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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. James Arreak
(Uqqummiut)

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

James Arvaluk
(Tununiq)

Moses Aupaluktuq
(Baker Lake)

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

Ron Elliott
(Quttiktuq)

Adamee Komoartok
(Pangnirtung)

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

John Ningark
(Akulliq)

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

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

Eruk Pauloosie
(Nattilik)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)
Minister of Finance, Chair, Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Fred Schell
(South Baffin)

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

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

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

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

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday, November 25, 2009****Members Present:**

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. James Arreak) (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Ningark to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. A very good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, and Members of the Legislative Assembly. I wish our guests a wonderful afternoon. I send my regards to Nunavummiut and the people of Qikiqtarjuaq.

Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Keith Peterson.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 040 – 3(2):
Update on Fiscal Status and
Capital Estimates**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past year has been challenging for the global economy.

Throughout this economic uncertainty, our government continues to provide programs and services to Nunavummiut while carefully monitoring the fiscal situation.

Mr. Speaker, we are currently projecting a deficit of \$30.1 million based on October 31 results. This amount is slightly higher than the projected deficit of \$29.1 million detailed in the main estimates tabled in June. The deficit includes \$19.2 million that this House approved in June for the government's share of capital projects in support of Canada's Economic Action Plan. Some of these capital projects include:

- Upgrading the information technology infrastructure at Nunavut Arctic College
- Recreational infrastructure in Pond Inlet, Taloyoak, Chesterfield Inlet, Igloolik, Sanikiluaq, and Iqaluit
- Municipal infrastructure in Sanikiluaq, Arviat, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and Cambridge Bay

One of the major cost drivers in the government's budget continues to be health care expenditures. Our deficit projection includes a further appropriation of \$14.7 million to the Department of Health and Social Services through Bill 9.

To further support the Department of Health and Social Services, the government is taking advantage of an opportunity to purchase the Arviat Health Facility. This proposed purchase is part of Bill 10.

Later in this sitting, I will table the 2008-09 Interim Financial Report and the 2007-08 Public Accounts. Mr. Speaker,

this brings the government's tabling of financial information up to date.

Along with this, two supplementary appropriation bills for previous fiscal years, 2007-08 and 2008-09, will be introduced to provide additional money to the Department of Health and Social Services.

In 2010-11, the government is allocating \$111 million for capital projects throughout our territory. When the 2009-2013 Five-Year Capital Plan was approved, \$91 million was allocated for 2010-11. Although there is a backlog of capital projects, the government acknowledges that an increase of \$20 million is needed to reflect our commitment to *Tamapta* through:

- Ensuring air transportation is safe in our smaller communities
- Ensuring our communities have the necessary infrastructure. An example of this is the increase to bulk fuel storage capacity in Pangnirtung
- The recognition that the cost to build the Nunavut Heritage Centre has increased, thus a further \$7 million has been allocated to this embodiment of Inuit culture
- The construction of staff housing in Cape Dorset, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Sanikiluaq where new schools are either being constructed or additions are being built to ensure that our students have the best facilities possible to further their education
- The recognition that homeownership is a dream of many Nunavummiut. The government is assisting in this

regard by doubling the amount of funding for homeownership programs to \$4 million. This will support the government's goal of increasing housing options to Nunavummiut

Mr. Speaker, our government will continue to ensure that fiscal resources are managed properly while continuing to invest in priority areas of *Tamapta*. Working together, we will reach our vision for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 041 – 3(2):
Education Act Implementation
Workshop**

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform my colleagues about an exciting workshop that was held in Iqaluit in late September. The Department of Education hosted all school principals and district education authority chairs to a three-day meeting on implementing Nunavut's *Education Act* in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, now that the *Education Act* is in force, the Department of Education is committed to a thorough and in-depth implementation process for Nunavut's education professionals and community leaders.

Discussions over the three days covered language of instruction, positive school environments, curriculum initiatives,

inclusive education, staffing elders, and the DEA coalition. The workshop helped determine how to apply these changes in practice, clarify when they must be implemented, and explain how staff and DEAs can find and understand the information they need to support this process.

Mr. Speaker, this conference also provided an opportunity to reinforce relationships and support a collaborative approach to change. This work is an important part of continuing to build more meaningful and positive learning environments and supporting greater student achievement in our schools. Principals and DEAs worked closely to share their ideas and vision for the schools in their communities and the school system as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, an educated population is the foundation to build greater individual well-being, self-reliance, and to maximize the economic and social potential of communities. It is up to government and Nunavut's education and community leaders to navigate this new journey. After this workshop, I can assure you we are all up to the challenge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Tagak Curley.

Minister's Statement 042 – 3(2): H1N1 Flu Virus

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this time to provide an update on

H1N1, as this issue has consumed a great deal of the health system's time across the country and of course, in Nunavut over the past number of months.

We've only had a handful of confirmed H1N1 cases since September in Nunavut. We are hoping the success of our mass vaccine clinics will keep this trend going.

Mr. Speaker, the primary goal of the Department of Health and Social Services is to protect the health of Nunavutmiut and their families. To reach this goal, my department organized mass H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccine clinics in every community in Nunavut. Staff and many volunteers worked hard to ensure short wait times so that all Nunavutmiut got their flu vaccines in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, the mass vaccine clinics ran from November 1 to 16 and upon their completion, more than 18,832 Nunavutmiut, or 60 percent of our population, had been vaccinated against the H1N1 flu virus. Approximately 16,000 were also vaccinated against the seasonal flu, close to double last year's number.

I am very pleased, Mr. Speaker, to see that so many people decided to protect themselves, their families, their communities, and other Nunavutmiut by getting their flu vaccines this year. Anyone who missed the clinics can still get their H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccines at their local health centre.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to making our mass vaccination clinics a

success. Our staff and health professionals should be acknowledged for their timely and appropriate response to this issue which has transpired over several months.

I would also like to acknowledge the support we received from other GN departments, especially CGS for their support in planning and to Education for the use of their school facilities.

We would be remiss if we didn't thank the Canadian Rangers, who made themselves available to assist if called upon. They assisted people with disabilities and carted people without transportation to the health centres to get their vaccination shots.

We also wish to thank the RCMP, hamlets and their officials, many local volunteers, nurses, local businesses and organizations that provided donations and transportation services, and to community stores that provided refreshments and snacks to the people who went to the vaccination clinics.

We wish to thank all of the people, who are too numerous to mention but whom we wish to thank for their assistance in this vaccination program. So I would like to thank all Nunavutmiut who partook in this vaccination program in their communities.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 043 – 3(2): Ministers Announce Funding for Cyber Infrastructure Project

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Arviat this past September, I was joined by the Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, our federal health minister and the Minister responsible for the North, to announce more than \$4.9 million of federal and territorial infrastructure funding to improve the information technology infrastructure of the Nunavut Arctic College.

Called the Cyber Infrastructure Project, it is being implemented for the Arctic College by the Informatics Division of CG&S. The goal is to build a system that works in all communities and we are committed to providing as many opportunities as we can for our students in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, more Nunavutmiut are setting their sights on post-secondary education each year. We are the only jurisdiction in Canada that does not yet have the capacity to take full advantage of distance and online learning technologies.

These infrastructure improvements will address this concern and lead to new learning opportunities for our students. It establishes a foundation for the communications infrastructure required to make online learning and research more accessible to all Nunavutmiut through Arctic College's network of community learning centres.

Mr. Speaker, these investments will help us build connections with each other, with the rest of Canada and the world. The impact on adult learners will mirror

the commercial revolution that occurred only a few short years ago with the establishment of broadband Internet services in our territory.

Investment in these resources will improve the lives of all Nunavutmiut who call Canada's polar region home. *Ma'na*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Hon. Hunter Tootoo.

**Minister's Statement 044 – 3(2):
Qulliq Energy Corporation
Accomplishment: Apprenticeship
Boot Camp**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the Members of this House of the Third Annual Apprenticeship Boot Camp held by the Qulliq Energy Corporation this past month. The previous boot camp program was completely redesigned in 2009, becoming one of the most apprentice training/recruitment programs in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the excellent partnership and support that the Qulliq Energy Corporation received from the Department of Education and the Government of Nunavut is living testimony of what can be achieved when cross-government departments and organizations sincerely work as mutual collaborators to ensure the success of the goals of both.

Forty-two candidates started the program, moving through a structured three-pronged trades training program

based on a rigorous set of technical and aptitude criteria. Mr. Speaker, at the close of boot camp, our trainer committee selected 18 candidates of which 83.3 percent are beneficiaries. That's 15 out of the 18, Mr. Speaker. These new apprentices will be based in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the real success of this program is twofold. The Qulliq Energy Corporation is bringing into its trades 18 new apprentice employees that will provide important succession planning and reduced recruitment costs. It also moves 18 very excited Nunavummiut into future long-term and important trade careers that will provide them and their families with excellent financial stability as well as the life opportunities this stability offers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. If there are no more, Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, John Ningark.

Item 3: Members' Statements

**Member's Statement 066 – 3(2):
Escorts for Patients**

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to send my greetings to my constituents in the communities of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk. To the rest of Nunavut, I hope you have a good day.

I have gone to both Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk several times since I was elected and many concerns have been

relayed to me which I would like to voice.

I would like to first of all thank the nurses for the vaccination shots which I received in both arms. I urge all the members to take the vaccine shot. We know that this is a health precaution that is for the good of the health of Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay residents. We are aware of this because the Department of Health and Social Services has a very good policy that they use.

I wish to personally thank the minister for giving the patients a place to voice their concerns and request information, especially after Mr. Curley took on the portfolio. People can either call Mr. Curley or perhaps write to the minister to express their issues. It is a fact that some people don't have telephones in their homes, Mr. Speaker, and to exacerbate this, many people are fearful to make a complaint in person.

As I stated earlier, many of my constituents express their concerns to me, several of which I have noticed personally with regard to medical travel. Some patients are allowed to bring escorts and they are sent with the patient. However, some patients are sent out without escorts while other patients who are quite capable of communicating are allowed escorts.

With respect to patients who are in more difficult situations, whether they be patients with second language difficulties or those who are in more serious health circumstances, they are sometimes sent out without escorts. At the appropriate time, I will be posing questions to the minister with regard to the escort policy.

To cite specific examples, there was a patient who was suffering from a bad back and couldn't even hold any luggage. Yet, they were sent out without an escort. Further, another patient who was being sent out for an operation was very concerned about the operation but was sent out without an escort. There are cases like this that I will be referring to later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 067 – 3(2): Pond Inlet Sports Arena Announcement

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very pleasurable to be back in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice our gratitude on behalf of Pond Inlet residents, particularly our youth in Pond Inlet. I would like to specifically thank Senator Dennis Patterson and Minister Kusugak, the Minister of Community and Government Services, for visiting our community to announce the funding for the construction of our new sports arena.

I've had the opportunity to work with Senator Patterson on several occasions in the past, starting from the time when he first came north as a young lawyer full of energy and ideas to initiate the Maliganik Tukisiniarvik program to when we served together as MLAs in the Northwest Territories' legislature.

I am very pleased and honoured that our newly appointed Senator took the time to

visit Nunavut and to come to our community of Pond Inlet to announce this important investment in our youth, in our families, and in our community.

Last Friday, many Pond Inlet residents came to welcome and meet the Senator and Minister Kusugak, as well as to hear the official Nunavut announcement regarding the new arena and partake in a community feast. I understand that the materials for the arena will be arriving in the summer and it will be built shortly after that.

However, I would like to first of all thank my predecessor who unfortunately passed away, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, and his surviving family for tirelessly pursuing the issue on behalf of young Pond Inlet residents.

