weeks ago and it wasn't a very pleasant experience for the ladies that were in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, you can't say it's your last one anymore as it is really your last question. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: I promise, (interpretation) this is my very last one.

>> *Laughter*

How many staff members will be assigned to the women's facility, such as cooks, guards, counsellors, and so on? How many employees will there be in total? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, if you would respond to that question, please.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There will be nine staff at the facility and the cooking will be done at

the Baffin Correctional Centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Elliott, did you also have a question?

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to the facility that's going to be constructed in Rankin Inlet, I was just wondering if the minister could explain to us how they're going to decide what inmates go where. Are they going to try and put the Baffin inmates in the Baffin, the Kitikmeot in the Kitikmeot, or is it just free-for-all? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, if you would respond to that question.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Member Elliott for that question. I don't think it would be a free-for-all. I think the intention is the Baffin inmates will be in the Baffin Correctional Centre and the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot inmates, we will try to house them in the Rankin Inlet facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if the minister can answer this question because it doesn't actually show up in these capital estimates.

There is no mention of young offenders in there and we're talking about the next five years. I'm just wondering if the minister could update us on the status of the building. Is there a potential growth of inmates coming in where the building might need to be renovated or capital expenses need to put into it in the next five years? Thanks.

Chairman: Could you clarify; is it the young offenders that you're asking about or the existing facilities for other inmates?

Mr. Elliott: We are talking about BCC, we are talking about a facility for adults, but I'm concerned about the youth. People who are under 18, there is no mention of what's happening with them and obviously, this year, there is no need for any construction or any building of other buildings. My question is: is there a potential for that in the future? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) I know that they have been very good kids, so it's been underused.

>> *Laughter*

Minister Peterson, do you want to confirm that?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Member Elliott for that question. I toured the young offenders' facility a few weeks ago as well and it appeared at the time, I think there were only eight youth in there, but upon questioning, it appeared steady, there wasn't a whole lot, and the department is constantly analyzing the numbers and there was no indication that we will need a larger facility within the next five years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We've had good kids. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for answering that. That was what I was hoping to hear. It's

nice to know that it's underused. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Are there any more questions? You may now ask questions, Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understood exactly that BCC will still be used a lot and that there will be a correctional centre for men in Rankin Inlet and that it will enable us to repatriate inmates incarcerated outside of Nunavut. It was stated earlier that there are a lot of Nunavummiut currently housed in Yellowknife.

My question is: once everything is functioning at the facility in Iqaluit and the men's correctional centre opens in Rankin Inlet, are we going to repatriate federal prisoners who are currently serving two years and longer? Will we be able to repatriate them or are they going to stay in federal prisons? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, would you like to respond to that question?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for that question. Federal inmates from Nunavut fall under the federal jurisdiction and as such, we would have no plans to repatriate federal inmates. We don't have facilities for federal inmates in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Are there any more questions? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated that they could accommodate up to 48 inmates at the facility in Rankin Inlet. It's unfortunate that there are no women here who are regular members.

It states here that the women's correctional facility will have eight beds. It must mean there are not that many women incarcerated. I would like to know more about that.

As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, it's easier to understand things once you have been given the full story. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Peterson, if you could give us a brief outline of the average number of female inmates to date. You stated that there is only one right now, but how many female inmates have there been in the past? (interpretation ends) What's the average? I think that's what the member is asking. (interpretation) Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Based on the information I have, it has never gone higher than eight, usually it's around six or seven. Again, a few weeks ago, I think there were seven ladies housed in the Baffin Correctional Centre. So again, that's very steady. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Ningark, did he answer your question? Total Capital Expenditures. \$16.7 million.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): That has been agreed to. I would like to be invited

once all of those facilities are built as I have worked very hard on them, minister.

We will go back to page E-2. Department Summary. Department of Justice. Total Capital Expenditures. \$17.1 million. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): The Department of Justice is now concluded. What is the wish of the committee? Do you agree that the Department of Justice is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): I would like to thank the minister and his officials. Do you have any closing comments?

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the members for some excellent questions. It's always good to get questions like that and get the information out there; the listening public is probably interested in it as well.

I would like to thank my colleagues as well for sitting in. I would like to thank my officials for their hard work in bringing these projects almost to fruition and I'll make sure that when the facilities are open, we will get an invitation to you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I also want to go to Rankin Inlet to see the opening of the facility

there because I would really like to go there again.

I thank the minister and his officials. Have a good afternoon.

