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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Uqqummiut)

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(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

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Government Services; Minister of
Energy*

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(Akulliq)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 9, 2010**

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, Honourable Keith Peterson, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Fred Schell, Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Honourable Peter Taptuna, Honourable Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Taptuna. A very good afternoon, Madam Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and all Nunavummiut.

Going to our Orders of the Day. (interpretation ends) Item 2. (interpretation) Ministers' Statements. Premier of Nunavut, (interpretation ends) Hon. Eva Aariak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 099 – 3(2):
International Women's Day**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): A very good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. First of all, yesterday was International Women's Day. I was going to make a

statement on International Women's Day, but it was budget day.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday was March 8, the day marked as International Women's Day. It is a day for celebration of women's accomplishments and advancement towards equality. Every year at this time, Canadians celebrate progress toward equality for women and their full participation in society. It is also an occasion for stopping and reflecting on the challenges and barriers that remain and to consider future steps to achieving equality for all women in all aspects of their lives. It is appropriate that this year's theme for International Women's Day is "Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities."

Over time, International Women's Day has grown into commemorative events across the country and the occasion has been observed since 1911. Next year will be the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day.

We celebrate here in Nunavut as well. In Iqaluit this weekend, the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council hosted a daylong event, starting with an arts and crafts fair, a talent show, and a concert. Other Status of Women Council members across Nunavut received grants to host events in their communities as well.

Mr. Speaker, as Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize this important event and to acknowledge the contributions our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, and daughters have made to our Nunavut communities. There are so many women in Nunavut who have dedicated

themselves to create change in their communities, working on a range of issues that affect women and their families.

To honour these women and the contributions they have made, I'm also pleased to say Qullit again presented the Wise Woman of the Year Award to a woman who has made outstanding contributions to women's advancement in her community. This year's recipient is Dr. Patricia DeMaio of Iqaluit. Please join me in congratulating her in receiving this well-deserved acknowledgment.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate all Nunavummiut – women and men, girls and boys – for celebrating International Women's Day and joining together to honour women's achievements in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. This week is dedicated to the International Women's Day. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Lorne Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 100 – 3(2):
Search and Rescue Tracking
Devices**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to say "good afternoon" to my colleagues and the people who are watching the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to provide members of the Nunavut legislature with information about the SPOT locator devices that have been

purchased for search and rescue. It is called a SPOT locator and we got 500 of those to be distributed among the Nunavut communities.

The Department of Community and Government Services has purchased 500 of the SPOT devices which will be activated and shipped out to the communities over the coming week. Each community will receive 20 of these units. Fifteen of these devices will be available for members of the community to borrow when they go out on the land. Five of the devices will be set with a tracking function to be used by our search and rescue teams.

This new technology has been tested over the last few years to ensure that they are suitable for use in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, these will assist us should one of our citizens need help.

Last year, our search and rescue teams responded to 125 requests for assistance. Many of these requests had our volunteers out for days looking for individuals who had not returned as scheduled. It is estimated that our volunteers accumulated over 2,000 person hours in time assisting our citizens.

With the use of this new technology, we hope to reduce the time required to locate lost persons and respond faster and more efficiently to the need for assistance. It is not exaggeration to say that the shorter the search times, the better the outcome may be for both searchers and the individuals who may require assistance.

Mr. Speaker, as these units become available over the next few weeks, I urge

everyone who heads out on the land to go to their hamlet office and log out one of these units.

Mr. Speaker, I also urge everyone who goes out on the land to take a little extra time to be prepared. If you are not sure what to bring, be sure to consult an elder or an experienced hunter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to make my statement.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 101 – 3(2):
Nunavut's Participation in the
Vancouver 2010 Winter Games**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to inform this House of our success in promoting Nunavut during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Mr. Speaker, *The Province* newspaper awarded Canada's Northern House a gold medal as the finest Canadian pavilion in Vancouver during the games.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

>>Applause

This follows highly favourable media coverage from coast to coast to coast.

In partnership with our sister territories, Canada's Northern House showcased

Nunavut as a wonderful place to live, a wonderful place to visit, in which to invest, and to live. Mr. Speaker, since Canada's Northern House opened in January, we have seen up to 9,000 people visit daily, with lineups to get in up and down Seymour Street. The total number of visitors had reached 100,000 by Nunavut Day held on February 21.

Canada's Northern House has been an important venue for our artists to showcase their work. Sales in the retail shop passed the \$100,000 mark by mid February. Canada's Northern House continues to be a popular place after the completion of the Olympic Games. Canada's Northern House will remain open for the Paralympics and close on April 18.

Mr. Speaker, the Olympics provides a world stage and Nunavut has grabbed the spotlight, and we have successfully promoted Nunavut's arts and crafts, film, sealskin designs, our tourism and our mining industry at special events throughout the games.

At the mining reception and fur fashion show held in West Vancouver, I responded to great interest from many junior companies that may invest in our economy. At another special event, Nunavut's tourism industry was featured, and I am told by Nunavut Tourism that already five major international media outlets have expressed their intention to visit Nunavut and report on the many attractions here.

Mr. Speaker, I am also very proud to report the excellent reception received by our youth. They were truly Nunavut's ambassadors in Vancouver, and thrilled

the people there with their exhibitions of Inuit games and with their performances of contemporary circus routines and traditional drumming and dancing. I know the experiences of our youth in Vancouver will last a lifetime. They were able to share our language, culture, and traditions and witness the pride all Canadians take in our way of life. This makes our youth proud of themselves, as they should be.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of the members for their support in this initiative and I know I share with them the joy I feel at the success Nunavut has had at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games. I look forward to reporting on the final outcomes of our participation at the next sitting of the House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 102 – 3(2):
Knowledge Sharing Forum**

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the most important goals of the Department of Health and Social Services is to work in partnership with Nunavutmiut to create a better future for children and their families.

At the last session this winter, I committed my department to bringing together representatives from across Nunavut to find some common agreement on an approach to improve our current *Child and Family Services*

Act, enhance child protection services, and to provide greater support for families.

Mr. Speaker, this knowledge sharing forum occurred in December and brought Inuit elders and youth, community representatives, and Inuit organizations together to share their experiences and reflect on aspects of child welfare practice that have worked to protect children and strengthen families and communities.

The knowledge sharing forum was an important first step in an effort to review legislation, programs, and services from an Inuit, community, and family-centred perspective. It also opened the door to a working in partnership with local community members in response to child welfare that is rooted in Inuit cultural values. The event ended with a sense of optimism for the future of Inuit children and families. One participant said, "I can see much further now; I can almost see the future."

Mr. Speaker, there is still a lot of work ahead of us to bring about change to child and family services, and I look forward to keeping my colleagues informed of our progress for this coming fiscal year. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 103 – 3(2):
Nunavut High Arctic
Transportation Analysis**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Most Members of this House are aware that my department is currently undertaking a full analysis of transportation issues facing residents of our High Arctic communities.

In Nunavut, we all feel the consequences of high priced transportation, but the further north we go, the more serious these impacts are. For people living in the Quttiktuq riding travelling to other communities or even transporting goods into their own communities is beyond the reach of most people.

Mr. Speaker, the study we have undertaken demonstrates that transportation costs in the High Arctic are the highest in the country and are higher than most of those found in other arctic countries. Our neighbours in Greenland and Alaska have found ways of offsetting high costs into their remote communities, but we in Canada have not done so.

Our Quttiktuq communities define the northern edge of our country, Mr. Speaker, and the well-being of our people in those communities serves Canada's interest as well as our own. The High Arctic study is looking at ways to ensure the communities are sustained and the quality of life of the people in them is improved through better transportation options.

Mr. Speaker, the High Arctic study is nearing completion. While it was certainly my hope to be able to table it during this session of the Legislative

Assembly, the issues have proven to be very complex and my department has asked for more time to ensure its completeness. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the time when I can table it at this Assembly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Schell.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 156 – 3(2): Cape Dorset Health Centre Replacement

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to continue my efforts to convince the Government of Nunavut to review its capital plan and bring the Cape Dorset Health Centre Replacement project forward in the plan to where it rightfully belongs.

Mr. Speaker, the Cape Dorset Health Centre is the second oldest operating health centre in all of Nunavut. It is the oldest health centre not to have received any major renovations since it was first built 29 years ago in 1980.

Mr. Speaker, like any community across Nunavut, Cape Dorset has grown significantly over the last 29 years. And like any building, the Cape Dorset Health Centre has suffered through wear and tear over these 29 years and is no longer in the fine shape it once was. The Cape Dorset Health Centre is ailing.

Mr. Speaker, I recently experienced first hand one of the problems that has

developed in this aging building. The ventilation system is totally inadequate. When the x-ray machine is running, staff and clients in the building have to wear face masks to protect themselves from the fumes and the poisonous atmosphere. Mr. Speaker, as I am sure you and my colleagues will agree this situation is not a healthy one.

Mr. Speaker, in 2004, the Government of Nunavut's 2004-2010 Five-Year Capital Plan indicated that the Cape Dorset Health Centre Replacement project would begin in 2007-08. The project stayed on the five-year capital plan until 2007, when other higher priority projects such as the continuing care centres were identified and bumped the Cape Dorset project and others off the list.

