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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

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(South Baffin)

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(Arviat)
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(Kugluktuk)
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(Iqaluit Centre)
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, March 26, 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): Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Taptuna to say the opening prayer. Mr. Taptuna.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, my colleagues, and all the people of Nunavut, Qikiqtarjuaq residents in particular. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Tootoo.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 044 – 3(1):
Appointment of Patsy Owljoot to
the Board of Directors of the
Canadian Housing and Renewal
Association**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the appointment of Ms. Patsy Owljoot, Vice-President of the Nunavut Housing

Corporation, to the Board of Directors of the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association. The CHRA is a national non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and strengthening the social and affordable housing sectors. At CHRA's annual meeting to be held next month, Patsy is to be acclaimed as the new northern representative of their board.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize Patsy for her dedication to providing housing services for Nunavut and in Nunavut. Patsy began her career in housing as a housing board member before taking a position with the local housing organization in Arviat in 1989. She has held numerous roles at the headquarters of the Nunavut Housing Corporation since 1999.

In the course of her work, Patsy has been extensively involved in the development of housing designs that are compatible to northern living and she has played a lead role in pursuing innovative solutions to addressing energy efficiency within residential dwellings and housing programs sensitive to the needs of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that Patsy will bring the unique perspective of northern housing delivery to the work of the CHRA. As a board member of this important housing advocate and research network, Patsy will also be in a position to share innovative ideas from the other provinces and territories, ensuring that Nunavummiut will benefit from a strengthened understanding of housing delivery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 045 – 3(1):
Official Launching of Life Stories
of Northern Leaders**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This year being the 10th anniversary of the creation of Nunavut, I would like to inform the House about the official launch of a very exciting series of publications created here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, produced between 2005 and 2008, *Life Stories of Northern Leaders* is a five-volume series published by Nunavut Arctic College in collaboration with Université Laval in Quebec City and Nunavut Sivuniksavut in Ottawa.

For this series, five Inuit leaders, instrumental to the creation of Nunavut, were selected to narrate their life stories: Abe Okpik, John Amagoalik, Paul Quassa, Peter Freuchen Ittinuar, and one of our fellow Members of this Legislative Assembly, the Member for Tununuiq, James Arvaluk.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, this biography project officially began in 1995 when adjunct instructor Louis McComber invited the late Abe Okpik to be a guest lecturer in a Northern History class in our college's Language and Culture Program. Those interviews and other interviews conducted by Louis McComber formed the first book of the series entitled "*We Call It Survival*."

Second in the series is John Amagoalik's *Changing the Face of Canada*. Through his words and life story, we experience the journey of Inuit as they moved from being wards of the state to full-fledged Canadian citizens on equal footing with the rest of Canada.

As Chief Negotiator for the Tunngavik Federation of Nunavut, Paul Quassa became familiar with the Canadian legal context of aboriginal rights and his life is a constant voice between the sophisticated process of lawmaking and Inuit community life. His book is titled *We Need to Know Who We Are*.

A spirited exchange between Pierre Elliot Trudeau and Peter Ittinuar on the tundra inspires the fourth volume, *Teach an Eskimo How to Read*. We follow Canada's first Inuk Member of Parliament through his life from the days of the Eskimo Experiment to the creation of Nunavut.

And the fifth volume, James Arvaluk's *That's My Vision*, sheds light on the involvement of Inuit politicians in territorial politics and the quest for a territory called Nunavut. This book also came to being through interview sessions held during special classes with Arctic College's Language and Culture Program in Iqaluit.

Beyond the individual stories themselves, Mr. Speaker, it is important to consider this collection in its entirety as an analysis of contributions Nunavut Inuit have made to the development of Canada and the development of government structures in the North.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to recognize the work of Nunavut Arctic

College language and culture students for their hard work transcribing interviews and translating the series into Inuktitut. We also thank the Department of Education, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. This project would not have been possible without their support.

I encourage all those who are interested in learning more about this series to come out and attend the launch. For those who are interested in reading them, Mr. Speaker, these books are available in English and Inuktitut, and can be purchased from Nunavut Arctic College and at bookstores across the North.

Mr. Speaker, in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the creation of Nunavut, we will be officially launching this series of books on April 1, 2009, in the main foyer of the Arctic College's Nunatta Campus here in Iqaluit. On April 3, we will be holding a similar event on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

As Nunavut turns ten, the *Life Stories of Northern Leaders* series serves as an important reminder of where we have been and where those who came before us wanted us to go. Mr. Speaker, these stories will continue to be told for many, many years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 046 – 3(1): New Trades Brochures

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, my *Annuraaqatik*, Mr. Speaker. Pardon me. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my colleagues about new brochures that the Department of Education has produced highlighting the most popular trades in Nunavut. These information items, Mr. Speaker, we are releasing are very timely as our government plans to open the Nunavut Trade School in Rankin Inlet, which is geared towards some of these trades.

There are ten brochures in total, one for each of our most common trades professions in Nunavut – carpenter, cook, electrician, heavy duty equipment technician, and a trade I have always dreamed of and regret never taking, heavy equipment operators, housing maintainer, industrial mechanic, oil burner mechanic, plumber, and welder.

I will be tabling these brochures shortly, Mr. Speaker, and these brochures will be distributed to all of our high schools, income support offices, and all our career development officers. It is our hope that this material will move Nunavummiut to learn more about careers in trades and pursue more information about attending the trade school.

We all know there is a vital need for fully-trained tradespeople all across the country and this is especially true here in Nunavut. Nunavummiut will soon have access to the trades training opportunities they need to participate in the wage economy as we move towards self-reliance. It is up to the government to make information about trades readily

available to our citizens so that they can make informed decisions about their career options. These brochures are a launch point for gathering this information.

Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling these trade brochures later today. I am confident these brochures will be well-received and will provide valuable information for the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 047 – 3(1):
Community Celebrations:
Nunavut at 10**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to provide an update to my colleagues and Nunavummiut about the planned celebrations for the 10th anniversary of the creation of Nunavut.

As I stated a couple of weeks ago, we will provide \$5,000 to each community applying for the grant for the anniversary. To date, 25 Nunavut communities have applied to the grant to assist them with their celebrations for April 1.

Mr. Speaker, the communities are pleased to be receiving this funding and are looking forward to being able to plan their celebrations to mark this anniversary. Applications have included specific events that they want to fund and with the plethora of different events

planned throughout Nunavut, I would love to visit some of these celebrations.

There are planned community feasts, dances, indoor and outdoor games. Some have planned radio game shows to include people who otherwise cannot participate in outdoor events. Some specified activities include throat singing and talent shows. Some will be holding fishing derbies, while others will have hunting competitions.

It is quite obvious that some of these communities will hold festivities that will be enjoyed by our fellow Nunavummiut and the funds will be utilized properly to ensure its success. Last week, our Premier recently had a chance to begin the countdown to April 1 in Pond Inlet with the Member for Tununiq and our Cabinet colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, these plans make me especially proud and ecstatic of the continuing partnership between our department and the municipalities. We have worked hard together over the past ten years to provide quality services and we look forward to collaborating in the coming years to improve the quality of life of our fellow Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that there will be some very unique and enjoyable activities in each of our communities to celebrate this important milestone for Nunavut. I am very pleased that we have been able to provide this funding directly to the communities for their use and I look forward to taking part in the celebrations with my colleagues and all Nunavummiut, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 048 – 3(1):
Nunavut Department of Justice**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 10th anniversary of Nunavut is just around the corner. In recognition of this significant event in our history, I would like to highlight a number of accomplishments by the Department of Justice.

The Akitsiraq Law School was established in 2001 and with support from the Department of Justice, we were honoured to see 11 students graduate. We created a made-in-Nunavut *Family Abuse Intervention Act* to allow for community empowerment by providing an individualized community driven process.

In 2006, we established a Human Rights Tribunal to hear human rights complaints from Nunavummiut and this process allowed equality of opportunity in the areas of employment, services, and communications.

We have made considerable progress with our infrastructure by building a new court house that is able to meet the needs of our territory. We also opened Nunavut's first healing facility in Kugluktuk that delivers culturally relevant programming to assist adult male offenders prepare for reintegration back into their communities. I am honoured to advise the House today our healing facility is employed by 85 percent Nunavut Land Claims beneficiaries.