I would also like to thank the previous mayors, Peter Aglak and David Qamaniq, for pursuing what sometimes seemed like a lost cause.

Last but not least, I wish to recognize the people of Pond Inlet for not giving up on the idea of having a proper winter recreational complex for their community.

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

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

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, investment in infrastructure projects, such as the Pond Inlet Arena, are vitally important to the social and economic health of our communities. The youth of our communities are future hockey players, figure skaters, and other ice sports athletes. I greatly appreciate the effort made on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the community of Pond Inlet for achieving this goal. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 068 – 3(2): Sport and Recreation: Ensuring Equal Opportunity

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring attention to the importance of ensuring equal opportunity for all young Nunavummiut who participate in sporting events.

The physical and mental health of young people is extremely important. This is especially true in Nunavut, where youth make up a large percentage of the population. Participation in sports is a major contributing factor to the physical and mental health of young Nunavummiut.

There are a number of major sporting events in Nunavut that require sports teams to travel in order to meet in one community. Regardless of where a sports team is located, a registration fee

is usually required in order for a team to participate in an event.

However, for those teams travelling from more remote communities in Nunavut, travel costs are higher. The more remote the location the higher the travel cost and the higher the travel cost the more fundraising is required. I believe that high travel costs should not prevent young Nunavummiut from participating in sporting events.

Young athletes should not be penalized because of where they live. Rather than impose greater effort and financial burden on youth in more remote locations, I suggest that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth work towards ensuring that young Nunavummiut in remote communities do not get left out.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to consider what steps need to be taken to ensure that all teams have equal opportunity to participate in sporting events. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 069 – 3(2): A
Warm Welcome to Air Canada
Jazz**

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to extend a welcome to everyone here, especially our elders. I am very pleased that you are able to attend this meeting today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very warm welcome to Air Canada Jazz, which has announced that it will commence service between Iqaluit and Ottawa/Montreal early next year. Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is very positive news for the residents of Iqaluit and my constituents.

As all members are aware, the high cost of air travel to and within the North is an issue of concern in all of our communities here in Nunavut. I have lost count of the number of hours that I have spent on aircraft over the years and I probably couldn't begin to calculate how much I have spent on airfare costs.

The introduction of new carriers serving Nunavut should be welcomed as a positive step towards greater competition and lower prices for our residents. I believe that competition between stores, airlines, and other private sector companies should be embraced, not feared.

Mr. Speaker, a closely related issue concerns the development of our tourism industry. For many years, we have heard that tourism has the potential to a significant growth area in our economy. It is a sector that also holds the potential for creating much needed jobs in our territory. However, the high cost of air travel between Nunavut and the south has always been a major barrier to the tourism sector.

Earlier today, I went online and priced two different routes. A return ticket on Air Canada between Ottawa and London, England, leaving on December 10 of this year will cost you as little as \$1,163. However, a return ticket between Ottawa and Iqaluit on one of

the two carriers currently serving the North leaving on the same day will cost you over \$1,900.

Mr. Speaker, if we want more tourists to choose Nunavut as their destination, airfares have to come down to reasonable levels. We will never be able to fully realize our tourism potential if southerners can fly to Europe hundreds of dollars less than it takes to make the three-hour commute to Iqaluit.

I welcome the potential for our constituents to benefit from more competition, more choice, and I look forward to a new era of air travel to the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 070 – 3(2):
Update on the New School for
Coral Harbour**

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin, I would like to send my condolences to the Kolit family of Coral Harbour and to the Kimmaliardjuk family of Chesterfield Inlet who have lost a close family member. My thoughts are with you today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Minister Tapardjuk and his staff, as well as Minister Kusugak for coming to the community of Coral Harbour on November 12 to meet with community representatives.

Mr. Speaker, members of Coral Harbour's hamlet council and district education authority appreciated the opportunity to raise the issue of the new school with the ministers. The discussions were far ranging and also addressed issues such as the new *Education Act* and its regulations, which were considered very important.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, I have addressed this on more than one occasion, the importance that communities feel that they are being listened to and that their community concerns are being addressed. It is something that is very important to the communities and I encourage ministers to continue to keep the lines of communication with community representative clear and open. It makes a difference.

Mr. Speaker, Members of this House will be aware that the new school project in Coral Harbour has been an issue to me. I was disappointed when it was not included in previous budgets until 2014. I am pleased that it is back on the government's capital plan.

Mr. Speaker, I should note, however, that I'm not entirely satisfied that Coral Harbour's new school project will be getting underway sooner than the year 2014. I will be lobbying this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 071 – 3(2):
Opening of the Gjoa Haven
Continuing Care Facility**

Mr. Pauloosie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the many individuals who worked long and hard towards the opening of the new continuing care facility in Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Gjoa Haven was pleased to welcome the Minister of Health and Social Services to the community for the grand opening event on November 4. On behalf of the community, I thank Minister Curley and his staff for sharing this important occasion with us.

Mr. Speaker, I am also very pleased to congratulate the 14 ladies from Gjoa Haven who dedicated themselves to the health care training program which now certifies them to work in the facility once it begins to take in clients in the New Year.

Mr. Speaker, in celebration of this event, the community hosted a drum dance followed by a community feast and a square dance at the gymnasium. I was very happy to be able to play music for this event. It is not often that one gets to participate on so many levels.

Mr. Speaker, having a 24-hour care facility in Nunavut, such as the continuing care centre in Gjoa Haven, means that many of our residents who need this additional care and support will be able to receive it in Nunavut, closer to their home and families. This benefits all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank our former health and social services

minister, Leona Aglukkaq, who is now our federal health minister, who worked very hard in getting this beautiful facility built in Gjoa Haven, which will be utilized by many in need of 24-hour care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 072 – 3(2):
Passing of Mrs. Ukpik Patiq**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to offer my condolences to the people of Rankin Inlet. This fall, the residents of Rankin Inlet lost an elder and with this loss, it seemed that the median age dropped. The individual who passed away was over 90 years old.

Her name was Ukpik, Ms. Patiq, and she passed away this fall. I'm sure that she was one of the oldest people in Nunavut. This individual was quite skilled, strong, and knowledgeable and I am sure that her legacy will continue with her relatives as well as the people of Rankin Inlet and the people of Nunavut.

She had many relatives throughout Nunavut. I send my condolences to all of her relatives who lost their loved one. I would like to show my gratitude to Ukpik as she was an important part of Rankin Inlet's development and she also left behind her wisdom to many residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak. Members' Statements. If there are no more, Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Premier, Hon. Eva Aariak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 093 – 3(2): Former Deputy Minister of Justice

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to apologize for a slight error made in my response to a question directed to me by the Member for Iqaluit West yesterday.

(interpretation ends) Yesterday, in a response to an Oral Question from the MLA for Iqaluit West, I indicated that a former Deputy Minister of Justice was removed by a member when he was the Minister of Justice. The member tabled a document yesterday which indicated that the deputy resigned and indicated the reason for that resignation.

Mr. Speaker, I apologize for my error and I apologize to the member. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Returns to Oral Questions. If there are no more, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. My *Annuraaqatik*, Louis Tapardjuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, my *Annuraaqatik*, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I have the pleasure of acknowledging the members from the

Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajiit who are in the Gallery.

The council has been re-established with members appointed for a three-year term. These new members will be on this committee for the next three years and I will be introducing the members, although not all of them managed to arrive to Iqaluit.

Alice Ayalik from Kugluktuk.

Koonoo Oyukuluk from Arctic Bay.

Raygelee Arnaquq from Qikiqtarjuaq.

Leona Qrunnut from Igloolik.

Sammie Peter from Iqaluit.

Laisa Ningiuk from Grise Fiord.

Simeonie Aqpik from Kimmirut.

I am most likely mispronouncing this individual's name, Iqsuqtuq Ittuq from Coral Harbour. He is not here, right?

Gamailee Kilukishak from Pond Inlet.

Peteroosie Qappik from Pangnirtung. There he is.

Jacobie Iqalukjuaq from Clyde River.

Qabawa Qatsiya from Cape Dorset. I may be mistaken here.

Those are the individuals who have arrived to Iqaluit.

We also have three individuals who haven't made it into Iqaluit: Andre Tautu from Chesterfield Inlet, Arnaujuq Aluki

from Taloyoak, and Marie Anguti from Kugaaruk.

Those are the members of the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit*.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* government employees, Andrew Tagak, Jonah Kelly, Anne Mullin, and Rhoda Cunningham. Mr. Elijah Erkloo is here from the Inuit Language Authority, who is sitting at the other end. Our staff are here as well, Shuvenai Mike and Oleena Naujuq, who are responsible for the authority and council.

I would like to welcome them to the Gallery, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery, our esteemed elders. I would like you to know that you are always welcome to sit on the seats that have been designated for you.

(interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank you for introducing Ms. Ningsiuk and Mr. Oyukuluk, but I also have Zipporah Oyukuluk and her son, Gabriel, from Arctic Bay. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am quite

satisfied with the appointments at this time and I would like to make this comment prior to my acknowledging these elders.

Before I mention the person's name, in 1986, I was told and James Arvaluk knew that very old elder in Labrador, Marty Martin, who went to Pangnirtung twice and Cambridge Bay. Before he passed away, I went to go see him for a week in Nain, Labrador. On my way home, he told me that I shouldn't forget the people of Labrador.

I am very pleased and honoured to recognize two individuals from Labrador, Sandra Hope and Caroline Michellin, who are from the Labrador Aboriginal Healing Foundation. Please stand up. Welcome.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize an individual from my constituency, Ms. Natsiq Kango. Welcome. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think everyone from Nunavut recognizes Jonah Kelly. I especially would like to welcome Laisa Ningsiuk, who was involved with the Nunavut Development Corporation. It

was very hard to access funds from that corporation. But anyways, I thank you all and I recognize everyone.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. If there are no more, we will go back to the Orders of the Day. Item 6. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 094 – 3(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation's Inuit Employment Plan

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I tabled a document in regard to QEC's Inuit Employment Plan. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation how they are going to be increasing the Inuit employed within the corporation from 2009 to 2013.

It is apparent that many beneficiaries don't possess the confidence or the belief that they can be successful in undertaking the kind of training needed to move into positions with more responsibility. It seems like we are going back to the 60s.

My question to the minister is: what is he doing about the corporation's Inuit employees in improving their skills to advance within the corporation? 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 would like to thank the member for that question. I think I would first off just disagree. We're not going back to the 60s; I think we're moving forward into the 21st or 22nd century.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the corporation continues to be a dedicated employer of Inuit throughout the territory. I believe we have one of the highest Inuit employment rates throughout the government. Overall, as a department, I believe we are at 56 percent. There are a number of different things that the corporation is doing - training programs, succession plans, mentoring positions for Inuit employees.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I just want to correct your record. As of right now, the corporation does not have an Inuit Employment Plan. It's developing one and I would be more than happy, once that plan is developed and approved by the board of directors, myself, and Cabinet, to be able to provide it for all members to see. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The document, as prepared, states this and delineates what will be undertaken, and that this is the corporation's document.

My question previously was in regard to whether the minister has seen the document and whether or not to accept the document as written. I would like to know what his position is on this and if

he has agreed to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the member that I saw the document this morning, the tabled document. I know that the corporation has not provided any Inuit Employment Plan, or a draft plan, or anything to the board of directors or me for approval, so I know that it's work in progress.

The corporation, in the spirit of being open and transparent in developing their Inuit Employment Plan, has been proactive in involving as many of the employees as possible, getting feedback from them on what they think should be included in that plan. But as of yet, like I said, the corporation doesn't have a plan in place.