Mr. Speaker, the Cape Dorset Health Centre Replacement project has finally reappeared on the latest five-year capital plan. However, it is now not set to begin until 2013. In the meantime, the government has introduced a number of other newly identified projects to begin well before this time.

Mr. Speaker, the health of our Nunavut residents should be one of our most fundamental priorities. Projects that have already been identified as necessary should remain priorities. I call upon the government to reconsider its capital planning process and bring forward the Cape Dorset Health Centre Replacement project to begin as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 157 – 3(2):
Aspirations of Young
Nunavummiut**

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring attention to the suggestions made by young Nunavummiut in a recent edition of "Street talk" as published in the *Nunavut News/North* edition of February 8, 2010.

The question put forward to Nunavut youth was "What would you like to see in our community that we don't already have?" The theme that emerged in the replies referred generally to places where youth can take part in activities, such as swimming, reading, games, and socializing with other youth.

Mr. Speaker, as I draw attention to this information which I have here, I hope that it encourages the Government of Nunavut in their ongoing efforts towards the establishment of infrastructure and programs for youth.

I am encouraged that youth are asking for such things as libraries and swimming pools. These are establishments that would offer healthy lifestyle choices for youth. Mr. Speaker, the more that youth are able to participate in healthy activities, the less likely they will become involved with unhealthy activities such as drug and alcohol use and abuse.

As with youth all over the world, no child asks to become an alcohol or a drug abuser. As with youth all over the world, our young Nunavummiut opt

instead for healthy lifestyle choices. Let us make those healthy choices available for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 158 – 3(2): Team Nunavut's First Medal of 2010 AWG

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate and thank the hard-working athletes, coaches, and volunteer staff that are participating in the Arctic Winter Games. The Arctic Winter Games, which officially started on Sunday evening in Grande Prairie, Alberta, had their first set of games played yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that for 2010, it was the Arctic Bay Open Men Dene Games Team that brought our first medal to Nunavut.

>> *Applause*

Team Nunavut climbed to the podium yesterday as the team won silver in the Dene hand games competition. The team consists of Bobby Kilabuk, Darryl Levi, Thomas Levi, and Tom Naqitarvik. Mr. Speaker, I am sure it is the first of many medals for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all of these individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 159 – 3(2): Keeping Decentralization Commitments to Communities

Mr. Komoartok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the importance of keeping promises.

Mr. Speaker, when the Government of Nunavut was established, the decentralization of positions to communities was viewed as an essential part of doing business differently. My community of Pangnirtung has been a strong supporter of decentralization.

In 2007, the government confirmed that there would be approximately 70 decentralized GN positions located in the community. Six departments have a presence on the ground, which greatly helps to improve the connections between the community and the government. Mr. Speaker, over the years, good progress has been made in filling these positions with residents of the community. This has greatly helped to strengthen the community in such areas as skills development and training.

Mr. Speaker, last week's announcement that three decentralized positions in the community are being recentralized to Iqaluit has caused some concern in my community. Mr. Speaker, although I fully recognize that we must be prepared to make adjustments to our government's operations in order to effectively serve the public, I also believe that we must maintain our commitments. I have not yet heard a clear commitment from the government

that it will move new positions to Pangnirtung to balance the positions that the community has lost recently.

Mr. Speaker, in his Budget Address of yesterday, the Minister of Finance said two very important things. First, he noted that one of the best ways to fight crime and poverty is to provide opportunities for our residents to work. I could not agree more. Mr. Speaker, he also mentioned that the Government of Nunavut currently has about 900 vacant jobs. According to the government's own figures, the Department of Health and Services alone has almost 300 job vacancies.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot see why the government can't find three new positions to locate in Pangnirtung. At the appropriate time, I will be seeking a commitment from the government that it will do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 160 – 3(2):
Assistance for Polar Bear
Outfitters**

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On occasion, we try to remind people about certain issues.

We, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, agreed to remember where we came from when we were settling our Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and our government. We wanted a government and that is why we went that route. Inuit wanted to be self-determining, to allow for self-sufficiency, to retain their language and

culture, and to be able to enact legislation that is adapted to Nunavut. They also wanted to set their own goals and to create their own vision of the future that applies to this land.

From what I have heard, there will be a ban on the sale of polar bear hides to the European Union as well as the United States. As soon as we heard about this ban, we knew right away that this would impact the Inuit dog team owners who employ their dogs to create some revenue from these polar bear sport hunters. They are generally the guides and caretakers of sport hunters and they will now lose this source of revenue.

Once this revenue is lost, the government hasn't taken a stance on how it will be reimbursed to those who are impacted nor have they even indicated what level of compensation will be offered, neither is there any sort of timeframe if there is to be compensation.

This runs counter to one of the goals we set back in the day, which is no longer the same goal. We never stated that we would abandon our fellow Inuit when we completed the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. The scenario here is that when our fellow Inuit are under attack by outsiders, we abandon their rights and send them to income support workers. That is not how we tried to change the system when we fought for Nunavut.

Therefore, I am deeply regretful at the stance taken by our government, which is to stand idly by and abandon their citizens. They haven't even offered options towards this end, so the only option is to send them to income support workers. This is especially the case of

our traditional life-based people, those who still work their dog teams to support themselves, which gives them a sense of cultural pride and identity when they are able to support themselves in that manner.

I have run out of time, so I would like to ask for 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. I thank my colleagues for allowing me to conclude my statement. I was almost finished, but I ran out of time.

There are many discussions and debates that can accrue out of this issue, especially by a skilled orator. However, the dereliction of fiduciary duties by our government, especially when no alternatives are offered, along with their refusal to voice the concerns of their citizens and not promoting the interests of the people living along Davis Strait and Baffin Bay, is unacceptable.

The communities impacted are Pond Inlet, Clyde River, and Qikiqtarjuaq. These are the most impacted communities and yet, our government hasn't even released any options or alternatives available to those Inuit who are losing their income nor any compensation benefits. This government didn't have the foresight to plan for possible impacts when the ban would be implemented.

At the appropriate time, I will be raising questions so that the impacted communities are fully informed as to what options they may have in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statements. (interpretation ends) Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kusugak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual who has lived in Rankin Inlet for a very long time and now lives outside of Rankin Inlet. Everyone knows Mr. Raymond Mercer and I would like to welcome him to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is day two of having the 795 Air Cadets Squadron here with us paging and today, there is Cadet Warrant Officer Second Class Thomasie Murray, Cadet Sergeant Pakak Picco, Leading Air Cadet Lee Wah-Shee-Anawak, and Cadet Warrant Officer Second Class Colin Gunn.

As well, I believe behind me is our Integrity Commissioner for the Legislative Assembly, Norman Pickell.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize Utility Rates Review Council members, but I don't know their names in Inuktitut. Although we acknowledged some of them, there are three individuals I would like to recognize.

Raymond Mercer is the chair, Vivian Aknavigak is a board member, Gordon Rennie is also a board member, and their secretary is Kirk Janes. I want all of the members to acknowledge these individuals for being here today. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not very often I get to recognize people in the Gallery from Cambridge Bay and the Kitikmeot, where I come from. So I would like to welcome Vivian Aknavigak to Iqaluit. She is a long-term citizen of Cambridge Bay and I believe she is originally from Taloyoak. Welcome to the Gallery, Vivian. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>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 would also like to acknowledge Vivian because I have seen her for many years in the Kitikmeot region. She was also a member of the Nunavut Social Assistance Appeal Board. Gordon Rennie was also a member in one of the boards that I belonged to. Raymond Mercer can speak the Nattilik dialect better than I can and I acknowledge him as well. Thank you.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 238 – 3(2): Compensation for Polar Bear Outfitters and Harvesters

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the Government of the Northwest Territories announced that it will make available \$150,000 to help polar bear outfitters in the NWT who have been impacted by the US ban on the importation of polar bear hides. They are calling this the Polar Bear Outfitter Assistance Program.

Can the minister clearly explain for the public record why this government is not providing assistance and compensation to Inuit hunters and outfitters who have been most impacted by quota reductions

and export bans? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question. First of all, I think it's the responsibility of us as the government and all of the residents in Nunavut to take responsibility on managing wildlife. We each have an individual share in that responsibility. At this time, we are not going to be offering any compensation for polar bears, but we are putting programs in place to mitigate the circumstances.

One, Mr. Speaker, is the Wildlife Stewardship Program that will assist hunters, individuals, and communities in the prevention of polar bear damage in communities and cabins. The second program is to implement a compensation program. If there is damage done by polar bears, you will be able to put a claim in for that. Also, in all of the communities affected, we have committed by the end of this year that we will have polar bear deterrent plans for all communities in the Baffin Bay region.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not up to date on the policy or what the NWT has done. This government, as we heard in the budget yesterday, is under financial constraints and we have to act responsibly. We have many priorities in this government and we have to prioritize those as they come. So at this point, Mr. Speaker, we do not have any compensation programs but we are trying to mitigate the factors.

