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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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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)
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, June 8, 2009**

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Mr. Moses Aupaluktuq, Honourable Tagak Curley, 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. Curley to say the opening prayer. Mr. Curley.

>>*Prayer*

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

Before we proceed, I wish to inform you that the Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott, will not be present at our proceedings today. He is in Arctic Bay to attend a grade 12 graduation ceremony.

Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Taptuna.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 008 – 3(2):
Renewal of NNI Registrations**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to everybody. Mr. Speaker, as Members of this House are aware, the *Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti*, the NNI Policy, is one of the government's main tools for economic development in attempting to leverage change to the structure of the Nunavut economy through government contracting.

One of the keys to the success of this policy is to encourage Nunavut businesses to apply for and annually renew their listing on the NNI registry. I would like to clarify that this only applies to the Nunavut business directory maintained by the NNI Secretariat and not the Inuit firm registry maintained by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

The NNI Secretariat has been encouraging Nunavut businesses to submit their renewal applications to ensure they continue to receive the benefit available through the NNI Policy. Currently, the NNI registrations of many businesses will expire if they do not send in renewal forms by June 30. These renewals are necessary to ensure that businesses continue to qualify as Nunavut businesses under the NNI Policy.

In order to ensure that no businesses are left out, the NNI Secretariat has sent letters and is running advertisements in newspapers and on cable TV reminding businesses to check their registrations and get them renewed if necessary. The NNI Secretariat wants to ensure that the maximum number of Nunavut

businesses are registered and are eligible to receive the NNI benefit when bidding on Government of Nunavut contracts. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Minister's Statement 009 – 3(2):
Update on the Nunavut Business
Credit Corporation**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide the Members of this House with an update on the recent activities of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

The move to Iqaluit by the corporation has been completed successfully and full lending services are being provided to the business community from the new premises. The corporation is currently receiving and reviewing loan applications.

The restructuring of the corporation's board that began in September last year has significantly enhanced the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's institutional strength. This restructuring has included the appointment of three new members of the board of directors. Two are prominent businesspeople from Nunavut, Tommy Owljoot of Arviat and Greg Cayen of Iqaluit, while the third, Andre Schroer of Port Credit, Ontario, has an extensive background in commercial lending with over 30 years of experience with First Nations and other aboriginal groups.

Between March 28 and April 1, 2009, the board of directors of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation conducted

their first face-to-face meeting of the New Year here in Iqaluit. During those meetings, the board discussed the new board governance manual and the revised and updated operational procedures manual. These important documents will be considered again when the board meets again in Baker Lake between June 25 and 28.

I was happy to have the opportunity to meet the board on March 29 and thank them and their staff for their continuing efforts to ensure Nunavut's business community has access to this vital lending service.

I also want to inform the House that the ministerial directive that required the CEO to report to the Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Transportation has been rescinded. Mr. Speaker, this directive was highlighted in the 2007 audit of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation activities by the Auditor General.

Mr. Speaker, there is still much work to do at the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, but we are making progress and maintaining service to Nunavut's business community. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 010 – 3(2):
Nunavut Housing Trust Strategy
Update**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update the House

on the implementation of the Nunavut Housing Trust Strategy.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General, in her report dated May 2008, expressed concerns that the Housing Corporation may not be able to meet the goal of 725 housing units as committed in the implementation strategy.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to advise the House that this summer, the corporation will be delivering the last of the housing units from the trust, bringing the total of units provided to 750.

>>Applause

This includes new public housing units, Material Assistance Program packages delivered, and acquisitions converted into public housing.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General was concerned that the corporation may not be able to meet its objective of training 35 to 40 apprentices on the various job sites.

Mr. Speaker, again I am very pleased to announce that there are currently 51 registered apprentices engaged on Housing Trust projects across Nunavut.

>>Applause

In addition, Mr. Speaker, contractors and our local housing organizations have reported over \$14 million has been paid out in Inuit wages since construction started in the spring of 2007.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, hundreds of jobs and training opportunities have been created

by this critical investment from our federal partners. The benefits have been felt throughout Nunavut. With another full year of construction planned, the impact of these benefits will continue to be felt by all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 011 – 3(2):
Alberta Apprenticeship Award
Recipients**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Good afternoon again and thank you. We are once again resuming our sitting this Monday afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate nine hard-working and committed Nunavut apprentices who have received the Alberta Centennial Premier's Scholarship. These individuals excelled in their trades training and we were told that they earned 80 percent or more in their programs in the 2007-08 training year.

Mr. Speaker, this scholarship was set up to celebrate Alberta's 100th anniversary as part of Canada and is available to students across the country who are nominated by their province or territory. Each student receives a cheque for \$2,005 from our friends in Alberta.

The recipients from Nunavut for the last year are: Luke Wilman, who is sitting in the Gallery, Daniel Burns, Christian Christensen, Jason Ippiak, Alexander Killiktee, Robin Kolit, Danny

MacDonald, Lloyd MacDonald, who is also here in the Gallery, and Alexander Ootoowak. Please join me in congratulating them and thanking them for their dedication to excelling at trades in our territory, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, developing a skilled workforce is critical to ensuring we are able to take on the challenges we face and benefit from the many opportunities around us. With the opening of the trades training facility in Rankin Inlet next year, more of our citizens will be able to benefit from training available right here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, programs like the Alberta Centennial Premier's Scholarship provide well-deserved recognition to our hard-working learners. Their efforts and perseverance should be an example to us all and help inspire Nunavummiut to pursue learning in any form.

I encourage all my fellow colleagues to promote training in their communities and to aid their constituents in the journey towards lifelong learning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 012 – 3(2):
Nunavut at 10 – Song Competition**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I rise again to announce something that we should all be proud of as well, the winners of the Nunavut at 10

Song Competition. We were very pleased with the number of quality entries received in response to this initiative.

Launched on April 1 and with a deadline of May 15, CLEY received a total of 22 competition entries. First prize goes to Madeleine Allakariallak, second prize to Leena Evic and Ellen Hamilton, and third prize to Solomon Uyarasuk. As part of the grand prize, Madeleine Allakariallak will have her song professionally recorded for release on July 9, Nunavut Day.

>> *Applause*

I would like to thank the panel of judges for their time and contribution to this program. The judges were Sandra Inutiq with the Language Commissioner's office; Solomon Awa with the Government of Nunavut's Department of Human Resources; Ooleena Nauyuk with CLEY; and Danielle Samson with the *Association des francophones du Nunavut*.

Thank you to all who entered this competition. I encourage everyone to keep their ears turned to the radio for the release of the songs on July 9. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 013 – 3(2):
Recognizing the Contribution of
NHC's Community Partners**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise before the hon. members in this House, our Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, to recognize the hard work and dedication of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's community partners.

Mr. Speaker, there are 266 funded full-time positions within Nunavut's 23 local housing organizations, 90 percent of whom are beneficiaries, as well as many casual positions for minor capital projects throughout the territory.

Local housing organization staff are also responsible for the maintenance and administration of close to 4,200 public housing units and provides many essential services to homeowners in our communities. Like those involved in the construction and maintenance of public housing units, the individuals charged with the fair allocation of Nunavut's public housing are not tasked with an easy job.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my support in particular to the tenant relations officers and the managers of local housing organizations as they are confronted, I'm sure, on a daily basis by the negative impacts of an insufficient and inadequate housing stock. They must make difficult decisions that affect members of their communities and even members of their own families. However, the just and equitable delivery of housing ensures that Nunavummiut most in need have access to safe and affordable homes.

In cooperation with local housing organization staff, board members of the local housing organizations are also significant contributors to housing in our communities. Housing board members are responsible for ensuring that the needs of their communities are voiced and that housing is justly allocated.

Mr. Speaker, the dedication of the Housing Corporation's community partners often goes unappreciated. I would like to invite members and all Nunavummiut to take the time to recognize the invaluable work that is done to provide essential housing supports within our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Moving right along... Before we proceed to Members' Statements, I was just advised that Mr. Komoartok would be absent from the House today due to family matters.

Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Ningark.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 021 – 3(2):
Importance of the Co-operative
Movement to Nunavut's
Communities**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to discuss the importance of the co-operative movement, especially in the community of Kugaaruk, to Nunavut communities and pay tribute to the role that Arctic Co-Operatives Ltd. has played in our history.

Mr. Speaker, the Koomiut Co-op in Kugaaruk was incorporated in 1966 and I am proud to say that I was its founding general manager. Today, there are over 320 active members of the co-op in our community. The co-op plays a central role in the life of Kugaaruk and has contributed greatly to the community's development.

As Members of this House are aware, Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. was incorporated in 1972. There are 23 co-ops operating in Nunavut today. Over 800 people are employed in the co-op network. In 2007, almost \$6 million was returned to co-op members through patronage refunds.

Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. believes that co-operatives are "based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of their founders, Co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others."

Mr. Speaker, I have always believed that the co-ops' values complement the traditional Inuit values in our communities.

As we look to the future, I welcome a strong and continuing role for co-ops to play in building modern community infrastructure...

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your colleague, Mr. Ningark, is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his

statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much, my colleagues.

I think everyone is well aware that the co-ops play in building modern community infrastructure, giving our residents a voice in community economic decision-making, and providing employment and training opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in wishing continuing success to the members of the board of directors of Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. and their President, Bill Lyall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Members' Statements. Mr. Shewchuk.

**Member's Statement 022 – 3(2):
Congratulations to Adrian
Pameolik and Okpik Aglukkark**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize two of my young constituents from Arviat on their accomplishments in pursuing their education.

Mr. Speaker, Adrian Pameolik was a recent graduate from the management studies course at the Nunavut Arctic College in Rankin Inlet and she received three outstanding awards. That is the award for the honour roll for academic excellence, the Mackay Landau Award for the highest academic standing in the

Management Studies Program, and the Ilagiittuq Award for the 20th anniversary award for the highest academic standing in management studies.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Okpik Aglukkark, a grade 12 student, who has earned \$20,500 for her Excellence Award from the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

I wish both of these students the best in their future studies and career development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. If there are none, Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Rumbolt.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 021 – 3(2): Status of Polar Bear Skin Sales

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, fur statistics show that the sale of polar hides can bring much needed income to the Nunavut territory. I would like the minister to provide an update on the status of the sale of polar bear hides. Can the minister tell the House how many polar bear skins were sold this past year and if they were sold by auction or by other means? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. I cannot advise the exact number Nunavut-wide of polar hides that were sold at the auction. But I can advise the member that I do have the numbers for his community and that is this year, there were 25 polar bear hides from Sanikiluaq that were bought by our department and sent to auction.

I would just like to say that last year from that same community, there were 22 polar bear hides with an average price sold at \$3,500 and a high of \$7,400. And by all indications, this year is going to be another very good year for polar bears and the price should stay high. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his answer. Nunavut hunters rely on income from the sale of polar bear hides to continue their hunting and the feeding of their families. Can the minister tell me when hunters can expect to receive payments from this year's sale of polar bear hides? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the next sale that is coming up will be on June 18 and hunters can expect to get their cheques from the North Bay Auction, in addition to their advance that they have already,

within 10 days of that date. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 022 – 3(2): Hydroelectric Development in Iqaluit

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

We have heard rumours about the possibility of hydroelectric development around Iqaluit to lessen our dependence on heating fuel, but we now hear that it has been put on hold. Can the minister give us an update as to why that project was put on hold and what plans they have in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess it's a little confusing now as I'm not the Minister responsible for Energy but the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the member, as I had indicated in the past and reported in the media, that there is still some baseline work that will hopefully be completed this spring. Once that baseline information is collected, it will be evaluated to determine what the next steps will be as far as where we go with that particular project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. From what I can recall, we use approximately 200 barrels in our daily energy consumption here in Iqaluit. That is quite a large number and it seems like we're wasting our precious non-renewable resources.

With the low prices we are seeing currently, it may not be an issue but we can anticipate it to increase in the future. It's obvious that due to low prices, we are able to work on development projects. However, this is the time to start preparations for the future.

One advantage of alternative energy is that they tend to be a one-time cost. Fossil fuels, on the other hand, are not good for the environment. So I would like to urge the minister to outline what plans he has in regard to alternative energy in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that the member is aware that one of the things that the government has done in the past, as far as looking at alternative sources of energy, is to do exactly what we are doing here in Iqaluit.

For example, they are looking at the feasibility and gathering of information to determine if a hydro project would be feasible and viable here in Iqaluit. The government does recognize the fact that the majority of the consumption of fuel happens here in Iqaluit just because of the large growth that the community has

sustained over the last number of years in the size compared to any other community in Nunavut.

The greatest potential benefit on moving to an alternative energy source other than diesel would be most effective here in Iqaluit. It would have a positive impact felt throughout the territory as far as our requirements for purchasing diesel, which is the only thing that runs our generators across the territory right now, that we use for producing power.

So there is some preliminary work and look being done also in areas of wind generation. I would say that we're running into some difficulties with having the technology that will work in the environment that we need it to work in here in Nunavut.