Soon, we will have a new men's correctional centre in Rankin Inlet and a women's healing facility in Iqaluit. These facilities will help alleviate some of the overcrowding currently faced at the Baffin Correctional Centre. This will allow offenders to remain in our territory and participate in culturally relevant programs that involve community service agencies, elders, and families.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all Nunavummiut who have contributed towards helping improve our justice system. Working together, we have seen what we can accomplish. I am confident that our government will continue to build on these accomplishments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. There being none. Going to Item 3. Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 080 – 3(1):
Public Housing Construction in
Nunavut**

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the issue of public housing construction in Nunavut. The recent announcement that Nunavut will receive \$100 million in new federal funding for public housing construction is very welcome news.

During our recent territorial election, I spent many hours visiting residents of Cape Dorset and Kimmirut in their homes. The need for new housing in

these communities is acute, as it is throughout Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the job of allocating new units between 25 communities is a difficult challenge. When the Nunavut Housing Trust was originally announced in 2006, approximately 725 units were planned to be constructed. Cape Dorset and Kimmirut were allocated 47 of these. I encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to ensure that the allocation of units from the new housing funding recognizes that most, if not all, communities are in need.

Mr. Speaker, I am a strong supporter of initiatives to provide training and apprenticeship opportunities for our residents. I also encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to take steps to maximize the Inuit and local labour content of its new projects and to avoid the use of prefabricated units.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there is a trade-off between the speed at which units can be built and the time required to allow apprentices to put in the necessary hours to obtain experience and qualifications.

I believe that we should view this time as an investment in our territory's future. Building a trained and qualified workforce will allow us to reduce our dependency on imported labour, lower unemployment in our communities, and provide the foundation of a more prosperous society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

**Member's Statement 081 – 3(1):
Importance of Upgrading Arenas**

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the need to upgrade arenas and other recreational facilities across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that all MLAs recognize the importance of having adequate recreational facilities in our communities so that our youth have opportunities to pursue healthy lifestyles.

It saddens me to see that many of our rinks in Nunavut cannot be used for longer periods of time during the year because they lack artificial ice. As our winters get warmer, this problem will only get worse.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that upgrading our arenas so that they can be used for longer periods of time will result in many benefits to our communities. Instead of being on the streets, our kids will have the opportunity to be involved in organized activities. Instead of being underutilized, our arenas will be able to be used for a variety of activities.

Mr. Speaker, the recent federal budget announced that \$500 million will be provided over two years to support construction of new community recreational facilities and upgrades to existing facilities across Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that our government is making efforts to

negotiate Nunavut's share of this funding.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

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

I recognize that our government is making efforts to negotiate Nunavut's share of this funding. I encourage our government to use some of this funding to upgrade arenas in our communities so that they can be used for longer periods during the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Mr. Pauloosie.

**Member's Statement 082 – 3(1):
Healing for Residential School
Survivors**

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the importance of addressing the needs of residential school survivors.

Mr. Speaker, all of us know people who are still living with the legacy of their residential school experience. In many cases, their wounds have not healed and they are all in need of support.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that we have come a long way. Last year's historic apology to residential school survivors demonstrated the nation's willingness to face its past. Although the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission has encountered hurdles, I am hopeful that it will ultimately be successful and I am hopeful that it will fully represent the experience of Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, the Aboriginal Healing Foundation has provided funding for the work of the Qauma Mobile Treatment Project. This project has seen healers travel to a number of Nunavut communities. I encourage all residents of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak to make their wishes known to the project's organizers.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage our government to contribute to the healing process wherever and whenever it is possible. I am personally aware of situations where residential school survivors later took their own lives. I also urge the government to keep the needs of residential school survivors in mind as it works to develop and implement anti-suicide programs and initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 083 – 3(1): 2008
Bowhead Hunt at Kugaaruk**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The summer of 2008 was fantastic in Kugaaruk and many units were constructed in the

community. Many residents of Kugaaruk were employed in this construction. Both housing and employment are advantageous to a community's well-being.

Additionally, I believe you all are aware that during that summer, a bowhead whale hunt was allocated to Kugaaruk. They were able to harvest a bowhead whale as a result. Since Inuit know that the population is not endangered, the whale hunters made a choice to harvest a younger whale that was not too large and the reason was, Mr. Speaker, it has been many years since our people last harvested a whale.

This was the first bowhead harvest within memory, so their choice was in the medium size category. Another choice made was to conduct this hunt later on in the fall with the view that it would make the preservation of the meat easier with the onset of the colder weather. The hunters were successful in their attempt to get the whale of their choice and their timing of the hunt is in accordance with our traditional laws, which was to preserve the meat and not have any wastage.

The whole whale was completely used and all edible parts were taken. They laid out a platform prior to butchering the whale. During the butchering process, the hunters invited students. Many teachers allowed them to observe even though it was during school hours. Perhaps every student in the schools came out to watch and learn about the whale and how they are butchered.

We are very thankful that our hunters were able to harvest a bowhead whale. I wish to reiterate and conclude that the

bowhead whale population is no longer endangered. This fact allowed our hunters to pick and choose amongst them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Shewchuk.

Member's Statement 084 – 3(1): Hudson Bay Quest Suspended

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week, I advised you of the Annual Hudson Bay Quest Dog Sled Race taking place between Churchill and Arviat that started on March 21, 2009.

Mr. Speaker, I report with mixed emotions that this race has now ended due to blizzard conditions. What is usually a three-day race is changed to almost a weeklong race and the race had to be suspended due to the weather. The racers completed almost two-thirds of the race before it was suspended.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate all the racers, especially racers from Arviat that took part in this race, and would like to wish them all the best. The racers and their dogs were very fatigued due to the weather conditions. The official results of this race are as follows:

- First place, Darryl Baker from Arviat;
- Second place, Dave Dailey from Churchill;
- Third place, Ernest Ager from Churchill;

- Fourth place, Philip Kigusiutnak from Arviat;
- Fifth place, Johnny Mamiak from Arviat;
- Sixth place, Peter Mamiak, Sr. from Arviat;
- Seventh place, Ed Albright from Churchill;
- Eighth place, Jamie Kablutsiak from Arviat;
- Ninth place, Harry Tattuinee from Rankin Inlet;

>>Applause

- And tenth place, Bernie Kalluk from Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, a banquet and feast to celebrate this event will be held in Arviat tonight. I wish everyone to have a good time at the celebration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 085 – 3(1):
Congratulations to Army Cadet
Corps of Arctic Bay**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House of the Annual Cadet Review of the 3045 Royal Regiment of Canada Army Cadet Corps of Arctic Bay. The review was held yesterday evening at the Qaggivik Hall. The ceremony, with 18 cadets on parade and approximately 40 parents in attendance, marked the end of another successful training year.

Mr. Speaker, the army cadets have been active in Arctic Bay since 1991. As members are aware, the Cadet Program is a national program for all youth ages 12 to 18 who want to participate in fun and challenging activities while making new friends. Mr. Speaker, the Cadet Program promotes teamwork, leadership, and citizenship; helps develop decision-making skills; and increases self-confidence and physical fitness.

At yesterday's annual review, the following awards were presented:

“Best Boots and Uniform” to Cadet Jennifer Taqtu
 “Perfect Attendance” to Corporal Mickey Iqaqrialu
 “Athlete of the Year” to Sergeant Sye Qavavauq
 “Most Improved Cadet” to Cadet Annabelle Eecheak, and
 “Top Cadet” to Corporal Bruno Attagutsiak

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of our youths' achievements and their dedication to the Cadet Program.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to formally thank Arctic Bay's Army Cadet staff for their dedication and hard work over the past year. They are RCMP Corporal Christine Wood, Civilian Instructor Kate Fenlon, Civilian Instructor April Shaw, Civilian Instructor Irene Swoboda, and Commanding Officer Second Lieutenant Frank May.

I encourage all members to join me in congratulating Arctic Bay's 3045 Royal Regiment of Canada Army Cadet Corps

on another successful year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 086 – 3(1):
Physical Activity for
Nunavummiut**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I am in a good mood and while I am able to celebrate, I would like to point out that our hockey team was able to win a game last night.

>> *Applause*

I'm not sure what the result will be tonight and that's why I say this during the scant time that I can celebrate.

I also wish to encourage my colleagues to participate in what the previous Members of the Legislative Assembly did and that is they used to play hockey against various teams, such as the firefighters, sometimes against women's teams. We would play hockey games to help raise funds to assist those who have financial difficulties in our communities throughout Nunavut.

I would strongly encourage all Members of the Legislative Assembly to take part in any hockey game whenever the members are invited to play against any team and I would like to play with them some time in the future.

I also would like to urge my fellow Nunavummiut to start exercising in any manner or sport that they can perform

because many of our people are very talented. I have also started walking to work here and it is an enjoyable exercise with side benefits, such as meeting people you know. You can talk to people that you pass and walking is a very healthy form of exercising.