I will also offer this: that any outfitters and business that are in the outfitting business, we do have programs under economic development that can assist in re-profiling their outfitting business and targeting new industries. Whether it's into the caribou, sport hunting, tourism, ecotourism, we will assist outfitters in doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have had the opportunity to review the government's most recent annual reports on its contracting and procurement activities. Let me give you a couple of examples because the minister said that they have no money to help hunters right now.

According to the report, the government paid over \$225,000 to a single individual to provide consulting to the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services and to the executive director of the same department. Another individual received close to \$300,000 to provide financial consulting services to the same department.

If the government can find hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars to help southern consultants to get rich because of the failures of the Department of Health, why can't it find a few dollars to compensate Inuit hunters and guides for the harm that they have suffered through no fault of their own? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: That is not my department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't speak specifically for the Department of Health, but as part of the government, if these programs are identified by the member to be looked at, then I can understand that. However, I am not going to speak to the issues that he brought on the expenses of the Department of Health.

However, we can look internally as a government to see where we can save costs on spending. I would like to state that we do have priorities and we all know that we have priorities in our health care, housing, income support, education, and we have very high priorities in those expenses to make a better Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The danger of reductions to our quota system, the danger of not being able to export polar bear hides to other countries, the danger that sport hunting might not continue indefinitely have been known for several years. In fact, the regional wildlife management board has been discussing in our communities that that may happen.

Why isn't the government at least asking the question themselves: what are we going to do for the hunters who have been making a livelihood from sport hunts over the last 42 years? What are we going to do now? Because they are not electricians and they are not carpenters, they cannot switch from that type of guiding to I think the minister called it re-profiling their professions.

These are hunters. They don't know anything else. Are we now going to turn them into welfare people? They have been at it all their lives quite proudly as Inuit. My question is: why isn't the minister with his Cabinet at least asking the question, "What are we going to do in the event that there is a ban on polar bear hides?" (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this situation with the Baffin Bay, yes, it's a hardship on hunters, but we are very positive that we have made the right decision and accepted the NWMB's recommendation on this. If this had not happened, all polar bear hunting in Nunavut would have been in jeopardy across the whole territory.

We are taking steps to rectify the situation in the Baffin Bay. We hope and we are going to encourage the federal government, Environment Canada, and the rest of the world that by the steps we are taking, we will lift the ban on our Baffin Bay polar bears.

We are going to find out in the very near future at a vote in Qatar on the CITES on how polar bears are listed under the appendix of CITES. This will indicate to us whether sport hunting will be in future or will not be in the future. But we are doing our best, Mr. Speaker, to address the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are not arguing. I hope the minister understands that we are not arguing for the reduction of the quota for the Baffin Bay. We are not. I think the regional wildlife management already conceded that this is inevitable. Otherwise, it's going to happen all over the high arctic of the countries.

What we are arguing here is that the minister didn't seem to have any foresight in the event that CITES does not lift the ban. There is no alternate answer or at least strategies in place for the hunters who are guides for the sport hunts in the event that nothing happens.

My last question, Mr. Speaker, is: will the minister be able to give us more information before this session is over as to what can be done for the hunters who are going to lose their livelihoods? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his concern and his question. First of all, I would just like to say that we do understand the hardships that are going to be put on the outfitters in the hunting industry.

However, at this point in time, I have outlined that we will assist them in alternate sources of pursuing their outfitting, whether that be into caribou hunting, or whether that be into the tourism industry, or whether that be into the ecotourism. Also, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to indicate that the compensation of wildlife is something that is not looked at as wildlife

management. We are all responsible for that.

If we start compensating for polar bear hunters and the loss of polar bears allowable to harvest, then we may, in the future, have to apply that to all wildlife and that could run into many millions of dollars. Wildlife populations naturally fluctuate and we have to adjust to that and manage it when that happens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 239 – 3(2): \$2 Million
Financial Management Training
Fund**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance, the Hon. Keith Peterson.

Mr. Speaker, in June of 2009, the hon. minister announced that \$2 million was secured from his department and would be transferred to the Department of Human Resources. These funds were to be used to train GN employees in financial management. Mr. Speaker, these training programs were to work towards rectifying some of the issues brought forward by the Office of the Auditor General.

In November, I asked for an update on these training programs. Since this is the final month of the fiscal year, can the minister provide us with an update on this training? Thank you.

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

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott for asking the question. Mr. Speaker, I'm the Minister of Finance. I gave \$2 million to the Department of Human Resources and they are responsible for providing the training, and I'm sure that they can provide updates.

Some of the training that have gone underway where we are using the funds have been in the financial management area, justices of the peace, and I think I saw a list of coroners training. I'm sure the government can provide that list and an update on the training.

In talking to my officials, I know it has been very beneficial to the Government of Nunavut, to organizations and to individuals that provide services to the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just know it was discussed with your department. I didn't know I should be asking them to the Minister of Human Resources. There must be some sort of strings attached to it or some objectives. I was just wondering if the minister could explain how this training has addressed issues brought forward by the Office of the Auditor General. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Auditor General has indeed told the Government of Nunavut that we have to provide more training in financial services. Mr. Speaker, I believe

there has been training provided in those areas, administrative and financial training, to various government employees throughout the government departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With some of the issues that Mr. Arvaluk was bringing forward in terms of spending in management of departments, I just wanted to make sure that again if this money is going to help with rectifying some of the problems we've had with some of the issues that the Auditor General had with how we financially manage our territory.

It would be nice to have some specifics as to what has actually been done. Perhaps the minister could refer the question to Human Resources so I could get some solid answers. What types of training were initiated and delivered? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems like I'm having a Tony Blair day where I get to answer questions for Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I remember this debate in November. Mr. Elliott was asking me and then he was asking Minister Shewchuk, who is the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure the member that the funding is being used to train Government of Nunavut employees and people who provide services to the Government of Nunavut. Again, I

indicated that there are 83 justices of the peace, there are coroners, and there are employees in the Government of Nunavut.

I'm sure that if Mr. Elliott wishes to have the details of the training provided, we can provide it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just trying to do my job by holding the government accountable for where they spend their money. Maybe the minister would be able to answer this question since the money originated from his department.

Will this training continue after March 31, 2010 or is it a one-time training where the \$2 million was found within your department, passed onto Human Resources, and that will be it? Is there more money coming to continue training? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Elliott. I appreciate his question. I understand that it is his job to hold the government accountable. As the members will recall, I was an MLA for almost five years on the regular side holding the government accountable for their actions, so I fully understand what Mr. Elliott's job is.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in the budget speech yesterday, we have a commitment to our public service and our commitment to public service is to

provide ongoing training to develop skill sets to do their jobs and advance within the public service of the Government of Nunavut and elsewhere in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 240 – 3(2): Government of Canada Dragging its Feet in Appointing NWMB Chair

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is starting to become evident that we have come here to deal with wildlife issues. This was not planned, but issues have cropped up unexpectedly in wildlife.

I had asked the Minister of Environment to lobby the federal government to appoint the chairperson of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. It's almost two years that NWMB has been operating without a chairperson. In the meantime, all of these wildlife issues are appearing before us and it seems like they're just being put on hold.

I would like to ask the Premier if she has indeed lobbied the federal government to appoint a chairperson to this very important entity, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are in support of them in their need for a chair. Usually, when the federal government is

going to appoint someone, we can only make recommendations and we can't appoint federal appointees. We have little choice but to wait for the federal government to make those appointments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know who you have spoken to about getting the federal government to appoint a chairperson to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking that question since many Nunavummiut are undoubtedly anticipating the appointment of the chairperson. There are other bodies which need to have their chairpersons filled as well by the federal government.

I'm working very closely with my colleagues at the Cabinet level towards their goals and objectives. We meet with various elected officials, including Leona Aglukkaq, our MP for Nunavut. We often go through her on various federal issues of interest to us. I can continue to urge them to make sure that this is done as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since it's been two years that we have been waiting for the appointment of a chairperson, I wonder how many more years we will have to wait. Perhaps they're looking for some individual from outside of Nunavut and that's why they're having a hard time trying to find an individual to chair the NWMB.

We need proper management of our wildlife. In the meantime, other entities cannot afford to wait on the sidelines. Hunters need to hunt for their sustenance. This is why I am urging the Premier to really push to make sure this is completed as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for urging me to make sure we restate our wishes. To say it again, it's the federal government's responsibility to make appointments. I know they are quite concerned about this issue too. I will urge and remind the federal government what we in Nunavut would like to see happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the land

claims agreement, it's not entirely up to the federal government. They have to appoint an individual to the entity. That's in the agreement. It's not totally up to the federal government. We have to appoint. They can't just grab any individual to appoint as the chairperson of the NWMB. We have to follow the process and the land claims agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I didn't make myself clear when I said it is up to the federal government.

What I was trying to say is that it's up to the federal government as to when they will make the appointment. Even though there is a requirement to make the appointment, it's up to the federal government as to when they can make the appointment. I can only urge them to appoint someone as soon as possible, but we can't tell them when to appoint anyone.

With regard to your question, as I stated earlier, we will urge the federal government to ensure that they appoint someone as soon as possible because we need full board membership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Question 241 – 3(2): Status of Government of Nunavut's Uranium Development and Mining Management Plan

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, the Hon. Minister Peter Taptuna.