So there are some of those challenges that we are looking at and hopefully over time, we will be able to overcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Be that as it may, we still use approximately 200 barrels of fuel daily to generate energy here. This is not the energy profile we should be advocating today when we can look at alternative sources. The capital costs for such projects don't need to be paid immediately, but we can plan this with private developers and look at negotiating a long-term cost sharing agreement.

We can pay down a portion of the capital costs annually. There have been other jurisdictions that have used this type of

agreement. If we look at the price currently, it may seem low, but over the long term, we are just throwing away money today.

By looking at the big picture over the long term, it will be a large one-time cost but we will know the exact amount to that given date. I would like to urge the minister to make plans to use alternative sources of energy and talk to private companies so that we can start moving forward in alternative energy solutions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his support on dealing with our dependency on fossil fuels. I know that the corporation is committed to looking at energy options that will help us try to alleviate that dependency on fossil fuels for the production of power.

I know one of the other obstacles, I think, that we face is not only looking at once we get a completed data required but looking at the hydro project, for example, here is the other huge impediment that we face is just the tremendous costs involved in a project like that.

I think that in the past, there seemed to be a feeling that you could just go out and borrow the money, but as I'm sure the members are aware and all members are, it's something that has been discussed here in the House before, that the government does have a debt cap that we have to adhere to and so there is an issue related to that.

In my view, a significant project like this, a hydro project, would be the type of project that would probably be best moved ahead with some type of a funding partnership from the federal government. There would, in my view, need to be some type of commitment and influx of support from the federal government in order for a project like this to move ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past, we used to have agreements with private companies. For example, our hospitals in the larger centres were built through agreements with private companies and we would repay that loan over a 20-year period.

We can still use those types of agreements to build infrastructure. I urge the minister to look at how we can enter into multi-year or even up to 20-year agreements with private companies so that we will know exactly how much we're going to repay every year. With our current system, no one has an idea what the prices will be until the fuel is landed. For example, if we look at last year's fuel prices, prices were increased for everyone.

I would like the minister to update the House on what type of plans he has in the future for alternative sources of energy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to thank the member, I know that the member was an advocate for looking for alternative sources of energy in the past and I can assure him that this is something that we're still looking at.

As I had indicated earlier, the baseline work for the sites in the Iqaluit vicinity is being completed this year. That information will be evaluated and I think it's premature to determine which direction we go until we have all of the information and have it evaluated and take a look at it before we make any decisions as a government as to which way to go on it.

I think what the member is referring to in the agreement that he is talking about is a P3 type of opportunity. As I said, until we get all of the information compiled and evaluated, it's premature to determine which direction we would prefer to take in regard to a project like this. Once that information is completed and evaluated, I will commit to ensuring that the Members of this House are kept informed on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 023 – 3(2): Aviation Regulations for Landing in Communities

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Peter, the Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. I thought I'd better ask my question before he heads over to Paris.

Last week, Adamee had mentioned about the ceiling limits for aircraft to land in Pangnirtung. I have heard, and I don't know if it's true or not but I'm going to ask if it's him if that's true or not, that First Air had installed a beacon at the airport and that their limits that are required to land are a lot lower at that airport than Canadian North. Could he answer that question for me, please? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of the ceiling limits and the technical information at this time, so I can get back to the member with accurate numbers for him to look at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The main reason I'm bringing this up is because everybody is talking and saying that First Air flies over there and they land and that when Canadian North goes there, they can't land. I'm figuring it's their pilots, but I'm sure it has something to do with equipment and that's the reason I'm asking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Depending on what types of aircraft are flying, as you know, the Dash 8 is Canadian North and the ATR 42 is First Air. They have different technical equipment onboard, so I can't

answer that question but I will get back to the member with the details that he's requesting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 024 – 3(2): Small Craft Harbours for Nunavut

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Last week, the Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans released a report titled *Nunavut Marine Fisheries: Quotas and Harbours*.

I was pleased to note that one of the committee's recommendations is that the Government of Canada "move forward to develop and implement, in collaboration with the Government of Nunavut, the harbour development plan recommended by the DFO-Nunavut Harbours Working Group in its 2005 *Nunavut Small Craft Harbours Report*."

As the minister is aware, this report recommended that small craft harbours be built in seven Nunavut communities, including Chesterfield Inlet. Can the minister indicate whether he will use the findings in this report to support his efforts to lobby the federal government for small craft harbours funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. As you know, Pangnirtung has received funding for their deep sea port in the amount of \$25 million over the last couple of years.

And for the smaller communities, including Chesterfield Inlet, the exchange of information and lobbying is still happening at this time. We're expecting an answer from the DFO minister shortly, hopefully within the month, to get a clearer picture on which communities are going to be funded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate if he has been working with our Member of Parliament and Senator on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been working with our Nunavut MP, the Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, on these issues and not necessarily with our Senator. As you know, he is retiring just in a few days. So yes, I'm keeping in contact with our Nunavut MP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Smaller communities like Chesterfield Inlet have been waiting for a number of years now even though they

have highlighted the issue of not having the proper harbours.

Not just to accommodate NTCL, barges, and so forth, but another concern has come up in the way of working with the communities to develop some harbour, wharf, or port that can be utilized by the local people. Can the minister and his department look into that matter as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we're planning a trip down into northern Labrador to actually investigate and check out some of the existing ports and small craft harbour facilities that exist there. As you know, we do have some issues with tides within some of our areas, including Chesterfield Inlet.

We are making this trip to investigate and we have invited an economic development and transportation member from the standing committee to help us analyze, evaluate, and hopefully come back with a report where we want to build something that's long-lasting in small craft harbours rather than floating docks.

At this time, we are investigating and we are looking into that, and the trip is scheduled for June 22. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 025 – 3(2): Update on Housing Projects for Kugaaruk

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the beginning of this session, I asked the Hon. Minister for Housing about a need to have more staff housing for the teaching staff in Kugaaruk.

The hon. minister did commit to giving me more information this week. Will the minister now be able to tell me what's happening with my question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, (interpretation ends) Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for remembering and keeping me on my toes with my commitments.

Mr. Speaker, as I had indicated verbally that day to the member, there's a duplex that is under construction right now in the community and they're anticipating, over the next month or two, that that unit will be completed for staff housing. Also, there's another duplex that's coming in on the sealift supply this year that will provide another two additional units for staff housing in his community.

I hope that that answers his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the first supplementary. The minister

did not indicate whether that house that's coming up this week that will be completed is, in fact, for the teaching staff in Kugaaruk. Will the minister commit to ensuring me that that house is, in fact, for the teaching staff? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would love to be able to say yes to the member, but I would be misleading him if I could tell him for sure that that unit is going to be for a teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I know that there have been a number of positions and at this time of year that work is being done with the Department of Education to identify what their staff housing requirements are going to be for new teachers for the next school year. That work is underway right now between the Housing Corporation and the Department of Education to determine exactly what their requirements are going to be.

Every year, there are teachers who are staying and teachers who are leaving. Once the Department of Education and the Housing Corporation get their final tabulations as far as what the Department of Education's requirements are for staff housing for teaching, we won't know that. But I can commit to the member that as soon as that has been identified, I will provide him with that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 026 – 3(2): Contracts and Procurements with Government of Nunavut

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

A few days ago, he tabled a report on contracts. In the past, they used to have detailed information as to whom the contracts were awarded to, especially with relation to sole source contracts. They had that information to ensure that all contractors were doing their work properly. The report, as submitted, contained no information on who were awarded the contracts.

If this is just a first draft report, I don't have a problem with it. However, I wonder if the minister will provide more detailed reports on contracted work in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik, for asking about that report. Mr. Speaker, yes, if the members want more details in the report, I will ask my officials to provide that information.

Further, if you wish to see more details for certain line items, especially for items not included in the report, then I would prefer he identify the items or any item included in the report that was tabled a few days ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I urge the minister to do so because in the past, we used to table annual reports stating who were awarded the contracts. It became public information and as a result, there was less favouritism in the awarding of contracts. Any favouritism was made visible when we had to table annual reports on government contracts.

So I urge the minister to revisit previous practices of prior governments; it would be very useful for all of us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, I concur with his observations. In the future, we will have more detailed information when we're tabling our annual reports and we will comply with his request. We didn't intentionally try to change the reporting style. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 027 – 3(2): Condition Rating of Cape Dorset Health Centre

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I would like to know if he received the conditional rating of the health centre in Cape Dorset yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have seen the report that was done by CGS. Thank you.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will the minister commit to giving an answer back to me as to when a new health centre will be put in the works for Cape Dorset? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are still reviewing the report that was done for Cape Dorset and it's with our department's capital planners at this time. The report will be very useful during our consideration of the health centre in Cape Dorset and we know it's one of the oldest facilities in Nunavut.

Once we start working on capital items in the fall, we will take that into consideration. However, I can't tell the member currently when the funding will be available since it still has to be considered at the Cabinet level where we start planning next year's capital estimates.

So at this time, I can't tell the member exactly when the new health centre will be constructed in Cape Dorset. Thank you.

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

Question 028 – 3(2): NTEP Students in Kugaaruk

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education, Hon. Tapardjuk.

In Kugaaruk, NTEP students are supposed to be graduating in November of this year. However, if the instructor doesn't return, all of the funds that were spent on training may go to waste. Can the minister tell me if...

I wonder what hon. is in Inuktitut, maybe it's *Niqturnaqtuq*.

Our community currently lacks sufficient staff housing for instructors. As the Minister of Education, can he ensure that there will be adequate staff housing for instructors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Education, Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once *Taiguusiliuqtiit* is established, I'm sure they can come up with the word "Hon" in Inuktitut. It is hard to agree on the appropriate term at this time.

With respect to what he is referring to, Mr. Speaker, the Arctic College is responsible for that. The Department of Education used to be responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, but some changes were made. Nunavut Arctic

College is now responsible for NTEP and I want the member to know that it's not under our portfolio.

But what I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that there's an agreement between Nunavut Arctic College and the Department of Education for the provision of training teachers. Once the actual training of teachers commences, it becomes the responsibility of Nunavut Arctic College to provide those resources, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're experiencing a shortage of teachers and instructors.

Can he use his ministerial authority to tell both me in this House and the listening residents whether or not adequate staff housing will be provided to instructors in Kugaaruk? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can only say to the Member for Kugaaruk that we can work with the Nunavut Housing Corporation in regard to staff housing for teachers and instructors.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation is responsible for staff housing and I can discuss this matter with my colleague and deliberate on our options as to how we will deal with the issue the member has raised, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please, I want you to discuss this matter with me so that you will understand the situation as I wish to remain as a Member of the Legislative Assembly and I want to ensure he holds onto his current portfolio. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

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

Question 029 – 3(2): Cold Weather Testing of Aircraft

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, the Minister of Transportation will be travelling to Europe to lobby European aircraft manufacturers to come to Nunavut to continue to conduct cold weather testing and airworthiness of their new aircraft in our type of weather.

I would like to ask the minister a question related to this matter. Some airlines in Canada don't fly up in Nunavut and using Air Canada as an example, many airplanes can't fly up here when it's -40 degrees Celsius. Why is that?

We encourage overseas companies to undertake cold weather testing in Nunavut. Yet, in our country, we have airlines that can't fly up here since they haven't conducted proper testing.

So I ask the minister to discuss this matter with his federal counterpart to make sure that airlines in Canada conduct cold weather tests in the North to ensure that they are capable of flying in cold weather some time in the future. I would like to know if he can start

preparing for that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that question, hon. member. Absolutely, some of these aircraft that are out there, commercial aircraft cannot fly in some cold weather areas of the nation and we all know about that. The main issue that we have here is more or less not an issue but the purpose of our trip is to see if we can actually get some contracts for cold weather testing here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I support the minister in his efforts in enticing cold weather testing here in Nunavut, but at the same time, we have to show the world that we are doing our part as Canadians. I have seen in the past, for flights that were scheduled for Yellowknife, once it had hit -40 degrees Celsius, Air Canada couldn't fly there anymore.

So if our own companies aren't doing the testing, how can we entice more international corporations to come and test their airplanes here in Iqaluit? So I encourage the minister to talk to his federal counterpart and encourage these companies to do their part and test their airplanes here in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, the airplane manufacturers are not from this country. Some components might be manufactured within this country, but it's up to the manufacturers to test their equipment for cold weather, whether it may be in Norway, in the United States, Alaska, Canada, specifically Iqaluit. There are some other testing facilities in Norway.

It's up to the manufacturer of where they are going to do their testing and not necessarily the owners of the commercial airlines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I realize that we do not regulate airlines, it's a federal jurisdiction, but at the same time, they fly to some parts of northern Canada and they are Canadian companies, so they are regulated by our federal government.

I would like to see the federal government being lobbied to test their aircraft here in the North. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, the trip is to encourage and get some more information and pass on some more information to our counterparts in

Ottawa with the transportation ministry there.