We are finished with the Department of Justice. Do members wish to continue from here?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): The minister is now available to make his opening remarks. Do you wish to proceed with the Department of Education?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): I would now like to ask Minister Tapardjuk, Minister of Education, to make his opening remarks.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2009-2010 – Education – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to discuss the proposed 2009-2010 Department of Education capital projects budget.

Our government has many capital priorities in the area of education. With 43 schools throughout Nunavut, there is a substantial capital investment in education infrastructure in every community in Nunavut. Our student enrolment for the 2008-09 school year is as follows: Kitikmeot, 1,613; Kivalliq, 2,957; Qikiqtaaluk, 4,710, for a total enrolment of 9,280 students from kindergarten to grade 12. We will continue to take measures to maintain

these facilities. These priorities are made all the more challenging with the recent dramatic increase in construction costs.

The Department of Education's proposed 2009-2010 capital budget is \$15,268,000 with an ongoing project budget of \$40,913,000 from 2010-11 to 2013-14. Our proposed 2009-2010 budget complies with the current necessary fiscal restraints while incorporating some practical programs which will lead to long-term savings for the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, my department gathers information from hamlets, district education authorities, communities, schools, and the Department of Community and Government Services to develop, plan and manage capital priorities. Through our comprehensive facilities database, we're able to analyze school utilization and their physical condition along with planned program requirements to determine our capital requirements.

The Department of Education is guided by the principles of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* in our capital planning and design phases, as well as supporting multipurpose facilities, partnerships, and student training as fundamental elements in our construction contracts.

Mr. Chairman, I believe my department will move forward in a fiscally responsible manner. I believe this plan provides the residents of Nunavut with the best affordable educational facilities this government can currently offer.

Mr. Chairman, over the past few years, my department has been faced with

emergency or urgent repairs requiring immediate attention. The proposed Nunavut Schools Assessment initiative will allow our department to anticipate the needs of our schools and plan for a proactive manner to alleviate these emergencies.

Mr. Chairman, we are also proposing a special needs assessment to help in determining how our facilities are currently equipped and establish our future needs. It is imperative that we are able to meet the needs of each and every student as part of our inclusive education program in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, these two initiatives will cost approximately \$1,050,000 for this upcoming year.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to update my colleagues on several ongoing projects to improve or upgrade our community facilities. The addition to the Peter Pitseolak School in Cape Dorset is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2010. The Department of Education has budgeted \$9 million for the upcoming fiscal year and \$50,000 for 2010-11 to complete the extensive renovations.

Mr. Chairman, the Inuksuk High School renovation project will take place over summer breaks, beginning in June of this year. This method ensures the safety of students and staff while providing adequate time to complete projects over a four-year period.

The Inuksuit School in Qikiqtarjuaq requires an addition and renovations to the existing school. The planning and design phases are complete and

construction of the additions/renovations is set to begin this summer.

Nuiyak School in Sanikiluaq is now too small for the number of students attending the school. Construction of the new school is set to begin this summer and the budget for 2009-2010 is just over \$3 million.

The Ataguttaaluk Elementary School in Igloolik is also undergoing necessary repairs that are scheduled to be completed by the end of the 2011 fiscal year.

I also want to emphasize that we cannot spend more than our means. As a government, we must work within the budget framework. These are implications to project costs including staffing, associated housing requirements, building utilities, and ongoing maintenance that must also be considered as we look at creating new facilities as well as adding to existing structures.

As this government goes into its new mandate, I look forward to working with all the elected members to set priorities and help navigate a new direction for our territory. I am confident that we will work together for the best interests of Nunavummiut and deliver the best possible services and programs for our citizens.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here today to discuss the Department of Education's capital budget for 2009-2010 and the subsequent four years. I look forward to all questions, comments, and discussion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. You just gave us a positive report and I envy you as this is a department that I really enjoyed working on. Would you like to have your officials with you at the witness table?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I would like to have officials with me.

Chairman (interpretation): Do my colleagues agree to allow the minister to bring in witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort them to the witness table.

Your officials are now seated. Although I know them, for the benefit of my colleagues, please introduce your witnesses to the members. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Kathy Okpik, Deputy Minister of Education, and on my right is Murray Horn, Director of School Operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Welcome to the witness table. Do you have any opening comments on the capital estimates, Mr. Elliott, as you have been asked to provide them? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I start, I wanted to apologize for reading so fast yesterday and also to acknowledge the interpreters and translators and thank them for their hard

work in terms of keeping up with me. I know it must be hard sometimes, so I'll try and slow down a little bit.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the Department of Education's proposed 2009-2010 capital estimates.