As the minister is aware, on June 4, 2007, the Government of Nunavut announced its six principles for uranium mining in the territory. At that time, the Minister of ED&T's announcement stated that these principles "will serve as a framework for the development of a uranium development and mining management plan for the Government of Nunavut."

Mr. Speaker, it's been almost three years since this announcement was made. As of today, where is the GN's actual development and mining management plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the member to repeat the question on exactly what document he is looking for. I would like him to make that clear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The minister is seeking clarification, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government created a news release on June 4, 2007. The news

release title was “Balanced Approach for Uranium Mining in Nunavut.”

In this news release, there are six principles announced by the then ED&T minister that this will serve as a valuable guide for uranium mining in the territory. In the same news release, it states that the principles will serve as a framework for the development of a uranium development and mining management plan for the Government of Nunavut.

My question is: where is the GN’s actual development and mining management plan? Is there anything that is enhanced or added, or will we be able to see some more documentation in the foreseeable future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for that question. We do have a mining strategy, and the member indicated uranium and other commodities in mining. The strategy that we do have within the government is, of course, from 2007 that was approved by the leg. and for uranium, there are six principles that apply to any kind of mining development.

We do have a committee set up within the government, the Sustainable Development Committee, that oversees the environmental issues and participates in the regulatory reviews as an official intervener, which the government is, with any kind of mining development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the hon. minister for the response. On March 14, 2007, the Minister of ED&T tabled the GN’s Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy in the Legislative Assembly, titled “Nunavut Parnautiit.”

That document indicated that the government “will develop a uranium policy.” It also indicated that the government planned to spend \$100,000 on consultations to develop this policy. Can the minister explain today how the government actually spent this money? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of today, I’m not aware of the \$100,000 to develop a mining policy on uranium. As I indicated earlier, in the mining strategy that we do have, uranium mining is included in the six principles of the government. As the member knows, there is a uranium mining policy that NTI had developed.

At this time, any development in uranium, for that matter, any development in mining, is looked at on a case-by-case basis. As you know, Mr. Speaker, every development in mining is different, the situations are different, and the environmental situations are different. There are new technologies and old technologies. This government is going to be looking at every mining development on a case-by-case basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. minister for his response. Yesterday, I tabled the Government of Nunavut's submission to the Nunavut Impact Review Board concerning the proposed Kiggavik uranium mine near my home of Baker Lake. Although this project could have significant impact on the community, the government could barely produce more than one page of information, which was mostly copied from its 2007 news release. Can the minister explain why the government's submission appears to be and is perceived to be weak? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The submission is not weak as a one-pager and all it does is assisting and supporting NIRB in giving a part 5 review. A part 5 review is in Nunavut and we support that initiative. We support the regulatory process being done in Nunavut by NIRB, with the project development being in Nunavut.

Of course, this government would support NIRB in doing a regulatory process within Nunavut. That letter indicates that we supported the initiative of doing a part 5 review, made-in-Nunavut, done in Nunavut, with the project being in Nunavut. That letter indicated that that was our support.

The EIS, or environmental impact statement, is not due yet from the proponent, Areva. Once that is out, we will have our deputy heads assessing and

analyzing all of the information in there. I don't know if the member actually knows that once the environmental impact statement is delivered to the regulators, a small project in the Kitikmeot is 11,000 pages long. With this major project happening in the Kivalliq, the Kiggavik project, who knows how many pages that's going to be. Yes, it's going to be highly technical. We do have our Sustainable Development Committee in place to assess all of that information. While that is happening, we do have a sustainable development advisory group that's advising in any kind of development.

Again, I want to assure the member that the submission that the government did to NIRB is not weak, it's just a request to do a part 5 review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. minister for that response. It's my duty to become educated and to try to share some information and insight to the rest of my community and constituents. I thank the minister for directing me on that as well as educating me on the issue.

In 1990, Mr. Speaker, residents of Baker Lake voted against opening a uranium mine at the Kiggavik site. Many Nunavummiut are calling for a full and open public dialogue on uranium mining in Nunavut before any major projects go forward. Before a new mine goes ahead at Kiggavik, does the Government of Nunavut support holding a plebiscite in the community to determine the wishes of the majority of its population, yes or

no, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't answer that question with a yes or no. It is a complex project and it involves all other organizations, the Inuit organizations, the affected communities, the communities of Kivalliq, the Nunavut Impact Review Board, and other regulators. So answering that question with a simple yes or no doesn't really mean anything.

If there is a request from the public and the regulators that a plebiscite be held, then surely this government would have to oblige. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 242 – 3(2): Update Following Meeting of Repulse Bay Mayor and CGS Minister

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

As he is well aware, on January 25, the minister attended a meeting with the Mayor of Repulse Bay that I also attended. Shortly thereafter, the minister replied to the issues raised on February 19 with respect to the requests for a gravel crusher, an arena, as well as snow fencing for the waste disposal site.

What he was responding to consists of more than one project. When he

responded to the requests, there was no date of commencement on any of the projects. I would like to ask if his department is working on the particulars for the planning of these projects. We all know that summer will arrive before we know it and I believe that several of these projects are scheduled to commence this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand his concern as just putting things on the backburner is not acceptable either. Yes, we are working on the details of those projects. We just have not reached the point where we can indicate a date for completion or commencement.

Mr. Speaker, what I can tell the member is that we are currently reviewing those requests. To cite an example, with regard to the gravel crusher, as I noted to the member when we met during last fall's session, our department has requisitioned three gravel crushers which would be moved to various communities.

An example is in the Kivalliq region, where we are looking for a crusher that can be shipped to different communities depending on needs. However, it is far too early to state as to when this crusher will arrive in the community of Repulse Bay as we don't have those details available yet.

With regard to the snow fencing projects, these fences serve a purpose in the communities where they are erected.

As our departmental staff outlined, we will conduct a review of the issues and how we can meet that need for the Hamlet of Repulse Bay. This is still being studied at this time.

With regard to the other matters we discussed about fencing around the waste disposal site, it will be initiated once the spring thaw has commenced and once we have the pile driving equipment to install the poles. Once the drill is operational, this project will commence. This is the current status of that project, Mr. Speaker.

We are not just twiddling our thumbs and waiting for the seasons to change from winter to summer or towards the fall. We are busy preparing for projects for Repulse Bay as well as all of the other communities we serve in Nunavut. So we are busy on those projects, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the hon. minister. I'm sure it's not an easy task to put through.

We were also talking about a swimming pool at the January 25 meeting and there would have to be some safety training provided. There is also the sanitation issue when we're talking about swimming pools. When could the minister give us an update on what is happening with the swimming pool for Repulse Bay? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not all communities have swimming pools. As Mr. Ningeongan mentioned previously, I am a minister responsible in part as the CGS minister and some other parts are the responsibility of the Department of Cultural, Language, Elders and Youth. Because of this shared responsibility, I'm working closely with my ministerial colleague on these matters.

What I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that I will make available a document on swimming pools. We are looking at how they should be maintained. Of course, as private individuals, one can order a swimming pool, but when it's undertaken by a government or municipality, there are certain rules and procedures that have to be followed. So therefore, we are currently looking at different options.

I can assure the member that I will make available a document on swimming pools at the earliest opportunity to my colleagues in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to that. I believe we're in the Second Session of the Third Assembly. Could the minister assure me that he will be tabling this document before the end of this session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, definitely, before the end of this sitting and before you go back home to your community, I'll make sure that the document is made available to my colleagues. I thank my colleague, Mr. Ningark, for voicing his concerns. Thank you.

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

Question 243 – 3(2): Decentralized Positions in Pangnirtung

Mr. Komoartok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier, the Hon. Eva Aariak.

As I noted in my Member's Statement, I believe that it is important for the government to keep its decentralization commitments to Pangnirtung. Three positions from the community have recently been recentralized to Iqaluit. As I noted in my Member's Statement, I am looking for a clear commitment from the government that it will balance this loss by identifying three new positions to be moved to the community.

My question is: will the Premier provide me with this commitment today, yes or no, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Eva Aariak

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member, my colleague. This government sincerely believes in decentralization. We examined the

Qanukkanniq document in which we heard from consultations with the communities. In regard to decentralization, we state in the report card that we will look at the strengths and weaknesses. After the *Qanukkanniq* document has been reviewed, we will be able to give you a more appropriate answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that appropriate response. Now that this will be reviewed, there's no doubt that we will hear about the issue again. I would caution, however, that it would be good to receive that response sooner than later. Is the Premier able to indicate when she will be able to give us a response in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. (interpretation ends) Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will provide a response before the end of 2010. Thank you.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for her response. We would like a response at the earliest possible date.

I would like to add that at the time the government started on decentralization, we were told that certain departments will be moving to certain communities and stay there. It goes without saying that adjustments would have to be made every now and then. The only thing is that when they're going to relocate a department, it's only fair that the local community or even the hamlet council be fully informed.

At the time that decentralization was taking place, communities were informed what would be decentralized. However, what seems to have happened is that part of the decentralization process has been retracted. This has caused a sense of misplaced trust. We want to be able to depend on the goodwill of the government in a spirit of partnership and collaboration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a question, but we do believe in decentralization. It has created jobs and has provided income to the people in the communities.