To answer his question, the document that he is referring to, the one he tabled yesterday, I would assume that that was probably a draft revision. I know that there have been more revisions since then. So I would be leery to even comment on that document because some of that information has changed since then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reading the document, it is even frightening to an Inuk when it states that their Inuit employees are not interested in advancing in their careers. It's quite disturbing to see that.

Further, it states that this is just a draft plan. Yet, it seems to be more than that. Who was the author of this draft? If minister didn't see the current business plan, who wrote or published them? This type of condescending theme is something we surpassed.

What we would like to see is a new plan that highlights the capabilities of our Inuit employees because Inuit are quite capable when they want to be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a question, so if he could clarify if there was a question there. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Okalik, can you rephrase your question. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This document doesn't indicate that it is a draft, so it's not a first draft. Who put the document together? The minister indicated that he didn't see this document. Who approved this document? I can see that the name of the president is on the plan, so did that person approve this document? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you look on the bottom left-hand corner, it says revision four, so I would say it's a work in progress.

As I indicated, the corporation is developing one. They have been seeking input and feedback from employees throughout the corporation on what they keep bringing forward, and I believe they're actually on revision six right now. Like I said, even though he tabled a copy of something that probably doesn't even look the same now as it did then, this is a work in progress.

The corporation, like I said, instead of senior management working in isolation, which sometimes seemed to happen in the past, has been proactive in involving all of its employees to be able to have input and feedback on such an important document as the Inuit Employment Plan for the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not clear who authored this document, although it seems it was one of his employees. Whoever authored this document should be sent packing because that kind of mindset is no longer acceptable.

Inuit are very capable in many areas, including advancement in a corporation. This type of condescension is not at all acceptable. What I would like to say is that individual who wrote this should be fired. Who drafted this document? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think anyone should be fired for doing their job.

Mr. Speaker, I inquired into this after the document was tabled. I believe it was about three years ago, the former president then at the time was Ms. Crawford, which I believe the member appointed as the president, who had indicated to the staff at the time they had put together to start working on developing a plan. One of the things that they were directed to include in the plan is some of the challenges that they have run into in being able to attract, retain, and move Inuit and beneficiaries further along in the corporation.

I think the member is looking at it in isolation. I think some of the things that have been identified are actual circumstances that the corporation has run into in the past. I think the reasoning behind that, in order to address some of the challenges that are being faced by the corporation so that we can recruit, retain, and move Inuit up through the ranks in the corporation, is to be able to know the challenges that we faced in the past and that's what that is for.

In this administration, if we don't like someone doing their job and giving us the hard facts, we don't just fire them. If someone is doing their job, they are doing what they have been instructed to do and I don't think that anybody should be fired for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 095 – 3(2): Escorts for Patients

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of my constituents in Akulliq, the communities of Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay, I would like to thank the minister for the funding we receive for medical travel through the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, including the territorial and federal governments.

However, the gist of my earlier comments is that those patients who require more assistance, Mr. Speaker, the less capable patients, are being sent out alone even though they require more assistance when travelling. Some are quite capable of travelling alone. Yet, they seem to be able to get escorts while less able patients are sent without an escort.

I would like to ask the minister this question: when patients are sent out through the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, which office makes the decision on escorts? Who approves the individuals being able to bring escorts? Is it the local nurse that decides that, or for example, if it is in the Kitikmeot, is that decision made in Cambridge Bay? Conversely, for Repulse Bay, is that decision made in Rankin Inlet?

I would like to know how decisions are made regarding escorts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Before I let the minister respond, I would like to tell the members to state which minister they are directing their questions to. Luckily for the member, I understood who he was

referring to. Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Tagak Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for posing that question. In regard to the statement that you made earlier, it is true that people who are Inuit have their medical expenses paid for under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

As you stated, the people who need escorts should be able to bring one. It's not all like that in Nunavut. If an individual is unilingual, then it's a requirement for this individual to bring an escort. It doesn't necessarily mean getting the approval from the nurse. The condition of their health, their physical abilities, or their being unilingual means they are required to bring an escort.

However, in some cases and possibly because they don't understand the policy or haven't seen the policy, they don't allow patients to bring escorts. The territorial health coordinator is in Cambridge Bay and you can feel free to call that individual to get the policy. Andrew Tagak is also available to give you the information on the type of policy that we have in regard to escorts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize because I forgot to mention who I was directing my question to and it was indeed meant for the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Curley.

I don't know whether or not he responded to this question: whose discretion is it and who is responsible to say whether or not an escort is required? Is it the nurse in charge or is it dealt with on a regional basis? Using our region as an example, is it dealt with out of Cambridge Bay?

Who makes the ultimate decision on escorts when they are dealing with emergency matters or less urgent matters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the question, I can state that for emergency cases in the community where the nurses are unsure and they are in the Kivalliq region, for example, they can call the regional director in Rankin Inlet or their medical staff counterparts.

However, in the first place, it is the nurse in charge who makes the recommendation. The nurse in charge has to ensure that the patient fully understands the situation and whether that patient requires an escort. We want the patients to fully understand what is required.

For example, if you're denied an escort and you're in the Baffin region, you can call the Pangnirtung office. But the first case scenario is the nurse in charge recommends whether or not an individual should bring an escort. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Minister Tagak Curley.

My second supplementary is in regard to a case where I was informed about a patient who, when preparations were being made for his medical travel, was told that an escort was approved since he was suffering from a back problem. A month after being apprised of an approved escort for his travel, he was informed that an escort hadn't been approved and this begs a question.

So I would like to inform the minister that in cases where patients are told in advance that an escort has been approved, it leads to expectations which allow them to no longer be fearful of their trip. However, at the end of the day, these patients are told that an escort wasn't approved and they don't have any further choices since their travel dates are already set.

Could the minister ensure that health professionals are adhering to the escort policy at the community level? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand your concern. If you have additional concerns in regard to patients not receiving proper care or services, you can forward those complaints to the appropriate managerial staff. If these concerns can't be addressed at that level, then the concerns are relayed to the regional offices that are responsible for making these decisions.

We don't receive very many complaints at the headquarters level.

But we wish to inform the member that escorts are only provided for patients who really require additional assistance. This is due to the fact that it is very expensive to provide escorts for all of the patients. Last year, there were 46,000 patients booked to be seen at hospitals outside of Nunavut. If we were to provide an escort in all of these cases, we would eat up the budget instantaneously. So we do have underlying financial implications that sometimes cause issues.

However, I can tell the member that if there are complaints about the lack of providing escorts in cases where they are clearly required, we would like to hear about them so that we can rectify them in the future. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for providing that clarification.

I would like to highlight another case where a patient expressed their concerns to me about their situation. A patient who was going to the hospital with no prior history of operations was found to have an illness and thus required an operation. The patient wanted to bring an escort from their nuclear family but wasn't approved.

In those cases, the mental distress can be just as harmful as the actual illness, especially in such stressful situations as

a first operation. It would make the matter a lot easier if the patient had an escort. I'm just commenting on this situation and not asking a question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 096 – 3(2): Inuit Employment Plan

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to go back to some more questions on what Mr. Okalik was asking, so I'm directing my questions towards the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

You said that we have a copy of the fourth revised one, and then there is a fifth and a sixth of this employment plan for QEC. Is that the understanding? Is this a working document that every year or every quarter, they go through it to sort of update and track the progress for it? Thank you.

Oh, sorry, wrong department.

>> *Laughter*

It's QEC, the energy minister.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I almost grabbed my other binder, trying to catch me off guard.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, the Power Corporation doesn't have an Inuit employment plan right now, they're developing one. It's work in progress. I would imagine the document that the Member for Iqaluit West tabled was probably an internal document used. As I said, the corporation and the administration of the corporation is developing it and putting it out there for employees to be able to provide input and feedback on.

As I indicated also, I believe, we're hoping by mid-winter or spring to have a final Inuit employment plan. At that time, when it is a final document, I would be more than happy to provide it to the members or table it here in the House once it has had the board of directors' approval and approval by me and the Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for getting the wrong department. I didn't want to (inaudible).

Actually, I was kind of shocked that it mentioned that some employees were actually afraid to advance and even afraid to take up employment within this corporation because of family ties and whatnot. It says that in 2010, the plan is to deliver a respectful workplace workshop.

With 2010 being so close, do you guys have a schedule of when it would be going out or when it would be happening? I know you said that it was a plan that continues to be revised, but if it's such a problem, then... and it says

here that by 2010, something is going to be done. I'm just wondering if it has been planned. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. As I indicated, this is a work... The final draft might not have anything like that in there. I would assume that this was an internal document meant to be put out there for employees to provide feedback so that they feel that they are a part of the development of a plan for the corporation. That hasn't happened yet.

As I indicated in my response earlier also, one of the things that staff were directed to include in the plan is to identify some of the challenges that they have actually faced over a number of years. Once we know and compile what are the challenges we're facing, how do we come up with a plan to be able to overcome those challenges and I think that's where some of the stuff has been included into the document.

An example of a respectful workplace may be one way of trying to overcome one of the challenges that has been faced at the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that explanation. In the document, it also talks about the possibility... one of the big or major concerns they had too is that funding is not available, they're a small corporation. In terms of training,

mentoring, and apprenticeships, they don't have a lot of money.

With our O&M coming up probably in January, has the department come to you seeking funding or increased funding as part of this as well? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The corporation is a little bit different than a government department. The board of directors develops and approves the budgets for the corporation.

I would like to mention, as I mentioned in my Minister's Statement earlier today, that there has been great collaboration and partnership between the corporation, the GN, and the Department of Education, along with the federal government.

I would say the boot camp that was just provided here last year, I think, was an initiative close to \$300,000. The majority was received through a grant or program from the federal government. So this is the first time that the corporation didn't have to fork out all of the money for developing and running the boot camp.

Like I said, that was a good example of working together and being able to tap into additional resources that we don't have to be able to provide those training opportunities for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. He answered part of my next question, which was: if there were any other successes that he could actually elaborate on in terms of mentoring programs. I know he mentioned the boot camp, but were there any other sort of successes that he could tell us about? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I generally mentioned some of the other opportunities that are provided to Inuit employees within the Qulliq Energy Corporation. But I will commit, as I already asked my staff, to put together a list of some of the success stories that have been out there and some of the initiatives that the corporation has undertaken to be able to improve, attract, retain, and promote Inuit within the corporation.

Mr. Speaker, one of the other things, as far as involvement in the development of an Inuit employment plan that wasn't there in the past, was that our employees felt that it was just somebody in an office somewhere coming up with the document. The corporation's executive right now has decided, like I said earlier, with openness and transparency, they want to involve the employees in developing that plan.

I was just informed this morning that they've got the terms of reference for an Inuit Employment Planning Committee. I know two Inuit employees based here in Iqaluit have already agreed to sit on that committee. So anything that deals with the development of the Inuit employment plan for the corporation will flow through that committee and

they will be able to provide recommendations for changes, or additions, or anything to that before it goes any further.

So I guess another example administratively of how the corporation is involving its employees so that they have a say in the plans that are being developed is the Inuit employment plan is being developed for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 097 – 3(2): Inuit Employment Plan

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, the electric shock company.

>> *Laughter*

I would like to pose this question in relation to the report in English which states that it's the fourth revision, environmental scan on page 13. It means that this has been perused by management staff and it's the way it is. It states that this is how Inuit employees are perceived and it states that right there.

With respect to the report, the body of the text or even the recommendations may change, but the first part which was reviewed would not change and that is how it would be perceived. I would like to ask this question since I didn't fully comprehend the answer provided to Mr.

Okalik when he was asking about the report which is currently under review.

Did you approve of this report for dissemination even though it erringly infers that Inuit don't want to be part of the management or that they are not interested in being promoted? It states that Inuit employees are not interested in higher positions as they are content in their positions, which includes other assumptions made in the environmental scan.