Members note that the department's proposed capital budget for 2009-2010 is \$15,268,000. Although this proposed budget appears low when compared to the department's capital budget of \$23.4 million in 2007-08 and \$25.6 million in 2008-09, it should be noted that any projects related to adult education are no longer included within this department's capital estimates.

Mr. Chairman, while members recognize that there is now a division of responsibilities between the Minister of Education and the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, it is noted that there are significant crossovers between the two portfolios. Members caution the appropriate ministers to work closely together and to ensure that Nunavut residents do not fall between the cracks when trying to access adult-focused programs, services and resources that relate directly to adult education and opportunities for self-sufficiency.

For example, while the ongoing construction of facilities such as the Nunavut Trade Centre will fall under the budget associated with Nunavut Arctic College, programs such as Financial Aid for Nunavut Students that will enable students to travel to attend such facilities

are still managed by the Department of Education.

Members note further that one of the department's proposed future projects in its 2010-14 Five-Year Capital Plan is the addition to the Inuksuit School in Qikiqtarjuaq which incorporates a new Nunavut Arctic College Community Learning Centre. This project has been brought forward and pushed back again over the past few years. Members urge the two ministers to establish ongoing communications not only with each other but also with the district education authority and community residents as this project progresses.

The Government of Nunavut's new *Education Act* allows for district education authorities to have a role in providing adult education programs in their communities. Important opportunities such as this should not risk further delays or loss as the result of the division of responsibilities with respect to providing educational opportunities to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, members note that only one of the department's four ongoing projects for 2009-2010 is for a new school. The community of Sanikiluaq has been in dire need of a new school for some time. Community residents have expressed concern over the ongoing delays in this project. Members recommend that the minister and his officials provide regular updates on the progress of this project, especially if there are any further delays.

It appears that some consideration has also been given to incorporating a new Nunavut Arctic College Community Learning Centre in this new facility.

Given the extreme overcrowding in the current school situation, members urge the minister to work closely with his counterparts to establish whether or not there will indeed be adequate space for a new community learning centre.

Mr. Chairman, members would be interested in learning further detail about what kinds of criteria are used to determine which schools are candidates for replacement, addition or renovation. The department's planning process must include a compilation of comparative data on every Nunavut school, including such detail as school capacity, technical status and priority rating for capital investment. Members would appreciate receiving an up-to-date copy of that information as it relates to all of Nunavut's schools.

The multiyear renovation project at the Inuksuk High School in Iqaluit has experienced some planning difficulties over time but now appears to be on track to proceed this coming summer. Recent news reports have highlighted some concerns with respect to the removal of asbestos from the building during the course of the renovations and members are confident that the minister will ensure that all measures are taken to protect both students and staff from any negative consequences of this aspect of the renovations.

Again, members stress the need for ongoing communication with the district education authority and the community on the progress of this project. Members would like assurances that the school program will not be delayed as the result of any delays in the renovations.

Members note that different kinds of capital investments can support and enhance the provision of education services. For example, adequate staff housing for teachers, adequate gymnasium facilities for students, and adequate bussing services have all been raised as ongoing issues. Members urge the minister to keep track of needs and developments in these areas.

For example, members would appreciate a clarification on how student transportation arrangements are prioritized and provided for all of Nunavut's school communities. It is important that communities and MLAs have a clear understanding of how student transportation arrangements are organized.

Mr. Chairman, two of the department's proposed projects for 2009-2010 are new assessment projects, one to focus on determining the physical condition of each Nunavut educational facility and the other to determine and meet the requirements for special needs students. It is not clear how the Department of Education's building assessment project will differ from the technical assessment process undertaken by the Department of Community and Government Services. Members would appreciate some assurance that this will not turn into an expensive duplication of effort.

Members note with approval the department's proposed investment to ensure that the requirements of special needs students are met throughout Nunavut's schools. It is important that all residents of our Nunavut communities have equal opportunities to access education, to be fully involved in society, and to have the same choices

and chances that everyone else has. Again, members urge the minister to work with his counterpart in the Department of Community and Government Services to avoid costly duplication of work and effort.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2009-2010 Capital Estimates of the Department of Education. I am confident that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) You missed one. On top of page 4, it should be assurances, not assurance. That's one little mistake I noticed, Mr. Elliott. It's okay, *Qanuinnigittuq*. Since we're in Education, we should be literate.

