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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. James Arreak
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Eva Aariak
(Iqaluit East)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for Immigration

James Arvaluk
(Tununiq)

Moses Aupaluktuq
(Baker Lake)

Hon. Tagak Curley
(Rankin Inlet North)
Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

Ron Elliott
(Quttiktuq)

Adamee Komoartok
(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)
Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Energy

John Ningark
(Akulliq)

Johnny Ningeongan
(Nanulik)
Deputy Speaker, Chair of the Committee of the Whole

Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Nattilik)
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Minister of Finance, Chair, Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Fred Schell
(South Baffin)

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk
(Arviat)
Minister of Environment; Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk
(Amittuq)
Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Languages; Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

Hon. Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)
Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness

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Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	60
Ministers' Statements	60
Members' Statements	64
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	66
Oral Questions	67
Tabled Documents.....	83
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	84
Report of the Committee of the Whole	109
Orders of the Day	109

A.

Daily References

Friday, June 5, 2009 60

B.

Ministers' Statements

003 – 3(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation Maintenance Operations (Tootoo) 60
004 – 3(2): Skills Canada Nunavut (Tapardjuk) 61
005 – 3(2): Conclusion of Contract Negotiations with NAV Canada (Taptuna) 62
006 – 3(2): Ingirrasiliqta; the Nunavut Transportation Strategy (Taptuna) 63
007 – 3(2): H1N1 Flu Virus (Human Swine Flu) (Curley) 63

C.

Members' Statements

018 – 3(2): Recognition of Teachers achieving their Master's in Education (Rumbolt) 64
019 – 3(2): Summer Employment Opportunities for Repulse Bay Students (Ningark) 65
020 – 3(2): Humanizing Canadian Arctic Sovereignty (Elliott)..... 65

D.

Oral Questions

009 – 3(2): Summer Employment Opportunities for Repulse Bay Students (Ningark) 67
010 – 3(2): Conservation Officer Vacancy in Coral Harbour (Ningeongan) 68
011 – 3(2): Plans for Iqaluit International Airport (Okalik) 70
012 – 3(2): H1N1 Flu Virus (Rumbolt)..... 71
013 – 3(2): Contribution Agreement with Makinnasuaqtiit Society (Elliott)..... 73
014 – 3(2): Aviation Regulations for Pangnirtung (Komoartok) 75
015 – 3(2): Update on Annual Fuel Purchase (Schell) 75

016 – 3(2): Status of Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program (Ningeongan).....	76
017 – 3(2): Vacant Positions in Quttiktuq (Elliott)	79
018 – 3(2): Clean-up of Creek (Ningark)	79
019 – 3(2): Review of NHC Maintenance Management Programs and Operations (Rumbolt)....	81
020 – 3(2): Tax on Plastic Bags (Okalik)	82

E.

Tabling of Documents

014 – 3(2): Contract Activity Report 2007-08 (Kusugak)	83
015 – 3(2): Ingirrasiliqta: Nunavut Transportation Strategy (Taptuna)	83
016 – 3(2): High Arctic Council Sovereignty Campaign: Poster and Bookmarks (Elliott)	84
017 – 3(2): Nunavut Housing Trust Review of Delivery Strategy Implementation Stage One, May 2008 (Tootoo)	84

F.

Bills

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee	84
Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010 – Health and Social Services – Consideration in Committee.....	106

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, June 5, 2009**

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, Mr. Adamee Komoartok, Honourable Lorne Kusugak, Mr. John Ningark, Mr. Johnny Ningeongan, Mr. Paul Okalik, 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. Ningeongan to say the opening prayer. Mr. Ningeongan.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Good morning, Premier, Ministers, and my colleagues. Good morning, Nunavummiut. Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge my grandchild's birthday. He is named after my late son. Piujuq Jimmy Arreak, (interpretation ends) "happy birthday."

Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 003 – 3(2):
Nunavut Housing Corporation
Maintenance Operations**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the pleasure of rising

today to report on how the Nunavut Housing Corporation is addressing the issues and concerns identified in the Office of the Auditor General's report on the operations and maintenance of our public housing units in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of this Legislative Assembly are aware, the OAG report identified concerns in the following areas: the control and security of stock materials; the condition of our housing stock; accountability for expenditures; adequate training at the regional and local levels; and outdated policies and procedures.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation has taken significant steps to address these issues. A review was completed on maintenance management programs and operations in most communities. The review identified training upgrades and changes needing immediate attention.

Six training workshops were held in all regions for 60 maintenance and administrative staff from 22 communities. One-on-one training, the review of stock control, and the inspection of warehouse facilities have been completed in seven communities to date. Training included instruction on how to use computerized maintenance systems, the proper care of stock inventories, scheduling of work, purchasing of materials, reporting of repairs and replacement expenditures, and preparing budgets and tracking major capital projects.

Mr. Speaker, the corporation is moving forward with a number of initiatives over the next two years, including the revision of maintenance policies and procedures, the implementation of new

stock control systems, the enhancement of LHO security compounds to protect materials, the delivery of regional workshops for LHO staff, upgrades and replacements to warehouse facilities, and one-on-one training in the remaining communities.

Mr. Speaker, another major undertaking is a complete assessment of all public housing units. These assessments will provide a better picture of the condition of the units, as well as the repair and replacement costs to bring them up to acceptable standards, which will assist in seeking funding from our federal partners. As our maintenance systems and programs are upgraded, we will continue with regional and community workshops to ensure that LHO and NHC employees are well trained over the coming years.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, these initiatives will take time and will not be completed overnight. However, we feel that this is an important investment to ensure that our LHO and regional operations are running effectively and efficiently so as to improve the living conditions of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister.
Ministers' Statements. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 004 – 3(2): Skills Canada Nunavut

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my *Annuraaqatik*. I would also like to wish your grandchild a happy birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues about the recent events and activities of Skills Canada Nunavut.

Skills Canada is a national not-for-profit organization helping young Canadians realize the enormous career opportunities available by developing their skills in trade and technology fields.

Mr. Speaker, Skills Canada Nunavut is in its fourth year of operation. They have just finished hosting a very successful Fourth Annual Territorial Skills Competition, where over 50 students competed in 13 different trade and technology contest areas.

The winners of these contests were in Charlottetown, PEI from May 20 to 23 to compete in the 15th Canadian Skills Competition. Students from Pond Inlet, Iqaluit, Arviat, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, and Taloyoak attended this national competition.

Mr. Speaker, Team Nunavut garnered fourth place finishes and was awarded the Team Spirit Award at the competition. This honour is given to the team who showed the most spirit at the opening ceremony and throughout the event.

The initiatives of Skills Canada Nunavut give youth exposure to interesting hands-on career options and encourage them to continue their education in the direction of skilled trades and technologies while receiving on-the-job training.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education is proud to sponsor Skills

Canada Nunavut. I would like to recognize their other sponsors: Service Canada, Diavik Diamond Mines, Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce, Qulliq Energy Corporation, Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, and Nunavut Arctic College. I would also like to recognize the employers who allowed their apprentices to compete for the territory and were so generous in their support.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate all our students and mentors in skills clubs across the territory. I also encourage industry, business, labour, and individual professionals to partner with Skills Canada Nunavut in guiding our youth towards the exciting and challenging career options in skilled trades and technologies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, *Annuraaqatik*. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 005 – 3(2):
Conclusion of Contract
Negotiations with NAV Canada**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce a successful conclusion to our contract negotiations with NAV Canada for the implementation of a five-year Community Aerodrome Radio Services (CARS) management contract.

>> *Applause*

This contract is valued at \$29.2 million over five years. This is the second long-term contract we have signed with NAV

Canada and it will allow us to continue to build on the success of the first contract and of the training school for the airport observer/communicators in Rankin Inlet.

This contract will allow us to continue to operate this program through fairly valued contracts with the municipalities and private companies in 22 communities in Nunavut and will assure continued employment for approximately 70 Nunavummiut in their home communities with a total annual contract value of approximately \$5.8 million.

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to thank NAV Canada for their good faith in negotiating this contract, especially considering the impact the slowing economy has had on their revenues in the past year.

I would also like to thank Nunavut Arctic College, which has provided enormous support to the program of developing aviation professionals through the CARS Technical Training Centre in Rankin Inlet.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, the college's board of governors, facilities, instructors, and technical resources have been fundamental to the success of the CARS program. We look forward to the continued good work of the training centre and its graduates and the contribution they make to aviation safety and reliability in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, these long-term contracts can be difficult to negotiate and I am pleased that following the negotiations

and signing of this contract, we have five years of certainty going forward.
Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister.
Ministers' Statements. Hon. Peter Taptuna.

**Minister's Statement 006 – 3(2):
Ingirrasiliqta; the Nunavut
Transportation Strategy**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise again today before the Members of this House to table *Ingirrasiliqta; the Nunavut Transportation Strategy*.

We live in a vast territory and each of our lives is affected daily by the way we transport goods, people, and services. Our transportation system affects the way our food arrives, how we maintain contact with our families, and the cost of building supplies and heating fuel. Just as importantly, the transportation system enables our entire economy. Because this system underpins so much of what we do, it must work as safely and efficiently as possible.

Mr. Speaker, it is no accident that a transportation system is sometimes called a supply chain. Just like in a chain, the weakest link determines how much weight the chain can handle. The strategy I am tabling later on today directs us to examine the whole chain from one end to the other and lays out tasks to determine which links need to be changed to improve the capacity of the whole.

When the actions contained in the strategy are complete, we will begin to see changes to our transportation system. We will have developed sound policy for operating our facilities. We will have criteria and rationale for making decisions on how transportation infrastructure is developed. We will have training plans and materials to enhance our workforce, and we will have a mechanism for negotiating agreements with our industrial and governmental partners.

Transportation systems cannot be improved overnight, Mr. Speaker, but I believe this strategy is a good step in the right direction. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister.
Ministers' Statements. Hon. Tagak Curley.

**Minister's Statement 007 – 3(2): H1N1
Flu Virus (Human Swine Flu)**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday, April 20, 2009, the Public Health Agency announced Canada's first case of H1N1 flu virus, also known as the human swine flu. On May 28, 2009, Nunavut had its first lab-confirmed case of H1N1 flu virus and as of yesterday, June 4, 2009, we have five cases in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, of the five cases in Nunavut, two are in the pediatric ward at the Stanton Territorial Hospital in Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, all five are recovering well. These cases are not

connected and are not from one single community in Nunavut.

My department will continue to monitor the situation and the workload of the frontline health staff. We will provide additional resources to any affected community health centres if required so that they may continue to provide timely and quality care to Nunavutmiut.