Were you involved in the drafting of this scan and did you approve and sign this report for dissemination? If it wasn't you, then who approved this document for release? Who made the decision about including this perception of Inuit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the member's question, if he could refer to the first page, the signature block is there and nobody signed it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is that his guarded response, stating that he didn't sign the document, that he didn't approve the document as it is drafted, and that it was a document drafted entirely by QEC without his involvement? Is he saying that as the minister, he didn't sign it

since he didn't have a chance to review it? Is this what I am to read into his response? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to clarify for the record that this wasn't a document that was published outside the corporation. It said that the corporation, in development of this Inuit employment plan, wanted to involve the employees it affects. So this was an internal document.

The bottom of this one says it is revision four, so I'm sure that there were a number of other revisions prior to that, at least three other ones. I'm pretty sure there are at least one or two revisions after that, so this isn't a final document.

I believe the corporation, in trying to get input and feedback from its employees, may have distributed this internally. But one, it has not been published by the corporation. Two, like I said, on the front page where it says the minister's signature, I don't see any signatures there. So that should answer the second part of the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a fourth revision, as the minister stated. Even after the fourth revision, the environmental scan on page 13 of 22 does not change. It's published still the same as the first revision.

Because it's an observation by the management, this is contrary to Article 23 of the land claims agreement. This is against the Canadian Constitution of not discriminating or at least observing certain Canadian citizens in a very negative way.

I do not see that in my community that, "I want to stay in the same position forever. I'm not interested in becoming a manager." The people in my community go out to Cambridge Bay for training, to Iqaluit, everywhere, with their families and sometimes leaving their families behind.

My question here is: how do you expect your department to change the environmental scan, at least the observation of the Inuit, on revision four, five, six, seven, or whatever the number of revisions that you're going to be making? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier in my first response to the Member for Iqaluit West, I'm leery talking about the contents of a document that probably doesn't even exist in this format anymore, it's not an approved document.

What I will indicate is, like I said, that the staff were directed by the former president to identify some of the challenges that they have actually encountered in being able to attract, retain, and promote Inuit within the corporation.

Some of these that are listed in here, I would assume, are some of the challenges that the corporation actually faced and ran into. I believe that the idea behind identifying what those challenges are is so as a corporation, once we know what they are, we can look at ways to try and overcome those challenges so that they no longer become a problem and a deterrent for the corporation to deal with.

If we know that that's a challenge, how can we help people overcome that challenge so that they can look at progressing, being promoted, and looking for a different job within the corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the damage has been done already. The public already heard what our concerns are. The environmental scan of these observations at first on revision four does not reflect the *Pinasuaqtavut* document and other documents that the government has issued in the last ten years.

Will the minister then at least instruct his corporation to issue an environmental scan that reflects more of the government documents in the past ten years, especially the documents that the Cabinet has issued for the goals and aims of the government? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I would disagree with

what the member is saying that the damage has been done.

As I indicated earlier, if you want to change things and improve things, you've got to know what's wrong. If you look at the same thing with the tremendous feedback and support that we got in regard to the report card process, where people were very happy to have an opportunity to express what their concerns were, what they would like to see changed, and how they feel things could be improved, that's what the corporation is doing here with its staff.

By not including some of the things that are actually happening there is like sticking your head in the sand and pretending it don't exist, and then things won't get better. We won't be able to address and overcome those challenges if we don't recognize those challenges and deal with them.

The directive that was given on this was to identify some of the challenges that we're facing and have faced. That's what this is doing. Until we acknowledge and know what those challenges are, we can't move forward to try and address them so that it no longer becomes an issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 098 – 3(2): Fuel Delivery Situation in Sanikiluaq

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll give Mr. Tootoo a break and ask the question to a different member. My

question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services as his department manages the fuel delivery contract in my community.

As the minister may be aware, a situation has developed in Sanikiluaq with respect to refuelling of aircraft. It's my understanding that aircraft have not been able to refuel in the community since November 10 due to fuel dispensary issues at the airport.

There appears to be a problem with the connection between the fuel truck and the dispenser at the airport. This has caused all medical flights to have to refuel in Northern Quebec or elsewhere before going back to Winnipeg. I am concerned that such delays pose a risk to emergency situations.

Has the minister been made aware of this situation by his officials and what steps has his department taken to address it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm surprised to give my colleague a break with the questioning.

The member is correct. Approximately two weeks ago, the connection that enables ticketing to happen between the airline fuel tank transferred and the fuel truck, that connection was not working anymore. The failure has caused a problem with fuelling up the airplane.

I assure the member that all of the airlines that travel to and from Sanikiluaq have been notified of the

problem. It did occur a couple of weeks ago. It's a custom made connector and our department has since ordered the part. It was supposed to be in there a couple of days ago, but it still hasn't been there. It should be there as soon as possible. It is actually trying to get to Sanikiluaq at this time.

I am aware of the problem and we're trying to rectify it as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. He mentioned a bit about the connection between the trucks and the dispenser.

Concerns have also been raised with me with respect to the lack of a metering system at the airport. Will the minister commit to working with the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation to address this situation so that aircraft do not have to rely on trucks for refuelling? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will work with the appropriate department to look at ways of rectifying that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is also my understanding that although a new fuel truck arrived in the

community in July, it is not yet operational due to various reasons. Will the minister commit to reviewing this situation and report back to me with an update? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue has nothing to do with the airport issue, but I will gladly update you on the matter. The matter is regarding the new fuel truck that arrived there this summer to serve as a backup for the existing one that has been there for a while. The issue has to do with insuring the vehicle.

The contractor, Tookalook Fuel Dispensers, had issues with insuring the vehicle. I have been notified that that issue is being rectified and it should be insured and on the road shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And if there are any changes, I will be glad to notify the member from Sanikiluaq. Thank you.

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

Question 099 – 3(2): Confirmed New Cases of H1N1

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know Mr. Schell had his hand up before me, but...

My question is directed towards the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Tagak Curley. In his Member's Statement, he mentioned that there were a handful of confirmed H1N1 cases since September. I was just wondering if the minister could actually give us a number of how many cases were confirmed. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since September, we currently have 11 to date. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health and Social Services has two websites of current interest, its main government website and the flunu website. I was just curious to find out how often these sites are revisited and revised to provide up-to-date and current information to Nunavummiut. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new website was launched about a month ago, so I can tell the member it's been in operation for about a month. I believe it has gone through at least one revision. I indicated to the officials at that time that they should include the communities exactly when the mass vaccination programs were going to come into effect. But since a month ago, one revision is not bad. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary... no more? Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Question 100 – 3(2): Faulty New Holland Equipment

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the housing minister. I

see he is relaxed there, so I can ask him this question.

My understanding is that there have been some issues with the New Holland telehandlers, I'm going back to "telegates" here now, that were ordered. My question is: what is the minister doing about the other 13 or 14 units that have to be purchased? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm surprised the member is asking me questions about that.

Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that the corporation has developed a standard operating procedures manual for those units and has been forwarded on, I would say thanks to the advice given by the member himself, to the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. We're still awaiting a final feedback from them on the standard operating procedures dealing with the telehandlers that he mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So in other words, you're trying to tell me that nothing has been done with it. Have you gone back to the other companies to get prices on it and with different specs, etcetera? I have heard that the Housing Corporation has gone back to Toromont to get prices on them and that's the reason I'm asking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It appears the member has a good relationship with the people at Toromont.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, once we get official feedback from WSCC, if there are any changes required based on their review of the standard operating procedures, then the corporation will take appropriate action at that time.

If they indicate that there's a need to have a different type of equipment, then, at that time, I would imagine that the decision would be made to go and my guess would be, just to keep the member happy and everyone else happy, that a tender call or an RFP would be put out if something comes out that requires more stringent specifications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 101 – 3(2): Inuit Employment Plan

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The more I listen to the questions raised with respect to this matter by my colleagues the more it raises questions than answers based on the responses of the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

As Inuit, we are the same as other people. We are, by no means, better or worse than others, although Inuit tend to be more humble. Due to this observation made in the document, and I don't know

who drafted this, a staff member obviously needs more training about Inuit and their culture. Our capabilities are no less than any other people. I didn't choose to be an Inuk; I was born as an Inuk with my capabilities being no more or less than other people.

In my opinion, the minister ought to direct his staff to move beyond their outmoded perceptions, especially if he is to look at any of his employees today who have that perception. They ought to be taught properly about our cultural perceptions and shown that Inuit have progressed beyond those prejudicial observations. 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 believe I have indicated on more than one occasion today that I would assume this is a draft document. I know this has probably gone through one or two more revisions since then.

Also, as I had indicated, I agree with the member 100 percent, Inuit are capable. But what he's referring to in the document was, as directed by a former president, I believe, that what are the challenges that we're facing. When you're interviewing staff, why are they not doing.... These are some of the responses and some of the examples that the corporation has actually run into in the past, where it's not making them up and it's not generalizing.

It's just saying that these are some of the examples of the challenges that the corporation has run into in the past. What that does for the corporation is just

that, to try and take down those barriers. How do we address those concerns so that we can make it easier for Inuit employees to be able to, if they choose, move forward and move higher up within the corporation? That's exactly what's going on. The corporation is doing just that.

In order to be able to improve things, you've got to know what the challenges are. What the members keep referring to is these challenges that have been faced in there. The corporation, in talking to employees, said that these are actual things that Inuit employees have told them.

I think we need to know what those challenges and obstacles are so that we can find ways to get rid of them, so that we can make more opportunity for Inuit to progress through the ranks within the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It is also apparent that many beneficiaries do not possess the confidence or the belief that they can be successful undertaking the kind of training needed to move into positions of more responsibility. Really, today, I think we have gone past that point.

So I would like this document withdrawn and whoever wrote this document removed. Is the minister willing to do that? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I never presented this document, the member did. If he wants to withdraw it, he can go ahead. Nothing has been signed off on it. Nothing has been done. It was an internal document for feedback.

Like I said before, these are concerns that our staff are hearing from the employees. They're not making this up. I think ignoring the fact of what people are telling you will not help you be able to address those issues and concerns. Like I said, the same thing happened with the whole report card process. People were saying that these things aren't working. Well, they weren't being listened to before.

If you want to be able to tackle those challenges for Inuit employees, then we need to identify what those challenges are and once we know what they are from them, find ways to overcome them. That's what the corporation is doing. It's not burying its head in the sand and saying, "No, these things don't sound good, so we're not going to tell you about them."

These are things that have actually been discussed with staff. These are things that Inuit employees are saying, that the corporation staff are not making this up just to put it in there. These are things, like I said, that were directed in the past to identify the challenges that Inuit employees face within the corporation.

These are things that Inuit employees have told, not all of them. The member is generalizing. Like I said before, this is not all employees within the corporation; these are individual circumstances that the corporation has faced specifically in

the past. I think the member is painting the whole corporation with all Inuit staff.

It could be just one incident but that one incident, if we can say that that's what is stopping one individual from moving forward, if we can't address that, then that's what this is trying to do, to be able to identify what the challenges and barriers are out there by those employees so that we can do what we can to remove them to give them the opportunity to be able to move forward within the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I find it very difficult to stand and try and justify that I'm equal. For a government body/Crown corporation, today in Nunavut, to say that somehow, as an Inuk, I have added barriers to take on additional responsibilities, that is my issue.

This document was produced by a Crown corporation in Nunavut. Who wrote it? What's going to happen to it? Is the minister agreeing with this document? Is the minister saying that we will not follow this particular section? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were quite a number of questions there, so I will answer to one.