When I haven't walked for a while, it seems like my body gets antsy since I have started exercising and am now conditioned to it. So I encourage everyone to start walking because walking is free and if you are mentally stressed or depressed, it is a healthy way of relieving your stress levels. Therefore, I further encourage all my fellow Nunavummiut to exercise so that our bodies and minds can rid themselves of unwanted stress. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): I thank you as well, Mr. Okalik. Members' Statements. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Member's Statement 087 – 3(1):
Fundraising Efforts in Pond Inlet
for an Arena**

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry, my voice is still not back to normal. I was recently advised by members of the Pond Inlet's recreation department that they have been fundraising for a long time for equipment that was going to be purchased for the new arena. I imagine the funds are for Zambonis and other equipment which they have now been using for a long time, even to this day.

They would like to hear news from the Department of Community and

Government Services as they were told that the arena design phase has been completed by 98 percent. The community wants to see this design phase to see if it includes space for a Zamboni. They are really in a bind and that's why I keep repeating in this House about this issue.

Just recently, a resident emailed me to raise this issue again. The community doesn't have an arena, although one is supposedly being designed, because the building they have was a pilot project from 40 years ago. This pilot project was just to see if a covered ice rink could be utilized by Inuit and to see if it would work in the High Arctic. What was supposedly a pilot project hasn't apparently produced any results because the government keeps renegeing on a replacement facility.

The government should not have to keep an ancient pilot project ongoing because that facility is too old. Because it's only a metal-clad ice rink, some people have partially frozen lungs and if you play in the middle of winter, your whole face gets frostbitten. It is nothing more than an outdoor rink covered with a metal shell, with no additional upgrades because it was just a pilot project that never quite made it past that stage.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services on this issue to see if they are indeed working on a replacement for this 30-year-old project and ask for an update. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statements. We will move on to Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Okalik.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 083 – 3(1): Status of Federal Concurrence on the Official Languages Act

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to direct my question to our Premier.

Last year, our government passed two pieces of language legislation in this House. The *Official Languages Act* has to be approved by way of a resolution of the federal government. Once the federal government has approved this legislation, then it would become law and enable this government to implement the legislation to protect our official languages, which are French, English, and Inuktitut.

I would like to ask the Premier if the government has contacted the federal government on the status of the approval of the *Official Languages Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier of Nunavut, (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to his question, this government views this legislation as being critical because it will be legislation made for and by Nunavut once it has been approved by Ottawa.

When I was last in Ottawa, I kept bringing up this legislation to the federal government. I especially brought it up during a meeting I had with Michael Ignatieff. I urged him to urge his government to approve the legislation and also to keep us informed on the status of this issue. I will keep bringing it up to the federal government until it's approved. Thank you.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Premier. We would like to see the approval and the implementation of the legislation. It was unfortunate that our Prime Minister was caught off guard during his brief visit here. At that time, he hurriedly replied by urging us to put off their implementation.

We will have to do some lobbying with the federal government because the *Official Languages Act* is very important, especially for unilingual Inuit, who cannot speak English, let alone speak French, who face many challenges. If we look at the post office here, unilingual Inuit have nowhere to turn to because there is no provision of services provided in Inuktitut.

I would like to ask the Premier if she will again lobby the federal government to approve this legislation and once it's approved, to also fully implement certain sections of the Act that are specifically geared towards Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the implementation is very important and I'm sure that the Minister of Languages makes this as a priority.

The *Official Languages Act* recognizes French, English, and Inuktitut. It is of importance to the government and we will keep lobbying the federal government to approve it. I think it was put on the backburner for a while when they were doing their budget session, but in any case, I will keep lobbying the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier. I would urge her to keep lobbying the federal government. Once we have overcome these barriers, there will be an improvement in everything else, kind of like a domino effect.

Looking at it from a financial perspective, time is money. For anyone going to the post office, there's a financial loss reflective of how long you have to wait. If they had an Inuktitut-speaking postal worker, then they could be better served at a much shorter time, which would also benefit everyone else. It's the same case with the banks in Nunavut.

I would like to again state that it would have a positive financial impact and create a more effective and efficient service to the people of Nunavut. I wholeheartedly support this government in its efforts to lobby the federal government on this matter. That's just a

comment; I just wanted to state my full support of this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I'm sure that the government has heard your request. Oral Questions. Member for Natilik, Mr. Pauloosie.

Question 084 – 3(1): Healing for Residential School Survivors

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

In my Member's Statement, I spoke about the importance of addressing the needs of residential school survivors. Can the minister indicate how his department is contributing to the healing process? 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 bringing up the issue of residential school survivors. My attention was more on something I'm working on, so I would like him to rephrase his question, please. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Pauloosie, if you could rephrase your question. Mr. Pauloosie.

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's Statement, I spoke about the importance of addressing the needs of residential school survivors. Can the minister indicate how his

department is contributing to the healing process? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, yes, I understand his question now. With respect to the residential school survivors, we appreciate and recognize the hardship they suffered, but I want to point out that it occurred approximately 40 years ago.

This is solely the responsibility of the federal government and they have provided a large source of funding through the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. They had also struck committees to deal with the needs of residential school survivors. We have assisted only in asking that they deal with the concerns of these survivors.

What I can state is that our department and the Department of Education have no mandate as it is entirely under the responsibility of the federal government, but we have continued to lobby on behalf of the survivors and that's the only response I can provide. Our government does not provide funds to be used for residential school survivors and I can only say that we will continue to lobby the federal government for extra funds. Thank you.

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

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just going to continue asking these questions that I would like to ask to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

As I noted in my Member's Statement, the Qauma Mobile Treatment Project, which was launched by NTI, is funded by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. Can the minister indicate whether his department has been asked to support this work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to look into the matter he raised in his question and take it as notice. Once I get the information, I will make sure to update the member. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The minister said that he will get back to you. (interpretation ends) The question has been taken as notice. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 085 – 3(1): Federal Funding for Recreational Infrastructure

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As I noted in my Member's Statement, the recent federal budget announced \$500 million will be provided over two years to support construction of new community recreational facilities and upgrades to existing facilities across Canada. Can the minister update the House on his efforts to negotiate Nunavut's share of this funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government

Services, (interpretation ends) Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the Member's Statement made by Mr. Ningeongan, I totally agree with his accurate assessment that we need to plan on replacing our recreational facilities.

It's becoming obvious that we may also have to look at cooling systems for the arenas in some parts of Nunavut due to the warming of our climate. It's quite obvious that we have to do something soon and we have started initial discussions about these issues.

With the recent federal announcement and the monies made available for upgrading aging facilities and also building new facilities, Nunavut has been informed about its eligibility, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister didn't respond to whether or not he made any effort to negotiate for Nunavut's share of this funding for upgrading facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. As I stated earlier, we made a request to get a portion of the \$500 million to be used for Nunavut facilities and completed an agreement to get our share of these funds, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's Statement, I suggested that we use some of our share of this federal funding to upgrade our arenas with such features as the ability to make artificial ice so that they can be used for longer periods of time during the year. Will the minister commit to pursuing this idea? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member raised a very good question. With respect to hockey in Nunavut, I believe that it runs in the veins of a lot of our communities, though not all. Some communities are more into hockey while others are more into ball sports and that is the way things are in the communities.

Yes, we are currently reviewing the issue with respect to artificial ice in the arenas. It's currently under consideration and we are now contemplating which communities ought to receive artificial ice. We are now starting to grapple with these issues in our department, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that being the case, can the minister commit to reporting to the House on this issue at

our spring sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I reiterate that our department is just starting to deal with this issue and conducting a review to see what is required in order to place artificial ice in arenas. However, some communities just want artificial ice, others want concrete foundations, and others want to put perimeter glass along the boards. So there's a multitude of different requests being made here in Nunavut.

With respect to our review, I cannot ascertain at this time whether the report would be completed prior to our next sitting, but if it were to be completed on time, then I will make a report on it. But if there are still outstanding issues that don't allow for its release, then I will inform my colleagues as to its status at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 086 – 3(1): Protection of Nunavut Waters from Pollution

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Environment.

Yesterday, the minister advised the House that the GN acts in an advisory capacity, working with the Canadian Coast Guard, Transport Canada, and DFO, on the protection of our waters.

With my three communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay right on the Northwest Passage, I am very pleased that the minister and his department feels confident that the GN and other agencies have systems in place to properly respond to oil spills in our arctic waters.