Some of the aircraft that are manufactured in other countries, it's up to them whether they're going to be cold weather testing their equipment and aircraft in whatever place they choose, whoever could come up with the best contract.

One of the things that we plan on doing, of course, is talking to other countries, not only with our Canadian counterparts but other countries, including China and India. As you know, their airspace programs are up and coming, and we want to encourage them also to look at the North, specifically Iqaluit, to do their cold weather testing.

And yes, I will talk to my colleague down in Ottawa, our counterpart down there in the federal government, to encourage these commercial airlines to have their equipment and aircraft cold weather tested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 030 – 3(2): Consult
Kimmirut for New Runway**

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Transportation.

I was pleased to see in the paper this week that you've got a contract out for gravel crushing, building a road and a two-cell lagoon in Kimmirut. My question is: when will the minister commit to making a trip to Kimmirut to be able to meet with the council and with

the residents of Kimmirut to look at an alternate site for a proper runway in Kimmirut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, time is of the essence. We did make a commitment as a Cabinet to visit the majority of these smaller communities throughout our term.

Yes, I will try and find some time to actually visit and talk to the Hamlet of Kimmirut and inspect or look at... not necessarily inspect but talk to the folks who are considering an alternate airstrip there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's all I expected. I know you can't tell me the exact date but as long as he commits to going down there this year, I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As things progress here, yes, I will have to go there and visit the community of Kimmirut. As you know, it's one of the priorities in Kimmirut for the airstrip there.

I won't comment on the crushing because it's done by a different department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 031 – 3(2): Availability of Housing for Staff

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Arctic College.

As I mentioned earlier, we have an NTEP program in Kugaaruk and many of the young people in the community have been going through that program for about four years, I think. If all goes well, Mr. Speaker, these young people will be graduating in December of this year.

I had the pleasure of meeting with the school principal prior to coming here and he tells me that perhaps if there's not enough housing for the teaching staff, including the teacher for the NTEP students, these young people will not be able to continue their education.

Will the hon. minister assure me that he will make sure that there's housing available for the teacher of the NTEP students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College, Hon. Daniel Shewchuk.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for the question that he has put to me. I will advise him that it is very important to me and the Arctic College to have instructors in the community of Kugaaruk.

I assure him that we will make it a priority for us to work with Nunavut Housing Corporation in acquiring housing there. There is a policy with the Government of Nunavut in relationship with the Nunavut Housing Corporation that establishes teachers at a higher priority than other civil servants in government.

So I just want you to know that health nurses and teachers are the highest priorities in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Oral Questions. If there are no more, we will go back to the Orders of the Day. 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. Mr. Schell.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Committee Report 001 – 3(2): Report on the Review of the 2008 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on its review of the 2008 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly on the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the Auditor General's report on the Nunavut Housing Corporation was tabled in the House on May 22, 2008, during the Second Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. On March 17, 2009, the Third Legislative Assembly passed a motion to formally refer the report to the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts for review.

Mr. Speaker, since April 1, 1999, every report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly has been referred to a standing committee for review. Witnesses from appropriate Government of Nunavut departments, Crown corporations and agencies have been invited to appear in public to account for their responses to the Auditor General's recommendations and the concerns of MLAs.

Mr. Speaker, housing issues are of significant concern to all MLAs and Nunavummiut. The Auditor General's 2008 report made a number of important observations and recommendations concerning the Nunavut Housing Corporation's management of the territory's public housing program and its delivery of new housing units under the Nunavut Housing Trust.

In January of this year, the federal budget announced that \$100 million in new housing funding will be provided to Nunavut. The Nunavut Housing Corporation subsequently announced on March 31, 2009, that 285 new housing units will be constructed across Nunavut between 2009 and 2011. The announcement also indicated that the delivery strategy for these units was under development.

In light of these announcements, members of the standing committee were of the view that it was essential for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to account in detail as to what steps it had taken in response to the Auditor General's recommendations in her 2008 report.

It was our hope and expectation that the Auditor General's report and the standing committee's hearings would help the NHC to improve its delivery of the essential programs and services for which it is responsible. Members were of the view that these hearings were an excellent opportunity for the corporation to learn from the mistakes of the past in preparation for the challenges that lie ahead.

The standing committee held its hearings on the report on May 6 and 7 of this year. These hearings were open to the public and news media to observe and were broadcast on local cable television. The transcripts from the standing committee's hearings were subsequently posted to the Legislative Assembly's website in both Inuktitut and English on May 20, 2009. I encourage all members to review the transcripts with care.

The Auditor General's report on the Nunavut Housing Corporation presented 13 specific recommendations. These recommendations addressed the following thematic areas:

- Management and delivery of the public housing program;
- The Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy; and
- Planning, reporting and performance measurement.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee concurs with the recommendations of the Auditor General and noted that the Nunavut Housing Corporation itself substantially agreed with all of the Auditor General's recommendations.

As I noted earlier, the standing committee held its hearings on the Auditor General's report in May of this year. In preparation for the committee's hearings, members were provided with a copy of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's December 2008 update on its response to the Auditor General's report.

During the standing committee's hearings, members were advised that the NHC's action plan in response to the recommendations of the Auditor General would be tabled in the legislature in June of 2009. The standing committee looks forward to reviewing this document and is hopeful that it will be updated to reflect the concerns raised by members during the committee's hearings. The standing committee also looks forward to the eventual tabling in the Legislative Assembly of a final, audited report on the corporation's total expenditures and activities under the Nunavut Housing Trust.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to clearly and strongly express the standing committee's position that accountability applies to all of the government's departments and Crown corporations. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is no exception.

During the standing committee's hearings, members were repeatedly told by the Nunavut Housing Corporation's witnesses that staffing capacity issues

have been an underlying cause of the problems identified in the Auditor General's report.

However, members have observed that all Government of Nunavut departments, corporations, and agencies face challenges in this area. All departments, corporations, and agencies would like to have larger budgets and additional resources.

I would also note that while a number of the corporation's positions are classified as being vacant, work is being performed by contract and casual employees.

Mr. Speaker, it is essential that explanations do not become excuses. The Nunavut Housing Corporation's new leadership must adopt a more positive attitude in this area and acknowledge that while capacity issues must be addressed, the essential work of the corporation must be done.

Mr. Speaker, a number of themes and priorities emerged during the standing committee's review of the issues raised in the Auditor General's report. Accordingly, the standing committee recommends that the Nunavut Housing Corporation address the following ten critical areas for action:

1. The importance of developing and introducing a transparent, formal, and independent appeals process for public housing applicants and tenants. This issue is of particular relevance to the public housing allocation process. An element of this process should include provisions whereby applicants are provided with a prescribed period of

- time following a housing allocation decision during which they may submit an appeal. Members were pleased to have received a commitment during the hearings that work will be undertaken by the Nunavut Housing Corporation in this area and will be closely monitoring progress. Members recommend that the Nunavut Housing Corporation examine the experience of such existing Nunavut bodies as the Social Assistance Appeal Board in developing a model for use in this area.
2. The importance of enhancing the training and orientation provided to members of the boards of directors of local housing organizations. The standing committee noted that the manual provided to board members by the Nunavut Housing Corporation has not been updated since 1995. Given that it has been almost 15 years since this manual was developed, it is essential that it be updated to reflect current standards and expectations. The standing committee also stresses the importance of providing clear guidance and training to board members with respect to the issue of conflict of interest.
 3. The importance of working with local housing organizations to review the eligibility criteria for election to their boards of directors. Members noted the desirability of ensuring that as many residents as possible have the opportunity to contribute to their communities through service on such boards.
 4. The importance of partnering with such entities as the Municipal Training Organization to enhance the training and support provided to tenant relations officers. During the standing committee's hearings, it was also noted that these positions have historically experienced high turnover rates as a consequence of the stressful nature of the work and the relatively low remuneration. The standing committee is supportive of measures that will serve to enhance stability with respect to these important positions.
 5. The importance of working with LHOs to address the issue of rental arrears. During the standing committee's hearings, members were advised that between \$11 million and \$12 million is outstanding on a Nunavut-wide basis in rental arrears and tenant damages. This amount has increased significantly since November of 2004, when the Nunavut Housing Corporation, in response to a question posed by a Member of the Legislative Assembly, reported that the total amount owing to LHOs was approximately \$6.6 million.
 6. The importance of enhancing the transparency of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's operations through the annual tabling in the Legislative Assembly of a report on the corporation's contracting, procurement and leasing activities. Members note that while such information is tabled annually with respect to the Government of Nunavut's departments, it is not done so for its Crown corporations and agencies. The standing committee

- also stresses the importance of tabling the corporation's statutorily required annual reports on a timely basis. This is an essential component of accountability.
7. The importance of tabling in the Legislative Assembly a copy of the delivery strategy for the 285 new units that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has announced will be constructed between 2009 and 2011. During the standing committee's hearings, members were advised that the Cabinet would be reviewing this strategy in May of this year. Members encourage the Nunavut Housing Corporation to consult closely with LHOs with respect to the mix of housing types that are to be delivered. Members also stress the importance of close cooperation between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and such partners as Nunavut Arctic College, the Department of Education, and the Nunavut Trades Training Centre, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 2010, with respect to enhancing training and apprenticeship opportunities for Inuit. While members recognize that efforts have been made to provide apprenticeship opportunities, it is disappointing that no certified tradespeople have emerged from the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy. Members recommend that the Nunavut Housing Corporation be open to innovative approaches in this area, including providing opportunities for apprentices to gain hours by working on projects in communities with longer construction seasons.
 8. The importance of reducing the Nunavut Housing Corporation's reliance on consultants and casual employees by identifying and eliminating the barriers that exist to the successful filling of its positions on a permanent basis. During the standing committee's hearings, the issue of capacity was raised on a number of occasions. The Nunavut Housing Corporation advised that a third party organizational review was expected to have been completed in the spring of 2009. Members look forward to the tabling of the results of this review in the Legislative Assembly. The government's recently announced "Report Card" initiative may also contribute to this process. The standing committee also acknowledges the necessity of reviewing the corporation's decentralized structure in order to improve its success in filling highly technical positions.
 9. The importance of identifying opportunities to maximize the impact of Nunavut's scarce housing dollars by pursuing cost savings in relation to the delivery of housing materials on the annual sealift. Members encourage the Department of Community and Government Services and the Nunavut Housing Corporation to work together in this area.
 10. The importance of tabling in the Legislative Assembly a copy of the framework for a strategic plan for housing delivery in Nunavut that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has indicated has been under development and which is expected to be finalized in the spring of 2009.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 91(5), the standing committee formally requests that the government table a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

I would also like to take this opportunity to note that the standing committee looks forward to holding hearings later this year on the Auditor General's recently tabled reports, one of which addressed the financial management practices of the Department of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by moving that the report of the standing committee be received by the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. The member is requesting that the report of the standing committee be received by the House. Do members agree? Raise your hands, please.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. The report of the standing committee is hereby received by the House. Thank you.

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: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 018 – 3(2): 2007-2008 Lease Activity Report

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today the (interpretation ends) Lease

Activity Report, 2007-2008. (interpretation) It identifies what the government has leased in terms of staff housing, warehouses and other facilities and what they cost. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. I have a couple of documents to table.

Tabled Document 019 – 3(2): Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner Ending March 31, 2009

Tabled Document 020 – 3(2): Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut Ending March 31, 2009

Thank you, Members. I wish to table the Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner for the year ending March 31, 2009. Thank you.

I have another document. Thank you, Members. I wish to table the Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for the year ending March 31, 2009. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Notices of Motions. Mr. Okalik.

Item 15: Notices of Motions

Motion 004 – 3(2): Parliamentary Concurrence in the Passage of Nunavut's Official Languages Act – Notice

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on

Wednesday, June 10, 2009, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Amittuq, that this House strongly urges the Senate of Canada to swiftly conclude its study of this matter and adopt the motion for concurrence at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 16: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 02 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2009-2010 – Notice

Bill 04 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Notice

Bill 05 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009 – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills which I will read back to back.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, that Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2009-2010*, be read for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, that Bill 4,

An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the first time.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, that Bill 5, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Mr. Okalik.

Item 17: Motions

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent of my colleagues to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There being none. Please proceed, Mr. Okalik.

Motion 004 – 3(2): Parliamentary Concurrence in the Passage of Nunavut's Official Languages Act

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.

WHEREAS Nunavut's new *Official Languages Act* was passed by the Legislative Assembly on June 4, 2008;

AND WHEREAS section 38 of the federal *Nunavut Act* requires that the Parliament of Canada concur in its passage by way of a resolution;

AND WHEREAS the House of Commons adopted a motion to concur in the passage of the *Official Languages Act* on June 1, 2009;

AND WHEREAS the Senate of Canada has been considering a motion for concurrence;

AND WHEREAS this motion has been referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs for study, which has been directed to report no later than June 11, 2009;

AND WHEREAS the Members of the Legislative Assembly and all Nunavummiut look forward to the coming into force of our territory's new official languages legislation;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Amittuq, that this House strongly urges the Senate of Canada to swiftly conclude its study of this matter and adopt the motion for concurrence at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. The motion is in order. To the motion.