As I pointed out to my colleague from Tununig when he asked if I agree to it, and the member is quite right, the

bottom line here on the front page is it has the deputy minister, who would be the president of the corporation, who hasn't signed it. As I indicated earlier, the board of directors has not seen this or approved anything. There's a signature for the minister here too and my name is not on there, so I guess that would mean that I haven't approved this yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation) Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Ningeongan.

Question 102 – 3(2): Garage for New Grader in Chesterfield Inlet

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

This summer in Chesterfield Inlet, we received a new grader that would be used by the airport, but there is no housing available in the community except at the hamlet council's garage. I would like to ask the minister if we could build a garage for this grader. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of that, some of the issues where, in some communities, there is no protection for equipment that do maintenance on the airstrips and we're looking into that situation. In fact, we're hoping to get a clear understanding of where some of the

critical infrastructure is needed within these communities, although we have started building protective buildings for airport equipment. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister indicated that he is aware of this situation, can the minister indicate to me when that garage will be built? The hamlet's garage is housing their equipment, but the hamlet's equipment has to be moved outside in order to house the grader. Could the minister indicate to me when that garage will be built for this brand new grader? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will definitely look into that. There are other communities that are in dire need of equipment protection with the severe winters and temperatures that we get up here. Of course, with some of the new equipment that is being purchased, we do have to find a way to protect and prolong their lives for the airstrips out there. *Qujannamiik*, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that CGS is looking at what is required at the

community level and I'm sure that this will be part of the review.

It is also obvious that there is not enough planning done from the community perspective. With the hamlets and their limited resources and assets, out of their kindness, they have to provide equipment protection for equipment that is needed. So therefore, could the Minister of Transportation make sure that he reviews this as soon as possible?

I'm aware that Chesterfield Inlet is not the only community that requires those types of facilities, but when I met with the hamlet council, they mentioned it was something of importance to them. I would like to ask the minister if he could review this as soon as possible. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Taptuna.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will definitely review. We're continually reviewing the priorities of Nunavut communities and Chesterfield Inlet is no exception. We will continue to find ways to try and prolong the life of whatever equipment is purchased for the airstrips in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Question Period is now over. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 002 – 3(2): Resolute Bay Utilidor

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition from my constituents in Resolute Bay. This petition asks the Government of Nunavut to fully consider all options to retain and upgrade the utilidor system in the community of Resolute Bay.

Mr. Speaker, this petition contains 73 signatures. I sincerely hope that these voices will be heard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 051 – 3(2): Transcript of the September 30, 2009, Meeting of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of the transcript of the September 30, 2009, meeting of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. The standing committee recently held hearings in Yellowknife during which representatives from the Municipality of Baker Lake made a presentation.

I strongly encourage the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation to review this transcript with care as I'll have questions for him

tomorrow on the subject. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Curley.

Tabled Document 052 – 3(2): FPT Ministers of Health Meeting

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the FPT Ministers of Health Meeting held back in September 17, 2009, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Curley. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 053 – 3(2): 2007-2008 Grants and Contribution Report

Tabled Document 054 – 3(2): 2008-2009 Grants and Contribution Report

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2007-08 and 2008-09 Grants and Contribution Reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

Tabled Document 055 – 3(2): Letter from Hamlet of Resolute Bay Supporting Utilidor Petition

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of a letter submitted by the Hamlet of Resolute Bay in support of the community's petition asking the Government of Nunavut to consider retaining its utilidor system. I urge the government to give the letter

and petition its full consideration. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 056 – 3(2): 2007-2008 Public Accounts

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the 2007-08 Public Accounts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Elliott.

Tabled Document 057 – 3(2): Aerial Photograph of the New Arctic Bay Airport

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of an aerial photograph of the new Arctic Bay Airport taken this summer. This photograph shows the airport terminal and landing strip in proportion to Marcil Lake, which is the freshwater supply for the community of Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) If there are no more, (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 12 – Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act – Notice

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, November 27, 2009, that Bill 12, *Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Tagak Curley.

Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Utility Rates Review Council Act – Notice

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, November 27, 2009, that Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Utility Rates Review Council Act*, be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Keith Peterson.

Bill 14 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2009, No. 2 – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, November 27, 2009, that Bill 14, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Bill 18 – Language Statutes Amendment Act – Notice

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, November 27, 2009, that Bill 18, *Language Statutes Amendment Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 with Mr. Okalik in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:24 and Committee resumed at 16:02*

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

Chairman (Mr. Okalik)(interpretation): Good afternoon. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Thank you for being able to be here. I believe we can now start the meeting. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. What is the wish of my colleagues? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to commence

the review of Bill 8, starting with the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Do you agree with that?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 08 – Appropriation (Capital) Act,
2010-2011 – Community and
Government Services –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I believe we can start. I would like to ask Minister Kusugak of the Department of Community and Government Services to make his opening remarks. Minister Kusugak, would you like to start your opening comments.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to proceed with the opening comments.

Chairman (interpretation): Yes, please proceed.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and everyone who is here with me. I am pleased to present to you the Five-Year Capital Plan for 2010-15, and the 2010-11 Capital Estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services.

(interpretation ends) The Department of Community and Government Services has many roles in the delivery of capital projects for the government. Technical and project management staff provide a wide range of services to all departments

to assist and support them in the development of their capital plans. This ranges from initial project identification to final technical reviews and project management.

In addition to providing assistance to the various departments, CGS is also directly responsible for securing funding for and assessing specific types of community infrastructure. Our efforts require strong partnerships between government, the various hamlets, and the communities they represent. CGS recognizes the expectations and trust required to understand and deliver significant and essential capital infrastructure in a fair and equitable way.

Our department is aware of potential community concerns regarding a lack of transparency in the capital planning process. In response to this, Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee (NCIAC) was initiated with a balance of government and hamlet membership to assist in identifying community priorities.

They have undertaken the development of Integrated Community Infrastructure Sustainability Plans (ICSP) to create and measure long-term plans for each Nunavut community. These plans are developed in consultation with each community and will help us achieve environmental, cultural, social, and economic goals. The infrastructure planning process assesses existing and required infrastructure.

The plans identify the types of infrastructure investments over the next 5 to 20 years that will best help each

community achieve their sustainability objectives and needs. We believe that this approach will improve our planning process and will improve transparency in the allocation of limited infrastructure funds across Nunavut.

During my participation in various regional mayors' meetings, concerns were raised regarding depleted granular stocks. In response, my staff undertook an extensive review of all granular stocks. As a result, we have initiated a pilot project in the Kitikmeot.

The department has purchased a gravel crusher that will be shared by the Kitikmeot communities to ensure crushed gravel is available for road maintenance and other community growth needs. Once we have an opportunity to evaluate the success of this pilot project, we will review the possibility of implementing a similar granular program in the Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk regions.

Concerns have also been raised in reference to the lack of community recreational infrastructure, such as swimming pools and artificial ice. While we were able to address a few of the requests through federal assistance, we have been unable to meet all the needs. In response, my department will undertake an extensive review of recreational infrastructure needs in consultation with the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

As I have indicated in the past, I have introduced a modified approach to how the department addresses infrastructure requirements. Current standards call for similar infrastructure to be built in all communities.

In Grise Fiord, we initially planned to build a new GN office building and expand the existing community hall. During the community consultation process, the community expressed a desire for a new hamlet office/community hall - joint facility would better meet their needs. Mr. Chairman, we listened and we are now proceeding with the construction of a new complex as proposed by the community. This solution is not about more but about doing better.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to the department's five-year capital plan, we have changed our approach to capital planning by only including the funds for the planning and design phases for new capital projects. This approach will allow the department to fully evaluate replacement options for aging municipal infrastructure, in consultation with communities, to ensure that the most cost-effective approaches are used to meet the needs.

Mr. Chairman, some significant water and waste projects are also underway, including upgrades to the Clyde River Sewage Lagoon, Kimmirut's Rehabilitation of Lagoons and Roads, and the Baker Lake Intake Pump House. We are utilizing a combination of GN and federal dollars for these projects.

We have also been asked about the quality of water and associated reports. I wish to point out that water is routinely tested to ensure that it is safe. In the case of water quality, there is regular testing to ensure communities have safe water available to them on a daily basis.

In the Petroleum Products Division, there are a number of priority projects

either currently underway or planned within the next five years. Demands for increased fuel capacity and upgrades for code compliance at fuel storage facilities in a number of communities are causing increased pressure on budgets. We are trying to meet these demands but must take into account the limited resources we have available and the numerous needs throughout Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, we recognize that we face many challenges over the next five years to address our aging community infrastructure. Examples include community and fire halls, hamlet offices, parking garages, and water works. We recognize the collective pressure on the GN capital plan for infrastructure and the expectations of Nunavummiut.

With funding from federal infrastructure programs, such as the Building Canada Fund, which is \$248 million over seven years, and extension of the Gas Tax Program, which is \$60 million over five years, we are confident that we can continue to be effective in meeting the basic needs of our communities. However, I must point out that a number of federal programs require funding from Nunavummiut as well. This also taps into our limited resources.

I hope that these comments give an appreciation of the extensive demands upon my department for capital funding and the challenges associated with prioritizing projects. We are aware of the needs and the challenges communities face and this dictates the force of our capital planning process.

The vision of our future continues to be one of partnerships to best support communities and the needs of all

Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you for again reminding me about Monopoly when you were talking about waterworks, it sounded like it was Monopoly money.

That was the minister's opening comments. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I'm not playing Monopoly, but yes, I wish to ask my colleagues if they agree to have some of my officials with me at the witness table. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, I would appreciate it if you can escort his officials to the witness table.

Minister, if you can introduce your officials. Although they are not strangers to us, we need to acknowledge everyone who appears before the House. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is my Deputy Minister, Kathleen Lausman, and to my left is Mr. Roy Green, (interpretation ends) Director of Community Infrastructure. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I thank the officials for appearing before the committee. The Chair of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development has opening comments. Mr. Rumbolt, you may now begin.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the proposed 2010-11 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services.

Members note that the department is proposing to spend \$35,954,000 for the 2010-11 fiscal year. Its capital budget was \$36,194,000 for the 2009-2010 fiscal year and \$23,107,000 in the year 2008-09.

Mr. Chairman, the operations of this department have a significant impact on the success of the GN's overall capital planning process. In recent years, Members of the Legislative Assembly have expressed concerns with respect to the issues of project management and capital carryovers.

On May 26, 2008, the Minister of Finance informed the Committee of the Whole that, "As members know, capital carryovers continue to be a challenge. However, efforts are being made to remedy this situation. The government recognizes that steps need to be taken to reduce the volume of capital carryovers and expects to bring forward solutions."

Mr. Chairman, on March 19, 2009, the minister informed the Committee of the

Whole that, "Communities are now asking us to consider an equitable approach to funding community infrastructure. With this in mind, we are updating our standards and criteria to better reflect the priorities of our communities.

We have included 10 projects in the department's five-year capital plan that are 50/50 cost shared with Infrastructure Canada through the Municipal Infrastructure Fund (MRIF). Canada's maximum contribution under this program is \$19.5 million. We have also included four projects in the plans that are 50/50 cost shared with Canada under the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund (CSIF). Canada's maximum contribution under this program is \$20 million."

Members note that both funding programs are set to expire on March 31, 2012.

Members support the department's efforts to access federal infrastructure funding under such initiatives as the Building Canada Fund and encourage the minister to consult closely with MLAs and communities in determining priority projects. Members also encourage the department to provide regular updates to the House on this important issue. The standing committee recognizes that while the needs of communities greatly exceed available GN resources, a consultative and cooperative approach to capital planning and priority setting is essential.