Mr. Speaker, in accordance with standard public health policy, my department is not releasing the names of any individuals affected by H1N1 out of respect for their privacy. Additionally, the names of the communities are also being withheld so as to not cause panic. If there were any benefit to releasing the names of the communities, please be assured that we would do so.

Mr. Speaker, the primary goal of the Department of Health and Social Services is to protect the health of Nunavutmiut and their families.

Mr. Speaker, we have put into action a plan that we are still following that includes:

- Heightening surveillance by frontline health care workers.
- Issuing public health advisories and public information on how to protect yourself from the flu.
- Providing health care workers with detailed advice on how to manage, suspect, and/or confirm cases.
- Evaluating inventory of pandemic supplies – antivirals, face masks, and gowns, etcetera.

- Communicating with Nunavutmiut through local radio stations, newspaper interviews, and advertisements.

Mr. Speaker, the symptoms of this outbreak of H1N1 have been relatively mild, but it is possible that the next outbreak will have more severe symptoms. My department is continuing to prepare ourselves for any future outbreaks of flu-like viruses. Territorial, regional, and community pandemic plans are being updated with new information in anticipation of future outbreaks.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the timely and appropriate response to the issue by our staff and health professionals. I would also like to acknowledge the very excellent cooperation and support we have received from the other departments, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and Health Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. If there are no more, (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. (interpretation) Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 018 – 3(2): Recognition of Teachers achieving their Master's in Education

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize four teachers at the Nuiyak School in Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, three years ago, Lisi Kavik, Mina Rumbolt, Mary Kavik Sr., and Dinah Kavik entered into a correspondence program in conjunction with the University of Prince Edward Island to work towards achieving their master's degree in education. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce today that these four teachers have accomplished their goal in this program.

Mr. Speaker, the four teachers will be travelling to Iqaluit on June 29 to attend their graduation ceremonies on July 1, along with other teachers from Nunavut who have completed the master's program.

I would like to thank the University of Prince Edward Island and to all of those involved in Nunavut for making the dreams of becoming better teachers come true for these people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 019 – 3(2):
Summer Employment
Opportunities for Repulse Bay
Students**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues and all Nunavummiut. Just prior to my arrival here, Mr. Speaker, a young person from Repulse Bay wrote to me with respect to summer student employment opportunities for students in the higher grades in their community.

Further, I commend and am grateful for this person's letter as that person is still in high school but inquired as to the possibilities of employment during the summer break. Please don't hesitate to ask questions when you need further information. There are many young people seeking support, and that person wanted to assist his fellow students, Mr. Speaker. He is preparing well for his future and that's the way it should be.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister of Human Resources questions with respect to potential summer jobs available for students in Repulse Bay. I will pose the question to the minister but if the Premier wishes to respond, that is fine since I will be asking questions on behalf of the young people in Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 020 – 3(2):
Humanizing Canadian Arctic
Sovereignty**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to once again rise in this House to speak of the many exciting initiatives and activities that are taking place in my constituency of Quttiktuq.

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to update members today about the High Arctic Council and their new "Sovereignty Includes Me" campaign.

As members will recall from my Member's Statement earlier this year,

the High Arctic Council held its inaugural meeting on February 26, 2009. The council was very pleased to welcome the attendance of Minister Taptuna, Senator Adams, and other officials. Since that time, the council has spearheaded a Canadian Arctic sovereignty campaign in an effort to humanize the issue of arctic sovereignty.

The High Arctic Council supports the idea of having a sovereignty campaign. Nunavut Youth Consulting, our non-profit youth group in Arctic Bay, developed the slogan "Sovereignty Includes Me."

They have branded a sovereignty logo which depicts an Inuk in traditional clothing holding a *Kakivak*. The campaign includes the design of a poster and three bookmarks.

Mr. Speaker, when we hear references to arctic sovereignty, the focus of discussion is often on such things as satellite surveillance, unmanned patrol drones, military hardware, and sovereignty exercises. The discussions sometimes leave out the human dimension of this issue and ignore the fact that Inuit have lived in the territory for over 5,000 years. As members are aware, the communities of Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay were founded for the sole purpose of asserting Canadian arctic sovereignty.

The materials in the High Arctic Council's campaign depict three major themes when addressing the concept of sovereignty: a youth, who represents our present and our future; an elder, who represents our foundation and source of traditional knowledge; and a hunter, who represents a traditional way of life – all

of these come together to show what sovereignty means to us.

Following the High Arctic Council's guidance, Nunavut Youth Consulting is currently distributing the posters and a set of three bookmarks. We are getting assistance with distribution through the office of our hard-working Member of Parliament, Leona Aglukkaq, Pauktuutit, and Senator Charlie Watt's office. Senator Watt spoke about the campaign in the Senate last week.

Mr. Speaker, again this shows the ability of the High Arctic Council to work together to help promote the many issues we face in the High Arctic. I am confident that all members will assist us in helping to promote and distribute these materials and I ask them to join me in paying tribute to the determination of the communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Eva Aariak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I rise today to acknowledge some individuals in the Gallery. Firstly, Nick Newberry, who is very well-known by Iqalumiut, has been a high school teacher for many years. Although he's not teaching anymore and has moved to

PEI to enjoy his retirement, it seems like he has been working even harder.

The people who are here with him are the Kativik Board of Directors and I would like to acknowledge them all because they work very hard for young people on a voluntary basis. They came to Nunavut to discuss this matter with various businesses and entities. I would like to recognize Nick Newberry and the Kativik Board of Directors. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Ningark.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 009 – 3(2): Summer Employment Opportunities for Repulse Bay Students

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Premier of Nunavut as it involves all of the government departments and I'm not exactly sure who else to direct it to.

Would the Premier be able to send me information on summer student employment opportunities so that I could provide it to the residents of Repulse Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): I hope I understood you correctly. Thank

you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood it properly and perhaps I have misunderstood, in your Member's Statement, you made a statement with respect to employment opportunities. Are you asking if there will be employment opportunities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Can you please clarify your question, Mr. Ningark?

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my Member's Statement, some young people in Repulse Bay wrote to me with regard to the fact that senior high school students are looking for summer employment and since I am their representative from Akulliq, they requested that information from me.

Since I don't have any personal funds for this request, is it possible for the government to set aside funds for summer student employment opportunities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I will direct that question to (interpretation ends) the Minister of Human Resources, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. I will describe our summer student program that we have in place right now. I am pleased to inform the member that the Government of Nunavut thinks that summer student employment is very important to all of Nunavummiut and it is an important program.

Yes, we are very interested in giving opportunity to our young people that are looking for summer jobs. The process is to voice their interest and show their interest. In the Kivalliq region, in Repulse Bay, they can register with our Rankin Inlet Human Resources office and put their name in if they are interested in being available for summer student positions.

I am encouraging all departments throughout all of our government to initiate and give summer students the opportunity to see what career path they may choose to follow in the future. So we are encouraging that and I would say to the member that I would encourage all of your constituents and their children that they put their name in and register in Rankin Inlet for summer student positions.

Not only in the GN but also in the private sector and with the hamlets, there's always employment in the summertime for young people and we encourage that greatly, but that is the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 010 – 3(2): Conservation Officer Vacancy in Coral Harbour

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

It has recently come to my attention that our community of Coral Harbour will be losing its conservation officer position next week. As the minister will

appreciate, these positions are very important in our communities.

I would like to ask the minister if the process for hiring the conservation officer has been started and when the residents of Coral Harbour can expect that position to be filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. Yes, I have been advised too that the conservation officer in Coral Harbour will be leaving shortly, not as of yet, I believe in the middle of this month. And I would like to advise the member that yes, we are looking at that and the process will be started very shortly for staffing that position.

As well known by all of us, it will take some time and I can't give you a date when there will be a replacement conservation officer in your community, but the process will be started very shortly and we will ensure, as quick as we can, that we can replace that person. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to get further information from the minister regarding the conservation officer program in Nunavut and whether we have any Nunavummiut taking this training to become a conservation officer.

Many communities are adversely impacted when a conservation officer leaves and many communities have noted that when the officer is a resident of that community, they tend to stay in their positions longer.

I imagine that many of our youth in Nunavut may be interested in this career option. So my question is whether we have any Nunavummiut undertaking this training for becoming a conservation officer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to advise the member that yes, we do have a training program in Nunavut and at present, there are trainee positions for one in each region.

We are having great difficulty in implementing this program and finding suitable candidates with qualifications who will stay with this training program through the end. But we are encouraging young Nunavummiut and beneficiaries to get involved in a career as a conservation officer as much as we can. We will continue to do this and we will target those beneficiaries in our training program.

I encourage all young beneficiaries and young people in communities to take our environmental program that we offer at the Arctic College to get involved in environmental fields, not only as conservation officers but as researchers, wildlife technicians, and biologists, to manage the wildlife that we have in Nunavut.

We are looking at this and we are trying our best to address this issue right now. We will try and do better in the future, but we do have a training program in place right now. We are trying to review it and make it better and offer beneficiaries and Nunavummiut to take this program and become conservation officers, and we will continue to do this.

We are very interested in all young Inuit getting involved. And what better career could they have than managing and ensuring the protection of the land in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to see that there are training opportunities and programs available to the people of Nunavut.

I would like further clarification, Mr. Speaker, on who they can contact if they are interested in undertaking the training courses for conservation officers. Specifically, in the smaller communities, it's rather difficult to get that type of information.

I would like to know whether they can contact his department or which contact my constituents can call within the department if they are interested in pursuing careers as conservation officers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we do have a

conservation officer in every community in Nunavut, the local contact would be the conservation officer if they are interested in getting into that field. They can also contact the regional human resources office or they can contact our head office in Iqaluit, the Department of Environment.

But we would be very interested in anyone that does contact us to help them along with the process and to give them the skills to become conservation officers in Nunavut. We would encourage them to do that and we would help them to try and get there because we are very interested in this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 011 – 3(2): Plans for Iqaluit International Airport

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

During our last session, I raised several questions regarding the terminal building in Iqaluit. Currently, our terminal doesn't have the capacity to handle its existing operational requirements, which is disconcerting and becoming a major concern. The Iqaluit terminal is too small for the number of travellers passing through it.

It's obvious that we're not implementing all of the transportation regulations due to the number of people in the terminal and we're perhaps not in full compliance with existing fire code regulations.

Based on the high numbers of passengers who are in the terminal, I believe that we are in contravention of several regulatory requirements.

He indicated last time that the replacement plan was still under review. I would like to ask the minister what the status is with regard to the plans for the replacement terminal building in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Yes, I recall that the question was asked previously. The federal government and the Nunavut government both recognize that the volume of aircraft and passengers at the Iqaluit International Airport has obviously outgrown itself over the last several years.