Before we proceed with comments to the motion, I have a few comments to make. The mover of the motion has the right to speak once to the motion for a total time of 20 minutes. The seconder will have an opportunity to speak next. The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply which closes the debate.

To the motion. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik: *Merci, Monsieur le Président.* I hope and dream of a territory that will be able to speak in three languages one day. (interpretation)

I truly believe the importance of the new *Official Languages Act*.

In the past, we were told that even though we live in the Territory of Nunavut, the original people of Nunavut were treated like visitors whether they go to a retail outlet or to some of the service providers if they were unilingual Inuktitut speakers even though they were in their own territory.

We wanted to improve it and that's the reason why we adopted the *Official Languages Act*. It's open to all Nunavummiut whether they are English, French, or Inuktitut speakers. We want the people of Nunavut to use the language that they are most comfortable with.

We would like the *Official Languages Act* to be concurred with. The Senate of Canada will have to recognize our territory and show the people going into Nunavut that we are a friendly and open territory; it is for the protection of all Nunavummiut. Through the *Official Languages Act*, we can do so and accommodate all people.

I urge my colleagues to support this motion. We will be making an appearance in front of the Senate of Canada this week to lobby them to make sure that the *Official Languages Act* is concurred with. I would like to thank the Premier and the minister for all of their efforts.

I would like to extend my appreciation to our representative, Leona Aglukkaq, for passing a motion that was adopted by the House of Commons. I know that we will be meeting with our Senator, Willie

Adams, and it's clear we have his full support.

If we have the full support of the House for this motion, it's going to strengthen our case when we are appearing before them. So I urge my colleagues to support the motion and I will keep my comments short as this motion is very important for us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Secunder of the motion, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just as a preamble, I truly support this motion that was introduced by the Member for Iqaluit West. We may have to change the name of the riding, perhaps to another term.

Anyways, the *Official Languages Act* was passed by the House of Commons on June 1, with the Premier and Deputy Premier Taptuna. We were all in attendance when the House of Commons dealt with the passage of the *Official Languages Act*. It was indeed a proud moment for all of us in the Gallery.

What added to the occasion was to watch the Liberals, NDPs, and Conservatives being urged by our MP not to be concerned about party differences and support the *Official Languages Act*. She worked extremely hard to make sure that it was concurred with unanimously. We should be proud of Leona Aglukkaq for her hard work in introducing the motion. It has been of great importance.

On June 2, the Canadian government referred the motion to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, which again we will have to get a proper Inuktitut name through *Taiguusiliuqtiit*. There was a motion was passed by Senator Comeau, seconded by the Senator for Nunavut, Willie Adams, whose last day will be June 10 after 32 years of being a member of the Senate.

On June 4, one of the Senators was worried that the constitutional rights of some Nunavummiut might be diminished, including the French language and other aboriginal languages. Due to that, the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs decided to do a further study to make sure that the constitutional rights of the French and other aboriginal language users were not being extinguished.

As we know, the *Official Languages Act* was passed by this Legislative Assembly on June 4, 2008, and we were looking at celebrating the anniversary, but it seems like we're going to be seeing a slight delay.

One thing that I would like to emphasize is that the *Official Languages Act* was passed and we also have another language legislation, which is called the *Inuit Language Protection Act*, and they go hand in hand. That is the reason why we are lobbying with the federal government to make sure that it's concurred with as the earliest opportunity.

There were concerns that the French language would be diminished, but I can clearly state, Mr. Speaker, that the

francophone association had reviewed the Act in the spring. They were in full support and even stated that this is the best *Official Languages Act* in all of Canada. The French are in full support of Nunavut and they're also kindred spirits. The Inuit and the French in Nunavut are very helpful to each other. For that reason and as the mover stated, we would like this motion to be supported by the members.

We have been told that 99 percent of the aboriginal people who live here are Inuit. The Senate Committee was worried that the rights of Chipewyan, Cree, Dogrib, Gwitch'in, and Slavey language groups were going to be diminished. How will these language groups be protected in Nunavut? We can tell them that there might be one percent of these aboriginal people in Nunavut, but we would like to urge the members to support the motion.

I would like to have a recorded vote and I urge the members who are in attendance to support this motion because it's very important, especially for unilingual Inuit who are not getting the services that they properly deserve. So let's show our representation of this disadvantaged group. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) To the motion. Mr. Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Merci, Qujannamiik, Ma'na.*

I rise in support of this motion. I was a member of the standing committee that reviewed this piece of legislation in the

last Assembly. I know that at the end of the day, there were some concerns on both sides of the House at the time. Both sides of the House took the time to listen and identify the concerns that everyone had and they were all adequately addressed.

And I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, and anybody sitting in the Senate that one of the main things that I, myself, as the member of that standing committee did was to ensure that our *Nunavut Official Languages Act* didn't diminish the rights of any of the language groups under the *Official Languages Act* that is required, being the English and French, that we have to follow.

What this does is it adds Inuktitut in there. It does take away the rights because our *Official Languages Act* that we had before that was for the whole NWT, as my colleague pointed out, there were Chipewyan, Cree, Dogrib, and other aboriginal language groups that made up part of the Northwest Territories. This is a *Nunavut Official Languages Act* made in Nunavut for Nunavummiut, and that was the whole idea in my mind of further creation of Nunavut so that we could develop legislation that suits Nunavummiut.

The language rights of those other language groups are still protected in the jurisdiction in which they live in the Northwest Territories. The reason it was in ours, like I said, was because it, at the time, encompassed Nunavut as well. I challenge any member of the Senate to find a way somewhere in there that this piece of legislation, our *Nunavut Official Languages Act*, diminishes the rights of French or English speakers.

As the member of the standing committee and as the Minister of Languages pointed out, the *Association des francophone* was heavily involved in consultations during the public hearings that we had on that particular piece of legislation and as the minister pointed out, they are in full support and do not feel that their language rights are diminished in any way. And as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I think as this is pointed out, they probably feel that their language rights are strengthened within this piece of legislation over the past legislation that we had.

So I, too, would like to add my voice in saying that we have done our work, this is a made-in-Nunavut legislation, keeping in mind our obligation to follow and adhere to the federal *Official Languages Act* and all of those have been complied to.

I would certainly urge the members of the Senate to not play politics, semantics, and games with this and just do their jobs objectively. I'm sure that the very review of this piece of legislation would show beyond any reasonable doubt that it doesn't diminish the language rights of any English or French speakers in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I don't have any more names on my list for comments to the motion. I'm sorry, (interpretation ends) Hon. Premier Eva Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that we and Nunavummiut have confidence

in this piece of legislation and that they are able to be served and work no matter where they are, whether it's in a boardroom or a school. People are expecting to see this legislation being implemented after it has been passed.

Everyone is also aware that when Nunavut was created in 1999, many Inuit and non-Inuit believed in and were proud to have Inuktitut as part of our society and culture, and that it will be enhanced. I believe that our elders are very pleased about the language legislation. They have high expectations of it since it's a very important piece of legislation for everyone.

Many youth out there would like to learn Inuktitut yet again. Since April 1999, when the Government of Nunavut was created, they had many expectations. Also, the organizations in Nunavut, especially the *Association des francophones du Nunavut*, NTL, and the Nunavut government along with all Nunavummiut would like to see the language legislation passed.

I am very pleased at this time that the Senate Committee is reviewing the legislation. I am sorry that they are kind of stalling right now, but I expect that they will get a clearer understanding if they didn't understand it fully and they will get to understand how important this piece of legislation is for Nunavummiut. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. I have no more names on my list to speak to the motion. The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply which closes the debate. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues for their support to the motion. That support is very significant.

As Inuit, our language is part of our identity and it is part of our culture. I know that we will protect it through legislation, but the strength of the language legislation has to be on equal footing with legislation for the English and French languages. Inuktitut is part of our identity and deserves equal treatment with English and French. It will be a signal to all Canadians and everywhere else from those of us in Nunavut that Inuktitut is one of our languages and that everyone is welcome whether they speak English or French.

To our aboriginal brothers, we feel for you and we are not trying to diminish any of your languages. It's just that we want to speak our language in Nunavut and we want to be good role models for other places; it could be a good model for the other aboriginal groups to use.

So I am very pleased that we are able to move on with this legislation through this motion for Nunavummiut. I would like to have a recorded vote to mark this occasion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. The debate is now closed. You will now be voting on the motion. There was a request for a recorded vote. All those in favour of the motion stand and sit down when I state your name, please.

Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Schell.

Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Shewchuk.

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Taptuna.

Ms. Aariak.

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Kusugak.

Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Rumbolt.

Thank you, my colleagues. The motion has been unanimously carried.

>>*Applause*

Thank you very much. Going back to the Orders of the Day. 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 with Mr. Okalik in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:31 and Committee resumed at 15:56*

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

Chairman (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. We have the following item to deal with: Bill 1. What is the wish of my colleagues? Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with our review of Bill 1 and the Department of Health and Social Services, followed by the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Do my colleagues agree with that?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman (interpretation): The members would like to continue with that. We were about to begin with the opening comments of the chair of the standing committee responsible for the review of this department. Mr. Aupaluktuq, do you have opening comments? Go ahead.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Members of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have reviewed the 2009-2010 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Health and Social

Services and I am pleased to provide you with my opening comments.

The standing committee notes that the 2009-2010 operations and maintenance budget for Health and Social Services is \$258,192,000, which is an increase of over \$10 million from the department's revised operations and maintenance budget for 2008-09. Given the department's past history of over-expenditure, the standing committee hopes that the proposed budget is a realistic projection of spending for 2009-2010.

On April 1, 2009, the Auditor General of Canada's report on the financial management practices of the Department of Health and Social Services was tabled in this House. The committee encourages the department to continue its efforts to address the Auditor General's recommendations for strengthening its financial management practices.

The committee has noted that a number of budget items have been restated for the 2009-2010 main estimates, including funding for Non-Insured Health Benefits, or NIHB. This particular block of funding, which amounts to over \$18 million, has been transferred from Vote 1 funding status, which is for direct expenditures on operations and maintenance, to Vote 4 funding status, which is for expenditures on behalf of others.

The standing committee was advised this change has been made in accordance with the terms of a specific contribution agreement with the federal government. It is not entirely clear to the standing committee if this change has imposed

more conditions on how this money is spent.

The standing committee is aware that negotiations for NIHB funding are carried out by a tripartite committee which is composed of representatives from the GN, the federal government, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Members have heard a number of concerns from their constituents regarding NIHB-funded services, including transportation and accommodation for medical clients. While it is not clear how or if the change in the vote categorization of this block of funding will affect the department's role in managing NIHB funds, the committee urges the minister to bring the relevant issues and concerns relating to the delivery of NIHB-funded services to the negotiating table.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Social Wellness is in full support of the department's proposed focus on public health initiatives. Members share the view that implementing proactive measures that focus on prevention will ensure long-term health benefits, as well as promoting cost-effectiveness for the department as a whole.

Committee members will be monitoring the development of new public health legislation in this area as well as the government's efforts to address ongoing health challenges, such as tuberculosis in the territory, the threat of potential pandemics, or the unforeseen public health consequences of climate change.

It has been noted that Nunavut has not escaped the national threat of exposure to the H1N1 virus, also known as swine

flu, with a number of confirmed Nunavut cases in recent weeks. Members encourage the minister and his officials to remain vigilant in this area and to continue working with their counterparts across Canada to ensure that the public is as well protected as possible.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee urges the minister to make sure that the appropriate levels of support are in place to deliver and maintain health promotion and illness prevention programs across Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, following the dissolution of the divisional health boards, community health committees were established under hamlet authorities and funded by the GN. These community-based committees of council are one mechanism for engaging local populations in health related activities. These committees can act as public health advocates in addition to helping deliver specific programs in such areas as suicide prevention and healing.

Current levels of funding for such committees are limited. In addition, their exact mandates are often unclear and inconsistent across communities. The standing committee encourages the minister to provide more support for the work of these committees.

The high cost of living in Nunavut's communities is nowhere as clearly demonstrated as in the comparative costs of nutritious foods. Good and adequate nutrition is a critical component of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The federal government recently released two reports concerning the

Food Mail Program and has indicated it will continue to review the program. The standing committee looks forward to the minister's response to the recommendations brought forward in these reviews.

Mr. Chairman, committee members recognize that a key element of success in the implementation and delivery of health programs is the incorporation and inclusion of Inuit culture and language, not only in the areas of terminology and programming but also in the training, recruitment, and retention of Inuit into the health professions.

Members encourage the minister to continue working with his colleagues, the Minister of Education and the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, to prepare Nunavummiut for careers in the health care professions, including the areas of mental health, dental therapy, and social work. The standing committee also looks forward to updates on departmental initiatives involving elders in the delivery of health care services, especially in the area of counselling.