We have to remember that decentralization was one of the first actions taken when Nunavut was created in 1999. It was a big project. We believe in it as a government. Once the report card is completed, we will know exactly where we should go from there. We will know how it can have an impact in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Thank you, Mr. Komoartok.

Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Elliott.

Question 244 – 3(2): Cost of Trip to Copenhagen Climate Change Conference

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, the Hon. Eva Aariak.

In the fall, the GN took their trip to Copenhagen and I was just wondering if the Premier could actually tell us the cost for the Nunavut contingent to travel over there. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Elliott. Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Hon. Eva Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will find out exactly how much we spent for the Nunavut contingent and I will be more than happy to provide you with a response. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Premier. Mr. Elliott, your question has been taken as notice and we will check if it's also followed through in a written question that you brought up the other day, Question 5 – 3(2).

Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Question 245 – 3(2): Delegation of Premier’s Authority during Trip to Vancouver

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My question is to Madam Premier.

The member and Deputy Premier were both recently in Vancouver and according our system, you leave your authority at the border of Nunavut. So I just want to know who was in charge when both the Premier and Deputy Premier were out in Vancouver, outside of Nunavut borders. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Premier of Nunavut, Hon. Eva Aariak.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our trip to Vancouver, we were working daily and followed our usual practices, and we even managed to hold a Cabinet meeting. I didn’t leave my authority when I was in Vancouver. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) According to our system, you leave your authority to make legal decisions for the territory at the border. We had a system of designating various portfolios to other ministers if we were leaving the territory. So my question is: who was in charge? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): When I was given the mandate as the Premier, I was not informed of the practice nor have I heard of it occurring elsewhere that I have to leave my authority at the Nunavut border. I will have this matter researched and reviewed as to whether this is the case and I will do so diligently. I thank my colleague for raising that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That’s rather unsettling.

In the event of an emergency, we always try to be prepared for anything, and I would like this government to do the same. We don’t know what’s going to happen tomorrow. So I would like this government to be well prepared and assign designates if they’re leaving the territory because you never know what’s going to happen.

We have gone through quite a few challenges over the years and it’s unfortunate, but it happens. All I was asking is: who was in charge? And obviously, nobody was. So in the future, I would hope that we will take appropriate measures to avoid those problems. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I was in charge. Even though I was in Vancouver, I was in charge.

We conducted our Cabinet meetings over in Vancouver and I would like to give my thanks to Premier Campbell for allowing us to use his office space there. Our correspondence that was coming out of my office kept going on a daily basis because we are very much connected through technology. I conducted my everyday activities as a Premier even though I was in Vancouver. Thank you very much.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm not questioning who is in charge, but at the time, when you leave the border, when you go past outside of our territory, you leave your authority with you, so you have to assign another minister while you're outside the territory. That's my question. That's all I asked.

I hope that this will not happen again in the future, that you take appropriate measures to protect the interests of Nunavummiut in the event of emergencies, that you have a backup plan as ministers. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I retained my premiership and I didn't hear a question

that requires a response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Tununig, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 246 – 3(2): Compensation for Polar Bear Outfitters and Harvesters

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for giving me the opportunity. The Minister of Environment was unable to respond to my question, so I will direct my question to the Premier.

We know who the outfitters and dog team owners are in our communities, but there are only three communities that are impacted by this decision. I was wondering if the government is going to set up policies on how we can provide support to those individuals who have direct loss of income. This would be used for a few years so that they will not become income support recipients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps today is my day as I have so many questions.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) the Hon. Minister of Environment (interpretation) had already responded to that question by stating that polar bear hunting is not closed. They have only reduced the quota. The hunters will continue to hunt polar bears. When the polar bear total allowable harvest has

been reduced, we agreed to some form of support.

In regard to compensation on the loss of the outfitters' income and the reduction of the polar bear quota, I can request assistance from the federal government and ask them the question because we have already went through the budget process. We can look for additional funding outside of the Nunavut government, such as the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that we can understand each other.

What I'm trying to say is that looking at the environment minister's report that there will be no more sport hunting and the polar bear hides will not be exported to the European Union and the United States, there will be no more sport hunters coming up from these two countries. That is what I'm talking about. I'm talking about the outfitters who take them out on dog teams. Those are the ones who will lose their income directly.

The Premier stated that she can consult with the federal government or that she will request assistance from them. Nevertheless, during the early 70s, it was the GNWT that developed the management system, not the federal government. Further, all of the powers, functions, and responsibilities of the GNWT were transferred to the new Government of Nunavut in 1999. Therefore, everything that was

administered by the GNWT was transferred to the Nunavut government, which is now responsible for this management system.

What I was trying to infer is this: is the government developing policies to look at compensation for these affected individuals? If these individuals require assistance or support in lieu of their lost sport hunting income, how will the government deal with replacing that lost income? How will this be dealt with?

The Cabinet has to develop policies prior to any funding being allocated towards the matter. What I'm trying to ask is this: is the Cabinet preparing policies pertaining to compensating these individuals for their lost income? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I hear him right, I believe he is asking about individuals who will lose income in these three communities. The policies that we are currently following as well as any future policies have to reflect our current situation. We can't return to old policies from the 1970s, so we are following current applicable policies.

The individuals who stand to lose this income will be given more information about other options. As an example, property damage caused by marauding bears can be reimbursed, including any polar bear damage in the impacted communities for which the Department of Environment has programs and services to provide support for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier that it has already been several years, the discussion for the possibility of an import ban on polar bear hides to the United States and Europe has been discussed by this government, environmentalists, regional organizations, the wildlife management board, and the regional wildlife boards.

This government hasn't developed any kind of a planned policy at least to show us, "Here are the options we are thinking about in case we have to develop a policy in the event the ban does take place." These kinds of things happen all the time.

Not too long ago in the NWT times, we were complaining, "Why aren't the regular hunters, ordinary hunters not covered under the WCB?" After not too long of discussion and dialoguing between the Cabinet and regular members, they became covered. If a hunter gets hurt, they could be covered under the WCB.

Those things are not strange, those things happen. All I'm asking is: why hasn't her government created any kind of policy development initiative when they knew several years ago that this might happen? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Several years ago, I was not the

Premier. (interpretation) Also, we can establish policies only once we know exactly what we're talking about. We can establish policies when we know exactly how the impact will be and where it will occur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a little frustrating because I know she was not a Premier, but the discussion was going on already that everybody who was interested in Nunavut knew there was a possibility of a ban of exportation to the United States and Europe. When she took on the office, she could have very easily declared, "My premiership will be involved in preparation in the event of the ban."

My last question, Mr. Speaker, is similar to the question that I directed to the environment minister. Will she have some kind of a plan in place to announce to Nunavummiut before the session is over what kind of policy development she will create, at least a plan, before the sport hunt come into effect that is usually in March or April?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Premier.

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I have full confidence in this government in terms of policy development in all areas and I have full confidence in the Department of Environment in looking after what has to be addressed. They are fully aware, over the last number of months since they

have been with this present government, in seeing what is coming and planning how to address it.

I will reiterate the fact that we cannot set up a policy until all of those who are affected and the other sides as well are well known by this government. We are very much involved in keeping a close tab on what is to come in terms decisions and we will go from there.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier. Going back to our Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 013 – 3(2): Loans Made By the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is directed towards the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, the Hon. Peter Taptuna.

The question is:

- 1) Within the meaning of section 5 of the *Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act*, which enables the corporation to make loans to business enterprises “for the purpose of stimulating economic development and employment in Nunavut,” how does the corporation measure the number of jobs created as a result of the loans made to business enterprises?
- 2) Broken down by each loan made by the corporation between April 1,

1999 and March 8, 2010, how many jobs were created as a result of each loan?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Can we have that document brought forward to the table, please.

Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Shewchuk.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 117 – 3(2): Wildlife Tracks

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document entitled “Wildlife Tracks.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Arvaluk.

Tabled Document 118 – 3(2): Government of the Northwest Territories News Release Concerning Polar Bear Outfitter Assistance Program

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of an announcement made by the Government of the Northwest Territories

on January 8 of this year concerning that jurisdiction's Polar Bear Outfitter Assistance Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Taptuna.

**Tabled Document 119 – 3(2):
Agricultural Products Marketing
Act Annual Report 2008-2009**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document: *Agricultural Products Marketing Act*. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Mr. Schell.

Item 15: Notices of Motions

**Motion 016 – 3(2): Moratorium on
Purchase of Products from the
European Union by the Nunavut
Liquor Commission – Notice**

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 11, 2010, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member of Iqaluit West, that the Legislative Assembly calls on the Government of Nunavut to impose a moratorium on purchases by the Nunavut Liquor Commission of products originating from the European Union from this day forward until such time as the issue of the seal product ban is

resolved to Nunavut's satisfaction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Schell. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 22 with Mr. Schell in the Chair.

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

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:18 and
Committee resumed at 15:49*

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

Chairman (Mr. Schell): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following item to deal with: Bill 22, *Appropriation (O&M) Act, 2010-2011*. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 22 and the Department of Health and Social Services. If time permits, we will commence the review of the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Do members agree to continue?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 22 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2010-2011 – Health and Social Services – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Tagak Curley: You're welcome, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would. Thank you.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at Arms, could you escort the witnesses in.