While members are supportive of efforts to build capacity in the Department of Community and Government Services in order to strengthen the GN's capital planning process and address the need

for more reliable and accurate cost estimates, it is essential that Members of the Legislative Assembly retain the right to consider, approve, or reject proposed capital projects at the initial stage of their development.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members were advised that the department has changed its approach to capital planning by only including the funds for the planning and design phases for new capital projects. Although members recognize that the total costs of major capital projects may not necessarily be known with absolute certainty at the initial stage of their development, it is important that all MLAs be provided with sufficient information with which to make reasonable decisions concerning their affordability.

For example, the department's proposed 2010-11 capital estimates includes \$400,000 in planning dollars for a new hamlet office in Arviat. However, the department has not yet provided a clear estimate of how much the project may ultimately cost. The committee encourages the department to review this issue.

Mr. Chairman, the January 2009 federal budget announced the creation of a recreational infrastructure fund to provide \$500 million "over two years to support construction of new community recreational facilities and upgrades to existing facilities across Canada."

On July 7, 2009, the GN and the federal government announced that the new federal Infrastructure Stimulus Fund would provide \$7.2 million in support of two projects. The announcement stated

that, "The Governments of Canada and Nunavut and the City of Iqaluit will each contribute up to \$748,740 for the structural repair of the rink in the Arctic Winter Games Arena. The construction of a new hamlet office in Taloyoak will benefit from up to \$2.5 million from the federal stimulus funding and a matching contribution from the Government of Nunavut."

Members also note that on September 3, 2009, a federal-territorial news release announced that the communities of Taloyoak, Chesterfield Inlet, Igloolik, and Sanikiluaq will benefit from \$1.1 million in total funding for local projects under the Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program.

Members are strongly supportive of initiatives to improve the quality of recreational facilities in Nunavut given their important role in fostering health and wellness in our communities. Members look forward to being kept informed of the GN's success in accessing our territory's share of this federal funding.

Members also recommend that the department explore opportunities to undertake improvements to existing recreational facilities in order to increase the number of months that they can be used during the year. One example of such an improvement is the installation of artificial ice in arenas.

The standing committee notes that \$100,000 has been allocated in the department's proposed 2010-11 capital estimates for a new arena in Rankin Inlet. The substantiation sheet for the project indicates that its total cost is

estimated to be approximately \$16 million.

On March 19, 2009, during his appearance before the Committee of the Whole, the minister stated that, "During the community consultations last winter and the department's participation in the regional mayors meetings, concerns were raised regarding the replacement of the aging mobile equipment fleet and depleting granular stocks.

Another concern raised was with respect to depleted granular quarries and borrow pits. Several communities are experiencing shortages of granular materials in Nunavut and it seems most of the communities were outside of Coral Harbour.

In response to these concerns, my staff is undertaking an extensive review of the current mobile fleet and all granular stocks to look at quicker replacement options for machines such as front-end loaders, graders, dump trucks, and all granular stocks within Nunavut. My department will be presenting options to address these issues in the new fiscal year."

Mr. Chairman, members were pleased to note that the department's proposed 2010-11 capital estimates includes funding for granular projects in the communities of Arviat, Chesterfield Inlet, and Repulse Bay. Members look forward to receiving ongoing updates on these projects.

Members also noted that the department plans to undertake a pilot project to purchase a gravel crusher for the Kitikmeot region and that it will be shared between all communities in the

region. Members look forward to receiving an update on the status of this pilot project and if it successful, strongly encourage the department to expand the initiative to other regions.

Mr. Chairman, on September 21, 2009, a federal news release announced that work has been completed on eight contracts issued through the Surveyor General Branch. The announcement stated that the federal government is "building the infrastructure needed to clear the way for new home construction for Nunavummiut. More than 1,800 lots have been surveyed – creating jobs in the local area as well as being a big step toward creating better living conditions for many people in Nunavut communities."

Members encourage the Department of Community and Government Services to work with closely with communities and the Nunavut Housing Corporation with respect to the issues of gravel supplies and lot surveying.

Mr. Chairman, the department had budgeted \$7,365,000 in 2009-2010 for water system upgrades in the community of Kugluktuk. This was the department's single largest capital project in 2009-2010. The substantiation sheet for this project indicated that despite the community having received a new water treatment plant in 2003, Kugluktuk's "filtered water does not meet the Canadian drinking water guidelines for turbidity." The department's proposed 2010-11 capital estimates indicates that \$1,826,000 has been budgeted for further upgrades to the community's water system.

The standing committee also notes that \$340,000 has been allocated in its proposed 2010-11 capital estimates for the Resolute Bay Sewage and Water Works project. Members look forward to updates on the status of this project.

Mr. Chairman, the provision of safe drinking water to our communities is a fundamental function of government. It is unclear as to how many of Nunavut's communities currently meet national guidelines for drinking water quality and how many do not.

During the Legislative Assembly's consideration earlier this year of the department's 2009-2010 capital estimates, members again recommended that the government commit to tabling a report on water quality in each of Nunavut's communities before the end of this calendar year. This has not yet been done and members recommend that the minister commit to tabling such a report at the earliest opportunity.

The standing committee again notes that the *Canada-wide Strategy for the Management of Municipal Wastewater Effluent* has been endorsed by a number of jurisdictions. On March 27, 2009, the Minister of Environment tabled a report in the Legislative Assembly concerning this issue.

The minister's report indicates that "Nunavut, Quebec and Newfoundland did not endorse the document." The report also stated that "Nunavut agrees in-principle with the Strategy but is extremely concerned about costs associated with implementation and the lack of direct funding options. ... Nunavut will certainly support the Strategy when funding is more definitive."

I would also again note that MLAs have been advised that the cost of implementing the strategy in Nunavut could be as high as \$500 million. Members have also been advised, however, that the Department of Community and Government Services and the Department of Environment have been working to build up an inventory of community facilities.

On September 18, 2009, the President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities sent correspondence to the Prime Minister concerning the proposed new federal regulations for the treatment of wastewater.

The letter states in part, "FCM supports the proposed new federal regulations for the treatment of wastewater. However, we are deeply concerned that the costs of implementing these regulations will be offloaded on to local property taxpayers. We are calling on your government to commit to a national cost-shared plan to implement the regulations and help municipalities protect Canada's water resources. By the federal government's own estimates, upgrading wastewater facilities across the country to meet the new regulations will cost at least \$12 billion over the next 20 years."

The standing committee encourages the departments of Community and Government Services and Environment to work closely together with respect to the development and management of such infrastructure as sewage lagoons and municipal landfills. Members also urge both departments to lobby the federal government for funding to upgrade Nunavut's wastewater facilities to meet these proposed new federal regulations.

Mr. Chairman, the department's draft 2010-11 capital estimates documentation indicates that \$2.25 million will be provided to the City of Iqaluit in block funding through the federal government's Gas Tax Fund. Members recommend that the minister table an annual report on the city's spending under this agreement so that all Members of the Legislative Assembly and the general public will have a clear picture of how the funds have actually been used. Members also urge the department to consider entering into such agreements with other communities that can demonstrate the capacity to manage such an arrangement.

Members note that the department's draft 2010-11 capital estimates include \$3.9 million in funding for small capital projects, which includes such items as mobile equipment repairs, community planning studies, block funding, granular programs, and spill response equipment. Members encourage the department to clearly list the breakdown of these projects in the annual capital estimates document which is tabled in the Legislative Assembly given that they amount to over 10 percent of the department's total planned spending.

Mr. Chairman, from time to time, all Members of the Legislative Assembly receive official correspondence from the government that outlines budget transfers between capital projects that have occurred during the course of the fiscal year. It is essential that members be kept informed of the exact status of capital projects that have been impacted by such transfers and encourage the government to provide clear and detailed information in these advisories

concerning the reasons for why funds have been transferred.

Members recognize the need for the department to address the issue of bulk fuel storage in our communities. The growth of communities and more stringent federal regulations will require the department to modernize and expand existing storage facilities. Improvements in this area may, in the longer term, help to reduce the need to periodically resupply communities by air, as has been required in prior years.

At its recent annual general meeting in Cambridge Bay, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities passed a resolution concerning dust control in Nunavut. The standing committee looks forward to receiving a copy of the department's response to the resolution and encourages the minister to table this document in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2010-11 Capital Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. You can take a break now as you seemed to be getting tired.

My colleagues, we can now continue with our review. Before we proceed, I would like to remind you of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reading the contents of the opening comments of the minister, I believe this is the appropriate time to ask my questions. In regard to the last part of the minister's opening comments, my first question would be on page 5 of 6. I don't think there's a 6 in here, but it says 5 of 6. Perhaps there is a page missing. Anyways, that's just a comment.

I would like to thank the minister. There is a statement written in here. I unfortunately didn't have it on the right page, so bear with me. It's on page 2 in English and it's in regard to the crusher that replaces community granular stocks. Repulse Bay, Arviat, and Chesterfield Inlet were mentioned here.

We have enormous amounts of rock in the vicinity of our communities and yet, it's very hard to get granular products. I was just in Repulse Bay last week. When I was talking to the mayor about the local issues, he indicated that they no longer have any granular stockpiles available to the municipality, Mr. Chairman, and they started using the granular stocks set aside for the runway surface repairs.

I think that we all know that we need proper roads to maintain our services. Water, sewage, garbage services and the like require maintained roads. When the roads are not properly maintained, it

causes damage to the equipment and then the equipment start breaking down.

Repulse Bay is one of the communities that are in dire need of restocking their granular stocks. Once I have finished my opening comments, I will be asking questions on it later.

The minister also made reference to this program which I believe is called the Gas Tax Program in English. I believe I heard or read somewhere that they're going to be visiting the communities. If I remember correctly, Aarluk Consulting was going to the communities. Aarluk Consulting is going to the communities and I believe that's part of the Gas Tax Program.

Are you going to be putting Repulse Bay first since we have depleted all of our granular stocks? My next question would be in regard to the Gas Tax Program. Is Aarluk Consulting going to my communities of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. You have 10 minutes, so it's okay if you ask one question at a time. Minister Kusugak, can you try and respond to the questions.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, I can try and respond. The member indicated that he was going to be asking questions at the appropriate time. Did you want me to respond right now or do you want to wait until after general comments?

I can say that during the mayors meeting, I was there and had a meeting with each of the mayors. I believe there's a shortage of granular stocks in

just about every Nunavut community. Coral Harbour I believe is the only one that has an adequate supply. Our department is working on it.

Once the pilot project is done in Kitikmeot, we can start looking at the Keewatin. We will be able to bring that gravel crusher to each of the communities that require it, Mr. Chairman. Repulse Bay is going to be getting a gravel grader and if you need the gravel crusher, your community will be getting that one when it's their turn. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. I believe he had a second question about the Gas Tax Program and that was if Aarluk Consulting will be visiting the communities. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Aarluk Consulting is going to every Nunavut community to conduct a needs assessment. They will be looking at what needs improvement, what needs repair, what needs replacement, and so on. They're going into your communities, but they haven't quite made it there yet. We haven't identified what date they're going to your community, but they have started travelling around. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 4 of 6, we need clean water for houses. Does the minister know which communities have cleaner water drinking supplies? Does the minister or his officials know which water quality is better, by truck or

utilidor system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Minister Kusugak, can you try and respond to the question.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, I can try and respond to the question. I don't know whether the utilidor system or trucked water is cleaner. Usually, the trucks are kept clean. So I can't tell you which one is of better quality, but I can tell you that we do have safety officers and all supply water is drinkable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): I wanted to make a comment on this, but I will give this to the Member for Quttiktuq. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Ningeongan, you wanted to make a comment and you can go ahead.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question to the minister. This recently took place in Chesterfield Inlet while I was touring there.