While Nunavut Arctic College's Nursing Program has been successful in graduating small numbers of nurses to date, the standing committee believes that more can be done to support nursing students through the program. The committee also recommends that the minister and his officials consider implementing further measures to guarantee that Nunavut-trained nurses will work in the territory after graduation.

Mr. Chairman, the committee has noted that some of the proposed increase to the

department's funding for 2009-2010 is due to rising costs in residential care, especially out of the territory. With the upcoming opening of the two 24-hour care facilities in Gjoa Haven and Igloodik, members look forward to a reduction in services being provided outside of the territory.

Committee members have expressed concerns that policies, initiatives, and programs directed towards vulnerable groups in Nunavut's society are not well coordinated and that individuals, especially children and youth, often fall through the cracks. The committee encourages the minister to work closely with his colleagues, especially the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, as new initiatives relating to children, families, and other socially vulnerable groups are brought forward.

The standing committee notes that the department's business plan indicates that one of its 2009-2010 priorities will be "establishing a Territorial Mental Health and Addictions Division." It is not clear whether the department intends to build a new treatment facility in the territory. Committee members will be closely monitoring developments in this area.

Issues such as suicide, substance abuse, and domestic violence are significant factors affecting health and well-being across the territory. Committee members have expressed concern at the continued shortage of dedicated full-time social and mental health workers in some communities.

The committee recognizes that social workers in Nunavut require a broad range of training and experience, as well

as a certain level of cultural awareness and sensitivity. The department faces some difficulties in recruiting individuals who meet these criteria. However, members strongly urge the department to focus on providing adequate services to help address deep-rooted social problems and assist individuals and their families to work through them.

The committee notes that the Department of Health and Social Services intends to develop a policy called the "Family Violence Shelters for Women Policy." Members encourage the minister to work with his colleague, the Minister of Justice, to ensure that such efforts are coordinated with the ongoing implementation of the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee has discussed the difficulties faced by constituents in having their concerns or complaints addressed and resolved by the Department of Health and Social Services. For example, members continue to receive complaints from constituents about the operations of the department's Medical Travel Office located in Pangnirtung despite the fact that this issue has been raised on numerous occasions.

Members are of the view that a clear, formal, and straightforward process must be established whereby Nunavummiut can bring forward complaints and concerns relating to health care and social services and have them formally responded to in a timely manner.

Mr. Chairman, the committee has noted that the department continues to implement electronic health information

systems for data collection, case management, and evaluation. This follows the trend across Canada. Members continue to look forward to seeing improvements in analyzing and communicating trends in the health status of our population as the department works towards addressing specific health issues across the territory.

That concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. (interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Please note that the Minister of Health and Social Services already made his opening remarks. Minister Curley, do you have officials that you would like to bring to the witness table? Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, yes, my officials are here. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Do you agree to have the minister's officials at the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): The committee has agreed. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in. I would like to welcome the officials who will be at the witness table.

While we are waiting for them to settle down, I will ask the minister to introduce his officials. Minister Curley, if you could introduce your officials, although we know who they are.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Just a moment, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are just preparing to sit down.

To my left is my Deputy Minister, Mr. Alex Campbell, and to my right is Debora Voth, Executive Director of Corporate Services. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials.

Before we begin, I would like to remind my colleagues of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to 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 the members that wherever possible you ask detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do any of my colleagues have general comments? Mr. Fred Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the opening remarks, you had mentioned that you're going to have a policy in regard to family violence shelters for women. I know in the budget, you have money for a women's shelter. My question, which I have been bringing up for three years as mayor and now an MLA, is: is there any money in that budget for the women's shelter in Cape Dorset? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) You remind me of Shell Canada, sorry. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) You caught me off guard as I thought I was going to do my opening comments. I can respond to the member's question in regard to the funding for women's shelters.

As I stated in my opening comments, we have to work on the plans. We were in Cape Dorset last winter and there is a requirement for a women's shelter there. There is a building but there is no funding allotted to it. Once we start considering the policy, we will also consider Cape Dorset because we can say that in the Baffin region, there is only one women's shelter.

The proposed estimates... my colleagues were able to concur with me that we need to support the women who need to go to a women's shelter. Yes, we will consider Cape Dorset when we start working on the policy. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Schell, are you finished? Are there any questions on the opening comments? Mr. Ningeongan, you had your hand up.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments, I'm not exactly sure which paragraph it was, but it's stated in the standing committee's opening comments that health committees are provided funding at the community level.

Mr. Chairman, I have noted that it seems like the funding hasn't changed for quite a few years. It might not be in the minister's opening comments, but I do want to ask if they're going to provide

additional funding to health committees.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. I believe that he is referring to details on H-9, but would you like to respond to that question, minister?

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the member for raising that. I asked that very question when we were being briefed.

I would first like to say, Mr. Chairman, that we will have to look into that further. They're under the umbrella of municipalities. In turn, the hamlet councils provide funding to those local committees. For that reason, I believe we need to discuss this matter with the municipalities to get the details to make sure exactly how it's going to be done.

When I spoke to the deputies last winter, I believe that there's room for improvement because sometimes they work on such issues and they don't make a report to us when they should be making their report to the municipalities. This process has to be streamlined.

I believe that we will have to consider that during the drafting of the policy and your comments will be taken into consideration and will be beneficial to the development of the policy. We provide minimum funding in the amount of \$5,000 per community and some communities receive a little more. His comments are very clear. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the minister is aware but I want him to know that this spring, a federal government official came to Coral Harbour to start planning for a Brighter Futures program in our community.

I believe that it would be better if there was a better working relationship amongst individuals, hamlet councils, the government, and the aboriginal health funding agencies. More cooperation would also be beneficial to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Although I didn't hear a question, minister, would you like to respond to that comment? Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, in regard to his comment, we understand that the federal government has a five-year funding arrangement for aboriginal health and it's going to lapse next year.

NTI has received funds and they do provide public health funds for courses at Nunavut Arctic College for nursing and we are very pleased that they provide funding for public health. Alex, the deputy minister, can elaborate further on this.

I just wanted to point out that the aboriginal health funding will lapse next year, but we would like to see the continuation of that funding by the federal government as it will end next year.

Mr. Chairman, with your indulgence, I would like Mr. Alex Campbell to elaborate further. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Campbell, would you like to supplement his response?

Mr. Campbell: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. The minister is, in fact, right that one of the programs that we're trying to renegotiate with the federal government goes by the acronym THSSI. I forget the exact name of the program right now, but under that program, there is a territorial access funding that we do apply for some of these programs that we have with communities and that portion of the funding is expiring next March.

We also have ongoing Vote 4 funding arrangements and contribution agreements with Health Canada on other programs as well. Last year, we received about \$13 million for those types of different programs that we give support as well to communities. So there are pots of money at the federal level, in any case, that we will continue to support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. That was a good question. I hope those funds will be renewed. Mr. Ningark has a question. Mr. Ningark, you now have the floor.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments on page 2, all of what is there in regard to health is very clear. We all know the cost of health in all of Canada is continually rising with air travel costs increasing and the need to

constantly bring in nurses from the south.

Health care, Mr. Chairman, is very important. Sometimes those who are sick, who come down with the flu, as the minister used to say when he was a regular member, there are cases where the medical professionals would tell their clients that they were okay and will only need to take Tylenol. There have been a lot of those cases and possibly, the only way they could see the nurse would be if they had a serious illness.

I would like to ask the minister how we can become more cost-effective without cutting back on services. What cost-cutting measures could be implemented within your department without affecting essential services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the question very clearly. Just a few days ago, I touched up on an issue of our staff and I had a meeting with the officials in our department to make sure that illnesses are detected and that clients are properly taken care of, not just being told that they're perfectly fine and sent home with Tylenol.

And yes, I honestly believe that there have been such cases. Some call in and they are told, "Come in tomorrow and we will check you out," and there are some cases of patients not willing to go back to the nursing station or the health centre because they're not made to feel welcome in those facilities.

Headquarters is responsible for the nurses, so I will urge those officials to make sure that proper services are provided.

As politicians, it's not our responsibility, but I will make sure that this directive goes out possibly by way of correspondence. There are communities without doctors and all of our health centres have nurses. We need to medevac patients to larger centres only when serious illnesses are involved.

We have to constantly think about cost-saving measures because we have a limited budget. If there's an increase in airfares or the price of gasoline, we can say that there's an immediate jump in expenditures, but we need to take cost-cutting measures.

For example, in Igloolik, we now have a long-term care facility. We would like to see a cut in the amount of elders travelling, but at this point, we can't say this is exactly what we're going to be doing or if this is how we're planning cost-saving measures. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Ningark, do you have a supplementary?

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are politicians and we can help the minister in any way we can to cut costs. I'm sure that there are unforeseen expenditures in any given year.

For example, in Kugaaruk, only rarely do we hear about nurses coming in to do practicum. The smaller communities need fully skilled nurses wherever possible, who have worked in big

centres, and are experienced to make sure that proper services are available, especially in the smaller communities.

We don't want to see just nurses practicing in our smaller communities especially. They should do more thorough diagnoses and mentor Inuit caregivers. I really would like to see mentoring done more in the smaller communities. That's just a comment that I wanted to make. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. That was a good comment. Are there any further comments? I have no other names on my list. We will now go to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting on H-4. Directorate. Department of Health and Social Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$25,240,000. Do you agree? I see a hand up. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In past years, the Department of Health and Social Services has repeatedly overspent on its budget. Almost every year, supplementary appropriations are brought forward to account for over-expenditures.

Do you think that your budget for 2009-2010 is realistic? What steps are you taking to ensure that the department's expenditures stay within budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I remind you that Shell Canada is my Airmiles station. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I agree with the first part

of his question. Alex will elaborate on the other part of the question.
(interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thanks for the question. As the members have indicated, we're all continually going to FMB and the members here for supplementary funding. Right now, we have developed business cases that we think we can deliver on for this fiscal year.

There are other initiatives that were submitted by our departmental staff that were considered as we proceeded towards developing the business plan as well as the main estimates. There are a number of other initiatives that we have pushed back at the department until we're able to first of all substantiate some of the expenditures that are occurring in the department right now and whether or not we can afford some of those new initiatives.

I can also tell the members that there are four areas that we're continually challenged as a department - agency nurse contracts is one area, medical travel is another area, out-of-territory services for Nunavummiut is another area, and then out-of-territory hospital expenditures. Those are demand-driven expenditure items that, from year to year, fluctuate and it's very hard right now to predict what the actual expenditures for those areas will be this coming year.

We do have a number of initiatives. As the members appreciate by now, we have the Nursing Recruitment and

Retention Strategy that has been a year in the making now and by the fall, we should have a good indication as to how that program is working at least for one year. We're developing programs like that that we're trying to be more strategic in the way we spend our budget.

The other thing I wanted to mention as well is the department is undertaking a bit of an assessment of where we're at with our level of service delivery within the department and the communities. We're going to determine a base of where we should be at and then have a more strategic direction that we would be proposing through the minister to the members here some time in the next year or so. Thanks Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to agency nurses now, we had a medevac last week into Cape Dorset and I asked the medic how things were going and he said that they were extremely busy.

For a two-week period, they just about flew everyday into Pond Inlet once or twice a day. He made a comment which I found a little alarming. He was saying that he could sure tell where there are agency nurses. So he was kind of insinuating that they made all of these trips into Pond Inlet because there are a lot of agency nurses there.

Forty-five percent of the nursing positions are still vacant and less than half of these are staffed by agency nurses. Have the numbers changed since January of 2009 and if so, how many

positions are currently filled with agency nurses, how many are filled with indeterminate staff, and how many positions are still vacant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. (interpretation ends) Mr. Campbell, would you make an attempt to answer that very detailed question.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, we have a total of 46 agency nurses who are currently on contract in the department.

We have 224 nurse PYs on payroll and the breakdown of that is: we have 65 in Iqaluit; in Baffin, we have 52 nurses allocated; in the Kivalliq, we have 61; and in the Kitikmeot, we have 46, for a total of 224 PYs. Out of that, we have six beneficiaries working, we have 122 indeterminate nurses, and as we speak right now, we have 102 vacancies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Schell, you got your response? Okay. Mr. Rumbolt, you're up next.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the draft main estimates, your department plans to have a total of 987 PYs in 2009-2010, compared to a total of 940 in 2008-09. Given the difficulties facing your department in filling current positions, why are so many new positions necessary? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We have a number of positions that we will be creating for the continuing care centres for Igloolik as well as Gjoa Haven that are accounted in those numbers. We have a number of PYs as well that will be created under the Public Health Strategy. I think we have a couple of public health nurses that we are going to be staffing up this year.

As was mentioned in the opening statement by the minister, there is going to be a division that is going to be established in the department, the Mental Health and Addictions Division. There's going to be a total of five PYs there once we're up and fully running in that division. This year, with the proposals, we would be hiring three PYs.

So there is a number of PYs that make up those 987 PYs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Are there any more questions for the department? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Schell indicated, he was referring to agency nurses and I would like clarification on agency nurses.