The federal government recently introduced Bill C-3, *An Act to Amend the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act*. This bill is currently being considered in the House of Commons. Can the minister indicate if the GN was consulted in the development of this legislation and whether our government has any concerns with this initiative? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Environment, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm that at this present time, but I am willing to look into that and get back to the member. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. The question is taken as notice. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: I can wait, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member will wait. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 087 – 3(1): Architectural Design of Pond Inlet Arena

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

When I spoke about arenas, some communities would like to get artificial ice and some communities would like to get Plexiglas. In Pond Inlet, we are just waiting to get an arena. We just want to get an arena to begin with and that is our first priority.

>>*Laughter*

As the minister stated previously or as he had agreed with me that this design is almost 98 percent complete, the Pond Inlet residents and the recreation committee are requesting to see the design. They are now fundraising to buy other equipment besides a Zamboni and they would like to get them around the same time. Perhaps the minister's staff can provide an update on the status and a copy of the design to show the committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, (interpretation ends) Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Tununig for asking that question. I have been expecting that question for quite some time now and he finally asked that question at the end of the month, so I thank him.

No wonder they want to get an arena, as the member previously stated, their hockey players freeze their face and ears whenever they play hockey. Our arenas in Nunavut are in various stages. Some communities would like to get artificial ice, some would like to get concrete flooring, and some don't even have arenas. We have been working on this as a priority as there is a need in the

communities and we have been looking for funds.

However, in regard to his question, yes, I will ask my staff to keep Pond Inlet's recreation committee informed and show them where they are at in the design stage for their arena. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a mistake previously, I think I said the arena is 30 or 40 years old, so I stand to be corrected. But it's evident that our arena is the oldest one since it was designed back in the NWT days. It's probably not the oldest arena in the NWT, but it's the oldest one in Nunavut and the whole building and the shell is made entirely of steel.

I would like to ask the minister in regard to Mr. Ningeongan's Member's Statement, the \$500 million in funding from the federal government. Do you have an idea of when the application will be approved or do we have to wait for a federal budget in order to obtain this funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we heard that Pond Inlet got their arena, we were so envious back in those days. Now, we're no longer envious of that arena.

With regard to the recreation funds from the federal government, they haven't

told us where and when that funding will be made available, but it would be nice to know. There are various programs or funding for recreation made available by the federal government. I don't know when we expect to see those funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): We usually play hockey during the winter. Yes, we envy them; it's good to be envious. If you would like to see the stars while you're playing hockey in the winter, you can play hockey at the same time as you watch the stars in our arena, but it's extremely cold at that time of year.

Since the design stage is 98 percent complete, it's shovel-ready, almost ready to begin construction. Prior to the ships arriving in the spring, do you expect to see that \$500 million from the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to expect to see it, even though we would like to expect to see it. I know that they will make an announcement to us and I'm sure that our finance minister will be informed as soon as the funding is made available. We wish to see that occur, as you have stated, and that's all I can say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 088 – 3(1): Assistance to Purchase Sports Trophies

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

We have to provide support for our constituents and plan for our descendents and their future. In Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, they have gymnasiums and they obviously use it for various physical activities, which are good for the body, mind, and spirit. So I now have a question for the Minister responsible for Sports North as I believe they raise funds for such activities.

In Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, we would like to get support for two cups for volleyball and two for soccer, both for boys and girls. I would first like to ask the minister if it's possible to provide support for that because I believe they have funding for those types of things. 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. I'm not sure I understood his question and I want to respond properly. He seems to be referring to a cup. Was his question about funds for the creation of a cup? So I would like to ask if he can clarify his question, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The minister would like you to rephrase your question, Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, he understood clearly. I would like to see a cup representing the Nunavut Legislative Assembly, or even the Government of Nunavut emblem, that can be vied for by the communities. Even if we were to have one just for each community, it would allow the hockey players of Nunavut to practice in a tournament setting so that when they leave for competitions, they are better prepared.

The minister did understand my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the very first request I have ever heard related to a territorial cup. We have various funding programs for recreational activities, whether it's for sports competitions or other competitions that highlight artistry.

I will have to get back to the member as I will have to review the funds to see which one would be most suited to meeting his request for assistance. Therefore, I will have to take his question as notice for the time being and I would like to have all the members hear the response. So once I have that information, I will respond accordingly, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The minister has taken your question as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Question 089 – 3(1): Medical Travel Benefits

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to direct my questions to the Hon. Minister of Health and Social Services Tagak Curley in relation to my colleagues', Hon. Members Mr. Schell and Elliott, raising the issue of the Medical Travel Policy.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the minister circulated a copy of his department's Medical Travel Policy to all regular members. I would like to thank the minister for that information. As a government policy document, it is not that easy to read. I am sure that many members of the public would have difficulty deciphering it.

It would be a good idea for the government to provide public information booklets for medical travel clients to explain these policies more clearly and include basic information and phone numbers of where to go, who to call, and so on, if they have difficulties during their travels.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, a big concern of the residents of Baker Lake is that the airport is a long way from the community. Can the minister clarify what ground transportation benefits are provided by his department when medical travel clients from Baker Lake need to get to the airport and back? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is our government policy, but the delivery program is for all the communities' medical travel. We do have that information and phone numbers in the community health centres. The policy is mainly a guide for the government and management. I'm sure that you could understand that if you were a lawyer.

But the support provided for medical travel comes from Non-Insured Health Benefits for Inuit and other aboriginal people. In the policy, it states that if there's an emergency, then ground transportation to the airport is provided.

I can tell my colleague that we have been continually reviewing the policy and we would like to make improvements to it. Even though it's not an emergency case, some patients who are unable to walk have to take a taxi to and from the airport.

I would like to tell the member that in June, I will be making an announcement in regard to taxi services during our session. Thank you.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) According to Schedule 1 of the Medical Travel Policy document, ground transportation benefits are provided to medical travel clients who are indigent. The dictionary defines indigent as "poor."

In my opinion, if someone does not have enough money to pay someone or a taxi

to take them to the airport so that they can travel to get the medical services they desperately need, then they are “poor.” Can the minister clarify how his department verifies whether or not a medical travel client is “poor” and how they are entitled to receive ground transportation benefits? (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to that, it is never defined as to whether the person is poor, unable or able to travel, and that is how it applies in Nunavut.

If I have to travel, even though I’m a minister, since I am under Non-Insured Health Benefits or if you have a full-time job with the GN, this could be paid for by Indian and Northern Affairs for all aboriginal people. If that wasn’t the case, then we would not be able to keep up with our health travel funds. So therefore, the federal government provides funding for aboriginal people. This has definitely provided support to the Government of Nunavut and also to the Inuit.

Why this has not been used to pay for taxis fares I do not know as this is a very small amount of funds. Additionally, there are two types of services. One is the Extended Health Benefits Policy, which is for people who are non-beneficiaries 60 years of age or older, and the other is if you are an aboriginal person who is non-Inuit living in Nunavut, that is allocated for them.

With respect to taxi services or ground transportation, whether you are non-

aboriginal or not, as long as you are 60 years of age or older, then the transportation costs can be paid on their behalf. Maybe through that program, we could rectify this situation as it applies to taxi services. I want to make an announcement in June, perhaps to announce an improvement on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you. The Department of Health and Social Services recognizes that getting medical travel clients to and from the Baker Lake Airport was necessary and taxi chits were provided to them. Can the minister explain why these taxi chits are no longer provided to medical travel clients from Baker Lake? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. The Non-Insured Health Benefits Program was renewed back in 2004, it has a five-year term, and it will be expired next year. There’s usually a negotiating team from NTI because this is geared towards beneficiaries and the federal government who provides that service. They changed it so that they could only pay for ground transportation during an emergency and I think the negotiators overlooked that.

Accordingly, I stated that I would like to make an announcement on this issue in June. I believe we could rectify the situation with respect to the taxi vouchers through the Extended Health Benefits Program. As the member stated,

yes, it's true that we used those taxi vouchers in the past, but it was made more stringent to utilize this assistance.

There are only three communities with taxi voucher rates and they are: Whale Cove, Nanisivik but only while they have an airport, and Coral Harbour. Due to the extended distances, they're allowed to use them, but not any others. This is the part that I want to investigate further. I would like to revisit this matter and revise it as necessary.
Thank you.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. He knows the problem that is being faced in Baker Lake.

Will the minister commit to reconsidering providing taxi chits to medical travel clients from Baker Lake so that they can get to the airport and travel to receive the medical services they so desperately need?

As per the information I received, the reason why the airport is not eligible for this assistance is because it's outside municipal boundaries. So I would like to ask the minister if he can consider completing the review of the ineligibility of the community. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I can

state to the member is that if I conduct a review, it will not be just for Baker Lake but for all of Nunavut's communities where the distances are quite far.