Gravel crushers are not easily available in the communities. I know the government has been aware of this, particularly when gravel crushing is paid for by the government, most likely by rental and that doesn't come cheap. It is probably for that expense that the government is often reluctant to provide

gravel crushing services to the communities.

I would like to know if this issue has been reconsidered. Knowing that the gravel crusher is circulated among the communities, other communities should have access to the gravel crusher since they need gravel stocks to maintain their roads and airports, and so on. So I wonder if this will be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Kusugak, can you respond to the question?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's the whole idea; it is exactly what we want to do. Right now, we have initiated a pilot project in the Kitikmeot and it's something we want to see. Let me use Chesterfield Inlet as an example. If the gravel crusher went there, I'm sure that they will produce an adequate supply and move on to another community.

Once adequate granular stocks have been produced, they would become the responsibility of the hamlet council. Under the hamlet, the granular stock would be available and/or sold to other organizations that require it. It is our vision that from there, they could generate enough revenue to purchase their own gravel crusher.

Once there is adequate gravel made in a particular community, it would move on to another community in need and they would be free to whom they want to sell it to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

you have another question?
(interpretation ends) Proceed.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for providing that information. Some of the communities will have to wait even though they have depleted their granular stocks and they have to wait a long time.

Is it too expensive to provide a gravel crusher in each region? When the Kitikmeot is done, that gravel crusher would go to the Kivalliq and the Baffin, but how will that work? I would like to get further clarification on that, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I regret it if I didn't get my point across as it's a very good question and I'm sorry if this was not clear or understandable to my colleagues.

If this pilot project proves successful, then we would have to order more gravel crushers. Since we have one going around in the Kitikmeot communities, we would require one to be provided to the Kivalliq region and then another one for the Baffin region. So if we require two crushers, then that's what we would have to do. We would meet our current needs based on the number of communities and the distances between them.

Right now, we have only the one gravel crusher. However, if this pilot project is successful, then each region will have a

revolving gravel crusher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question.

When is the pilot project going to end in the Kitikmeot? When do they anticipate completing the pilot project? Coral Harbour was mentioned as the one which has adequate supply of granular stocks and they're more than willing to sell it to the other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningeongan. Minister Kusugak, can you try and respond to the question?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, they're not making any more gravel. I believe they have turned to making the roads.

We would like to see this pilot project start in the summer and we will make sure that we keep you updated on this pilot project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. To the minister's opening comments. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had some questions to the member's statement on page 5 of 6 in terms of the federal infrastructure dollars that are coming and whatnot.

I know with the Economic Action Plan that's been talked about a lot, there have

been a lot of pictures in the paper and whatnot of different announcements. Specifically, in terms of money that's going to Nunavut, there is an article in the Canadian Press where the Rankin Inlet Mayor, John Hickes, was not happy or he doesn't feel that the money is doing anything in Nunavut.

You gave us an overview in your statement about some of the projects that have been started and whatnot, but it's per capita funding. And really, is it \$3.2 million that's coming in terms of the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund? Is that correct?

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Kusugak, can you try and respond?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, I can. On this issue, I will have Mr. Green respond to your question if that's okay with you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I didn't know Mr. Green had that responsibility. Please proceed, Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is right that the stimulus fund was \$3.6 million and it was funded on a per capita basis. So that was the total amount of funding that the GN received under this program and the GN was required to match it by \$3.6 million as well, for a total of \$7.2 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Elliott, do you have another question?

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Continuing with the same line of questioning, you mentioned the \$248

million over seven years. My understanding is that the federal government allocated a sort of block funding of something like \$25 million over seven years or the government had the option of taking the money sort of all at once.

I think the Yukon Premier, Dennis Fentis, had said that they're overburdened and they were going to do it over the seven years. Just out of curiosity, are we taking the \$248 million right away or are we doing it over seven years with like \$25 million each year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) I think you need to study northern politics. That's Mr. Fentie for the Yukon. Okay? (interpretation) Minister Kusugak, if you would respond, please.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, (interpretation ends) we will be taking it over seven years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Is there anything else? Mr. Elliott?

Mr. Elliott: *Qujannamiik*, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for pointing that out. I'll get it right sooner or later.

On page 3 of 6, I'm glad you actually mentioned Grise Fiord. I know everyone up there in the community is really excited about not only the fact of getting a new GN building and having the ability to have some really nice office space but also a community hall. They're really excited about that and it's a good example of the partnerships that

can be developed in partnership with the community and also with the different departments.

But I think one of the ones that was left out was Nunavut Arctic College as well. There was an understanding there too that once the old hamlet office is finished, it will then be used as a community learning centre. I know that with the community's work towards lifelong learning, that's a really important thing for them.

I'm not quite sure if this is quite the place to ask it, but in one of the comments from the co-chairs about transfers of money and whatnot, there was \$1 million that was transferred to Rankin Inlet for one of their projects and \$1 million from this specific project that you mentioned here. Is that going to, in anyway, slow down the process of having it come through? Thank you.

Chairman: Like this and that, moving them around. Yes, shuffling. (interpretation) Can someone respond to the question? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: My understanding of the funding that we get from the federal government is it has to be spent up front. Because of the delay in this project, because of the way that we will be doing things, cooperatively, we just transferred it and it shouldn't hamper the construction of this program at the end of the day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister talked about safe drinking

water and also mentioned about sewer lagoons and whatnot. I'm just curious to find out in terms of the ongoing... .

There has been a lot of media press about the utilidor system and Mr. Ningark sort of commented about that. Could the minister actually give us an update as to what's been happening in Resolute Bay just to let everyone know? There was a meeting there this Monday night. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Kusugak, can you elaborate on that issue, please.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Our staff were there to meet with the municipality recently. It's a work in progress and there's nothing significant to report at this time. We will keep the member and the community informed as things progress on the utilidor issue in Resolute Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, with what's been going on and some of the expectations of what we're looking at in Quttiktuq with the military presence and DND, Resolute Bay seems to be becoming a centre where they would like to have military training. As well, we're hoping to be successful in the bid for the High Arctic Research Centre but there's also the Polar Continental Shelf that's there already.

There's a lot of interest and hopefully, maybe a lot of traffic, but if there's a lot of traffic, there's going to be more water and sewage being used. Has that been

put into account in terms of what you guys are planning for Resolute Bay? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, those very points are part and parcel of this whole process. All of those things are being taken into account at this time, Mr. Chairman, those and other things, of course, on the matter, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Are you finished? Do you have further questions? You have five minutes, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you very much. Yes, I've got five more minutes and I want to give Patricia another story.

Can you confirm if your department has been in touch with DND to sort of talk to them and talk about numbers and people coming into the community and people coming out of the community? Thank you very much.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Just to let Patricia and Ron know, yes, we have been in contact with the Department of National Defence.

>> *Laughter*

But it's a long process, Mr. Chairman. We have been in communication with them and we will continue to be with them and anybody else who feels and we feel have a vested or any kind of interest in the utilidor or trucked water issue,

water issue in total, I guess, in Resolute Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could you explain or tell us how you have been working with ED&T on this as well?

I'm sure you're aware that I think the airport in Resolute Bay is the only one that actually has a water and sewage I wouldn't say problem but actually a sewage lagoon which mostly ED&T actually handles. So I'm assuming that you're in communication with your department about that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, he is correct and yes, we are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. To the issue, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just hoping that the minister could be more specific and what has been done, whether there were meetings, whether they went up and toured, whether they've got figures on how much they plan to intake for water and sewage.

Right now, my concern is when you visit Resolute Bay and you go down to the waterfront, there's this pipe that just sort of sticks out into the water and sewage runoff goes right in there. That's a concern for the community in terms of

animal, wildlife, and things like that. Thank you.

Chairman: ... swimming and all of that. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know how much detail he wants or what will suffice, but we are working with the appropriate departments on this matter. In fact, the consulting firm is up there right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. Are there any other questions on that page? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister mentioned some of the information I was hoping for. Which consulting firm is up there right now that he is talking about? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Trow Engineering. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any other questions on that page? I have no other names on my list. We can now review the contents of the bill starting with H-3. Capital Planning. Total Capital Expenditures. \$26,359,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do you agree to the contents of H-4? I apologize. Mr. Ningeongan, do you have your hand up?

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did you refer to the

contents of H-4? If that's the case, I have a question for Minister Kusugak.

Chairman (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Ningeongan, we are looking at the total for both H-4 and H-5, which is \$26,359,000. The breakdown is on page H-4 and H-5, so you can ask your questions on any issues under those pages. Mr. Ningeongan, what page would you like to ask a question on?

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for H-4. First of all, I would like to get some information about the Recreational Infrastructure Fund.

As the minister will recall, I asked him questions in the Legislative Assembly on June 5 this spring concerning the potential for improvements to arenas in my communities, including the ability to make artificial ice. In his response to my question, the minister told me that his department would be doing a feasibility study on this issue in the communities of Coral Harbour and Arviat during the summer.

Can the minister tell me what the results of this review were or provide me with a copy of the report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak, can you try and respond to the question.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I apologize. What did you want a copy of?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Ningeongan, can you clarify your question.

Mr. Ningeongan: To provide me with a copy of the report.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. Yes, you will be getting a copy as soon as it's available. We will probably have the feasibility study done around the end of February. I'll provide a copy of the report to you and those who are interested once it's completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier this year, the Legislative Assembly approved \$440,000 for retrofits to the Rankin Inlet Arena.

I know that his department's 2010-11 capital estimates include \$100,000 in planning funding towards the construction of a brand new arena in Rankin Inlet. I stated earlier that the substantiation sheet for this project includes an estimate of just over \$16.1 million as the possible total cost for a new arena.

Will the minister be approaching the federal government for assistance and funding for this project? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. Once the planning and design phase

would be complete and we know the amounts that we're talking about, yes, we would be approaching the federal government for funding for a significant part of this money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the minister's presentation to the standing committee, I stated that the community arenas need to be retrofitted or renovated and I was disappointed to learn that there was \$100,000 in the capital estimates for planning funding towards the construction of a new arena in Rankin Inlet.

Some communities have arenas that have never been renovated or retrofitted. When I saw that they were receiving a brand new arena, I was not very pleased due to the fact that the arena in Rankin Inlet was the only one that had artificial ice in the Kivalliq region.

Some of the communities didn't receive any sort of additional funding for their recreational facilities. It seems like they're just bypassing the needs of smaller communities. Some communities have had their recreational facilities in the capital plan and these have been arbitrarily removed.

I was not too happy with seeing this brand new arena request, Mr. Chairman, because this community bypassed other communities in dire need of renovating their arenas or other projects. For example, in Coral Harbour, we tried to get a new school and it was taken off the capital plan. All of these things

transpired at the same time. Education is a very important priority for this government, at least on paper.

If they're going to receive new recreational infrastructure and if this goes ahead... . Even without ever renovating many of the community arenas, they're now building a brand new arena in a have community.

So I told the minister that I had an issue with this additional infrastructure request, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to reiterate at this time that when communities prepare their capital plans, they usually have been requesting these recreational facilities for a very long time and yet, they are surpassed when a community with existing facilities gets allocated a new arena.

I would like to ask the minister if he had noted those concerns expressed previously. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. I am pleased that you have reiterated your question with respect to the new arena request. If the project were to be approved and if the review proceeds with this new project, it would not commence this coming summer. They're just making preparations for the future needs of the community.

Based on my colleague's comments, I just want him to know that the funding for the construction of a new arena has no connection to the schools or health centres' budgets because they're under separate funds which are administered by different departments.