These nurses are brought in from outside the territory at a high cost, but at the same time, we want Inuit to work at the health centres. Who decides where the agency nurses are going to come from and who decides if we are going to be using agency nurses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Who will be responding to this question? Mr. Campbell, do you want to respond?

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I don't know the exact number, but I think we have eight agency nurse contract providers that we do have down south that we contract regularly.

We have a standing offer list of, I believe, eight agency nurses and they're the ones that we provide the requests to when we require nurses in communities due to vacancy or workload, or just to cover off when the nurses are on vacation.

So most of the credentialling of the nurses is done nationally and now, we do also have an office that do recognizes these nurses as well when they come into the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: *Meegwich*, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, in regard to agency nurses, the Government of Nunavut's Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for nurses. These agency nurses are not from Canada. How much has the Government of Nunavut paid to date to get the agency nurses here? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have

used agency nurses for about four or five years. In Canada and possibly at the international level, there was a severe shortage of nursing professionals. In the last two years, we went down to Asia to look for nurses.

But to date, we can see that the number of agency nurses is decreasing. For example, in Nunavut, we have 18 who completed the Nursing Program. When the nurses are going to be sent to communities, they will need two years of experience. For that reason, it's extremely hard in some of the smaller communities.

What we can say is that if we had an adequate number of nurses in Canada, we would be required to use agency nurses. We don't want to use agency nurses, but we do have to use them in times of shortage and emergencies.

How much has it cost the Government of Nunavut to date? I can say it was expensive. I don't know if the deputy minister has any specific details, but I'm sure Mr. Campbell could enlighten us. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. (interpretation ends) Mr. Campbell, do you have anything to add?

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I will give some of the approximate figures from the year before.

Three years ago, we spent \$18 million for agency nurses. Last year, we spent roughly \$16 million, so it went down. This year, it has gone back up to about \$20 million as of March 31, which is the

projection right now. So those are the current figures that I have at this point, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was watching APTN and there was a commercial there where there were interviews of young Inuit who had completed the Nursing Program. They were urging other young Nunavummiut to get into the program. That is just a comment.

I do know that the Department of Health and Social Services is trying to help the people of Nunavut and also encouraging people to become (interpretation ends) Nunavut health professionals. (interpretation) We support and I think you stated, but I didn't see the numbers about how many Inuit nurses that we have here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Minister Curley, if you would respond.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. To your first question in regard to the Nursing Program and for your information, since Nunavut was created, we have trained 18 nursing graduates and I think it's a four-year program.

They don't all work here in Nunavut, so it's creating a little glitch. They do their training up here and then move down south to continue their careers. So there's a little bit of a problem there.

In regard to your question, I would like Mr. Campbell to respond if it's okay

with you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Presently, we have six beneficiaries working in the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Schell would like to ask a question.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister what the current status of the boarding home contracts in Yellowknife, Edmonton, Winnipeg, and Ottawa are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Which one of you would like to respond? Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Chairman. I'll start with the boarding home in Ottawa. The new boarding home in Ottawa was completed just about a month ago. I guess they finished moving into the new facility. So there is a new facility in Ottawa that's in operation right now and the official opening is planned for later this summer.

The one in Yellowknife is currently under construction. It's my understanding that the construction should be finished some time this summer or early fall.

As soon as the materials start arriving, they will start putting in the pilings to

start construction on the one in Iqaluit.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Are there any other questions? Are you done? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: You forgot about Winnipeg.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. (interpretation ends) I think that happens to be Mr. Schell's hometown and close to your hometown, Mr. Campbell, if you want to respond to that.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) For Winnipeg, we have an existing facility there and we have a current operator there. We're continually monitoring the facility and trying to improve some of the services that are provided in the Kivalliq Inuit Centre in Winnipeg, but we do have a current operator there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one more question here. Funding for accommodation for Inuit medical clients is covered under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

The level of compensation for private households to take in medical clients as boarders has remained at a consistently low rate of \$50 a night for several years. What efforts has your department made to negotiate a better rate for private homeowners who provide boarding for medical clients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Excellent question, Mr. Schell. I believe I asked that question last fall or earlier this year to Minister Curley. I hope that the minister has a good reply now. Minister... oh, he wants to refer it to one of his officials. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently under negotiation with Health Canada to have those rates increased. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Voth. (interpretation ends) And the minister will not sign any document until it's increased, I understand, good minister. More questions? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, I have a small correction for the hon. minister. He did call me the MLA for Nattilik. I am the MLA for Akulliq. Thank you.

Chairman: Good comment, Mr. Ningark. I believe you're an MLA for everybody, so you're a strong MLA, our elder. (interpretation) Are there any further questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Medical Client Travel Policy has been in effect for just over a year and yet, there still appears to be some confusion over how the policy should be applied.

What kinds of initiatives has the department considered to better explain the Medical Client Travel Policy to the public and to ensure that staff responsible for implementing the policy are up to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to be able to give you a clear understanding of the travel policy, especially for patients covered under the Non-Insured Health Benefits.

The escort policy and the client escort, for example, if you're too old or if you're an elder, or some other reason, it's sometimes quite hard to administer this policy. For example, if they're going to be gone for a long time, some of them want to go back because they have to go back to work and then the department ends up paying for two escorts for one patient. So it increases the expenditures quite alarmingly.

We want to make sure that the people out there understand the policy and even I can't truly tell you what the escort policy really is. For example, the information has to be given to the people out there by the health centres and give them what criteria they use to determine whether you can get an escort. We need to improve that area and we want to hear of any ideas. Thank you.

Chairman: (interpretation) Thank you, Minister Curley. Are there any further questions on page H-4? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister: now that the department's three regional facilities are all operational, have you seen a reduction in the costs of out-of-town travel and treatment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We haven't been able to determine the cost-effectiveness of those facilities at this point.

But I could provide information that we are starting to provide some of the day hospital services for the Kivalliq as well as the Cambridge Bay facility for this fiscal year. We just started that, so some of the patients will be observed at those centres before they're flown out if, in fact, they require to be transported out.

Again, it will be some time before we realize the potential of those facilities, but we are staffing up and we are slowly opening the different services that we were proposing in our strategies on those facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. (interpretation ends) Mr. Schell, do you have more questions?

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do apologize for having to ask so many questions, but Ron Elliott's not here and I promised that I would take up the slack there.

Does your department have a formal process in place for Nunavummiut to bring forth complaints or concerns about Health and Social Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Chairperson. (interpretation ends) That's a very good question; I think that's an ombudsman's job that I have been asking for. Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We do have a process to deal with complaints, Mr. Chairman, but it appears that, through the concerns that have been raised in the House as well as in communities, we do have to do a better job of informing the clients and the patients who are travelling of who to go to and where to get some of the services.

We do have a client travel services coordinator based in the Kitikmeot, in Cambridge Bay. We do have a person here in Iqaluit who deals with complaints. We also had pamphlets distributed about a year ago to all of the health centres that they're supposed to be distributing the type of services and where to go when they do have those concerns.

We're also going to be developing an updated pamphlet. I'm just going to show the sample here of the pamphlet that's going to be issued for each region and this one is for the Qikiqtaaluk. They're being produced I shouldn't say as we speak because I don't know where it's at, but we are producing more of these pamphlets that are going to be issued in the next few weeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Are there any questions? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one more question. How will the funding for community-based committees of council be distributed and what are your expectations of these committees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. (interpretation ends) I think Mr. Ningeongan was asking about that too earlier. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. I'll probably respond in English at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I indicated to another member earlier that I have raised the issue of trying to make the committees more effective with my departmental officials. At the moment, we still have not come to any policy initiatives yet, but we are in the discussion stages. We believe that we could probably improve the role of the committees in each community; I think there's tremendous room for that.

We recognize the fact that we have other partners, including hamlets and related groups, and so on, so we need to have a broader sort of a discussion. So the minister will like to meet with some of these community representatives.

More and more, I know that NTI, our partner, particularly with respect to public health, is doing a pretty good job in raising some of the issues that the public and the government should be aware of. NTI recently published a health report and we have responded to that. I will also be tabling those formal responses we made to the NTI report.

So I think that question is really very important and I certainly would like to look at not only the role of the committees but also how we funded those groups because at the moment, they are, with the creation of local hamlets, not a society. So it's sort of an exercise where we're scoping around how best to improve our relationships

with the local health committees. Thank you, *Iksivautaaq*.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. You can ask any questions, so please don't hesitate. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. I have one final question under this page. Before division, we used to have what we call a divisional board or a regional health board. I think they were wonderful things, they provided a voice for the community in their region. Mr. Minister, do you ever do any evaluation of regional service delivery in Nunavut since we do not have a voice anymore? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. He is pointing at me. Minister, you're a minister now, so you have to respond to questions. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I believe you were better able to respond as the boards were dissolved in the past by someone.

But your question is a very good question. I could also say that the Premier has been considering that at the Cabinet level and we have been working on that. It's a very good question to ask during the report card exercise because they are reviewing everything, but funding is limited.

In regard to the question about health committees, should we strengthen their role? Yes, I believe that we could strengthen their role. I believe that our department is reviewing this internally

and our Premier is reviewing this as a broad review Nunavut-wide.

The Department of Finance is looking at the funding that the Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for. Your question is a very good question because we have to review and look beyond what we are doing and how to make sure that we provide good services at the community and regional levels.

When I became minister, I was asked by an individual to reinstate the regional boards but I'm not going to mention by whom. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): I just want to advise the minister that he's a very good minister. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I, too, have to view Nunavut as a whole and I'm not looking at it regionally. Are there any further questions on page H-4?

I have a question here. I know that the Department of Health and Social Services is a very busy department.

On some of the things that haven't been reviewed, what has Health and Social Services done on health prevention? This area doesn't seem to have been reviewed to date. So therefore, I would like to ask the officials if this could be considered in the future in view of the fact that current practices are very expensive for Health and Social Services.

Perhaps if we start bringing back some of our old methods or practices. I would like to ask the minister if he has considered this and what he is going to do in the future. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a very good question. We have public health committees and they're not actual doctors but they do provide information on healthy living.

Last winter, they had a meeting and they invited elders Nunavut-wide in February and I was able to have a discussion with them. It was very good to attend that meeting because they were making the Public Health Strategy and they also touched up on that and how it was in the past.

The report is being drafted according to the strategy and you can also see Bruce Petryshen, the individual who is responsible for the regions. You may ask questions to that individual.

Mr. Chairman, your question is very good. We should perhaps allocate more responsibilities to the health committees, which I have mentioned to my deputy. We will definitely take that into consideration and we know that our elders can support us now. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. Mr. Aupaluktuq has his hand up.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This is in reference to a comment made by the minister in regard to health committees. I was actually going to wait until public health, but I think this would

come along the lines of what we're talking about in the meantime.

Health committees are a usable tool to bridge programs and services in Nunavut. I've had a health committee member share with me before that they need to be empowered and they need to be validated. I recall, over the last couple of years, that the health committee in one particular community had requested a letter of support from then Minister of Health and Social Services to empower these health committees.

The reason why is because it seems like another professional health provider stated this one committee as being a joke and it was really hurtful to the community members who wanted to participate in the health committee. We didn't have that kind of support and something could be said of the health committees in such a negative way. It just feels like the health committee members feel powerless.

So I just wanted to make a comment that perhaps the minister or his officials might want to suggest providing an official letter of support to the health committee members to validate with the other health service providers that they are essential and core, and a meaningful body that you can use as a bridging program.

That was just a comment. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Chairman, *Qujannamiiraaluk*. (interpretation) I can say that the health committees are no

joke to us because we rely on them when we start facing challenges and difficulties. We have to make sure that we inform them because they are the ones who know the community more about public health and medical care even though the nurses are responsible for that. We have to partner with them on public health issues.

For them to gain society status would be more expensive. So therefore, the municipalities and our department will have to consider finding the best alternatives. As the minister for this department, we ask the officials to work with the health committees and partner with them. That's what we will be doing. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Are there any further questions on page H-4? Total Operations and Maintenance. \$25,240,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): You have agreed, so we will move on to page H-5. Social Services. Branch Summary. Total Branch. \$34,721,000. Mr. Rumbolt would like to ask a question.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Social Service Branch of your department provides a range of services for individuals with disabilities, including those who require residential care. What factors impact the ability to deliver residential care within Nunavut? How does your department plan to address needs in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Minister Curley, who would you direct? Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I indicated, we do have a wide range of services that we do provide. As you know, this is another area that we are challenged to trying to fulfill our mandate due to capacity.

We have a number of positions that are currently vacant and we are filling those vacancies through a number of avenues, casual as well as agency social workers. We do have staff that are also responsible for a number of areas that provide services under this program.

The rehabilitation program as an example, we have a number of areas that we do provide services there. I can revert to some of the other areas that we do provide is continuing care that we will be providing in the communities, specifically in Igloolik as well as Gjoa Haven. But we do have a number of services that we do provide.