For example, in Iqaluit, some of us are able to get the fares returned if our travel is not covered under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. In these cases, the person can claim all expenses under a travel claims expense form provided that receipts are available. With respect to all individuals or patients going to the airport by taxi, I would urge them to retain their receipts as we are looking at the concept of expense claim forms for medical travel.

We will have a better idea once a policy review has been completed as to which avenue would be best to ensure we provide these services. It's not just Baker Lake that has a concern with respect to travel issues related to taxis and I want to rectify that particular barrier that they face. I want Baker Lake residents to expect to see an improvement on this matter. Thank you.

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

Question 090 – 3(1): Plans for Iqaluit International Airport

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Transportation.

We have been discussing the Iqaluit airport terminal replacement idea for quite some time and it was in the transportation plans in prior years' capital estimates. I would like an update on the current status of the Iqaluit airport

replacement terminal first of all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just give me a second here. That date you are looking for, is it in regard to the master plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I was asking where they are in relation to the replacement of the terminal in the master plan. This has been waiting in the wings for quite a while, so I would like to know what part of the process they are in at this time. What will they do and will this plan be undertaken? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department's staff have been working closely with the aircraft carrier and the carrier industry to implement some safety improvements to the operations of the Iqaluit International Airport. These safety improvement measures require additional airport operational staff.

Of course, one of the short-term measures that we have been doing is busing passengers from Apron 1 to the terminal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why I brought it up was because the Iqaluit International Airport is nearing its capacity and it's quite busy with many flights landing and taking off. Our terminal is getting full to capacity and too small with the present numbers. My question is with regard to the master plan. When will the plans be implemented to get a new terminal in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You are absolutely right, the member's right when he says that the airport is getting too small. There are over 1,900 aircraft movements at the Iqaluit International Airport and the master plan, at this time, is being updated in consideration of the amount of air traffic going through there. Once the master plan is completed, there's action that's going to be implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to find out if you will start moving on this file and if it's not going to be now, then we have to change the way we plan these things. That is why I would like to find this out first if the plan has been completed and when we can expect to see the new replacement for the airport terminal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right at this time, the master plan is being reviewed and updated. The design of the new air terminal building will start once the master plan is reviewed and completed, and not before that time. Once the master plan is done being reviewed, the new air terminal building will be looked at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that being the case, if there aren't any plans for an immediate replacement, then the department has to revisit the existing security area since it's not conducive for those who are flying south.

What I mean is the disabled or elderly passengers are passed through security where they have to wait upwards of an hour in the security area and it has no washroom facilities, or a fountain, or even a television to pass the time. This is what we put up with today, so we need to at least meet these needs.

I would like this situation reviewed, especially if it turns out that the replacement terminal will take longer to construct. The existing security area causes difficulties for our current passengers that are southbound. I would like to know if this can be looked into sooner rather than later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member is absolutely

right; there is a concern with public safety and whatnot because of the congestion at the airport terminal. This is a high priority for the Iqaluit airport and it's one of the things that we have been actively pushing and implementing, and getting the master plan done up and reviewing so that immediate action can be taken. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 091 – 3(1): Eye Care Services to Nunavummiut

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

Mr. Speaker, my constituents have raised some concerns about the quality of service being delivered by visiting eye teams and that it should be upgraded. Can the minister clarify for this House what entity currently holds the contract to provide eyewear and related services to the Kivalliq region and when this contract will expire? 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. I understand the question, but I would like further clarification as to where the problems are in terms of the quality of service. Is it because of the long periods between visits or when they arrive at the communities, is their visit too short? There are many reasons that fall into this category. Therefore, I

would appreciate it if I could get more clarification on the issues, but I would like to thank him for the question.

These services are paid for out of the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. The information before us states that the optometrists and their teams visiting the Kivalliq region come from the Yellowknife Stanton Hospital. They service the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot regions. The Baffin region is serviced by the Ottawa General Hospital. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been told that when the eye doctors arrive in the communities, they seemed to be in a rush. A request has been put forward to have a different contractor provide those services. Will the minister agree to working with the Nanulik communities to identify another vision care contractor and to improve the level of service? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are definitely going to be looking at making some changes. If they are going to be rushing through and not providing services to some of the clients, we will have to look into that.

If you're 18 or over, you need to have your eyes checked once a year. However, if they are going to be coming into your community just for one day, then they are definitely not going to see

all the clients who need vision care. There's room for improvement in providing the services.

NTI does the negotiating when they are dealing with the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. If better services are going to be provided by getting a different contractor, then I will do my best to make sure that happens. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of my reasoning for this line of questioning is to make the situation completely clear to the minister. We may have to consider changes as Nunavummiut know of potential contractors available within Nunavut.

Indeed, there might even be a contractor that can provide vision care services and do a much better job since their base of operations would be in Nunavut and perhaps the mentality of rushing through communities would no longer be the norm. That was why I asked this question, Mr. Speaker.

I was asking the minister if he can work with the communities that I represent in the Nanulik riding and if he can look at improving the services and consider other options that the communities may have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I commit

to undertaking a review of this process with all the parties. As I stated earlier, NTI conducts negotiations with the federal government. At this time, the service providers we have are based out of Ottawa and the Stanton Hospital. I don't know exactly which hospital is the service provider out of Ottawa.

There are those who need surgical procedures, especially our elders who have cataracts or other vision issues aside from eyeglasses. These services include these surgical procedures, so when we are looking at the matter with the federal government, we can look at other jurisdictions, such as Winnipeg, to provide the services to the Kivalliq region and that may improve the level of service.

We commit to conducting detailed discussions with the parties involved to see how we can improve the services, as well as to see if we can lengthen the time specialists stay in the communities to ensure that proper services are provided to the clients. It's not perfect at this time.

I would like to thank the member for asking about the provision of vision care services. I have a better understanding now that he has pointed out those concerns. Thank you.

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

Question 092 – 3(1): Heavy Equipment Vehicles

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

As we all know, the pace of technology keeps increasing and vehicles are becoming more computerized and sophisticated. Last year, the community of Sanikiluaq received a new sewage truck. In January of this year, it developed problems with the computer software and remains out of service to this day. The community is doing its best to work with the manufacturer, but the issue is still not resolved.

Although larger communities have access to trained mechanics and repair facilities that are equipped to work on highly sophisticated and computerized vehicles, smaller communities, including Sanikiluaq, do not have such facilities.

Will the minister commit to having his department work with municipalities to ensure that their staff have the necessary training and equipment to repair the newer generations of vehicles that are purchased for their use? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, (interpretation ends) Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to thank the member for his question. Vehicles are getting more and more complicated, as you say, and it's hard for mechanics to keep up with the technology, especially in communities where you have mechanics that are unilingual and in a lot of cases, they aren't familiar with new technology.

You need to do more than just be able to change sparkplugs today. You also need

to know how to go on the Internet and work computers other than figuring out how to fix a flat tire. And that point is a very good one and it's one that we're finding is a problem throughout the territory, not just in Sanikiluaq. Our department has been working with municipalities to try to ensure that mechanics are properly trained in using the new technology and figuring out how to work with everything from water trucks to sewage trucks and loaders, and so forth.

Our department works very closely with the Municipal Training Organization, which is the body that trains the employees of municipalities, everything from working with computers to heavy equipment operators and mechanics, and so on. So we're working closely with them to ensure that there is adequate training in municipalities so that the mechanics can keep up with the technology. We continue to work with that to try to create programs for that training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I am glad to hear that his department is working in this area and they are trying to develop some training. Can the minister indicate when this training will be available to people in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I don't know what the exact dates are, Mr. Speaker, when there will be training for that.

Different types of training are continually being held through the Municipal Training Organization.

The senior administrative officers in municipalities are usually kept abreast of upcoming training programs. So when there is one coming up for mechanics training and technology and stuff like that, I'm sure that his municipality will be informed. If not, I'll inform our member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 093 – 3(1): Services for Medical Patients

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

I just want some clarification; I know we were originally asked to not ask hypothetical questions. In terms of privacy and confidentiality, in four years, if I'm not lucky enough like the Hon. Member from Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik pointed out, to convince nine people to vote for me, then I will be a non-Inuk long-term resident of Nunavut without a GN job or any type of medical coverage.

I'm just wondering and want a clarification, if I get sick and need to be attended to, my understanding from what you were saying is my taxi ride from hopefully not Nanisivik at that time because hopefully the airport will be finished by then, but Arctic Bay to the airport will be covered by the Government Nunavut and I will not have to pay for that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking a very complicated question because due to the world economic situation and the recession that is facing all nations, I think this one is a crucial one. I will have to look into that and provide a reply to him, so I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Question 094 –3(1): Responsibility for Dogs in Nunavut

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services, Hon. Kusugak, and it's probably more of an operational issue.