Minister, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is the Deputy Minister of the Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Alex Campbell. On my right is the Director of Corporate Services, Debora Voth. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Thank you, Members. Before the Committee of the Whole continues with its consideration of the 2010-11 Main Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services, I have a brief statement to make.

During yesterday's proceedings, a number of ministers were overenthusiastic when they attempted to agree to the approval of the department's budget before I called the question. I remind the committee that members have the right to raise their hands and be recognized so that they can make their

comments and ask questions. I ask all members to refrain from agreeing to a budget item until the Chair asks for approval. Thank you.

Now we will proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page H-5. H- 5. Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$36,434,000. Mr. James Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Again, to refer back to a previous question I raised during question period with respect to social workers that are included in H-5, I used to raise questions with respect to the young children who were apprehended and sent to southern provinces. I believe the minister recalls the issue when I raised concerns about this matter.

The residents of Pond Inlet are incensed by the social workers' poor judgment. In fact, a petition containing close to 300 signatures was delivered to the minister to object to the stupidity of sending children out of Nunavut into southern provinces. This occurred again just recently. At seven o'clock in the morning, RCMP officers were waiting outside to apprehend a child.

My question is: with regard to the *Child and Family Services Act* and using other Acts, will they be able to keep the children in Nunavut and not send them to southern provinces? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation):

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fully understand the question being posed by my colleague. I would like to thank the individuals who are concerned about that issue. It's not just the residents of Pond Inlet who are concerned about this practice but there are many individuals in Nunavut who are thinking along those lines.

We have to increase the number of foster parents in every community because when a child is apprehended, the child has to be properly cared for and that requires foster parents. This is something we have to keep in mind. These children who were sent out of Nunavut have to be dealt with and we have to meet that challenge by increasing the number of qualified foster parents.

Why do children need to be apprehended and sent away from their parents? That is the first question that must be answered. Is the child in an unsafe situation? Is the environment too crime ridden? Are the parents abusing alcohol or other substances that place the children in dangerous situations? Due to these types of reasons, this legislation was drafted to protect children during unsafe stages of the parents' lives. Once the parents have stabilized their home environment, then the children are to be returned to their care.

I totally agree with the member that during our assessment of the legislation, it definitely needs to be improved, especially here in the Inuit homeland. We would prefer it if we could place the children in a foster home in Nunavut or amongst their relatives in the interim.

With respect to the team that is conducting this review, as per my Minister's Statement this afternoon when we first commenced today's session, I stated that we will be meeting with the review committee elders again. We've already had that meeting. We will also be consulting directly with communities and undertake a tour of the communities to discuss the legislation included in the *Child and Family Services Act*, as well as regional meetings over the course of the coming year.

However, I don't want to put constraints on the tour since it will depend largely on the feedback we receive from the communities, specifically in relation to the barriers and obstacles they face with this legislation. They are more intimate with the actual implementation of this legislation and what issues are faced in their communities.

Moreover, under this legislation which we are reviewing, the *Child and Family Services Act*, the power to apprehend has been placed with the director of social services. The director uses the powers in the legislation to apprehend the children and these powers can be delegated to other staff.

We, as a department, while conducting a comprehensive review of the legislation, are expecting that these children in the communities who are currently in unsafe situations are properly cared for and our expectations are that these children will be placed in a foster home closer to their homes. That is where, Mr. Chairman, our direction is headed as a department.

We have heard and understood the foundation for the concerns conveyed to

us. I will stop at this junction as the response to the member's question is quite complex. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for responding to part of my earlier question. I noted that he responded to this part of my question and it relates to the comprehensive review and consultation with the communities. This consultation would, I imagine, include areas or items that create these hardships or concerns.

Why does a child have to be apprehended from their parents? There are numerous scenarios that would all require different approaches and we could come up with a thousand different answers. The reasons for apprehending a child are varied. However, it is obvious as to what the barriers are.

It is only those parents who don't have good parenting skills that tend to have their children taken away. The usual grounds are drug and alcohol abuse, not providing adequate nutrition and child abuse. Those are the ones without parental skills.

It takes two to tango and I believe we came to an agreement yesterday when we were discussing the directorate that those people who were not taught proper parenting skills by their own parents require this kind of training. They don't know any better. A human, being an intelligent being require proper training or one has to learn that on their own.

Humans are not instinctual and parenting skills don't crop up, unlike animals that have parental instincts. Animals are different as their parenting is instinctual. They don't even have to think in order to fulfill their parental duties. Only sentient beings require training and the passing on of knowledge in order to learn. This is something Inuit have traditionally known.

What I want is when your department is considering the comprehensive review and the community tour, an alternative to apprehension should be kept in mind. Every community has facilities that are utilized for daycare centres, kindergarten centres, or preschool. Each community has different terminology for these types of facilities, but I'm not fixating on the term. However, when we already have these types of facilities in use during the day, can we not consider using these facilities as overnight care facilities for younger children especially, with workers doing a night shift to care for them? Perhaps even a social worker.

Maybe we ought to ask ourselves if we prefer not to have our children apprehended and sent out of territory. Should we not be managing our own situation? These children ought not to be placed in a dangerous situation due to the selfish nature of their parents. People will always have selfish intentions. However, some people are slow learners, or are unwilling to learn new skills or to overcome the hurdles in their lives to improve themselves. Some parents never learn and their children are basically in and out of the system as if they are in a revolving door.

Perhaps I should ask this question. When you are conducting your tour, you stated

that your intention is to find out the barriers or obstacles faced by our community members. Will you also be asking for recommendations on how to improve the current situation? As per my idea, you can speak about the possibility of using daycare facilities in the evenings or any other improvements that our citizens may suggest. Will you also include this in your list of questions to the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleague. All those questions you asked are very helpful. When we had a meeting with the elders, all of the issues that you identified were discussed.

I can also add that when a child is being taken away, the current Act is directed primarily at children under the authority of the director. Since the mechanism for applying this Act is still evolving, I'm sure that we can find solutions around that. It is because of the infancy of the Act that this one section is too often applied by our own social workers.

I believe we all know, including Mr. Arvaluk, that if we were to go to Nunavik, we would find more social services for adults. Our own counselling services for adults are often lacking. Without having to consider broken homes where children are taken away, it is not surprising that the member is wondering why lessons are not being learned.

When we had discussions with the elders, it was mentioned that maybe it would be best if a counselling model was used in Nunavut. That's what we're going to keep coming back to. At this time, I can say that we don't want to see these children sent outside of the territory. Maybe we have to keep posing questions to the deputy minister.

To add to it further, Mr. Chairman, while we are deliberating this issue, we are not only going to be visiting the people of Nunavut but also those who are concerned. I told the organizations that we will consult with them. We wanted to place a priority on talking to the elders.

I agree that we will take all of these into consideration. We're looking at setting up a model that could be used and we will factor in the member's suggestions. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister. Under H-5 with regard to children, including the Northwest Territories, we never fully accepted having children, especially aboriginal children, sent there. They end up becoming adults who no longer know their own parents.

Children have a wish to come back to their own homes, but why is it that children who are taken away are sent outside of the territory? We know about the safety issue. We know about lack of food or abuse of some kind in the home. Are these children sent out of the territory due to a lack of support services

here in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a little bit similar to what we discussed. I don't want to say exactly what happens because there are confidential issues here.

With respect to criminal activity in a home, I stated that there was one instance over the winter in one of the communities. However, when we brought this up in the winter, the director's annual report was tabled. There were over 300 foster children, some with disabilities, who had to be sent out of the territory because of their needs. We find it inappropriate to apprehend and send children outside of the territories. Perhaps we can make some amendments while we're reviewing the new Act.

If the question is: why are children sent outside of their territories? I can respond by saying that there might be criminal activity in their home environment and they have to be removed from there. They are not being abused *per se* but if there is a need to help the family, the child has to be removed from that environment for the protection of this child. In those instances, the child has to be put in a foster home.

Alex could possibly make a supplement to my comment, Mr. Chairman, because he deals with it almost on a daily basis. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to supplement the minister's response, there are also instances where children require specialized care and service that we don't have in Nunavut. In some instances, we require children to go into physiotherapy. As well, we have children at risk of hurting themselves. For their own safety, we ship them out of the territory where the services are provided. So that's a few more reasons why we would do that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under H-5, I would like to ask a question about a service status lacking in Kugaaruk and it is in regard to a shelter. I don't like the Inuktitut term for it, but I'm talking about a shelter. Can I ask that question under H-5, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I believe so. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that's under H-4. We had recently made a departmental policy on this financial issue. The member is more than welcome to ask me any questions at all. I didn't hear the question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to raise

the matter of elders, women in particular. When spousal assault occurs in the home, the children are usually witnessing the incident where the father beats their mother. When this occurs, most women and their children flee to their other relatives' homes and then the families that accommodate these victims are then placed in a dangerous situation since the aggressive spouse may turn on them.