Once again, the department supports the implementation of the Iqaluit International Airport Master Plan. Within the department, we are hoping that the master plan will be completed within six months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. The master plan has been in the government's hands for quite a while. After the review has been completed, will the master plan be prepared in time for it to be included in the capital

estimates that we will be dealing with in the fall? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The first step of course was done with the paving of Apron 1 and the opening of Taxiway A. That's already been completed in the last couple of years. The next step is going to be for the paving from Apron 3 to Apron 1, extending the taxiways and parking spots there.

At this time, we are awaiting the final completion of the master plan as I had indicated and from there, we will take a look at what is necessary to upgrade or even build to make things safe.

I understand, having used their facilities myself several times, you are correct. The waiting room for security is small and it creates a lot of hardship for elders and people with disabilities, and we are prioritizing that to get a better handle and move it further quickly.
Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would like to welcome everybody to Iqaluit and obviously, my colleagues depend on the terminal quite often. We know the terminal here in Iqaluit requires an upgrade, especially since we get many visitors from outside the territory.

We would like their stay or stopover in Iqaluit to be one that is memorable. I urge the minister to speed up the

process. We don't want to be in the planning stage indefinitely, so I would like the minister to provide an update with substance at our next sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree fully. The initial estimate for renovating and upgrading the airport facility is \$40 million and of course, it's a priority to access funds from the Building Canada Fund.

Time to complete the master plan will give us a better estimate, a better idea, and a better plan. So we are awaiting that and as I mentioned earlier, we are hoping to have the master plan completed within six months.
Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 012 – 3(2): H1N1 Flu Virus

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

In his Minister's Statement, he indicated that there were five confirmed cases of H1N1 flu virus in Nunavut. Can the minister update the House on whether there are any suspected cases in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to

thank the member for posing that question. I know that the people of Nunavut are well aware of the H1N1 flu virus, but we can't identify where there are suspected cases.

We tell our employees that if children are having flu-like symptoms, they are to be reported and we are also getting the information out to the public via the radio about illness prevention and the importance of keeping their environment clean and washing regularly.

We don't want to indicate which communities have suspected cases. It's only after the swabs are sent down to a lab in Alberta that we can confirm the cases. But we tell our employees that if anyone has suspected flu-like symptoms, they should stay at home until they are fully recovered.

We will not be releasing information on which communities have either suspected or confirmed cases. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't looking for names or communities with suspected cases, I'm just wondering if there's an indication of suspected cases throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman... Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my Inuktitut comments, we don't want to be pointing

fingers and so on at any particular community.

The public advisories that are coming in from Dr. Sobol's office, our Chief Medical Health Officer, result from communications with all of the communities' frontline health workers and indicate that if there is any evidence of flu-like symptoms that they are to take precautions of every kind and so on. That message is getting out to all of the nursing stations throughout Nunavut and I believe that that information can be pretty well obtained in communities.

We do not want to name which community or whatnot because it's difficult to track this outbreak at this moment, but we are cautioning all Nunavutmiut that we have to be vigilant. If flu-like symptoms are occurring, if it gets quite severe, they are to advise their local health centre. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister can indicate if there's an increase in flu-like symptoms throughout Nunavut in communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Personally, I could not but I can certainly provide more information to the member after consulting with our chief medical health officer. Particularly at this time of the year, we know that particularly with the school kids, there appears to be more flu-like symptoms that are going on throughout. As a result of that, I believe that some of this

particular strain is spreading everywhere.

But I will provide more information, so I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

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

Question 013 – 3(2): Contribution Agreement with Makinnasuaqtiit Society

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

Yesterday, in my Member's Statement, I was bringing up the issues about people with disabilities and the Disability Council. Each year since 2004, the contribution grant is awarded to the Inuit association in the amount of \$90,000. I was just wondering if the minister could explain what that \$90,000 goes towards. 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 the question. I believe that the contribution that the department provides to the Makinnasuaqtiit Society is really to help them establish office facilities and whatnot, to contribute in whatever shape or form they wish, one of which is to maybe have a part-time worker to assist them in advocacy issues that they feel should be raised throughout Nunavut.

I believe we are not particularly controlling that funding, but it is

provided to ensure that they at least have core funding to establish their advocacy role for Nunavutmiut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that answer. With all of the increases we have seen with budgets for the government departments and with the Nunavut Housing Corporation and HR talking about capacity issues, "With capacity issues, we are continuing to hire more people and increase PYs," has the government thought of potentially increasing that \$90,000?

As I mentioned yesterday, office space is not actually being provided for this position, so is there any thought to increasing that? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I cannot indicate whether or not we have thought about it, but what I can say to the member is that we review their application annually. They normally submit it in excess of \$200,000, for instance, as their first request.

But one thing that the member should understand is I believe that Nunavut Tunngavik is also helping out with accommodating some of the services that they need because we can't really establish an office facility, I can understand that, with \$90,000.

We are partnering with groups like NTI and others. We hope that others would also come in and help out with some of the assistance that these groups require because I understand that the

Makinnasuaqtiit Society is really underfunded.

At this moment, we would like to ensure that the other organizations should also help out in this case. I, no doubt, will be speaking with the other groups throughout Nunavut to ensure that they are represented fairly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the Minister of Health and Social Services, he mentioned NTI as the funding body that receives the money. If the government is providing \$90,000, is there a matching funding of another \$90,000 from NTI as part of their contribution? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly sure whether or not the funds go directly to NTI. As an independent registered organization, my understanding is that it goes to the Makinnasuaqtiit Society.

But I know that NTI is helping out with their offices and to that extent, I'm not fully aware of exactly what NTI does, but I certainly appreciate all of the help that they try to provide to that group. I'm not in the position right now to indicate whether or not any other group is providing or matching funds to that effect.

There are other services that we provide for disabled persons, including our continuing care facilities throughout Nunavut, which also assist elders because there are senior citizens who are

disabled. They are provided with services by these groups and also our home care workers all across Nunavut do help out with people with disabilities who cannot, for instance, clean up their houses and so on.

In terms of other services that we should be doing, yes, I concur, we should be doing more, particularly for the younger disabled groups. Surely, somewhere along the road, they might be interested in finding jobs vocationally. But at this moment, we don't have a comprehensive report or strategy to address all of that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As for the contribution agreement to NTI through the Government of Nunavut, I think I understand how the process works. There are obviously final reports and accounting that's provided at the end of every year.

I'm just wondering if the minister could make a commitment to provide that information to me with the final report for the fiscal year of 2008-09. That way, I would have a better understanding of matching dollars and also a report as to what the committee was able to do with the \$90,000. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to that and provide the member and my colleagues with any reports that our department may have as soon as we can get it. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Komoartok.

Question 014 – 3(2): Aviation Regulations for Pangnirtung

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

In Pangnirtung, we have two airlines serving our community, First Air and Canadian North. First Air is usually able to land even when the weather is not ideal since they have familiarity with our airstrip and weather. There was a time where we tried to go home for a three-week period. Canadian North couldn't land in Pangnirtung due to high winds, at least when our last session was done. However, even after the winds died down, it took approximately two weeks for Canadian North to return, although First Air was able to land throughout that same period.

My question to the minister is in regard to the minimum standards for any flights coming into Pangnirtung. What are the minimum visibility, ceiling, and runway length requirements for flights? It seems that the rules have changed. According to Canadian North, when the ceiling is at certain altitudes, they are supposed to turn back and not attempt to land.

As community members, we haven't been informed about any changes to the regulations, but it looks as though one of the airlines has been following a different set of rules that weren't used previously. Mr. Speaker, I'm asking the minister if that is indeed the case. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, (interpretation ends) Hon. Peter Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. I'm not aware of the ceiling, that's a highly technical question, and again it depends on the season, whether it's winter, fall or summer.

According to First Air's research that they have done, the ATR 42, under the standards of the Canadian Aviation Regulations, cannot operate into Pangnirtung during the summer season. And again, there are a lot of technical and regulatory issues with Pangnirtung with geology, terrain, winds, and mountains.

The ATR is just not technically feasible to fly in there on a regular basis, but the department recognizes the high importance of maintaining services to Pangnirtung. Again, the department is committed to a long-term solution and solving some of these issues in Pangnirtung. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 015 – 3(2): Update on Annual Fuel Purchase

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think my question is for CG&S in regard to the fuel. Has the government bought all of the diesel fuel and gasoline for the year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're in the process of trying to get as much fuel as we possibly can at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my next question is going back to the hedging program. If the government were to hedge the fuel at \$37 a barrel and now that the price is \$68 a barrel, what would it have cost to hedge per barrel and what would have been the savings to the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Off the top of my head, Mr. Speaker, I do not know, but I can get back to the member on trying to get as much information about that as possible. At this time, I don't know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your second supplementary, Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that answer. The only reason that I'm saying it is that in the booklet we got here yesterday, it gives a definition of hedging here, and the government has always been complaining and saying that they can't buy the fuel ahead of time because there's no storage and they don't have the money to do it.

But under the hedging program, you don't have to buy it, you don't have to pay for it, and you don't have to store it. It's kind of like an insurance policy that you can buy it at a certain price and that's the reason I asked that question, so I would appreciate it if I could get an answer on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said, I don't think there was a question there but we will get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Is that all? (interpretation ends) Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 016 – 3(2): Status of Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program

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

In March of this year, I asked the minister several questions concerning the new \$500 million federal Recreational Infrastructure Canada program, which is known as "RInC." The three territories will share approximately \$567,000 of this fund to upgrade their facilities.

It is my understanding that Nunavut will receive funding on a per capita basis. Can the minister update the House on exactly how much Nunavut will receive under this program? 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. I also thank the member for asking that question. I cannot state exactly how much funding will be provided or how we will disseminate those funds, but as soon as we get that information, we will provide it to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I posed that question at that time, I also stated that in Nunavut, the communities are not fully utilizing their arena facilities due to constraints. For that reason, I had asked if the minister was willing to support the communities of Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet in identifying funds to upgrade their arenas.

Mr. Speaker, it's evident that arenas using artificial ice are available for longer periods of time during the year. At this time, I would like to find out if the minister has considered the possibility of purchasing artificial ice for the arenas in Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet as per my previous question. Will he be pursuing this option? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, his observation is quite true. At the time, communities just

wanted to get arenas to start with and most communities were satisfied with that. However, due to the continuing late start of the winter season in Nunavut, there are more requests for artificial ice. Some communities haven't been able to open their arenas until after Christmas due to the ice being unable to freeze up.