Since the days that our hamlets were first created, Inuit have continually referred to numerous dogs within their communities and no one knows who's responsible for this matter. Is it to be addressed by the hamlets in the communities or by the government? I would like to know if there's legislation that deals with this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, (interpretation ends) Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I dearly wish to completely understand his question, so I

would like him to clarify: what about dogs? Are you talking about dog control, dog sledding, or dog slaughter? If he clarifies his question, I will then try to give a proper response to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please clarify your question, Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's in regard to dog control within the communities. Loose dogs are a danger to small children and there is a possibility of catching rabies and other diseases. Many smaller children are usually afraid of loose dogs and they also raid food caches that may also lead to health concerns.

Many Inuit ask: who is responsible for providing dog control within the municipal boundary? These are pets that I am referring to or even sled dogs as they also get loose. Is that the responsibility of the hamlet council or is it under our territorial government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Now I understand your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Dog control is something that's a problem in each of the communities. When I was the Mayor of Rankin Inlet, we used to get quite a few calls a day about stray dogs and the increasing number of stray dogs within our community. Dog control is a problem in most Nunavut communities.

It seems like when a dog gets off their leash, they are shot right away and yet, the stray ones are around forever.

>>*Laughter*

It's not the responsibility of the territorial government. Dog control in the municipality is operated by the hamlet in accordance with their local by-laws. These by-laws outline the process of dog control, including having by-law officers. The by-law officers, who are employees of the hamlet, are the ones who provide dog control.

From experience, I can say that we also involve the RCMP and other service providers when there are cases of rabies or other health concerns. With the issue of stray or loose dogs, that is the responsibility of the hamlet through their existing by-laws and local by-law officers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 023 – 3(1): New Trades Brochure

Tabled Document 024 – 3(1): Youth Committee Tool Kit

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two documents that I referred to in my Minister's Statements. I wish to table the following documents: our new Trades Brochure and the other one from the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is the Youth Committee Tool Kit, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Can we have the documents brought forward, please.

Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

Tabled Document 025 – 3(1): Model Consent Form under section 48(5) of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to follow up on my exchange yesterday with the Minister of Health and Social Services by tabling a model consent form under section 48(5) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. I encourage all members to review this with care. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Can we have that document brought forward to the table, please.

(interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Mr. Shewchuk. No? Mr. Curley.

Tabled Document 026 – 3(1): 2009-2011 Corporate Plan for Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Tabled Document 027 – 3(1): Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission's Annual Report for 2007

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the following document, and I'll have one right after that one as well:

- 2009-2011 Corporate Plan for Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also pleased to table the following document:

- Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission Annual Report for 2007.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Can I have the documents brought forward to the table, please.

Tabling of Documents. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I apologize first of all, I am not able to table the document that I was going to table today. It is the Annual Report on the State of Inuit Culture and Society, 2007-08. This report is delivered as part of the Inuit obligations under *Article 32 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, 1993*. I cannot table it at this time and I do apologize. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) 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. Ningeongan 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 15:26 and Committee resumed at 15:57*

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

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order. (interpretation) Yesterday, we began our consideration of the Department of Health and Social Services. (interpretation ends) In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items 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 our review of Bill 1 and the Department of Health and Social Services, followed by the Department of Environment, and if time permits, the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, and if time also permits, we will deal with the Department of Culture, Language,

Elders and Youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Are we in agreement to continue?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2009-2010 – Health and Social
Services – Consideration in
Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Curley, do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Yes, please, I would be very pleased to have my officials with me at the witness table. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Thank you. (interpretation ends) For the record, Minister Curley, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sitting with me on my right is the Deputy Minister for the department, Mr. Alex Campbell, and on my left is our capital plan analyst/director for the department.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Please state their names for the record.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): ... Rosemary Brown has an office in Rankin Inlet and she is our Director of Capital Planning for health centres and so on throughout Nunavut.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Does a member of the Regular Members' Caucus have opening comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials as well. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Regular Members' Caucus as the Committee of the Whole begin its consideration of the Department of Health and Social Services' proposed 2009-2010 capital estimates.

Members note the department's proposed capital budget for 2009-2010 is \$4.7 million. This is the smallest capital budget brought forward by this department since 2001-02. In 2007-08, the department's capital budget was \$9.4 million and it was \$14.4 million in 2008-09.

The department's proposed capital budget for 2009-2010 is mainly allocated to the completion of four projects; the two continuing care centres in Gjoa Haven and Igloodik, the replacement health centre in Pangnirtung and the Kivalliq Health Centre in Rankin Inlet, as well as to provide funding for furniture and equipment at the Qikiqtani General Hospital.

Members note that while a similar amount of funding was already approved for furniture and equipment at the Qikiqtani General Hospital in the 2008-09 capital estimates, those funds were reallocated to the design of three health centre replacement projects for the communities of Repulse Bay, Taloyoak, and Arctic Bay. These three projects had been identified as priorities in the Government of Nunavut's Budget Speech of February 2008.

Members note, however, that no funds are allocated in the 2009-2010 capital estimates for continuing work on these three replacement health centre projects and there are no timelines within the 2010-14 Five-Year Capital Plan to indicate when they may continue. Members strongly encourage the government to get these projects back on track and to update the communities on a regular basis as to their progress. Members note that the Pangnirtung Health Centre project is nearing completion and although significantly delayed, it will be open in the near future.

Members note that in past budgets, a number of community health centres from across Nunavut had been identified as potential candidates for major renovation or replacement due to their age or condition. It is not clear how often technical assessments are conducted on such facilities and how the results of any such assessments are taken into account in prioritizing capital infrastructure needs.

Members note further that the minister had made a commitment to provide an updated listing of all health facilities across Nunavut, including information

on the year of construction, any major renovations, and when the facility was last evaluated. Members are disappointed not to have received that information to date.

As in past budgets, the 2009-2010 capital estimates include two blocks of non-specific funding, one for building repairs and emergency situations and one for equipment and vehicles. Members note that many community health centres are unable to provide adequate transportation to clients. This situation becomes critical when ambulance services are required or when there is limited or no private sector transportation available.

In some communities, the airport is a considerable distance from the municipality and clients required to travel to receive medical services elsewhere have problems getting to and from the airport. Members encourage the minister to address community level transportation needs either through the purchase of vehicles or by other means, such as the provision of taxi chits.

Mr. Chairman, members note with approval that the two continuing care facilities in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik are in the final stages of completion. Members look forward to the opening of these facilities which will allow many Nunavut residents who require 24-hour care to be repatriated to Nunavut and to receive their care closer to home and their families.

The proposed 2009-2010 capital estimates include funding for furniture and equipment for the Qikiqtani General Hospital. Members encourage the minister to explore all potential avenues

for investing in equipment and technology that will enable more diagnostic testing and monitoring here in Nunavut instead of requiring medical clients to travel, at great expense, to other jurisdictions to receive such services.

Mr. Chairman, over the past few years, the Government of Nunavut has made significant capital investments in the building of our three regional health facilities. Although the department's proposed capital estimates include funding for ongoing work at the Kivalliq Health Facility in Rankin Inlet, all three facilities have been operational for some time.

However, Mr. Chairman, members note that none of these expensive state-of-the-art facilities are functioning to their full capacity. Members strongly encourage the minister to work hard to fully staff these facilities with health care professionals and to continue to implement local training plans that encourage more Nunavummiut to enter the health care fields. Our capital investments should not go to waste.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the

Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Many of our clients have to travel to other jurisdictions for medical services. With the increasing number of diabetics, they have to be sent out of our jurisdiction since there no dialysis machines in Nunavut.

When Nunavut was created, we were told that health services would be provided closer to home. We also heard from all sides that people with diabetes are increasing and there are no dialysis machines in any of the regions. As the minister indicated earlier, there is a change that is happening in Nunavut because we have to meet the requests made by the people of Nunavut.

The communities, Mr. Chairman, know exactly what is needed at the community level, much more so than the government. There are some clients who have to travel at least once a month for medical treatment. We would like to see Health and Social Services provide services closer to home. I think it would help greatly if health boards were set up in Nunavut.

I want to keep my comments short, so that's it for now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have a short comment.

I would like to add to what Mr. Aupaluktuq stated in his opening comments on the second paragraph. That's not the only issue that we are talking about. Earlier today, I was talking about government plans not only for health centres but for other capital projects that have been delayed or removed.