Some victims are sent out to other communities by social workers due to the dearth of local facilities. It's quite obvious that if we had shelters in communities, then they wouldn't have to be sent to another community. This then becomes a hurdle to those who are trying to resolve the issues, or counselling the spouses to address their issues, or conducting family sessions.

If communities had crisis shelters, then it would alleviate some of the problems we currently face. I'm sure that this situation and its possible solutions have already been discussed. As I stated, a petition with 150 signatures was submitted to resolve this matter in our community. I would like the minister to take this to heart.

When spouses are sent out of the community and time passes, the spouse then returns to the community when the parties have agreed to reconcile. If the community had a local facility, the reconciliation process could be dealt with locally as long as the situation is not too dangerous. We may require a security company or a secure facility with proper staffing so that the victims are not placed in a dangerous situation. I'm sure that there are some

communities that have had success in this area.

Perhaps Mr. Campbell or the minister can respond. Either of you or your staff may answer my line of questioning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. That's more of a capital question, but if the minister would like to answer. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you. With respect to the financial aspect of the operations, we are already supporting existing facilities through funding. We have also increased the funding for these types of facilities based upon the *Tamapta* Action Plan. We have been directed to assist people undergoing crises during our Cabinet retreat in Cape Dorset.

At this time, in the Kitikmeot region, there are three existing shelters; in Taloyoak, there is a facility with six beds; in Cambridge Bay, there is a facility with four beds available; and another shelter with six beds exists in Kugluktuk. After our current amendments to the Act, we allocated further funding increases for these facilities for this upcoming fiscal year to ensure that the operations of these facilities can be funded and it's not just their furniture or other equipment being funded.

If a community is able to purchase a unit, then we can offer some operational funds to assist the communities. That is the reason why this petition that you tabled is quite important and we will be referring to that petition when reviewing possible improvements to this situation,

especially as it relates to a future facility in your area. We will be taking that into consideration.

I wanted to let the member know that we will be reviewing the matter and that there will be a formal response to the petition, but I'm just providing a verbal response at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very brief statement, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to condone the separation of families when I refer to crisis shelters and I'm not trying to say that either. We are a government and we ought not to divide any families as one of our principles is healthy families both as a territory and separate communities. We all have our ideas as to what constitutes healthy families.

I would not want to have my comments taken out of context or misunderstood and that is why I made this comment. I don't have a question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I guess there was no question there, so we will go to the next one. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of keeping in line with these questions, how many children are actually fostered in the territory?

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I alluded to the report and I'm sure my colleague read the report in full which I tabled in the fall session. In that report, there is a director's report which is a mandatory report that should be tabled in the legislature. It indicated there are over 300 foster children currently Nunavut.

It probably varies every month because some are short term and some are long term, which my deputy explained, that would require specialized services either in or outside of Nunavut. But averaging, in my view, this year, there were over 300 foster children, the majority of which were in local communities but were cared for by foster parents. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: I just have a question about the clock. Did I take four minutes to ask my last question?

Chairman: I don't think so, but I guess we forgot to reset it. You can just carry on. Go ahead, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the minister to tell us how many children are actually fostered outside of Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I suppose that is question number two. One was throughout Nunavut and the second part is outside of Nunavut. I'll have my deputy minister respond to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of February 24, we have 60 who were fostered outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much does it cost to foster these children outside of Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's no doubt that varies because some of them are specialized and some of them are more routine, and so on, but I'll have the deputy explain the details. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, our projection is at \$6.1 million to foster kids outside of the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to bring it back to page H-5, is that under Contract Services? I'm assuming the Government of Nunavut pays them through... as the minister said, some are actually contract services, but the people who are actually foster parents, what line item does that payment come out of? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I'll have our Corporate Director explain that, Debora Voth. Thank you.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The foster payments are made out of the Purchased Services line item and the contract services for residential care in the south would be paid out of the Contract Services line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the travel for these children and probably their escorts to go because they're underage, is that under the Travel and Transportation section? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Madam Voth will explain that. Thank you.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the travel costs are paid out of the transportation and travel line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of social workers working in a community, I just had a question about how many contract social workers we have in the territory right now. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. My deputy will explain that, Mr. Campbell. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of January 31, we had 46 social worker positions, out of which 29 are filled with indeterminate staff, two are beneficiaries, 17 of these positions are vacant, 12 are currently filled by casual staff, and 1 is filled with an agency social worker. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I was asking those questions is I know one of the topics that keeps coming up is the idea of how many contract workers we actually have in Nunavut and at the same time, one of the concerns is about training nurses and social workers.

I know in Arctic Bay, we have a social worker who was trained and was out in Cambridge Bay. Through our discussions, Mr. Arvaluk mentioned that there was a social worker in Pond Inlet who is not working, who went through training through Nunavut Arctic

College. The member from Pangnirtung has two people as well. Why are these people not being hired if we have contract workers from outside the territory being hired? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot really speak for the individuals and probably a good way would be to find out exactly why.

I'm not sure whether they have applied or not. I know some of the top-notch businesspeople throughout Nunavut who have trained to be probably like him, who would train in a particular profession but chose to do other things. I don't know. Maybe they didn't apply.

If they had applied, surely, I would ask the same question why they are not employed. If the member is able to help me that they did apply, that would enable me to find out exactly why the government did not honour their application. But if they have not applied, as the minister, I can't really follow that up. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the social safety net programs, I know there is some joint work between your department and EIA. Could you explain how your two departments are working together? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy, Mr. Campbell, will respond to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a follow up to the report card as well as *Tamapta* priorities, the government has decided to set up a number of deputy ministers' committees. I'm going to be chairing one deputy ministers committee on quality of life. That includes, as a priority area, the social safety net. That's one priority area that we need to look at. The other one is poverty reduction and the other one is housing.

Under that deputy ministers' committee, there are six deputies participating who are affected in those departments who are providing guidance and assistance in that committee. There will be some committee work provided as well as a result of that process and the departments will be leading the work involved in that.

As an example, the work on the social safety net would be led... right now, it's still under discussions. We haven't finalized who is going to be taking the lead, but EIA is going to be taking the lead coordination with a number of departments working under it, including Health and Social Services, CLEY, and Justice working under that banner, to identify the initiatives that we need to implement under *Tamapta*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the government's 2010-11 Budget Address, Minister Peterson, under the section of those at risk, said that \$1.5 million would be invested into child protection programs. I'm just wondering if he could explain what the child protection programs are that he is talking about. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. That's the project that I announced earlier in the House today which really involves reviewing the *Child and Family Services Act*. We need that amount of dollars to consult with Nunavutmiut in a variety of ways, including our partners in Inuit organizations and other organizations that are connected with those kinds of services throughout Nunavut. We estimated that it will cost about that much to be able to finalize the final report. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$1.5 million is to be spent over two years. How much does your department plan to spend of the \$1.5 million this year? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. I'll have the deputy minister explain the breakdown of that. I would say that it will be split between the two fiscal years. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once the budget is approved, we have asked for \$600,000 for the fiscal year 2010-11 and then \$900,000 the following year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There will be public consultation and community engagement. I know that's what the minister said from his Minister's Statement earlier today. How many communities will be consulted? Will it be all communities across Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Surely, I think it would be ideal to reach all communities, but realistically, we probably will not be visiting all communities. The communities that have more social interaction and maybe less economic activities will definitely be consulted. We would like to try and be fair, that we at least consult the representative communities that are actively involved with family services, and so on. I would say that the majority of the communities will be consulted. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have you actually determined which

communities will be consulted with or visited? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Not yet at this moment. We are in the process of working out the action plan. We have scoped out some of the action plan that we have, but we have not finalized it yet. Once that is done, I'll be pleased to circulate that to my colleagues in a formal letter if the House is not sitting. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to go back to talk about the social workers again for a second. In terms of their role in the community, I know they work hard and work hard at the job that they're doing. Some of them actually have the added responsibility of being the probation officer. Is this going to continue this year or is that going to be put onto the Department of Justice? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the probation responsibility, my colleague, the Minister of Justice, and I have had initial discussions on that. There are a number of positions that are taken as dual responsibilities. To be realistic, within the government, we cannot transfer all of the functions all at once. What we did agree to is that we may have to do it in stages. We have transferred some.

In terms of the actual numbers, I'm not in a position to do that. I think my colleague, the Minister of Justice, will likely be the one who will lead exactly how many he can take on. That work is yet to be finalized, but initially, we have said that we're going to have to probably do it in phased basis. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to let some of my other colleagues ask questions. Thank you.

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

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer to an issue that was brought up already and it's in regard to our children, boys and girls. Whenever a child has to be taken from their home in our communities, what we would prefer to see is to have them remain in our community instead of being sent out as long as they are in a safe environment. We all know how much better that is at any time

When children are sent out of the community, they usually have problems reconnecting with their own family when they come back to their community. I would prefer having them in their own community because it makes it a lot easier for the child to stay in touch with their family. The children might not be in their parent's home, but they would be in the same community and not disconnected completely.

When there's total disconnection, children have a hard time readjusting

when they come back and there's a disconnection in the family unit. We have known this for a long time. The children who were sent out to residential schools had the same problem reconnecting with their family. If and when it was at all possible, I prefer to see them staying in the community. Before they get old, it's a lot better to have them in an outpost camp. It keeps them intact with the Inuit culture and language.