(interpretation) Do members have any general comments? We will continue with the procedure we were using. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials. As the minister had stated, when we attended school in Chesterfield Inlet, every time his boots were getting out of place, I would have to fix them up for him, as well as his hat and mitts. He was telling the truth. Since I'm older than he is, I used to help him and I'm sure I helped him very well because he is now a minister.

>> *Laughter*

I just wanted the minister to not forget that.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 2, I am very pleased and agree with the end of the last paragraph that states, "It is imperative that we are able to meet the needs of each and every student as part of our inclusive education program in Nunavut."

Mr. Chairman, we hear about drop-outs from time to time. Sometimes it's very hard to encourage students to stay in school. I am a parent and now the grandfather of many students. Parents also need to provide support to the students and also to the principal rather than just waiting for the teachers and the local district education authorities. Parents need to encourage their students too.

Mr. Chairman, we know that in all of the communities, we usually have very capable teachers and gifted children in Nunavut, although I have never seen a gifted student provided with support. Rather than looking at the negative side, we should also be looking at positive areas to encourage students and to provide them with support.

I would like to know what kind of programs that you have to support gifted children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. That was just a general comment, but we're dealing with the capital estimates. I would like that to be considered by the department.

Are there any further general comments? Do members have any general comments? I'm sure everybody's happy with your opening comments. We will move on to the page-by-page review of the capital estimates starting with page

G-3. Go to page G-3. Education. Corporate Services. Total Capital Expenditures. \$15,268,000. Are there any questions on that page? Mr. Rumbolt, would you like to ask some questions?

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister and his officials for being with us today. My question is in regard to the new school that's going in for Sanikiluaq and I understand that the tender closed a couple of weeks ago. I'm just wondering if the tender has been awarded and if it's within budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Tapardjuk, can you respond to that question?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I can. We have selected the contractor and the project is within budget. The contract has been awarded and the project will not be going over budget, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I am happy to hear that. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: I thank the minister for his response. So if everything is in order, I'm assuming that the completion date is still projected for the fall of 2011 or 2012. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Can you try to respond to that question, Minister Tapardjuk?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): The completion date is for the summer of 2010.

Chairman (interpretation): That's good. Mr. Rumbolt, was that all? Are there any questions? Mr. *Atiqatik*, Eruk Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page G-4, past capital estimates have included ongoing plans for renovations and an addition to the elementary school in Gjoa Haven. Some work has been completed, but the community is expecting to see the rest of the plans followed through. For example, the community desperately needs a gymnasium, which is a component of this project yet to be built.

I am and I was very disappointed to note that this project does not appear on the 2009-2010 capital plan. According to the 2008-09 capital plan, further construction should have taken place in 2009-2010. Can the minister provide an update on the status of this project?

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Tapardjuk, would you like to respond to that question?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank my colleague. In Gjoa Haven, the phase 1 review has been completed

However, we haven't identified any funds for the 2009-2010 fiscal year for Gjoa Haven. The reason for that is if we were to review all of the projects that are on the wish list for the construction of new schools, it would cost \$300 million. Our budget for the year is only \$130 million. Due to the severe shortfall in our resources, this will need to be reviewed further when we are at the next planning cycle for the next fiscal year.

With respect to the elementary school, preparations have been completed. What I can say is that that project for Gjoa Haven is not included in the 2009-2010 capital estimates, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Eruk Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister provide an update on the status of this project?

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Tapardjuk, he needs additional clarification. Can you please clarify that?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I'll have our Director, Murray Horn, elaborate on that.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Horn, if you could respond.

Mr. Horn: Thank you. The project, while it was ongoing for the first phase, which the member is very much aware of, that is now in the process of being completed.

The decision to go forward with the second phase was part of the legislative decision to defer it for at least one year and while it's not showing this year, it is not totally off the overall planning but is at the request of the community perhaps to come back.

But we have not totally taken it off the books because the planning and design work is done for it, much of the architectural design and work is all done for it. It's now just a question of more being on hold than dropped off the planning process. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: When does the minister anticipate resuming the Gjoa Haven elementary school project?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Horn, if you could respond again.

Mr. Horn: Clearly, our thinking is we would like to bring it back for, not this coming fiscal year but the following one, the year 2010-11. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: What is the timeline for the Gjoa Haven project?