So it's a difficult question to try and answer without having the full array of resources to deliver that, but as a department, we do try to continue to provide a good service to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. (interpretation ends) Yes, those start sounding like another department that we have heard from, not enough staff all the time, but I'm sure you are working away at it very hard as always. Mr. Schell

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your business plan indicates plans to review the *Child and Family Services Act*. What direction are you setting for the review and what specific aspects of the legislation will you be addressing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Mr. Campbell, can you answer that, please?

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The proposal for the department is to develop a legislative proposal to do a complete review of the *Child and Family Services Act*.

Some time this fall, we will have a legislative proposal. As you know, the legislative proposal will identify a number of areas that we need to change in the legislation. In particular, we need to continue to *Nunavutize* some of the sections of the Act that we have been challenged to deliver.

On the more immediate horizon, we will be doing an amendment specifically to target the age group that had been omitted in the current legislation, the age group of 16 to 19-year-old youth that would be included in the Act. So there is an amendment that will be purposed through the Cabinet and the legislative committee to get that approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Are there any more questions on Social Services on H-5? Mr. Ningeongan

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want clarification from the minister in regard to the last question that was posed. Last winter,

you mentioned that amendments need to be made to the *Child and Family Services Act*. Will you be considering changes to other legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Curley, can you respond?

Hon. Tagak Curley: (interpretation) Yes, in regard to your question, social services is a very big task to deal with. We have various legislations that we are working on, including the child advocacy issue, which the Department of Justice and EIA will have to work together on.

Perhaps this fall, we will table the legislative proposal and get an office for the women and children. This is something that has been in demand for some time. I am far more concerned with orphaned children because those with parents who take proper care of their children are by far greater in number.

In regard to providing social services, I would like to tell the member that we would like to get the support of the elders. Perhaps in those communities that are most vulnerable, we should get elders to help the social services department. We need to empower them to allow them to work with social workers in the communities.

We have to start discussing that as a department. Although I haven't informed my colleagues about this, we are discussing this internally within our department.

When new social service workers arrive in our community, sometimes they have

to learn about the community over more than a year. Perhaps our elders, whether they are male or female, can provide support in counselling.

I can tell you that within the social services side, the social workers regularly work beyond their mandate. They end up working as probation officers at the community level and they have to work with individuals who have been released. That is not a responsibility within our department, but since 1999, probation officer duties were given to social workers.

They don't even have the training opportunity and they work beyond their mandate, so they get exhausted as a result. For that reason, we are trying to move that responsibility to another department because it's their responsibility. If approved, we would like to move that division because a lot of our social workers have a lot of work to do and they hear negative remarks from the public. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister, please try to keep your responses short. He asked the question in regard to child services. Mr. Aupaluktuq would like to ask a question.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's evident that social workers have faced many challenges and they deal with confidential and at times, controversial issues. I'm sure there are policies that they have to follow.

It's evident that social workers work very hard at their jobs. Using nurse training and recruitment as an example, we would also like to see social workers

trained. Will your department continue to work to get more social workers? Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, the department will follow up on developing a strategy for all health care workers and social service workers as well in the next several months. It's something that we're working on and it's something that's part of our business plan, to develop a strategy around that. So we are looking for a more comprehensive health recruitment strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any further questions? H-5. Social Services. Total Branch. \$34,721,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): That amount has been approved, so we will move on to Public Health on page H-6. \$8,212,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It states here that in the development of the strategy in the communities, for example, it seems that the Kitikmeot is given the smallest portion. As I mentioned earlier, it would be good to have a committee for the Kitikmeot. I believe the region is still recognized by government.

We have the Qikiqtani General Hospital and we have health centres in the Kitikmeot. I know that they are recognized health centres. I believe the regional health centre in the Kitikmeot is the smallest facility.

I'm not asking a question. If we formalized a regional body, it would make more sense even if it were to meet just once a year. I'm just making a comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): That was just a comment. Are there any further questions? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister this question. The nutritional status of many Nunavummiut has a direct impact on their health. The federal government recently commissioned a review of the federal Food Mail Program. Did your department have any input in this review? What is your position on the recommendations that the program be administered by the federal Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, the department will be preparing a preliminary response to the report that has been submitted by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. We have reviewed the report and the department will be providing its response to INAC.

It's not a comprehensive GN response. My understanding is that we will be, at some point, looking at it more from a

holistic GN to have a formal response. Because of the short timeframe, the short turnaround that they're expecting some responses from the GN, we will be tabling our preliminary response to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. We will watch with interest. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Under the grants and contributions section of your business plan, \$400,000 will be directed towards the public health initiative. How will these funds be spent and what does your department plan to achieve? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The grants and contributions for the Public Health Strategy were in last year's plan, \$1.2 million. Is that what the question is? I would like to have the question clarified, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Voth. (interpretation ends) The member was asking about the business plan that outlines \$400,000, I believe. So that's what he was referring to in the business plan, not last year's expenditures. (interpretation) To the question, Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Yes, we will be providing contributions to the communities on a proposal-driven process on the \$400,000. If they have proposals for public health promotional activities in the communities, that fund

is for that purpose. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Okay, it will be proposal-driven. Are there any further questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to your department's business plan, the health promotion programming will see a significant increase in funding in 2009-2010. What accounts for this increase in funding? What kind of additional services or programs will be provided to the people of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I alluded to earlier, the government did table the Public Health Strategy a couple of years ago. We're in the implementation of that strategy and there are a number of initiatives contained in that strategy that would be funded by the department and funded in the communities as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut's Public Health Strategy indicates that one of its primary goals is to reduce tobacco use. Federal funding to address tobacco use by Inuit and First Nations has not been renewed since 2007. How will your department be addressing this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct, in the federal aspect, the tobacco program had expired.

For Nunavut, we were able to negotiate an ongoing program on an annual basis with Health Canada officials, but we have been receiving some funding from them since that program was terminated. We will be developing as well some initiatives under tobacco reduction this coming year for that program.

So just to answer the question, we were able to negotiate a fiscal arrangement with Health Canada to continue with our program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recently, the spread of the H1N1 virus across Canada and other countries has led to significant concerns. Could you describe what steps have been taken to protect Nunavummiut from this illness and what pandemic preparation measures are in place for the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like accurate information to be going out there to the communities and Mr. Schell's question is very important.

Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, if I pose a question to you. I believe that there are

going to be more questions in regard to H1N1. If it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I would prefer to have Dr. Sobol respond to that question because I think there are going to be supplementary questions afterwards.

Chairman (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the committee agrees. We would like to invite Dr. Sobol to approach the witness table because of the importance of this issue. It's a very excellent question and we will wait for Mr. Sobol to approach the witness table to provide a response. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Dr. Sobol is the Chief Medical Health Officer in Nunavut and he deals with emergency cases. I can say that in Canada, there are lab tests going on everyday and he is in constant contact with the laboratory in Alberta. He is also in touch with the Public Health Agency of Canada at all times.

Mr. Chairman, through you, I would like to ask the member to rephrase his question so that Dr. Sobol can respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. (interpretation ends) Mr. Schell, if you could repeat your question. You had one warm-up practice already, so maybe you can clarify your question once again. Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recently, the spread of the H1N1 virus across Canada and other countries has led to significant concerns. Can you describe what steps have been taken to protect Nunavummiut from this illness and what pandemic preparedness

measures are in place for the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. (interpretation ends) Dr. Sobol, if you could please answer the question.

Dr. Isaac Sobol: Nunavut has a pandemic influenza plan that was initiated in 2005 and it was reviewed in 2006. At the moment, we continue to review our pandemic influenza plan. We have developed a new template for the community-level plan. We have an agreement with the Public Health Agency to have individuals go to every community in Nunavut to assist our local health centres to work with a revised template. So at that level, we are well engaged in our pandemic preparedness.

When the H1N1 flu virus was first identified in Mexico, many steps were taken both at the territorial level and at the national level to prepare for the eventual spread of this virus in Canada as a whole and in Nunavut.

The department, on its initiative, had convened a health emergency preparedness team and we have been meeting regularly throughout the outbreak in Canada. We have developed an incident command structure which has been approved by the deputy minister and which has been shared with other jurisdictions.

The chief medical officers of health, together with communicable disease specialists and the Public Health Agency, at one point, was meeting every single day to discuss the situation and to discuss guidelines for diagnosis,

treatment, infection control, and public health measures.

On April 28, I distributed to all of our health centres our interim guidelines for diagnosis, treatment, infection control, and public health measures. On the initiative of the deputy minister, we followed up the delivery of those guidelines with a video conference session with each and every one of our health centres to make sure that our health care staff were familiar with the guidelines and comfortable with the processes that we developed.

We continue to have ongoing discussion within our communities, we've had a follow-up video conference, and we have regular communication with nurses and health care staff across the territory as this situation progresses.

I don't want to speak for the deputy, but he might want to speak as well with the fact that deputies have been meeting regularly, the F/T/P health deputies have been meeting on a regular basis as well. I don't know the protocol that allows someone else to intervene in my reply.

Mr. Chairman, is it appropriate if the deputy were to give you an update on the deputy minister level of engagement during this outbreak?

Chairman: Thank you, Dr. Sobol. Mr. Campbell, would you like to add to Dr. Sobol's comments?

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the internal activities that we have undertaken in the government is we've got the CVS regularly updated on what the department is doing in working with the

communities. I have been updating the deputy ministers and this government on a regular basis as to the status of the H1N1 flu virus.

As Dr. Sobol has suggested, we have initiated the health emergency preparedness plan. The F/T/P deputy ministers have been regularly meeting. We had a Thursday meeting and teleconference calls happening. Prior to that, it was daily meetings that we were doing across the country.

With respect to communications, we have provided a number of public health advisories to the communities through our communications unit. We have also been updating the health centres with some preventative measures on the types of things that they could do to prevent some of the symptoms going around in communities.

We're also developing radio announcements that are currently being worked on right now. We will be distributing those to every community in Nunavut to alert them on this and do some preventative measures. That's all I can add right now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another question here. I had the pleasure of meeting with Dr. Sobol before as Mayor of Cape Dorset in regard to tuberculosis cases in Nunavut.

Statistics provided in the business plan indicate that the rate of tuberculosis in Nunavut is still much higher than the average Canadian. What is the current

status of dealing with the disease in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Schell. (interpretation ends) Dr. Sobol, can you try and answer that?

Dr. Isaac Sobol: Could I ask for a clarification? I believe you asked for our... Sorry, Mr. Chairman, my apologies. Mr. Chairman, I require a clarification with respect to whether the question is addressed specifically for this virus or in a general sense, preparation for control of communicable diseases.

Chairman: Thank you, Dr. Sobol. I think it was in reference to tuberculosis. I know it's a switch from H1N1 that we were talking about earlier, but if you can try and answer the issue on tuberculosis. I think if you can, I would appreciate it. Dr. Sobol.

Dr. Isaac Sobol: So the question then is specifically about the tuberculosis program. We do have a very effective tuberculosis program in Nunavut. We had a review of our program last year.

Tuberculosis programs are monitored and evaluated principally on two outcome measures. Number one is the number of persons who complete treatment and number two is the number of cases of drug-resistant tuberculosis which might emerge during a tuberculosis treatment.

In both of those well accepted measures of tuberculosis control, our program stands out as being very excellent. Given the fact that we have much higher rates of tuberculosis than the rest of the country, I think our program has been exemplary.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Dr. Sobol. (interpretation ends) I will allow for more questions on the H1N1 virus if there are any further questions while the doctor is here. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Friday, there were only five confirmed cases in Nunavut and today, there are 25. Are all 25 cases being treated in facilities outside of their home communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Dr. Sobol.

Dr. Isaac Sobol: That's a good question. On June 1, we expanded our surveillance for this particular virus.

We announced that we would do enhanced surveillance to try to find where this virus existed in Nunavut and the large number of cases that were just announced, the increase was a result of this enhanced surveillance. What we are seeing is exactly what we expected to find when we increased the testing, that we have greater numbers being reported.

Most people are being treated in their community, most cases have not required hospitalization or medical evacuation, and the good news is that, as we have seen in other jurisdictions, most cases are mild and people can recover without any intensive medical intervention.

Even those patients who were hospitalized required no intensive care unit or ventilator support and they have recovered. I would say with conservative medical measures, they're all getting better. That's the good news.

Chairman: Thank you, Dr. Sobol. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question today is: with the H1N1 virus, what is the amount of time that's been required for people to recover from most of these cases? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Dr. Sobol.

Dr. Isaac Sobol: Another good question. In general, it takes between seven and ten days for symptoms to resolve and as we have instructed our health care staff, if it's ever possible to treat patients outside the confines of the health centre...

In fact, on first appearance of the illness, we're asking the public to stay at home to try to treat themselves because most of these cases are mild and will be resolved without medical intervention. If people at home are feeling like their illness is getting worse, we're asking them to phone the health centre so the centre can be prepared to see them when they arrive, taking appropriate respiratory precautions.

So we expect that between seven and ten days would be the normal time course for symptoms to completely resolve.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Dr. Sobol. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: I said it was my final question, but I guess it wasn't.