We all know about the changing conditions that he alluded to. For example, in one of my constituency communities, Rankin Inlet, and here in Iqaluit, they start playing hockey in October as a result of having artificial ice in those arenas. With artificial ice equipment in the arenas, it's very beneficial to communities but the equipment varies from community to community.

If there were no artificial ice down south, it's obvious that southerners couldn't play hockey since their warm seasons are much longer than up north and they don't have the permafrost we do. Up here, once the ice is frozen, it's usable until it melts and that is why the freezing equipment is not quite the same, as some communities just require this to freeze the ice.

I'm working with my officials at CGS to procure funds for setting up a study to look into what is required to purchase this equipment and to determine what kinds of artificial ice equipment would be required for the communities.

I would also like the member to know that we will be doing a review on two communities this coming summer, Coral Harbour and Arviat. The communities will be visited and a feasibility study will be initiated to see if artificial ice equipment in those communities is a

viable option. So that pilot project will be in those two communities, with the goal of expanding to all of the communities in Nunavut.

So that is our current work to date, which includes a study in Coral Harbour and Arviat to figure out how to set up the artificial ice equipment efficiently and effectively. Experts who are able to provide answers to these questions will be visiting their communities this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. I remind the minister that I also mentioned Chesterfield Inlet in my question. He didn't mention that it will be included in the study, so I would like him to consider that community for future studies.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask an additional question to the minister. This new federal program also allows municipalities to apply directly to the federal government for funding for specific projects under this fund. Can the minister indicate if his department will be willing to provide technical assistance to municipalities in completing these applications? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I didn't mention the community of Chesterfield Inlet, it wasn't intentional.

However, the two communities I mentioned will serve as pilot project locations. Once the findings have been completed and reviewed, we hope to use the findings to benefit all community facilities in Nunavut.

We would like to see arenas to be used for other purposes besides hockey. During the review, perhaps we can look at the feasibility of putting in concrete flooring. Those types of things will be considered in the review, along with the impacts and how it can be expanded to other communities in Nunavut, large and small, such as Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Whale Cove, all the way up to Resolute Bay.

In response to part of your question, our officials have informed the municipalities of their availability to provide assistance in filling out application forms for funding. Yes, they're able to assist communities to work together to complete the forms. Some forms are quite simple and all you need to do is provide numbers.

Our department is willing to work with and assist hamlets when they are applying for funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I asked this question to the minister, and I'm sure he is aware, is that we have to submit our applications prior to June 15, 2009.

I have taken the initiative to provide copies of the application forms to municipal authorities in Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet. That was the main reason why I asked the question and I'm just clarifying it further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I doubt that there was a question, but if you would like to respond, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Although it may not be a question, the deadline to submit applications is known by all local SAOs. Our office is open and they have been working very closely with SAOs, and would like to continue to do so prior to the deadline so that they can submit their applications.

If anyone needs assistance in filling out application forms, please don't hesitate to contact our staff. The SAOs in the communities know how to get a hold of officials from our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to thank the member for asking those questions.

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

Question 017 – 3(2): Vacant Positions in Quttiktuq

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

On my recent constituency visit up to Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay, it was brought to my attention once again that there are two very important positions that haven't been filled for quite a while.

One is the position of social worker in both Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord, and a community health representative in both communities.

I was just wondering if the minister can give me some progress on what's happening with advertising and the filling of those positions. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can understand. There are vacant positions throughout Nunavut and apparently as well as a nursing shortage all over Canada. Social services are also experiencing a shortage of social workers throughout. There are a number of positions that are vacant throughout Nunavut and the department is attempting to ensure that these positions are filled.

But with respect to that particular community, I will have to get back to you on that during this session and provide more details to you because I'm not particularly up to date on the exact reason why the social workers are not filled in Grise Fiord. Thank you.

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

Question 018 – 3(2): Clean-up of Creek

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our municipality holds an annual clean-up in the community, generally in the vicinity of a creek within hamlet boundaries. Perhaps I'll direct this question to Minister Kusugak.

There's a local woman, with children, who wrote to me about this matter. She stated that she had raised her concerns during the hamlet's AGM. She was referring to the creek adjacent to her house. Due to the accumulation of snow in that area, during the spring thaw, garbage piles up there. Children often play in that creek, obviously some of her children and others play there, and it could be dangerous to their health.

I would like to ask the Minister of CGS if he could urge the municipality to deal with this issue. This woman has been mentioning this numerous times during AGMs and nothing has ever been done. I believe some clean-up of that creek has occurred sporadically, but I think that they need to rectify this ongoing problem. 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 would like to thank the member for the question.

As a department, we don't like to dictate what hamlets do as they have their own method of operations and regulations. What we would like to see is the hamlet council, staff and local residents collaborating to clean up their community. That's the only response I can provide at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That woman and her

husband requested help since they are stuck between a rock and a hard place. They have no other place to turn to. Perhaps I'll bring this issue up with the Department of Health and Social Services.

I thank the minister for his response. However, my suspicion is that they don't have enough funds for this activity. Do the hamlets receive adequate funding to clean up their communities? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Hamlet councils are provided funding and some budget line items are at their discretion. I know that communities are starting to do their clean-up at this time and there are funds available for that within the operating budgets of municipalities.

If the member wishes us to look into how our department can work with the community to deal with this issue, I can task a staff member to report on it. I don't have any idea as to what level of clean-up we are talking about nor have I seen any reports on that issue which outline the situation. However, if the member wishes us to look into this matter, we can do that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This woman has exhausted all avenues available to her. So at a minimum, the minister could look into it. Will you be able to look into

this in conjunction with our hamlet council? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, of course. Thank you.

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

Question 019 – 3(2): Review of NHC Maintenance Management Programs and Operations

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

In his Minister's Statement, he indicated that, "A review was completed on maintenance management programs and operations in most communities." Can the minister update the House as to how many of these communities have been completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. If memory serves me correct, my memory is always questionable, there were either seven communities left or seven communities done. I'm pretty sure there were seven communities left to be completed, but I will double confirm that and if my memory is incorrect, I will let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his honest answer. Can the minister update the House on when he anticipates the rest of the communities being completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my statement, this is not something that's going to happen overnight.

The staff at the corporation are quite busy right now, as I'm sure that the member is aware, just dealing with the construction season coming up as well as the delivery of the capital for the units coming in this year. However, that work is ongoing and they are continuing to go into the communities and have these assessments done. The corporation is hoping that by next winter, most or all of the communities will be completed.

My administrators were also, as a result of the Auditor General's report and observations, trying to come up with a way to be able to go in and maybe look at forming some type of an assessment team to be able to go in and do assessments into each of the LHOs in the communities and that will be the one purpose of a team of individuals.

That's something that we're still in the preliminary stages of looking at, but that will help ensure that assessments are performed on a more regular basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 020 – 3(2): Tax on Plastic Bags

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I sense that the Minister of Finance may be sleepy, so this question is directed to him.

Yesterday, during his Budget Address, the minister stated what will be taxed and where the money is allocated to. Sometimes taxes are imposed on certain items to act as a deterrent. We have done this with alcohol and tobacco by taxing them.

Today, it's becoming evident that there are too many plastic bags spread all over the place in our beautiful land. I would like to see a reduction in the use of plastic bags. I would like to ask the minister if he has considered looking at taxing plastic shopping bags in Nunavut. Has this been taken into consideration? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Finance, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question and I thank him for keeping me alert. Mr. Speaker, at this time, there are no plans to tax plastic bags. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Plastic bags take a long time to

disintegrate as they're not biodegradable, and they just keep accumulating and polluting our beautiful land.

I want to ask the minister if they would consider dealing with this issue in the future or if his department would collaborate with the Department of Environment on a strategy to reduce plastic bags throughout Nunavut. We have to reduce our plastic bags in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, as I recall in the Second Assembly, I believe it was you yourself who raised the issue of plastic bags being an issue for the environment.

I think we recognized, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, that plastic bags are an issue across Nunavut. Not just plastic bags, there are disposable diapers, plastic containers; there's all sorts of those types of products. Anywhere you walk around communities, some of the mayors across the way and on this side, former mayors know those are issues that we raised at municipal meetings.

It's something that we should all take seriously and the government must take seriously. It's something I'm sure that my colleagues will discuss on this side of the House and I'm sure it's an opportunity for the members across the way to discuss as well is standing committees and ask all of the departments who are affected by this to consider.

I'm willing to bring it up with the department or my Cabinet members to discuss and if the member wants to share his concerns with me, my office is always open for discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I totally agree with the minister. I raised that issue with the Minister of Environment during standing committee meetings. We must find ways of reducing the use of plastic bags and look for a better alternative because we need to preserve and protect our environment. That is the main reason why I'm asking him to start planning for the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank the member for that question and comment. In the Second Assembly, I think the Department of Environment sent reusable bags to all Nunavut households and it's something that we should probably encourage. I use some of those recyclable bags to carry my binders back and forth between my departments, they're very sturdy and they're useful.

I know in shopping stores down south, just before you check out, the stores will actually offer to sell you bags for a dollar to use to carry your groceries. I'm sure that's something again that we can discuss as a Cabinet, how to encourage Nunavummiut to reduce the use of plastic bags and encourage the stores to sell recyclable bags. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. (interpretation) Is that all? Please note that Question Period is now over. (interpretation ends) Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Minister Kusugak.

Item 14: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 014 – 3(2): Contract Activity Report 2007-08

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to table the Contract Activity Report for 2007-08. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister Taptuna.

Tabled Document 015 – 3(2): Ingirrasiliqta: Nunavut Transportation Strategy

Hon. Peter Taptuna: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table *Ingirrasiliqta*; Let's Get Moving, the Nunavut Transportation Strategy. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

(interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Tabled Document 016 – 3(2): High Arctic Council Sovereignty Campaign: Poster and Bookmarks

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Member's Statement of today, I wish to table the High Arctic Council's sovereignty campaign poster and bookmarks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Tabled Document 017 – 3(2): Nunavut Housing Trust Review of Delivery Strategy Implementation Stage One, May 2008

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a former Member of this House would say, I am very pleased to table the Nunavut Housing Trust Review of Delivery Strategy Implementation Stage One, May 2008. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010*, with Mr. Okalik in the Chair.

I ask members to remain at their seats so that we can proceed directly into Committee of the Whole.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Good morning. We can now begin our committee meeting and looking at our agenda, we have the following item to deal with: Bill 1. I would like to ask what the wish of the committee is. Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, we wish to commence with our review of Bill 1, starting with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, followed by the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ningeongan. Does the committee agree to proceed with that?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010 – Economic Development and Transportation – Consideration in Committee

Chairman (interpretation): My colleagues would like to proceed in that order. I would now like to ask Minister Taptuna of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to make his opening remarks. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman (interpretation ends) Committee members, I will proceed with my opening comments.