Chairman (interpretation): He already answered that question, 2010. Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: Will the minister responsible commit to contacting the Gjoa Haven District Education Authority at his earliest possible convenience to explain and discuss the current situation?

Chairman: Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, we will contact the DEA and give them a status report of the elementary school project, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Did he answer your question? Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: I would like thank the minister for his response. *Qujannamiik*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): That was not a question. Thank you. Members are starting to look like harp seals, taking turns asking questions. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) My question is based on page G-4.

In the 2006-07 capital estimates, the government had included \$50,000 towards starting a new senior school project in Coral Harbour, with the design and planning stage to begin in 2010-11. I was very surprised to see that this project no longer appears on the capital plan.

Can the minister explain why a new senior school was considered for Coral Harbour in 2006 but it is now no longer considered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Tapardjuk, if you can respond.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's entirely true. It's not included in the 2009-2010 capital estimates. The planning stage was done, but I can't say much more than that.

If we included the school project for Coral Harbour with the funds that we require to build new schools, it would cost approximately \$300 million. We have been allocated only \$130 million. We were given limited resources, so we had to identify the priority projects for constructing schools and we conducted a review.

After our review, it became evident that the school in Coral Harbour was renovated back in 2007. The school is at 78 percent capacity with 263 students and it has a total capacity of 335 students. So this project is not a high priority given the fact that there are other

projects which must be completed as soon as possible.

What I can say is that we have not totally taken it off the books but that we have delayed the construction date. That's all I can say, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Can the minister clarify what criteria were used in 2006 to evaluate community needs for new schools? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Tapardjuk, if you can respond.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): As I stated earlier, we would like to review all of the schools. We didn't do all the reviews and we haven't prioritized any schools yet.

The main criterion we use is the lack of space. Some schools are filled to capacity and that's how we set our priorities. One thing that we have also considered is we will start planning and provide opportunities for all the members to have their input.

With respect to your question on what criteria do we use to determine which projects are set as priorities or deferred, some of the main criteria used are the age of the facility, when the school was last renovated, and how full the school is. So those are the main criteria that are used to prioritize which communities need new schools, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recently learned that the school in Coral Harbour is at 78 percent capacity. At what capacity was it then when it was justifiable to be put on the table for the 2006-07 capital estimates? What criteria were used then? Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I mean Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Clerk, I'm going to need a raise; I keep being referred to as the Speaker. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I don't have a response to the question at this time, so we need to look into that further and get back to the member, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be speaking in Inuktitut now.

I have been having a hard time understanding why there funds set aside to start a new senior school project, which the Coral Harbour residents were anticipating. The site was identified and work was done on it, but I still can't understand why, after they had worked on the site, it disappeared from the capital plan.

Due to that reason, I would really appreciate it if the minister could find out exactly why the project was identified in 2006-07. At this time, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister if he could provide that information as soon as possible to the DEA in Coral Harbour and go see them directly to give them an explanation. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Ningeongan, perhaps the department can provide what capacity it was at when the planning was being done, but we have been told that it's at 78 percent capacity at this time. That is a very good question and perhaps the department can respond to it. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. The senior school project that was planned for Coral Harbour was not the only project that was dropped off the capital plan.

According to what I said, the main criteria are the age of the facility, when it was renovated, and how full the school is. We also need to review all schools in Nunavut. We will go and discuss it with the Coral Harbour District Education Authority.

If we are given \$300 million, we would be more than happy to accept it. However, we have only been given \$130 million to be used for school construction. We would like to put those funds to good use. Priorities were placed on schools in Qikiqtarjuaq, Sanikiluaq, and Cape Dorset because they are aging and filled to capacity.

With respect to the member's question, yes, we can provide the information to the Coral Harbour District Education Authority as soon as possible, but at this time, I can't say if we will go to their community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Yes, if you can also indicate what percent capacity the school was at in 2006-07. I'm sure those numbers are available and they can be provided in a timely manner so that Mr. Ningeongan receives a proper

response. Mr. Ningeongan, do you have further questions?

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the future, you should work with the community and do the planning so as not to disappoint the communities, that way the communities can have full confidence in the Government of Nunavut. If there was something that was not planned properly, then the community ends up with a problem and it's not good that way.

It seems to me that the Department of Education should conduct a full review through the capital planning process prior to allocating funds to communities. I'm not just talking about Coral Harbour, Mr. Chairman, it's not the only community in that situation, but the main reason why I'm bringing it up is because there has been an impact on our community.