With the requirement of people being treated at home, a lot of our residents live in overcrowded conditions and I'm

just wondering if it's just going to contribute to the factor of spreading the disease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Dr. Sobol.

Dr. Isaac Sobol: Thank you for the question; it's a very appropriate question. I think those conditions apply not just to the spread of this particular virus but we feel they would apply to the spread of any respiratory communicable disease in the territory, so I believe that's a very appropriate comment to make.

We do give advice to family members on how we might try to keep those ill individuals away from other family members in their own room and try to minimize contact with others while they're convalescing at home.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Dr. Sobol. (interpretation ends) I would ask if you could repeat the symptoms that this H1N1 virus has for the benefit of our audience again to adopt appropriate precautions. Dr. Sobol.

Dr. Isaac Sobol: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The symptoms include fever, cough, muscle pain, which we call myalgia, a general feeling of fatigue, and in some cases, addition of nausea and vomiting or diarrhea. So those are the signs of what we call influenza-like illness.

We have been repeating those symptoms on our public health advisories so that Nunavummiut can be well aware of what the presentation of this illness is like. We will continue to frequently produce public health advisories and other forms

of messaging to the public as this outbreak continues.

Chairman: Thank you, Dr. Sobol. Are there further questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't say it's my final question because I seem to keep getting more. The people who are being treated at home, what kind of treatment are they getting? Is it just bed rest or are they on medication? Can you clarify, please? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Dr. Sobol.

Dr. Isaac Sobol: Thank you for the question. The viral illnesses don't respond to treatment with antibiotics. Antibiotics will kill bacteria but not viruses.

So the treatment that's being used all across the country is what I would call supportive or conservative treatment. That is the use of medications to reduce fever and to reduce pain, and also lots of fluids to deal with any dehydration that might occur. So that is the standard treatment for this type of viral illness.

Chairman: Thank you, Dr. Sobol. Are there any further questions on the H1N1 virus, otherwise known as the swine or the Mexican flu? Are there any other questions?

We want to thank Dr. Sobol for providing an educational benefit for the members and the audience that may be watching. Thank you, Dr. Sobol. All the best, hopefully this illness subsides soon.

We are on H-6 for the benefit of members. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not a question but it's a comment. If I may, this is in relation to my colleague's, Mr. Schell, comment in regard to food mail and nutrition.

I just want to inform the minister and his officials that we're aware that the GN and your department don't set the cost for food in stores or the Food Mail Program. It's just for information purposes for public health.

It's been noted by constituents that they are aware nutritional and healthy foods seem to be expensive in comparison to less healthy foods in stores. One example that was brought to my attention was a same size cereal box of Special K, \$9, Lucky Charms, \$6.95.

Healthier foods appear to be maintained at the same cost, but junk food seems to have lowered in prices. I just want to provide that information to you that this is something being observed by constituents. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Very good comment, Mr. Aupaluktuq. I think we can all do our part and educate everyone of healthier choices. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: I think that's good information to have. I would urge the member to continue to announce certain notices once in a while. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Are there any other questions on this page? (interpretation ends) We're on H-6. Total Operations and

Maintenance, to be Voted. \$8,212,000.
(interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We can now turn to page H-7, which is related to various treatments for patients. Total Branch. \$151,757,000. Does anyone have questions on (interpretation ends) Treatment? Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the years, the Nunavut government has considered a number of different options for addressing addiction issues in the territory.

Your department's 2009-2010 business plan indicates that it will establish a Mental Health and Addictions Division. How will this division operate and what activities will it focus on? Will any additional service be offered to Nunavummiut to address mental health and addictions issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Campbell (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What we're proposing to establish in the department is a division that would be providing some high level and technical advice to both the directorate as well as the minister and then to the government, of course, on the delivery of the mental health, wellness, and addiction area.

Some of the things that we would be looking at under that division are positions for a suicide prevention specialist, a wellness type coordinator, an addictions specialist, just to name a

few. There are a number of positions that we're proposing. We do have, in the regional offices as well as in the communities, some of these positions that are already doing this type of work.

What was mentioned was a program delivery type advisory group that would provide support first of all to the regional offices, as well as the community positions to provide guidance, support, and advice on how to deliver some of our services at the community level. That unit would also be preparing some policies around those areas that I mentioned earlier, under wellness, suicide, addictions, and treatment as well.

So those are some of the areas that the division would be working on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget for the community health centres is projected to increase by over \$3 million. What kind of initiative accounts for this increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): That's still a question on those pages. Which one of you would like to respond? Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I mentioned earlier that we do have three regional health facilities that will be providing enhanced services once we have fully staffed up those positions. As well, we will have the continuing care facilities that will be staffed.

Of course, there have been some salary increases, as mentioned to me, that are also included as part of that increase, compensation and benefits for our positions in the Treatment Branch. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. (interpretation) Are there any more questions on this page? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a question in regard to Treatment. We often hear of Nunavut residents being required to travel outside the territory for specialized care. Some of the specialized care, for example, is CT scans, MRIs, mammograms, and dialysis, all of which use specific medical devices.

The question obviously is: does the department have any plans to invest in such devices so that Nunavut residents requiring such services would be able to receive them at home or even regionally? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The simple answer is yes. That's our long-range plan - to eventually at least develop some of those services at the regional level, particularly dialysis equipment. It would be something that we would be visiting over the next year.

There will be a requirement to purchase the equipment first of all, as well as to train the staff to deliver that service. We're also proposing to purchase a CT scanner for the hospital here in Iqaluit

some time in the next several months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I guess what I want to get at is in regard to transportation because it essentially affects the treatment of our constituents.

Some are unable to get to their appointments or the airport due to lack of personal transportation or in this one instance, there was no taxi fare. So a constituent had missed an appointment and was advised that they may not be able to obtain another appointment that they had been waiting a long time for.

In the case of Baker Lake, there are still no taxi chits being provided, there are still no resolutions to provide this opportunity for our constituents to access the best or better health care treatment by being able to leave the community.

Another example is one young lady almost gave birth in the middle of winter outdoors because she was having some contractions and she was told to come on and walk down to the health centre and she barely made it there. That was a fascinating story in our community.

In some communities, the lack of a vehicle for use by health centre staff poses a number of difficulties, especially if there is no private sector transportation. How does the department evaluate the need for health centre vehicles and how do you prioritize their purchases? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to his question, many communities have complained about the lack of transportation for patients, especially elders who have to go to the health facility, and there is no mode of transportation.

This has been told to our department a number of times and we have discussed how we could make a funding proposal within our department. But we are trying to get funding through the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program that we receive from the federal government. It's very difficult to obtain funding through the NIHB program and it will expire next year.

We are trying to find out if we can get taxi chits. However, the agreement has been signed not only by our department but also NTI. Perhaps we can get support from NTI to get taxi chits, but we haven't completed a review of that. We are discussing this matter with the federal government and the Minister of Finance indicated earlier that they are still in negotiations. We will implement these solutions as soon as we can.

With respect to transportation vehicles, our department has to discuss whether we require one or not, but it becomes difficult with liability issues when health centre staff are transporting patients. That is where the problem lies, but I can tell you that we will review it further. Thank you.

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

We are on Treatment and we are going to get into Health Insurance Programs, which is dealing with NIHB as well. Mr. Aupaluktuq, you have another question on Treatment? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for the response and it was a clear response. People from Baker Lake have been concerned about that and I thank you for your response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a comment. (interpretation ends) Treatment. \$151,757,000. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Health Insurance Programs. \$38,362,000. I think Member Aupaluktuq already asked questions on NIHB issues and we told the minister that he can only come back to this House with a better agreement. Otherwise, we need a new minister.

>> *Laughter*

Are there any questions on Health Insurance Programs? \$38,362,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The minister has been properly advised and cannot return unless requested to do so. We can go back to page H-3. Total Health and Social Services. \$258,192,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, my colleagues. Do you have any closing remarks, Minister Curley?

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all know this department is quite a difficult and challenging one. You will always have opportunities to ask questions and so your period to ask questions is not limited as far as I'm concerned. My office is quite close and I would like to thank my colleagues for coming over to my office to see me.

I also would like to thank Dr. Isaac Sobol for being here, the officials, the deputy minister, and our Executive Director of Corporate Services, Debora Voth.

While we are dealing with this file, I would like to state that all of you are welcome at any time if you would like to come and visit any of us at our offices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley. (interpretation ends) I remember the days when our government used to be the entire government at the Department of Health. All of the expenditure overruns would be in the \$20 million range and we would have to adjust our entire budget to try and accommodate health.

This is a far improvement from those days, so I applaud your officials for trying to contain the budget for health. Good work.

(interpretation) We have concluded the department. Are the members in agreement that the Department of Health and Social Services is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): The members have agreed. Thank you and your officials.

We have concluded that department, so we can now move on to another department. The next department that we're going to deal with is the Department of Community and Government Services. Minister Kusugak, you can now make your opening comments.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before you today to review the 2009-2010 Main Estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Community and Government Services plays many roles in the delivery of programs and services throughout the territory.

We assist local governments and provide services to the government departments in areas such as asset management and contracting and procurement.

CGS is also responsible for the purchase, supply, and storage of petroleum products for the territory.

One of our most important roles is via the Office of the Fire Marshall for issues of public safety.

Mr. Chairman, if we include petroleum products, our department has a budget exceeding \$360 million with 330 positions in 14 communities.

In our business plan, we are proposing to increase our budget estimates this year in a number of areas to compensate for forced growth.

For example, we are proposing to increase funding for municipalities by \$4 million to help cover utilities. We are also proposing an increase to the funding for the municipal insurance program (NAMIX) from \$200,000 to \$850,000 to reflect the higher replacement costs in the North.

Mr. Chairman, another important increase is in the total funding being proposed for the Senior and Disabled Tax Relief Program from \$40,000 to \$60,000.

Finally, on the municipal side, we are proposing to introduce a mobile equipment grant for hamlets so they purchase or lease heavy equipment on an annual basis.

(interpretation ends) In recognition of the training needs in Nunavut, we are proposing to increase the Technical Services Bursary from a total of \$45,000 to \$80,000. We also propose an increase in our contribution to Nunavut Arctic College for training in the informatics field. We would like to add an additional \$240,000.

Mr. Chairman, we continue to offer over 6,500 training days a year to municipal employees through our collaboration with the Municipal Training

Organization (MTO) to meet municipal needs as well.

CGS continues to invest significant resources to ensure that we continue to improve services and programs to our clients.

Over the past several years, we have greatly improved the GN's procurement and contracting processes and the annual reporting of these activities to the Legislative Assembly.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, the efforts we are making to improve services will continue and I commit to keeping all the members up to date on our activities and the results of our efforts.

In the Petroleum Products Division, we continue to manage Nunavut's fuel requirements on behalf of the government. As you are aware, global oil markets continue to be very unpredictable with the past year seeing record highs and lows in fuel prices worldwide.

Mr. Chairman, the Petroleum Products Division has no control over the costs. However, we were able to capitalize on lower prices this year by initiating the early purchase of 35.5 million litres of diesel and 16.5 million litres of gasoline for the eastern Arctic fuel resupply.

Normally, our purchase of fuel would begin in late June and last through early November. This early purchase initiative saved the GN in excess of \$18 million compared to last year's costs per litre.

We are currently investigating a second bulk purchase to further insulate the

territory from possible fuel price escalation and the volatility of the Canadian dollar against US currency.

(interpretation ends) An example of another recent improvement can be found in the bundling and/or unbundling of our transportation and supply activities in the purchasing of fuel products and delivery to communities. This has increased competition for our supply and resupply tenders and has resulted in a significant improvement in competitive pricing.

Mr. Chairman, our department continues to pursue substantial energy management initiatives, including such measures as improving the efficiency of building designs, lighting and heating systems, and the overall maintenance and operation of these assets. All of these efforts, Mr. Chairman, are aimed at reducing the costs associated with utilities for Government of Nunavut owned and operated assets.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, with respect to Nunavut Emergency Management, our department has been working hard to improve the response programs available to the public in the area of search and rescue.

We are continuing our work with community SAR organizations, or search and rescue organizations, hamlets, and individuals to assist in coordinating activities with the RCMP, military and community groups. We look forward to continuing progress in this important area.

(interpretation ends) The Territorial Fire Strategy Implementation Plan is also continuing and is providing a substantial

amount of training and equipment to local fire departments throughout Nunavut.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I hope that these brief comments give an appreciation of the variety of programs, services, and the various mandates that are the responsibility of Community and Government Services.

Our vision of the future is one of partnerships, collaboration, and continued efforts to meet the needs of our client groups in order to better support communities and Nunavummiut as a whole.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now look forward to your questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Are there any questions on the opening comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress. (interpretation) Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of reporting progress, please raise your hand. All those opposed to reporting progress. The majority of members would like to report progress, so the motion is carried. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): 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. Also, 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 is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Kusugak. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for June 9:

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

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, June 9, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:10*