I am very pleased to be here to present the budget for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation for 2009-2010, and to outline for you the proposed budgetary changes and some of the proposed spending priorities for the current year.

Following my opening comments, I will be pleased to answer your questions and those of the other members of this committee about our proposed budget and program activities for 2009-2010.

With me today are members of senior management from my department: Jane Cooper, Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the Economic Development Branch; Methusalah Kunuk, Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the Transportation Branch; and Sherri Rowe, Director of the Finance and Administration Division. They will assist me in responding to your questions.

The budget we are reviewing today is for expenditures for salaries, grants and contributions, and operations by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. The total budget I am proposing for the 2009-2010 fiscal year is \$55,055,000. In 2008-09, the department's budget was \$57,736,000. Our new budget, therefore, represents a decrease of \$2,681,000 from last year.

The principal cause of the overall reduction in our total budget has been the completion of two programs funded by the federal government, the Northern Strategy Fund and the Community Development Trust. These are targeted federal programs that were available only for a limited term.

The Northern Strategy funds, totalling \$5 million, were used to support our Smaller Communities Initiatives Program, which ended March 31, 2009. The Community Development Trust was allocated \$800,000 last year to assist with the start-up of regional socio-economic monitoring committees.

Other major changes for 2009-2010 represent budgetary increases. This year, the department has received additional financial resources to support the Nunavut Employees Union salary increase of \$487,000 and fuel increases of \$76,000.

The department has also been allocated an additional \$2,091,000 in funding to support Nunavut's participation in activities associated with the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver. This important international event will allow us to promote Nunavut to the world by showcasing Inuit culture, Nunavut products, and our territory's tourism, trades, and investment opportunities.

With these exceptions, the department's budget is substantially unchanged from 2008-09. In the preparation of this budget, the department has been guided by two general objectives.

The first has been to maintain in 2009-2010 the program commitments that were initiated in 2008-09 and to ensure that important initiatives and key priorities already underway are properly supported in the current year.

The department took on a number of new challenges last year and so despite the very short period for planning this

year's budget, our priorities remain very clear.

We have entered 2009-2010 with considerable momentum and a full agenda. Our continuing priorities include:

- Further improvements to the Motor Vehicles Office in Iqaluit, for which an additional \$352,000 has been allocated in 2009-2010;
- Continuing the implementation of *Sanaugait*, the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Strategy;
- Continuing the implementation of *Parnautit*, the Nunavut Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy;
- Preparation of the Tourism Development Strategy for Nunavut;
- Implementation of the Nunavut Transportation Strategy; and
- Completion of the comprehensive review of the NNI Policy.

The department also will continue the work begun in 2008-09 to improve the delivery of services and to build on some of the achievements of past years in improving our processes for handling program applications and contribution agreements.

We will continue our work in specific economic sectors. In addition to the implementation of the mining strategy and in partial response to an anticipated decline in mineral exploration activity

this summer, we will renew and expand the popular Prospector Assistance Program. This will also be the first full year of activity for the Mine Training Roundtable, which we support through the new Mine Training Fund Policy.

In our cultural industries, the next phase of implementation of the arts and crafts strategy will move ahead and in 2009-2010, the new Arts and Crafts Development Program will be available for the entire year. The new Nunavut brand for arts and crafts will be launched and the Nunavut Film, Television and New Media Program will be renewed and its scope expanded.

The department will also maintain its support for activities in the tourism and commercial harvesting sectors.

The department will also continue to support the strengthening of the private sector's role in our economy, maintaining our budgetary commitments and promoting the Strategic Investment Program and the Small Business Support Program, and improving the information available to business about our programs.

Mr. Chairman, our second general objective in the preparation of the departmental budget for 2009-2010 has been to ensure that our mission and guiding principles contribute to the vision of the government expressed in *Tamapta*. More than this, the department assessed its programs to determine how they contribute to *Tamapta* commitments.

In our business plan for 2009-2010, the department focuses on three of these priorities where current programs can be

used to support the government's commitment to improve the quality of life for all Nunavummiut.

The first of these is "Improve education and training outcomes."

The department supports training in a variety of sectors through its responses to applications to its programs, such as the Strategic Investments Program, the Small Business Support Program, the Arts and Crafts Development Program, and the Film, Television and New Media Program.

The department also provides direct support for training through the Nunavut Mine Training Program, community economic development officer training, and the training of airport maintainers.

Secondly, the department contributes a priority to "Increase support for culture and the arts." Several of our programs in this area already have been mentioned and to these can be added our support for the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association and the Nunavut Film Development Corporation.

Finally, the department directly contributes to a third priority, "Support community-based sustainable economies."

The department, as you know, has a lead role in the implementation of the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy, which identifies the strengthening of our community economies as a principal goal. Several of our programs are used to support implementation, beginning with our contribution through the work of the Nunavut Economic Forum.

Sector strategies for mineral exploration and mining, arts and crafts, transportation, and tourism emphasize programs for community-based sustainable economies. And the department provides direct financial support to communities so that they can prepare community economic development plans and implement them through projects for which the department can provide financial assistance.

Regular improvements to community transportation infrastructure, as well as the recent improvements to broadband, make possible strong community economies.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I want to highlight for members of the committee a few additional priorities included in the 2009-2010 departmental business plan:

- The department will develop guidelines for community consultations for major development projects and extend its work in support of regional socio-economic monitoring committees.
- The department will conduct a public engagement process to support the amendment and implementation of the *Motor Vehicles Act*, and develop and implement the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program.
- The department will implement the next stage of the successful roll-out of the award-winning new driver's licences and general identification cards.

- The department will undertake an assessment of government-owned visitors' centres and a program that supports them.

These highlights also include improvement to transportation infrastructure as one of the foundations for development of the Nunavut economy.

This work in 2009-2010 will include:

- Development of a conceptual design for the proposed Iqaluit port
- Conduct a comprehensive analysis of issues that affect the high cost of travel and transportation in the High Arctic communities
- Complete construction of the Arctic Bay Airport, including the new airport terminal building
- Implement major runway projects in Taloyoak, Kimmirut, and Arviat.

The department has a very ambitious agenda for the current year, Mr. Chairman, but I'm confident that with this budget and with this plan, we can meet all of the challenges ahead.

I welcome comments and questions from committee members on the 2009-2010 Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. (interpretation ends)

We're dealing with O&M and I see a lot of capital in there, so you may want to note that for the other ministers. We're focusing on O&M and we want to stick to that during our proceedings.

This being almost noon, I would ask that we take a lunch break at this time and reconvene at 12:45. (interpretation) Thank you. We will see you in the next hour.

>> Committee recessed at 12:00 and resumed at 13:00

Chairman (interpretation): Good afternoon. We can now resume our committee meeting.

Thank you, Minister Taptuna. (interpretation ends) There must have been a very good government prior because you're repeating a lot of the work continuing on with what took place here before, so good comments.

(interpretation) I believe that the Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development is ready to provide responses to their departmental review. Mr. Komoartok, you may now make your opening comments.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be speaking slowly so that I am fully understood.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the 2009-2010 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of

Economic Development and Transportation.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2009-2010 operations and maintenance budget of \$54,055,000 has increased by approximately 44 percent since the introduction of the department's 2004-05 main estimates. The number of positions in the department has increased from 105.5 PYs in 2004-05 to 129.5 PYs in 2009-2010.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of important issues and concerns.

During the Second Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, the government began the practice of providing annual Ministerial Letters of Expectation to Crown corporations and agencies in order to establish priorities and provide direction with respect to their operations and initiatives. Members are aware that the current government, through its Public Agency Council, is undertaking a new approach to this exercise and looks forward to the timely tabling in the Legislative Assembly of priority-setting items directed to these Crown corporations.

The Government of Nunavut's most recent annual reports on departmental contracting, procurement and leasing activities were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 7, 2007.

To date, these annual reports have not included information on the procurement, contracting and leasing activities of the government's major Crown corporations and agencies,

including the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. The standing committee recommends that information concerning these Crown corporations' activities also be tabled in the Legislative Assembly on an annual basis.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed main estimates for 2009-2010 include \$18,919,000 in grants and contributions expenditures. In 2007-08, the department's actual spending on grants and contributions was \$18,344,000.

During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members questioned the extent to which the department measures and evaluates the results of its grants and contributions expenditures.

Members were pleased to be informed that the department will be making increased efforts in this area, including an examination of how effective its grants and contributions spending has been in stimulating job creation.

I would also note that this issue was raised last year in the Legislative Assembly with respect to the issue of how effective the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's loan activities have been in the area of job creation.

Last year, the government's *Report on the Future of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The government subsequently announced that the Nunavut Business Credit

Corporation's offices would be relocated from Cape Dorset to Iqaluit.

The working group's report recommended that work to develop a model for a "new, 'made-in-Nunavut' economic development corporation" be presented to the third Government of Nunavut for review and decision in April 2009.

One of the options discussed in the report was the merger of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation into a single entity. This approach was taken in the Northwest Territories in recent years with the establishment of the Business Development and Investment Corporation.

While the standing committee recognizes the importance of taking action to address the financial management problems that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation has faced in recent years, members are not convinced that combining the two corporations into a single entity at this time would be a strategically sound decision given the very different mandates of the two corporations.

On March 17, 2008, the government announced that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's Fisheries and Sealing Division would be transferred to the Department of Environment as part of a Cabinet portfolio shuffle.

Members had the opportunity to discuss the issue of where this division would be most appropriately located within the GN's overall organizational structure during the appearances of both the

Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and the Minister of Environment.

Members recognize that this division has been transferred between departments on a number of occasions since 1999. In order to allow the division to focus on its mandate of fostering growth in this important sector of the economy, it is important that there be stability with respect to its location.

Members also agree that the Department of Environment's ongoing relationship with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans has supported this division's activities and initiatives. In addition, the department's role in administering the activities of wildlife offices complements the division's activities in relation to such areas as the purchase of sealskins.

Accordingly, the standing committee recommends that the Fisheries and Sealing Division remain within the Department of Environment.

The department's 2009-2010 business plan indicates that its goals include preparing a revised Film, Television and New Media Development Program policy in cooperation with the industry and the Nunavut Film Development Corporation; reviewing and revising the Strategic Investments Program; and reviewing and revising the Policy on Program Partnerships policies and guidelines. The standing committee looks forward to these being tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, the department's business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to undertake the second five-year

comprehensive review of the NNI Policy in cooperation with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

The standing committee looks forward to the results of this review, including, in light of the recent judgement issued by the Nunavut Court of Justice in March of this year, possible improvements to the appeals process. The standing committee also urges the minister to table the annual reports of the Contracting Appeals Board in a timely manner.