I would like to remind the government again that in 2008, when Pond Inlet residents were really trying to get an arena, we realized that the three replacement health centres in Repulse Bay, Taloyoak, and Arctic Bay had been delayed repeatedly.

When we started discussing them, the government stated that the health centres needed to be replaced because they were getting too old and that they would be priorities in the capital projects of the government. However, as Mr. Aupaluktuq stated in his opening comments, they are not even on the list anymore even though the government stated that they would be priorities in 2008.

In 2009-2010, \$4.7 million is being proposed by HSS for their capital projects. We will be closely scrutinizing the new government that recently came into power to ensure that the old health centres and the health centres that are being ordered to shut down by the fire marshal and the health department are looked into.

If there were forced closures, then the government will be scrambling to find funds to upgrade or to put health centre replacements in the communities. It's impossible not to have a health centre in a community. Inspections will need to be made to the health centres in the three communities that have been identified for replacements to see whether they need to be replaced in an urgent manner.

I think we will have to have a closer working relationship with the federal government. During the period of 1967-70, the federal government used to provide adequate monies for capital projects. But for the last several years, there has been no money provided by the federal government to replace these health centres and the new infrastructure programs that are provided by the government don't mention anything about replacing aged health centres.

We will closely scrutinize the new government. When certain projects are brought forth in this House, communities hear about them and then they're suddenly removed from the list after the fact. With those repeated activities by the government, it's very disgraceful and it's especially hard to convince the communities that these projects will go ahead.

The government should follow through with the projects that they have planned and that our communities have already been informed about so that they can be trustworthy.

Projects can only proceed after we have approved them. So I urge the government to make sure that these projects go ahead because they are supported by us and the communities.

It's regrettable that the three communities identified for replacement health centres are no longer in the capital estimates. I am certain that there will be questions on that. I'll leave it at that for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I have no more members on my list for general comments. Pardon me, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to make one comment and that is that past capital estimates have included ongoing plans for a replacement health centre for Arctic Bay. Some work has been completed, but the community is expecting to see the rest of the plans follow through.

I was very disappointed to note that this project does not appear in the 2009-2010 capital plan. It was anticipated that construction should have begun in 2009-2010. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. As I stated that I don't have any more names on my list, we will...

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I'll keep my comment short. I would like to thank the hon. minister for stating that there will be some changes and I believe in what he said.

As communities go through changes, we need to ensure that the community's voice is heard. Using my riding as an example, it doesn't make sense for me to

go to Cambridge Bay and voice Kugaaruk's concerns. As well, if I go to Rankin Inlet to voice the concerns of Repulse Bay, it just doesn't make sense.

That's just a comment that I wanted to make because I believe that each representative should be voicing concerns of the people they represent. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Hopefully for our final time, we will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates, starting on page H-3. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although there aren't any updated substantiation sheets for the health centre replacement projects in Arctic Bay, Repulse Bay, and Taloyoak, the substantiation sheets for the Qikiqtani General Hospital project indicates that current fiscal year funds were reallocated from the Qikiqtani General Hospital to those health centre projects.

What is the current status of the design contract for those three health centre replacement projects? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would first of all like to thank the member for posing that question and there are two responses to that.

The first one is, and we do hear your concerns about those health centres, when we're looking at the fiscal forecast and preparing the O&M. For instance, when we were dealing with education

with my colleague yesterday, we heard that if we had enough money, we would go ahead with all capital projects.

A couple of days ago, I stated during a standing committee meeting that the designs of the three health centres for Arctic Bay, Repulse Bay, and Taloyoak will be completed by the end of March. We can see today that the design phase is near completion and an architectural firm in Iqaluit is drawing it up. The design phase is probably over 90 percent complete.

But once this phase is completed, we will still have to do cost estimates. After the design phase is done, we will have to go back and forth to the communities and consult with the hamlets before work can start on the projects.

There's quite a bit of detail on some of the replacement funds that were spent on the Qikiqtani General Hospital, so I would like to have Rosemary Brown respond to that part of your question.

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

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Minister Curley said, the architect, CGS Technical Services, and Health and Social Services have been moving full speed ahead. Since the announcement was made in February, we had to come up with a new functional program, in other words, it was like "start over" because we were also directed to put apartments above the new health centres.

Usually, doing a functional program takes a year plus a design takes a year. As we said, just in 12 months, we have accomplished mostly both. Now, the

design is nearly done, but there are still things that have to be reviewed by the mechanical and technical people at CGS, the electrical, and so on, to make sure that absolutely is done.

We have not had the next level cost estimates back from the typical quantity surveyors that architects use across the country to verify what the costs should be. It is in our plan to have the architects make a presentation in each community to show the community that their previous requests for certain activities have been included in the design.

Perhaps it is better that we have a little breathing space and that we're not constructing this year to be able to refine the drawings and to verify the estimates. The window of bringing sealift into some communities, particularly Taloyoak, which has barges, and even Arctic Bay and some of the High Arctic communities, the sealift season for marshalling is very restrictive.

The way I look at it is that there's nothing in 2009-2010, but the government will still be issuing directives soon to start planning for 2010-11, by which time the designs would be completely finalized and we would have better cost estimates to be confident in. So that's basically where we're at. It may be a little bit more long-winded, but that's where we're at with the design. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would say no, please, be long-winded. The more information I have to take back to my community, the better it is.

Like I said, I think a lot of members in my community are going to be upset that nothing... well, it will potentially be seen as nothing is being done in our community as to the work that's been done in the past.

I spoke with the nursing station and they are actually very happy with the plans and the planning process that has been going on. My understanding from what I was told by the nurses is that the nurse in charge from each of the health centres was brought to Iqaluit and actually included in the design process and talked to and asked for their opinion as to what was happening, so I know the nurses were happy about that.

But I know that there was an impression from, and I have a copy of the 2008-09 Budget Address, which maybe should be called for the 'Vote for Me' address, but it seems like it was promising nursing stations in lots of communities and now, we're paying for, in terms of MLAs being told, "What's happening? Why is this not happening?"

I guess our response would be that luckily, the Government of Nunavut is being fiscally responsible with their money, but at the same time, I don't want to continue to lead on my community and have them think that something is coming that's not coming because in the minister's statements, he's talking about stuff happening in 2010-11.

So just for clarification, as of March 31, 2009, which is coming up in the next couple of days, will these be Class "A" estimates coming to the communities? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I start, I would like to make a short comment. We have Peter Ittinuar and Norman Ford here, who are both from my constituency. They are members of the HTO board. I would like to welcome them to the House as they are paying us a brief visit. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

I understand exactly where the member is coming from; I probably would argue the same way for my local facilities. But the construction and the architectural design planning process is really quite complicated. It's not just a functional program that you can take to the people who are going to be occupying the facilities. The architectural design requires electrical engineers, mechanical, and all the technical stuff that are needed are really quite complex.

And normally, if we were operating in correct development mode, the planning system should have been ahead of us. That means they should have been done in previous years mainly because these cost estimates will drive the exact cost so that they don't get into any major problems through the construction phase and experience major cost overruns, and so on. So that's probably the whole thing.

No, the Class "A" estimates will not come out of the first cost estimate process. So I think Rosemary Brown was quite clear that they have yet to be provided to the quantitative surveyors, that means who normally do the cost estimating on the first crack basis until

the others start to finalize it. Once the contracts are issued, they will eventually be tendered first and then bids will be coming in. That forms part of the final costing, so it's a complicated procedure.

I think the Minister of Finance has made it clear that we have to present these cost estimating plans and handle them carefully if we're going to have a budget that is credible in this government.

And I believe that's what we're trying to do as we will certainly take these architectural designs that will be completed shortly. I think that the information that will be provided to the hamlets and the councils will form part of that process. We look forward to presenting them to the communities' hamlets once they come out from the architectural firms.

Rosemary did you want to... that's it for now? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Before I ask Ms. Brown, I would like to welcome Peter Ittinuar and Norman Ford. (interpretation) Welcome.

>>Applause

Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: I don't have any further comments right now. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back to that then, my question would be: what class of an estimate are we going to get? What I'm trying to get at is what Ms. Brown mentioned in

terms of, I think her quote was, "We have to start all over again."

We just spent \$1.2 million of money that was shifted from the general hospital fund to start the process over again. I don't want to see that happen again, so what class design is that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Madam Brown will respond to that detailed question. Thank you.

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

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A clarification, what I meant by starting over is that we previously had started on a design for the Repulse Bay Health Centre which did not have apartments upstairs. The design we had for Taloyoak was not going to work due to the land and the renovations. Arctic Bay, in February of 2008, was not in the five-year plan of the government.