Since the school project for Coral Harbour is no longer in the capital estimates, I urge the minister to work closely with the residents of Coral Harbour so that it could be put back in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Tapardjuk, if you could respond.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I agree with the member. I would also like to work closely with him on the planning stages because he has been elected to represent that community. Yes, I do want to work closely with all of you on these projects.

Our staff travelled to Coral Harbour during the planning stage in the fall of

2008. You're correct in saying that the community has been anticipating that school. Let me explain further that the Sakku School was constructed in 1979 and renovated in 2007. We have spent \$5.6 million on that school, putting in new flooring and roofing, as well as new paint, keeping in mind that there are higher priorities in other schools.

I would like to make a correction, Mr. Chairman. The \$130 million that I identified is not just for schools, it's for all capital projects of the Nunavut government. I would like to note that for the record and I apologize for making that mistake, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I believe it was expanded in 2007, so does it have enough capacity now, minister?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): The school wasn't expanded, but it was renovated because of safety issues. It was at 78 percent capacity and because it wasn't full enough, it wasn't expanded. All they did was renovate the school for safety reasons and not expanded, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Are there any more questions? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Renovations don't alter the size of a building. So a community, (interpretation ends) why would they suffer the consequences of that? We're not making the building any bigger than it was. I would strongly urge the minister to work with the DEA in Coral Harbour to pursue this very important issue pertaining to not only Coral Harbour but Nunavut communities.

(interpretation) Education is something that is very important to us. It seems like when a project is dropped, all the planning and work was done for nothing. In my view, it's something that's a heavy responsibility.

I'm not trying to put down any of the departments or the Department of Education, but I think proper planning and collaboration are what will give projects a solid foundation.

I think that we should take this as an example and make it a learning experience for your department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll leave it at that for now.

Chairman (interpretation): That was just a comment. I would urge you to work together and make sure that you have the proper numbers as to what percent capacity the school was at in 2006. Hopefully you will respond to the member at your earliest convenience.

There are more questions from members. Mr. Ningark, you may now ask questions.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question regarding gifted students, students who can become lawyers or doctors.

I have no doubt that most of Nunavut's communities have gifted students. I'm sure that the teachers know who those students are. Even some of us as Members of the Legislative Assembly know some of these individuals.

I would first like to ask the minister what the teacher-student ratio is in Nunavut.

Is it 25:1? I would like to ask him what that number is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I was a slow learner and had to take upgrading, so please don't call me gifted. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): The teacher-student ratio is 20:1. That's the way we have it set up, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): This is more for operations and maintenance, but I'll let you proceed. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): The minister stated earlier that some of the schools are overcrowded and because of that, there might be bright students falling through the cracks. How come we don't see any specific support for gifted students within our schools? How come we don't have special programs for them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk, if you could respond.

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

Chairman: Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): As the minister stated, the student-teacher ratio is 20:1, but looking at all schools, that is not always the case. The teacher-student ratio depends on the number of teachers that we have. For instance, the ratio in a given school could be as low as 15:1 or higher.

We provide a set number of teachers depending on the student population. The school principal and the local district education authority then decide what courses to offer students. For example, if they want a gym or a music teacher, they would set aside one position for that. It's at the discretion of the district education authorities in the communities to decide how the teachers will be allocated.

There are also teachers who provide support outside of their regular duties to special needs students, some of whom might be gifted. In addition to the number of teachers that we provide with the teacher-student ratio, we have 143 student support assistants who provide assistance within the schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Maybe you can submit a written question regarding gifted students as we're dealing with capital estimates at this time. It's a very good question that should be addressed because we need to pay more attention to the potential of our gifted students throughout Nunavut.

Since the question is not on the capital estimates, it would be good to have it asked during Question Period or as a written question tomorrow.

Mr. Arvaluk, you have your hand up.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe we can begin with the O&M. Johnny Ningeongan's question is very important not only for his school but also for other schools that were put on the books and then taken off, what's the reason?

That's a very important question and I want to make sure that I'm wide awake when I listen to the response, so I would like to resume our review of the Department of Education tomorrow. (interpretation ends) I move that we report progress. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Arvaluk is now an elder and tires easily now.

There is a motion on the floor and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. Thank you and we will see the officials again tomorrow. Have a wonderful evening.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Okalik.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and would like to report that one committee motion was adopted. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Ningark. The motion is in order. All those in favour, please raise your hand. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends) Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for March 25:

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
 - Motion 19 – 3(1)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 1

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 2
- Bill 3
- Bill 4

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 25, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:03*