The department's 2009-2010 main estimates include proposed funding of \$800,000 for Nunavut's three business development centres. On September 17, 2008, the report titled *An Evaluation of Business Development Centres in the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk Regions* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The department's 2009-2010 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "implement the recommendations of the Business Development Centre assessment."

The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the status of this initiative and encourages the minister to carefully evaluate the results that are achieved by the government's investment in this area.

Mr. Chairman, the expansion of access to banking and financial services in Nunavut's communities is an important component of the territory's economic development. The committee is aware that on November 18, 2008, the Atuqtuarvik Corporation announced its partnership with the First Nations Bank of Canada. The corporation's announcement stated that "Inuit now have a substantial stake in a financial

institution that will offer financial services initially through the establishment of a branch in Iqaluit and agency banking in selected communities."

While the standing committee recognizes that the government itself cannot be expected to establish new financial institutions, members encourage the department to offer whatever assistance and cooperation may be practical with respect to expanding access to banking and financial services in smaller communities.

The Government of Nunavut's Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on March 14, 2007. The strategy indicated that the GN "will commission an independent review of the permitting and regulatory structures in the territory. Following an independent review the Government of Nunavut will facilitate a workshop in partnership with the federal government," Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the three regional Inuit associations, Nunavut Planning Commission, Nunavut Impact Review Board, and the Nunavut Water Board.

The department's 2008-09 business plan indicated that a priority for 2008-09 was to "Coordinate an interagency workshop to review and implement recommendations from the Review of Permitting and Regulatory Structures project." The department's 2009-2010 business plan indicates that this workshop has been "delayed pending a response from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on co-hosting."

The standing committee also notes that on July 17, 2008, the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs released *The Road to Improvement*, the report from Neil McCrank, Special Representative for the Northern Regulatory Improvement Initiative. McCrank offered several recommendations in this report on how to improve the northern regulatory system.

On June 4, 2007, the Government of Nunavut issued a news release announcing the establishment of six principles to serve as a guide for uranium mining in the territory. The release indicated that “The principles will serve as a framework for the development of a uranium development and mining management plan for the Government of Nunavut.” The standing committee encourages the minister to regularly update the Legislative Assembly and Nunavummiut on developments in this area.

The department’s 2009-2010 business plan indicates that its priorities include establishing “an effective framework for assessing and monitoring major development projects including completion of guidelines for socio-economic impact statements and ongoing support for the operation of socio-economic monitoring committees.” The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the work of these bodies.

The department’s proposed main estimates for 2009-2010 includes \$2,175,000 in grants and contributions funding for tourism development, including funding for Nunavut Tourism. The department’s 2009-2010 business plan indicates that the department has

“Completed a review of the tourism industry” and has “decided to defer amendments to the *Travel and Tourism Act* until an updated Nunavut Tourism Strategy has been drafted.”

The standing committee notes that the department has spent a significant amount of money over the past several years on engaging consultants to review tourism issues. The standing committee looks forward to the tabling of an updated tourism strategy and encourages the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to work closely with the Department of Environment and the Department of CLEY given that these departments have responsibility for such tourism-related matters as parks and heritage sites.

The standing committee also looks forward to the minister resuming the practice of tabling Nunavut Tourism’s annual reports, which will help enable all Members of the Legislative Assembly to evaluate the success of the government’s investments in the tourism sector of the economy.

On November 21, 2006, the Legislative Assembly passed a formal motion that recommended that the “Government of Nunavut work with the airline industry to bring forward an action plan to improve the availability of affordable, reliable air service to Nunavut’s smaller, under-served communities.”

The department’s 2009-2010 business plan indicates that the department will “continue to improve Nunavut’s airports, harbours and community access roads, and it will work with our smaller communities to identify solutions to the high costs of air travel.” The

department's business plan also indicates that one of its priorities is to "Release the *Nunavut Transportation Strategy* and prepare a plan for the implementation of its recommendations."

The standing committee looks forward to the tabling of this strategy. During the minister's appearance, members raised the issues of airport landing fees and airport improvement fees as possible sources of revenue to help fund improvements to the territory's transportation infrastructure.

The department's 2009-2010 business plan also indicates that its priorities include continuing work in relation to a number of significant megaprojects, including the Nunavut-Manitoba Road. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates from the minister on these issues.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2009-2010 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. You can take a break now. Before we begin, I would like to ask Minister Taptuna if he has any officials that he would like to bring to the witness table. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, minister, please introduce your witnesses. We know who they are, but we must let our audience know the names of our witnesses. Thank you.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members. To my right is Methusalah Kunuk, Assistant Deputy Minister for Transportation, and to my left is Jane Cooper, Assistant Deputy Minister for Economics. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. 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. We will be reviewing both the business plan and the capital estimates and you will be able to ask questions on either one, but you will need to identify which one you are referring to so that the officials at the witness table can respond properly.

Before we begin, the minister made his opening comments and I believe we have different numbers. Minister Taptuna, would you like to explain that, please? Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a clarification on the total I had given in my opening comments; the total should

be \$54,055,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) I thought there was going to be \$1 million towards my airport added on at the end. No, that's not the case.

(interpretation) The floor is now open for my colleagues to make general comments and our elders should always be placed first. Mr. Ningark, do you have a general comment?

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 3 of the minister's opening comments under continuing priorities for the Department of Economic Development, one item that is under review is the NNI Policy. I wanted to say a few things and I will follow up with a question.

In my community of Kugaaruk, the only business in the community that runs a general store and has been contracting with the government is the local co-op. In that co-op, Mr. Chairman, we have over 300 active memberships and that co-op employs a significant number of local people.

In the last 40 years, I'm sure that many of those young people who started at the local co-op have now gone to other organizations. Now, they have the security of making money and earning wages, and so on. Also, the local co-op has reduced the burden of the government on income support dependency, more than I can say for anyone for that matter.

My question, Mr. Chairman, to the minister is: is a co-op in Nunavut, such

as the Pelly Bay Co-op or the Kugaaruk Co-op, considered an Inuit owned business by the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. (interpretation ends) Yes, I have been to Kugaaruk and if anything moves, it's the co-op. You have a very good point. (interpretation) Minister Taptuna, do you want to try and answer that question?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you Mr. Chairman I will have my assistant respond to that question. (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Cooper.

Ms. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I know, any company in Nunavut can apply for the NNI Policy, it then goes through the criteria, and then they decide whether it's Inuit owned or not.

As far as shareholders in the co-op kind of situation, I really can't tell you, but we can look into that and get back to the member and let him know. It may be a loophole that we haven't looked at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Cooper. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me get back to the old perspective of the business. Many years ago, 40 years ago, many of the co-ops in the Northwest Territories before Nunavut were called Eskimo Co-ops and I think that speaks for itself.

So when I get back, I will be going to the board of directors meeting and tell them that wonderful thing of how they can apply under the policy to be considered as an Inuit owned business. I thank the staff for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. That was just a comment. Are there any other questions or comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is along the same lines as Mr. Ningark's.

The co-op in Sanikiluaq has been there probably for 30 to 40 years now and when they renewed their NNI Policy this year, they were turned down because it couldn't be proven that they were Inuit owned. They have been in the community for so long that it should be just a given, it just doesn't make any sense. I'm just wondering why this kind of thing can happen to a local co-op. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Do you want to try and answer that question, Minister Taptuna?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I feel sensitivity in this and of course, NTI, or Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, has the authority and holds the authority, under the NNI article, that they are the ones that make the final decision on what is Inuit owned and what is not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a different issue, in your opening comments, you talk about recent improvements to the broadband in Nunavut. Can you explain these improvements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Taptuna, do you want to try and answer that question?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The improvements are ongoing. As the community well understands, that system was originally designed for 2,500 clients, 2,500 users, and at this time, in Nunavut, we have about 5,000 users of the service and of course, that puts a lot of strain in the capacity of what it can do. Of course, the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation, with the assistance of ED&T, is improving that situation. *Koana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At present, in our communities, I think Internet at best is probably at a snail's pace on dry ground. I'm wondering if he anticipates any timeframe of when the speed will be picked up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. That's a very good question. (interpretation) Minister Taptuna, can you try and answer the question?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, the corporation is intending to hire a northern projects manager for the infrastructure too. The

improvements are ongoing at this time and I'm really not sure when the process is going to be completed, hopefully within the next four years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Perhaps you can report later on with an update. You are here for a couple of more days, I am sure, in the community, so perhaps you can look into it further and report to the House come Monday.

Are there further comments or questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: No, I had no comments.

Chairman (interpretation): I apologize, (interpretation ends) I thought you had your hand up. You have a very active body language, so it's hard to tell when you want to ask a question or not.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Mr. Aupaluktuq, would you like to ask a question?

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your opening comments on page 2, it mentions the fact that this year, "The department has received additional financial resources to support the Nunavut Employees Union salary increase..."

This is a little bit sensitive, in a sense, to constituents and beneficiaries from the position that there are some beneficiaries who feel like they're not getting adequate representation or having a proper appeals process in terms of their employment, or even as well as their interactions within the departments or

their respective employers. This can be bridged towards the Department of Human Resources and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is quite aware of that.

I just wanted to ask the minister if there's any mechanism in place in order to monitor to make sure that all beneficiaries or constituents are well represented in relation with the Nunavut Employees Union. And more specifically, with the salary increase of \$487,000, what would that be geared towards? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. (interpretation ends) I think we have increases all throughout the board and I think the question would be best asked of the human resources minister when we get there (interpretation) if it's okay. Mr. Aupaluktuq, do you have another comment?

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification, which is why I said that this might extend to the Department of Human Resources as well. I thank you for that.

On page 5, you mentioned in your opening statements that there is going to be increased support for culture and arts. I know for a fact that in the region of Kivalliq, there seems to be a misplaced agreement or contract between economic development as well as small business grants and delivery in the region.

Can the minister tell me and this committee as well whether or not there would be something in place to ensure that small business grants specifically...

Because we have a lot of artists and a lot of them access the small business grants as well as other agencies, can you tell me what steps will be done in order to ensure the increased support for culture and arts? What deliveries will you provide? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Taptuna, can you try and respond to that question?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my assistant respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Cooper, you can answer the question.

Ms. Cooper: *Nakurmiik*, Mr. Chairman. The artists can apply through the small business grants and contributions. As well, there's a special provision for them under the Arts and Crafts Development Program in areas such as marketing. For example, they can attend an arts and crafts show in Toronto to market their art.