If we look at the Building Canada Fund, the funds can only be used for recreational facilities and I wanted to clarify that for the members. For example, Coral Harbour residents might assume that the reason they're not receiving a new school is because Rankin Inlet is receiving a new arena. They're not connected and have no relation since they are under different funds.

With respect to your earlier comment about the funding that was approved in June to retrofit the arena in Rankin Inlet, the hamlet didn't agree with that approval and they have declined the funds that were allocated. As a matter of fact, some of the money has now been reallocated for renovations to Kugaaruk's hamlet office and \$242,000 will be budgeted for other projects.

The Hamlet of Rankin Inlet didn't want the funding to retrofit the arena because they realized the allocation was insufficient to complete the retrofit. During the review, they looked at options with respect to retrofitting or building an addition to the arena. They discovered that there was mold in the arena and that changed the scope of the project from just retrofitting to renovating the arena. With these additional requirements, they realized that it would cost over \$8 million just to renovate it.

These are the reasons why they declined the funding. They didn't want to waste the money, so they wanted the funding to be used for more useful items. So that is why \$440,000 was allocated to the Kugaaruk Hamlet Office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand how the system works, like how the school is on a separate budget. I just used that as an example.

Our government's priority is education. If we're going to treat education as our priority, I believe you should be more sensitive to our priorities because the report card didn't even mention recreational facilities. I just wanted to point that out.

Mr. Chairman, I have been trying to note that the recreational facilities in the communities of Nunavut haven't been reviewed and they haven't received any funding. The majority of the communities in Nunavut haven't received any new facilities. That's why I had made this comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question. Mr. Elliott has questions on those pages.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can sympathize with Mr. Ningeongan. Resolute Bay is finally getting their arena after 15 years of trying to fight for one or trying to get one as a smaller community. They're actually very excited that one is coming.

Under H-4, Nunavut – various, Small Capital, I had a question. In the 2009-10 capital plan, there was money allocated for a bulldozer that was supposed to make its way up to Grise Fiord.

In talking to the community, that has not made it there. Is that going to be coming? This fiscal year is not over, but I'm wondering if that's part of what's going to be happening or if the minister could explain where that's gone. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Elliott. (interpretation ends) Could you clarify which line item we're talking about here? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Sure. If the Chairman looks on H-4, if you go just a little bit up, it says, "Nunavut - various, Small Capital (\$250,000 or less)". There is \$3.9 million being allocated. I'm just wondering if that is allocated to the bulldozer. Maybe there's a transfer of money that we don't know about yet that's coming to purchase that. I was wondering if that's what it's for. Does that make sense? Thank you.

Chairman: Sorry, Mr. Elliott. You were talking about last year, something about a bulldozer going to your community, so I got confused. We're trying to talk about next year.

Minister Kusugak, could you enlighten us on this one.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. What we have started, the first cheques are going to be out now or pretty soon, right? The first cut of cheques went to the municipalities.

What we have been able to do with the municipalities is give them block funding annually starting now. This money will enable the municipalities to purchase their own heavy equipment at times appropriate to them and not have

to come to the government and say that they need a bulldozer, or a loader, or a grader.

In fact, this will enable the municipalities to set their own agenda in terms of purchasing mobile equipment for their communities. This is what this block funding will be able to do so that they will have money and decide when they're going to buy a bulldozer or a loader and fund it directly themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak. (interpretation ends) Do you have any further questions? Next, I have Mr. Schell.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to this block funding, is it based on per capita or is it just so much for each community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: In consultations with the municipalities, and I know, having been a mayor and having travelled to the different meetings, you hear constantly that the smaller communities don't get their fair share. This gets away from that. Every municipality will be given an equal portion regardless of size; they will have the same amount of funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very simple question for the

minister. Did his department recommend that a brand new arena for Rankin Inlet be added to the capital plan or did the minister order that the new arena be put on the capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Kusugak, can you respond to the question.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I didn't order anything, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Schell? Are there any other questions on those pages? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the total is for pages H-3, H-4, and H-5.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, my question is on page H-5, Repulse Bay. I find the term "regional" kind of not definitive or inclusive. Is \$215,000 definitive for Repulse Bay or is it all-inclusive for Repulse Bay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak, can you answer the question.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Yes, it's for the whole community of Repulse Bay. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Are there any questions on those pages? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just assume that we have moved to page 5 of the capital. H-5, that's Tangible Assets.

In the substantiation sheets that we reviewed, was it October that we had committee meetings? The Minister of Finance appeared before the Regular Caucus. Mr. Peterson stated that unrealistic Class "X" estimates waste time, resources, and continue to be a leading factor in projects becoming significantly over budget.

In the substantiation sheets, there are, in the CGS, or Community and Government Services, about 20 projects listed as Class "X" for 2010-11.

Can you indicate how your department is working to address this issue that the Minister of Finance was talking about earlier this year? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak, can you try and respond to the question.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes. Starting this year, we are going through the planning and design stages for those projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A slightly different question, the annual general meetings of NAM, association of municipalities, passed a resolution concerning municipalities participating in the GN's capital planning process. Can you update the committee on how your department is working with the municipalities on this issue? (interpretation) Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak, can you try and respond to the question.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I'll have Mr. Green answer that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Go ahead.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Infrastructure Advisory Committee is made up of three GN employees and three hamlet mayors who are responsible for ranking and prioritizing community projects. Every second year, it was a practice, as far as the NCIAC, to visit the communities to give an updated list on the communities' priorities.

Starting this year, at this point, we were scheduled to go in but we have decided to not visit the communities because we got Aarluk consultants going into the communities to do the sustainable infrastructure plans. The idea of that is that they would meet with all of the communities, identify the condition of existing infrastructure, and identify their short-term and long-term goals to see what infrastructure they would require so that communities can be sustainable going forward.

So once the information comes back from that report, then all of that information will be integrated into the GN's community consultation process which is mandated through NCIAC. So once those reports are done in the spring, we are planning to start visiting the communities some time in September or October of next fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So on H-5, Tangible Assets, in the past several years, I don't know how many years now, the department has explained to us time and time again that what is causing the cost of capital projects to increase is the economic boom in Alberta.

How has the recent economic downturn affected the GN's capital planning now? Is it still high or is it going down a bit in terms of contracts and construction costs, etcetera? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. That's a very good question, Mr. Arvaluk. I would ask my deputy to answer that, Ms. Lausman, if you allow, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Go ahead, Ms. Lausman, can you try and respond to the question.

Ms. Lausman: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually having just come from Alberta, I can tell you that costs there have dropped probably by about 25 percent over the last nine months. Most of the cost was associated with the cost of labour and the cost of materials like concrete, and so on.

Here in Nunavut, the cost of labour is still rather high, but we have certainly seen some drop in costs relative to some materials associated with construction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Lausman. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Just a very quick supplementary along that same line. I notice that there are construction companies in Nunavut who build houses and infrastructure for the government. Are they the ones who are keeping the construction costs so high because they are up here?

Have you looked at other construction companies to build the infrastructure program from outside of Nunavut to find out if they could do it cheaper? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's another good question. We find that the cost of doing business up here is very expensive and it depends on how remote a community you go to and what kind of labour force they have in many communities.

There are so many different factors in that question. You can have construction happening in an X community. Because of shortage of staff or expertise in that field, people have to stay in hotels and those factors start to come up.

You have to rent heavy equipment in order to be able to do some of the work. In often cases, you have to bring in the equipment into communities to be able to do that kind of construction and bring in different special equipment that may not be available in any given community.

So you put that in, the cost of electricity, power, and everything else up here, it really adds up to the overall cost of projects, Mr. Chairman, and many other factors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I have no more names on the list. Mr. Elliott has his hand up. Go ahead, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the 2009-2010 capital budget, \$2.5 million was allocated to the sewage lagoon in Arctic Bay.

In a letter that I received from the minister's office, he talked about a two-phase process of how the sewage lagoon was going to be built. Phase one was a road up over the hill and in phase two, which is happening in the next fiscal year, the actual sewage lagoon would be sort of constructed.

I just noticed that it's not in this year's capital plan and I'm wondering how the department is going to continue on with funding that project if it's not in this year's capital budget. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Can someone try and respond to the question? Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you for the question. Yes, it will be funded through the gas tax. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Are there any other questions on H-4 and H-5? Not Previously Authorized. Total Capital Planning. \$26,359,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We can now move on to H-6. Petroleum Products Revolving Fund. Total Capital Expenditures. \$9,595,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman. We are now suspecting that everything will eventually go up, including fuel. A few years ago, the government was talking about the hedging program for fuel purchase. The fuel prices are fairly low now, but we don't know how long that's going to last because of the apparent economic recovery in Canada and the prices will probably be going up for everything.

Is the minister considering using the hedge funding policy to purchase next summer's fuel for Nunavut?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We are currently on the capital estimates. Your reference to Petroleum Products is in a different page, H-7, which speaks to fuel farm construction during this current fiscal year. Your question is more in line with questions relating to day-to-day operational issues.

I will allow you to ask another question if you have any questions with respect to capital estimates. Are there any further questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I was trying to ask a question on H-6. Under H-6, Petroleum Products Revolving Fund, it's \$9,595,000. (interpretation ends) It's accounts receivable and operating

expenses. (interpretation) That's not for petroleum products and if it's for petroleum products, I would ask a question about the hedging policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. That's under H-7, fuel storage and the total capital expenditures for that is \$9,595,000. We are on capital estimates and not on day-to-day operations.

Are there any further questions on fuel storage in communities? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry that I didn't see the summary on H-7.

Once we start dealing with O&M when we meet again, which I believe will be in April, I will ask that question during Oral Questions instead. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Yes, that would be an excellent question on the cost and we will undoubtedly ask it.

Continuing on this, Minister Kusugak, you can make a comment if you wish. I'll leave it at your discretion. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. In regard to Mr. Arvaluk's question, if it's okay with you, Mr. Chairman, I can respond to it.

What we're doing right now is looking at buying in bulk ahead of time. It works better when we hedge. Right now, we're looking at making purchases ahead of time. Last year, there was a great deal of fluctuation in prices. So what we're

looking at now is to buy early in order to take advantage of lower fuel prices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): For your information, we will ask that question during Question Period tomorrow.

Are there any further questions on H-6? \$9,595,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Branch. Community and Government Services. Distribution of Capital Budget. \$35,954,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): You have agreed. Are my colleagues in agreement that the Department of Community and Government Services is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We have concluded that department, so would you like to move on to another department?

I'm sure the minister would like to make closing remarks, so I give him the opportunity. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleagues very much for posing excellent questions on the capital estimates. If you need additional information, please feel free to visit or write to our office. All of your questions will be considered and we will review Mr. Rumbolt's opening comments.

I would also like to thank Kathleen Lausman and Mr. Green. I would like to thank my employees who are not here, although some of them are, very much for getting us prepared for this meeting and to all CGS employees. Mr. Chairman, I thank you as well.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kusugak and your employees. I am envious that we were able to conclude your department in a very brief time. That doesn't happen often.

>> *Laughter*

The department has been concluded and we have finished the items that we were going to deal with today. What's the wish of my colleagues? Do you want to report progress?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): The committee would like to adjourn for the day, so can someone move a motion to report progress? Mr. Arvaluk is the mover of the motion and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion to report progress. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. We will now wait for the Speaker.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 8 and the capital estimates, and would like to report

progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to concur with the report. Is there a seconder? Mr. Louis Tapardjuk is the seconder. All those in favour, raise your hand. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder for all members, there is a meeting of the Full Caucus tomorrow morning at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Committee Room.

Orders of the Day for November 26:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motions

15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 13

18. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 6
- Bill 7
- Bill 8
- Bill 9
- Bill 10

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, November 26, at 1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 17:39