In order to be able to move forward with all three, a decision was made to go with a common design that would be appropriate to each health centre. So what I meant by we had to start over is we could not proceed with Repulse Bay and fix it, there was too much. So that is why the money was requested to be transferred from the Qikiqtani General Hospital Furniture and Equipment to be able to proceed with the design. Taloyoak and Repulse Bay had some money, but there was no money that had been approved for Arctic Bay.

I think we have a Class “C” on the work to date, but that doesn’t really help us so much. As I said, when we are a little further on with the design we’re working on right now, then we will be able to get to the higher class levels. I can’t give you an exact time; it’s just a matter of when the reviews are done that the architect actually asks for the class level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to what we have and again we don’t have the substantiation sheets, we don’t know much of what to go by.

In 2009-2010, there’s not supposed to be any money allocated to that, but he had said just a couple of minutes ago that as of March 31, once the designs are completed, then the communities will be consulted and then further planning will go on. So obviously, there must be money coming from somewhere to do that.

Is that an O&M question because it’s going to go under O&M, or where would the money for that consultation over the 2009-2010 year come from? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the member’s question involves the capital planning process; I understand and believe you. Through the committee process, I think the finance department is providing some information to members about the capital estimates and the capital planning

process of the government, so we are all abided by these particular processes.

Likely, through this summer, the architectural designs will be completed. But then again, the Cabinet and FMB will have to go through the capital planning process. Like my colleague from the Department of Education the other day, he mentioned that on his plate, he has a number of schools that he wants to build, including Sanikiluaq, which was a priority, and we certainly have three facilities that we would like to put on the plate, but it will be up to all of my colleagues how many to build.

It may not be possible that we will build three facilities. In my guestimates, you know, it’s going to cost at least \$60 million or more for three of them. So the estimates that will come out from the architectural and the Class “B” estimates for starting the discussions will be a very important part of the process for all of us on this side and the department to arrive at how we should proceed with which ones should be built first. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I don’t know if the minister answered my question because what I was asking was... like I understand how the process is working and I understand that we have to wait. But again, he’s saying that we’re going to continue with the planning but I don’t see where the dollar value of that is. Is it under the minor projects at \$500,000? Is it a small capital of \$500,000?

If you’re obviously going to fly to Arctic Bay and Taloyoak and Repulse Bay to

say, "Do you guys like this design; do you want something changed," you know, consult with the hamlets, First Air is not going to fly people up there on their own, you're going to have to pay for that and it's got to come from somewhere. I'm wondering where that is in there in terms of dollars. Where is it coming in the line item? Thank you very much.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you look at previous years, there are some carryovers of certain projects that are continuing. So they normally don't just stop on March 31, they carry on in the planning process until the whole project is eventually completed and presented to Cabinet. So I think that's how it's going to kick in.

But in terms of the amounts, I would like to have Rosemary Brown add to that, please, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not all of the money in 2008-09 for each project has been spent on the terms of the design because usually, the design money also carries some portions for the tender and so on.

So any money that has not been spent for each project will be requested to be carried over for that particular project, which means that if the carryover is approved, which is usually in June of the new fiscal year, then we would have some money to be able to do the community visits that we would plan.

And by then, the weather will be a little bit better so that we're not getting weathered in or out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, what I'm trying to get at is I want to make sure that this project doesn't fall off the table, maybe that's what the term is.

When I did my research and went back, the nursing station for Arctic Bay was on the books for quite a few years, I think eight in total, and then it kind of disappeared for two or three years and now, as Ms. Brown brought up, it is back on the table. So it's nice to see it, I just don't want to see it fall off and not be...

I guess I should have borrowed Mr. Peterson's calculator, but \$60 million to build three nursing stations would be half of your budget this year. So obviously, I can recognize that if all the designs get done, then one of our nursing stations, or maybe two of them in the other members' ridings, were not going to be build. Obviously, I want mine in Arctic Bay built and I'm sure the people in Arctic Bay want it as well.

Is there some type of priority that you have set up in terms of if we get \$30 million, it would be Arctic Bay and if we get \$60 million, it will be one of the other communities, or is there a priority system? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the member will know that the former MLA from his community certainly did advocate and he did pretty fairly good in the effective case he built to put the architectural design phase on the books and he accomplished that. So I think a credit goes to him as well because he pressured the government to put in the design phase into the amounts and he voted for it.

In terms of prioritizing divisions, that's an exercise not only by my department and we certainly will be making a recommendation, but that will be presented to the FMB and the Cabinet some time during our regular capital planning processes. But at this moment, we can't say which will be the priority.

Certainly, if we can get any contributions, whether or not it's from the federal government, we recognize that the facilities that are being planned for these locations equally share, I think, the urgency and importance of building them up. But again, we will be facing a reality that financial constraints will prevent us from building them in one fiscal year, or two in my opinion. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if Mr. Okalik gets what he wants and everyone has lottery booths in their community, we will have lots of money to be able to built nursing stations and arenas.

And I know my predecessor did a lot of hard work to get that nursing station

back in the books and I don't want his hard work to go to waste, so that's why I'm going to do my job and keep pushing for the nursing station in Arctic Bay.

So I guess what's happening is that there's going to be little done, but there will be planning done over the next year. What sort of a timeline can we look at for some of these nursing stations to be built then? You sort of said in 2010-11, there's actually going to be construction and sealift or orders brought in. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, certainly that would be my position that we build at least one and if we can get support from all of our colleagues. But all of the departments have priorities as to which ones will come out of the capital planning process of the Cabinet and that remains to be seen.

But I will do my best and we regret too that we can't proceed with them this summer because the cost estimating and the planning process don't allow us to that. We only have a short window of time to bring in supplies and issue tenders, and all of this stuff, but we will do our best to try and ensure that we at least have a project out of these three locations next year. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I get a commitment from the minister to let me know once the designs

are complete for all three of the communities and when the communication will start with the communities? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question. I will commit to the MLAs that are affected, once the design phase and the architectural designs are complete, I will keep you informed as to when the capital planning group is travelling to communities. I will personally have a letter sent to all of you to make sure you do have an opportunity to see the plans. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to say maybe a phone call or an email might be faster for our communities. The mail takes quite a while, so I might be back down in Iqaluit and not get the message.

I'm going to change gears here and ask a different question or a different line of questions. In some of the travels to my other two communities, one of the concerns that have come up is regarding long-term care. At one time, there were plans for a long-term care unit at the new Qikiqtani General Hospital. Is the hospital currently able to provide long-term care and if not, why not? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure whether this is a capital planning question or not, but I will give him the benefit of the response. Deputy Minister Campbell will respond to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, we don't have the Qikiqtani General Hospital in full capacity and we won't have full capacity for a number of years to come, so I just wanted to make that clear. At this point, we don't have long-term care at the hospital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you. Just so I don't get into O&M questions, I'll save those for when we're doing that, there's another line of questions I have. But I wrote to the boarding home about the boarding home arrangements. What's the current status of the 90-bed boarding home that was contracted in Iqaluit? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I think all members are pretty well aware, even from the local media, particularly the local newspaper groups, that the court case that was initiated sort of delayed the process for a while, but that has been cleared up at the early part of the year.

But still, to ensure that there are no outstanding legal issues, the department

has a bit of time to make sure that all of the legal questions are out of the way because even once the court decides, there's normally one month to clear up any potential legal challenges. I believe these timeframes are out of the way now.

So in order to have more detail, Rosemary Brown has the detailed plans for that project, I would say, but I'm not too sure. Alex Campbell will respond to that as to exactly when the bids or the issue of contracts will be honoured. Thank you.

>>*No audio due to power outage at 16:47 and Committee resumed at 16:59*

Chairman: Welcome back everyone. That was a nice experience.

>>*Laughter*

I believe that we were about to have Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I'm not going into any detail, I think the minister has answered the question there. It's just a matter of waiting it out now regarding the awarding of the contract and the actual start date of the work to begin later this summer or fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move that we report progress. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable.

All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Before we do that, I would like to thank Minister Curley and his officials. As you know, we're not done with you yet. Perhaps if you want to say a few words, I welcome you to do that. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for the mix-up on the standards of the hospitals. I understood that our staff and the committee staff were going to take care of that and it hasn't happened, so I apologize for that. I shall wait for tomorrow to respond to some questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the officials out.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Ningeongan: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1 and the capital estimates and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Aupaluktuq seconds the motion. All those in favour of the

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

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 20: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for March 27, 2009:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 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.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 27, starting at 10:00 in the morning.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:05*