Also, there's a program to purchase small tools and we have enough funding in there for about 100 artists. It also supports soapstone gathering and finding materials. Also, this year, we helped renovate one of the art galleries in Nunavut, in Iqaluit, the Red Boat Gallery. Artists can apply under programs to help them with web-based marketing and so on.

So there are lots of opportunities and if the member wishes, we can send him a copy of the policy and the programs that are in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Cooper. Are there any general comments or questions? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 7 of your opening comments, Mr. Chairman, I note that it talks about the Arctic Bay Airport Terminal Building.

I'm sure the minister knows that in Nunavut, the terminal building in Chesterfield Inlet, for example, is very old. I would like to know which communities are identified to receive airport terminal buildings after the project in Arctic Bay has been completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. We're not on capital, but since it was mentioned in the minister's opening comments, I will allow a response to your question. Minister Taptuna, if you want to try and answer the member's question.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my Assistant Deputy Minister of Transportation respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kunuk, do you want to try and answer the question?

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's true; the terminal building in Chesterfield Inlet is very old. Before the completion date of Arctic Bay's terminal building, Qikiqtarjuaq and Chesterfield Inlet will be considered for new airport terminals if we can find additional funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kunuk. We are dealing with O&M. Are there any more questions on the minister's opening comments? There are no more hands up and we can now begin the page-by-page review.

We're on K-4. Do members have any questions on K-4 of the main estimates? Total Branch. Operations and Maintenance. \$10,652,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on to K-5. Total Branch. \$23,060,000. Are there any questions on this page? Mr. Ningark, you can now ask questions.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the activity earlier, the minister talked about the mining Prospector Assistance Program.

Many of the programs in the government, according to people I have talked with in the past few years, seem to be inaccessible. I don't know why, but will the minister commit to giving me some applications for the Prospector Assistance Program within a few days? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Taptuna, would you like to respond to that question?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will commit to that. I'll make sure that all of the members have access to the application forms. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Are there any questions on page K-5? Mr. Elliott would like to ask questions on that page.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have my hand up this time. I just had a question about the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation. I was noticing that it's under Economic Development, but if you turn to page K-7, it's under the grants and contributions that are provided.

The business plan talks about \$200,000 being given last year, in 2008-09, but then it was revised here up to \$325,000. Was \$325,000 given to the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation last year? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Taptuna, do you want to try and answer that question?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my assistant respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Ms. Cooper.

Ms. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there was extra funding that we had last year that the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation required and we were able to access funding to help them out. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Cooper. (interpretation ends) Mr. Elliott, does that answer your question?

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another question. Can I continue? Thank you. Again, this year, in the main

estimates for 2009-2010, the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation is going to be getting \$200,000. If they required \$325,000 last year, is there any reasoning behind why it wasn't kept at \$325,000? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Cooper, can you try and answer that question?

Ms. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation was able to access federal funding this year and so our commitment for \$200,000 is sufficient for their operations, along with the infrastructure money that they've got to upgrade their system and so on. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Cooper. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: I just want to check again because I know I've had conversations with people from the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation and I have heard that they have always struggled with funding, so I would kind of beg to differ. The \$325,000 would actually be more beneficial than the \$200,000.

But just to clarify: were you saying that the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation had said that \$200,000 is all they require, or is that all the government is willing to spend? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Ms. Cooper, can you try and answer that question?

Ms. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't give you a sound answer on that as I'm not sure what the discussion had been with Nunavut Broadband.

They had successfully secured \$21.6 million in federal funding over the next four years. In 2008-09, they had a legal problem that they had to resolve with the dispute with the Qulliq Energy Corporation and part of that extra funding went towards dealing with that legal issue. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Cooper. Are there any other questions on this page? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask the Minister of ED&T and his officials as well. The Atuqtuarvik Corporation of Rankin Inlet has announced its partnership with the First Nations Bank of Canada. The corporation has stated that this partnership will result in the establishment of a branch in Iqaluit and also agency banking in selected communities.

Is your department involved in any way with respect to facilitating the expansion of banking services to smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. (interpretation ends) That's a very good question. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure, including all of the departments in the GN, that some of the financial institutions do not operate in

the smaller communities. I understand, yes, what you were saying about Atuqtuarvik and the First Nations group setting up some of these financial services in the major centres.

This department will look into how we can facilitate or even review how we can assist the smaller communities in handling financial services, such as a credit union or whatever the case may be. *Koana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Minister. The Bank of Nunavut, I guess. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to that as well as working closely with your department and hopefully sharing any information in regard to all of that with the rest of Nunavummiut.

As we know, there's a booming economy in Nunavut, in a sense, in terms of the mining sector. At the time, I believe booming was the choice word to use with some delicacy in regard to the economic recession in this country. However, with the development happening in communities, it would be nice to be able to provide some financial economic development as well within these communities to serve the rest of Nunavummiut.

In regard to mining as well, I've got a different question here, Mr. Chairman. On June 4, 2007, the GN issued a news release announcing the establishment of six principles to serve as a guide for uranium mining in the territory.

The news release indicates that the principles will serve as a framework for

the development of a uranium development and mining management plan for the Government of Nunavut. As of today, what is the status of this initiative and what feedback have you received from the communities? *Ma'nalluavik*.

Chairman: *Ma'na*. (interpretation) Minister Taptuna, do you want to try and answer the question?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, there are 25 uranium companies doing exploration work out there, exploration projects, and it's mostly in the Thelon and the Kivalliq regions. There were 15 companies involved in exploration last year... make that 2007. They spent over \$30 million on exploration programs, just on that alone. For 2008, the estimates are still being looked at and finalized, and I don't have that number for you yet.

The six principles were based more or less on what the communities wanted and I can't tell you the status on what were the next steps taken; I can't assume that anything significant happened since that time. *Koana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would very much appreciate it if you guys could provide me and my constituents as well as the rest of Nunavummiut updates regarding this sector. Basically, it's a very sensitive issue.

I support development and economic development in our regions for the sake

of creating new employment, but also one other aspect of it is that there are some concerns about environmental issues. So the more people are informed the more educated they are. I think people are going to have a better impression of what their views are as educated comments and questions will be coming out of it.

So basically I would ask the minister and his department to keep us informed, with me in particular. Since the fact that uranium mining may be happening in Baker Lake, there are a lot of people who are questioning the pros and cons of the development. So if you can keep us informed, I would very much appreciate it. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Ma'na*, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, of course, throughout the whole review process that's done by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, there are usually daily activity reports and daily updates throughout the whole environmental process.

This government does have a socio-economic committee in all three regions. What we're trying to do with these committees is have more community participation of just regular community members, with no highly technical usage of words and scientific words that most Nunavummiut don't understand.

With these committees, we will have more participation from community members and more updates on the issues that they're really thinking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. (interpretation ends) I don't have any more hands up for this page. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget for the department's Mineral and Petroleum Resource Division is decreasing from \$2,732,000 in 2008-09 to \$2,068,000 in 2009-2010. The number of PYs in the division is decreasing from 17.5 to 13. Why are these decreases being made? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Taptuna, if you want to try and answer that question.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Ms. Cooper respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Cooper.

Ms. Cooper: The decrease in the PYs towards Minerals was last year, it was expected that the department would take over the four geoscience positions that are now in the geoscience office, which is funded jointly between the GN and the federal government. With the review of that program, it was decided to leave the four geoscience positions in the geoscience office so that we did not need the PY funding for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Cooper. Are there any other questions on this page? (interpretation ends) We're at K-5. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department paid over \$118,000 to a Toronto-based consulting

company, Blackstone Corporation and Resource Management, in 2006-07 for the Nunavut Tourism renewal. What recommendations did this review provide? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my assistant respond to that question. *Koana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Cooper.

Ms. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there was a Blackstone consultant that did a study for the tourism strategy and I believe I did go through that about a year and a half ago. We reviewed it as a group again and decided that it did not totally meet our needs in Nunavut, and therefore wanted to get some more information.

We have looked into two different jurisdictions in Canada that had very good strategies come out within the last ten years and would like to review those strategies along with the Blackstone Consulting Firm and to then develop the strategy that would move forward with tourism. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Cooper. (interpretation ends) That sounds like a Bourne Ultimatum term, Blackstone.

>> *Laughter*

Are there any further questions on K-5? (interpretation) Total Economic Development. \$23,060,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turning to page K-6. Total Transportation. \$20,343,000. Do members have questions on this page? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department's draft 2009-2010 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "Complete the next phase of studies for the Nunavut-Manitoba Road." When are these studies anticipated to be completed and what are the current cost estimates for this project? (interpretation) Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Taptuna, can you try and answer the question?

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Mr. Kunuk will respond to that question. *Koana*.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kunuk, can you try and answer the question.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are still working on the Nunavut-Manitoba Road. The road study has been completed in collaboration with the governments of Manitoba and Nunavut, as well as the Kivalliq Inuit Association. It cost approximately \$1 million for the first Crossroad Study.

The second study was also done in collaboration with Manitoba and Nunavut, and the business case cost is \$50,000 for each of the two partners.

There are some delays on the Manitoba side and it's causing the project to be on hold, but it will resume once that's resolved. I'm not exactly sure how much it will cost to do the next phase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kunuk. Are there any further questions for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation? Mr. Komoartok.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question in regard to transportation. In many communities, we have gravel airstrips and it becomes very dusty during the dry season, especially when the airplanes take off. That's especially the case in my community because our airstrip is right in the middle of town.

Once the plane takes off, the community is so dusty that even the residents can't dry their meat outside anymore. Some of the dust comes from the airstrip and the roads. I know that you have tried various methods of dust control, such as putting water on the airstrip.

We have to change the gravel even before the year is over and it's very expensive. I was wondering if you have any chemicals or fuels to keep the dust down at the airport. In Pangnirtung, we tried various ways to keep the dust down but it didn't help too much. Are you going to keep the same methods or are you going to try something else? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Do you want to try and answer the question, Mr. Kunuk?

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's true that in Pangnirtung, we have tried dust control. Although we initially thought it was beneficial, as you just stated, it may actually not have been that beneficial.

With funding from the federal government, we want to do a study on other methods of dust control, which is in the works right now, in Pond Inlet and I can't remember the name of the other community. But there are two other communities we want to study to see how we can suppress the dust.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kunuk. Are there any more questions? Mr. Ningeongan, you can now ask questions.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the 2009-2010 business plan, one of the department's priorities talks about Nunavut's small craft harbours. I would like to ask the minister: how does the federal government have that set up and have they identified more small craft harbours for Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Do you want to try and answer that question, Minister Taptuna?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has been looking at increasing the economic activities of these small communities and of course, small craft harbours are one of the major priorities of this department. I believe six communities have been identified in the plans. It's just a matter of finalizing some issues with the Building Canada Fund, with DFO,

who are in charge of small craft harbours.

And the last time we talked about this, I committed to actually investigate some of these small craft harbours in other jurisdictions of Canada for the simple reason that we want long-lasting, long-term small craft harbours for these communities rather than just floating docks, which, in our view and in the committee's view, is just short-term.

So we are looking to make a trip, which has been confirmed, down to another jurisdiction within Canada to actually investigate and try and come up with an actual plan for some of these small craft harbours. *Koana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Are there any more questions on this page? Minister Ningeongan, I mean Mr. Ningeongan, you have another question.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was fun being the minister for a moment there.

>>*Applause*

I would like to ask the minister another question. He stated that there are six communities that were identified to receive small craft harbours. Can he tell me which communities he was referring to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Taptuna, can you try and answer the question?

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I surely can. It's Qikiqtarjuaq, Clyde River, and Pond Inlet in the Qikiqtaaluk region; in the Kivalliq,

Repulse Bay and Chesterfield Inlet; and in the Kitikmeot, Kugaaruk. *Koana*, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Someone has their hand up. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the minister should know the history of the issue I'm going to be asking him. Mr. Minister, your department's draft 2009-2010 business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to continue work on the Bathurst Inlet port and road or an alternative to improve resupply options in the Kitikmeot region. What is the current status of this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Taptuna, if you want to try and answer the question.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This department has always supported the Bathurst Inlet road and port. We know that it will drive up economic activities through more exploration within the region, mining development, and whatnot, anything that is related to economics, and of course, the potential of lower costs of fuel supplies to the smaller communities within the Kitikmeot region.

At this time, the work is ongoing. As you know, a Kitikmeot corporation, with its partner, Nunasi Logistics, are joint partners in moving the file forward on the Bathurst Inlet road and port. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Are there any other questions on this page? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the food mail, which is a big issue that's coming up here in the next little while, I think they're trying to eliminate individuals from getting food mail in the North. I understand that you have hired a couple of consultants here in the North to try to find a way of improving the food mail system.

We were over at Canadian North last night and apparently, the food mail contract went for tender in the west and Canadian North was not even allowed by Canada Post to bid on it. So I've got a strange feeling that Canada Post is trying monopolize on some of this stuff.

I'm wondering what the government's thought is on Canada Post continuing to monitor or to be the ones involved in bringing out this program when they seem to be favouring certain airlines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Very good question, Mr. Schell. I believe the contract that was issued was for the Kivalliq, it was not the western area, but it's a good question. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really don't have the detailed information on what's happened there, but the department will try and assist these other government departments that are going to be working on this file regarding the Food Mail Program. At this time, I can't comment on what's happened there within a privately owned commercial airline and Canada Post. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I thought that we were in a capitalist system, not a communist system, where it's a free market with a free market government. But it sounds like one of its agencies is running a communist regime according to Canadian North. Anyways, any further questions? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my question is: not for him to make a comment as to why Canadian North didn't get it, but have they thought of doing it a different way other than Canada Post, which just basically receives a 2.5 percent fee for doing absolutely nothing?

As far as I'm concerned, if you have a problem with your food mail, you might as well not even bother trying to put a claim in. So my question is: have you looked at other alternatives other than Canada Post for this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. (interpretation ends) It is a federal program, but maybe the minister can enlighten Mr. Schell and our colleagues of any efforts by his department to lobby the federal government for changes. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course, the department will try and assist any way it can. This federal program does affect our people up north and after the report is done, I'm sure there's going to be some implementation taking place to actually carry out the recommendations that were made.

If there's an opportunity or a request for the department to help out in this, surely we will; this affects all our people up north. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. Are there any more questions for Transportation (interpretation ends) under K-6? (interpretation) Total Operations and Maintenance. \$20,343,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We have concluded the department. The total operations and maintenance for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation for this year will be \$54,055,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is concluded. I thank you. If the minister has any closing remarks, I give him the floor. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I would like to thank the committee members for taking the time to review and come up with some very good questions for the benefit of all Nunavummiut. This department will follow up on some of the questions and recommendations that were made by the committee. Thank you again, Mr. Chairman. *Qujannamiik.*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Taptuna. (interpretation ends) I made reference to Bourne Ultimatum by accident. It's actually Treadstone not

Blackstone, so my apologies for that company that I confused it with. It just sounded very similar.

I believe that concludes the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Do members agree that we can proceed to another department?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We have concluded this department and I would like to thank the officials for making an appearance.

We can now begin with the Department of Health and Social Services. Minister Curley, do you have opening comments that you would like to make?

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Minister Curley, you can now proceed with your opening comments.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2009-2010 – Health and Social Services – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the committee at this time. Mr. Chairman, we would like to present the 2009-2010 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Health and Social Services.

Today, Mr. Chairman, I would like to provide you with the highlights and priorities of the department's operation and maintenance budget for this coming fiscal year.

The department is committed to ensuring that the vision and the guiding principles

outlined in *Tamapta: Building our Future Together* are embedded in the department's strategic and operational priorities for 2009-2010 with specific emphasis on the following: (1) improve health through prevention; (2) address social concerns at their roots; (3) help those at risk in our communities; and (4) improve education and training outcomes.

Prevention is key in the implementation of the Public Health Strategy which focuses on promoting and maintaining healthy lifestyles in all of Nunavut's communities. The strategy is a five-year community focused plan to improve the health of Nunavutmiut by building knowledge, capacity, and accountability at the community level with a particular attention to healthy children and stronger families and addiction reduction.

Addressing social issues at their roots and helping those at risk in our communities is being addressed with the department's increased emphasis on initiatives that serve the most vulnerable in Nunavut. This is accomplished through the increased funding for family violence shelters and the establishment of a Territorial Mental Health and Addictions Division. There is also increased funding for the Pairijait Tigumivik Society in the Baffin region to provide quality personal care services to the elderly residents at the elders home facility.

Addressing financial accountability concerns remains a priority for the department.

Mr. Chairman, the 2009-2010 operations and maintenance budget for the department is a product of difficult

decisions during which the department had to balance financial reality with the health and social service needs of Nunavutmiut. But I can assure the members that we remain committed to supporting and sustaining an effective and efficient publicly funded health care and social services system without a reduction in quality of care.

Mr. Chairman, we have seen a continued pattern of rapid growth in expenditures in the health care sector across Canada. Our health care system is not immune to these trends, especially in the area of airfare. We are facing significant challenges and costs in such areas as airfare, agency nurses, which is very expensive, medical technology, out-of-territory facility in-patient rates, which is a necessity when you live up here, and residential care, which again is very expensive. There are some cases where Nunavutmiut have to stay in the southern institutions and again, the operational costs for those are very expensive.

Mr. Chairman, although the department has slowed its three-year growth rate from 28 percent in 2006-07 to 26 percent in 2007-08, this level of growth is not sustainable over the long term in Nunavut. We remain confident that through our plans to further integrate our investments in public health and preventative care now, we can help offset the high cost of primary health care in the future.

Mr. Chairman, we note that the funding for the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, which is specifically for aboriginal people, that the department administers on behalf of Health Canada has been transferred from the Vote 1 funding line to the Vote 4 funding line

since funds are directly linked to a contribution agreement with Health Canada. Members will note this transfer as a decrease in the Vote 1 budget under the Health Insurance Branch.

Mr. Chairman, the proposed 2009-2010 operations and maintenance budget totals \$258,192,000. This is an increase of \$10,395,000 over our 2008-09 revised main estimates of \$247,797,000. Some of the major changes in this proposed budget are as follows:

- **Compensation & Benefits**

Our staff makes our health care system work and strategic investments have been made in health human resources. We will require \$3.8 million in 2009-2010 mainly due to regular salary increases as per the collective agreement.

- **Residential Care Contracts**

Additional funding of \$2.5 million is allocated for the increased number of mental health and social services clients requiring specialized residential care services as well as for the rate increases in residential care contracts. This increase will partially offset the one-time supplementary appropriation funds of \$4.3 million provided during the 2008-09 fiscal year.

- **Igloolik and Gjoa Haven Long-term Care Facilities**

Additional operating funding of \$2.1 million is required for the Igloolik and Gjoa Haven long-

term care facilities - mainly for additional staff.

- **Family Violence Shelters**

Additional funding totalling approximately \$1.4 million is needed to respond to evolving community needs with regard to family violence shelters. An analysis is being undertaken to appropriately fund family violence shelters based on verified and substantiated client demand in communities.

- **Stanton Contract**

Additional funding of \$1.3 million is required to properly fund the specialized services provided to residents in the Kitikmeot region by the Stanton Territorial Health Authority.

- **Out-of-Territory Hospital Services**

An additional \$2.5 million is needed for out-of-territory hospital billings mainly due to rising costs. The provinces and territories have moved to a two-rate billing system for in-patient services for a more accurate cost recovery between jurisdictions. As I said, the rates have gone up. There is now one rate for intensive care unit beds and another rate for ward beds. This increase will offset the one-time supplementary appropriation funds of \$1.4 million provided during the 2008-09 fiscal year.

- **Rehabilitation Program**

Additional funding of \$807,000 is required for the rehabilitation program mainly to replace funding received from the federal Patient Wait Times Reduction Fund which ended on March 31, 2009. Four positions previously funded by this fund continue to be needed to provide essential services to Nunavutmiut. Funding is also required to establish a Baffin regional manager position for the rehabilitation program.

Mr. Chairman, in summary, my department is proposing additional funding in the amount of approximately \$10.4 million over the 2008-09 revised main estimates in order to ensure quality health care and social services to all Nunavutmiut, especially children, families, and the most vulnerable. I will leave it at that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I believe you made a mistake in your opening comments. You were using the wrong term in Inuktitut to describe disabled persons and I apologize to them on your behalf.

The department has been concluded. Mr. Ningeongan has his hand up.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we have other commitments to attend to, I would like to recognize the clock and move to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. There is a motion on the floor and it is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed.

The motion is carried. We will be returning to the Orders of the Day, so I thank you all.

Speaker: Thank you. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Okalik.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. There's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? My *Annuraaqatik*, Mr. Tapardjuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. The motion has been carried.

(interpretation ends) Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder for all members that there is a meeting of the Full Caucus at three o'clock this afternoon in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for June 8:

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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 1
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
This House stands adjourned until Monday, June 8, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 14:22*

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