The reason why I'm speaking today is when a child is apprehended and from what I have seen in my community... and because we have three workers, they have set up a system where if it's a non-Inuk, they would use the non-Inuk culture and if it was an Inuk or a beneficiary, they would use the traditional system.

What we see is foreign laws being applied to our communities. Sending children outside of the territory is not good. I know the social service workers are just using their policies, but we have to make sure that the policies are made in Nunavut instead of coming from outside the territory. I know that all of the social service workers are working toward the same goal.

What we're seeing now is that the people of the communities don't want their children sent out and that outsiders working in the communities want them to be sent out. We have to make sure that the people coming in from the outside are oriented in the traditional values to make sure that they know the cultural aspects and the traditional laws, and to give them orientation right at the beginning.

We all feel when the family hub is broken. When children are apprehended and sent out, it becomes harder to reconnect after they have been out for a while or to make any changes. It is not a question, but I wanted to make that statement, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Komoartok. I guess there is no question there. I don't have anybody else on the list here, so we will go to H-5. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Social Services. Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$36,434,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move to H-6. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Public Health. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$9,686,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move to H-7 then. Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Treatment. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$157,063,000. Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It sure feels good to have the Chair to ask questions. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we often hear concerns from our constituents about the care and treatment that they receive at their community health centres.

I stated yesterday that one very common complaint is that clients are just told to take Tylenol and come back again at another time. There were a couple of

occasions in my home community that had fallen victims of the same actions. Both of them ended up being medevaced out either later that day or the following day and were very seriously in need of a doctor.

None of us in this House, members or witnesses, are doctors or health professionals, so we cannot judge whether or not this is an appropriate response from health centre staff. We also recognize that it is not our place as MLAs or bureaucrats to come between medical professionals and their patients when it comes to a diagnosis in terms of care or treatment and follow-up. However, complaints such as the one I just described come up again, again, and again.

Can the minister describe the basic levels of training, qualifications, and experience required for health professionals hired to work in Nunavut's community health centers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Member for Nanulik. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very tough question to respond to because however or whichever angle we respond to it, there's always another question that follows up. The particular type of question that he asked, I think, is a similar question that can be raised from all constituencies and communities throughout.

What we, in the department, try to do is to address case-by-case complaints. I don't think there is a generic kind of complaint problem that can answer to each community at all. So we, in the

department, try to address each complaint as they come in independently and specifically deal with a particular question. There are many that do not reach the headquarters level.

I share the member's concern that we could probably do a lot more and a lot better to be more sensitive and culturally responsive to the elders as well as to those who are in very serious medical situations. The reason I'm responding in that fashion is because it's a question that my deputy minister and the senior level in the government continue to address every day.

We may have to find a way to put complaints or problems related directly at the community level instead of handling them outside of local communities, but that involves a whole lot of searching for ideas on how best to deal with these kinds of problems that tend to occur in communities. It's a challenge that we deal with and face every day.

Mr. Chairman, to be fair in responding, I would like the deputy to add to some of the comments that I made because it's an overwhelming question that the member just raised. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to supplement the response from the minister, we are very challenged as a government and our department is no different in attracting qualified, experienced health care workers to work in our communities.

I should say, though, before I proceed that we do appreciate the expertise and the help that we get from our health practitioners and nurses at the frontline level. I think that we would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge the good work that's going on in Nunavut. I know that's not the intent of the question, but I think it's important to reinforce that we do appreciate that the people who work for the Government of Nunavut have worked hard.

That being said, we do look for registered nurses to work in these communities. We are looking for people who are qualified nurses. We look at areas such as the number of years that nurses have worked in small communities. We look at areas of cultural sensitivity, whether those individuals have worked in a remote aboriginal or Inuit setting. So we do have a tiered system of how we screen applications when they come knocking on our door to express an interest.

As I said yesterday, we are very challenged in trying to find particularly nurses to work in our communities. In the last year and a half, as I said earlier, we have recruited 61 nurses into the system since we started the nurse recruitment and retention program, but keep in mind, there were 25 that left the system, so the net is about 36 nurses that we have hired. I think that's tremendous work that the government and the department have undertaken to attract people first of all to Nunavut.

The comment that has been made and the question that has been raised are not new to the department. Yes, the minister acknowledged that there are always

concerns raised by mayors in the Kivalliq and mayors more recently in the Baffin, expressing a concern that there needs to be more culturally sensitive workers working in the communities. It is something that we support and something that we are trying to adhere to as we deliver health care services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister is aware, nurses in our communities are our only contact for our medical concerns oftentimes. If we're lucky enough, we could end up having a visiting doctor in place to look at the patients right then and there when they do come by for help.

To be told to just take Tylenol and go home and if you get worse, show up the following day, it shouldn't have to be acceptable, especially in cases where it has shown that these patients ended up being medevaced out the following day.

Can the minister describe how his department monitors the performance of health professionals working in Nunavut's community health centres? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Member for Nanulik. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I said earlier in my response to the first question that we deal with complaints on a case-by-case basis. I said earlier that we don't have a generic solution for every complaint that may or may not come in, but I believe that the

nurses that we have are qualified individuals who have gone through rigorous training and have passed their national requirements, as the deputy minister explained earlier.

We don't have an evaluation system just for evaluating whether or not the nurses are actually performing as required. That's something that the supervisors probably would have to do if the performance evaluations are required. In terms of evaluating the quality of care in communities, I don't think we have particular procedures in place to deal with that.

I can only continue to say that if there are problems that develop in communities with particular patients and if a complaint does come forward through a community or an individual, we respond to them privately and we take into consideration the privacy and medical ethical issues that are involved in bringing that particular kind of medical condition to the department. These are very sensitive and in some cases, very overwhelming.

What I will say is that we will continue to respect individuals' right to treatment and we do that with a commitment. We may need to be more sensitive in some cases. The deputy minister indicated earlier that we could always improve in that area and we will continue to ensure that we have communicated that to the nurses in each community. I have certainly communicated that desire to the director of medical affairs and I would like the deputy to add further to that, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do take those concerns very seriously, Mr. Chairman. About a year and a half ago, we did hire a chief nursing officer because of those types of complaints that we have been receiving over the years. We recognized that as a process where we can take some of these issues and the person who can do some of the initial assessment and investigation into some of these concerns.

So we have a chief nursing officer now who has been working in the department. He is also working with the nurses as well as Dr. McDonald in this case, the Director of Medical Services, to coordinate their efforts to develop policy and procedure manuals for each of the health centres that need to be developed and updated on a regular basis. We also have started a quality assurance process in the department, where complaints are now reviewed by the department when these issues come in.

I know that's not real comfort to some of those things that are happening now in the communities, but what I'm trying to say is that we're trying to establish these processes so that we can address some of these concerns in a fair and equitable manner when they do appear from the communities because these are issues that are fairly sensitive and we're looking at both the community, of course, and the treatment of the people, and of course, the qualifications of nurses in our communities. We are looking at that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're dealing with these issues on a daily basis. I realize that there is an enormous pressure put on the Department of Health when it comes to the health of Nunavutmiut.

In other parts of Canada, if a person is not satisfied that a health professional has provided the correct diagnosis or response to their concerns, they often have the option of going to see another health professional to get a second opinion.

However, residents in Nunavut's isolated communities only have one health centre to go to. When residents believe that they are not getting appropriate or adequate service delivery at their health centre or they are concerned that a diagnosis is incorrect, how can they request a second opinion? Is there a process in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. In a particular community, the answer is no. That is why, if the patient is seriously ill, they are normally medevaced and that is why our medical travel cost is really quite high. If they require immediate medical evacuation, we don't compromise that question.

The nurse will consult with a doctor at all times. There are doctors available pretty well 24 hours a day for consultation. Each community has that reference contact 24 hours a day pretty well. Doctors, whether they are out of province or not, are on standby. We have a service arrangement with them that they are on standby.

We will call nurses if they need a second opinion. It would not be correct to say that they rely purely on their own judgment of medical situations. Most of the time, they do consult with doctors that are available if they are not in the community. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, the minister provided copies of his department's complaints procedure pamphlet to all MLAs. This document is also available in health centres, I understand. Can the minister describe what kinds of complaints have been filed with his department to date and what steps have been taken to address the concerns raised?

Mr. Chairman, if I may add to my question or allude to the fact that unilingual members of our communities, especially elders, I'm not so sure if they would be able to go through the process of using this kind of format. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think there is a perfect solution or perfect approach. If the member has a perfect approach, maybe he can recommend one. That would help us a lot. But we will invite every complaint. We address every complaint. We don't compromise on that.

I told the member the other day that I received a call even at home the other day. I think it was yesterday, my wife received a call. I don't know how they

got her number from outside of this community, but we did receive one at home yesterday.

We take these complaints seriously; we don't put them on the shelf nor will we ever put them on the shelf. We take the health of Nunavutmiut seriously and we will respond to every concern or question. We don't compromise on that. We probably do a lot better dealing with complaints compared to other jurisdictions, but we take and deliver them and they go down through the pipes, and so on.

For me to release every detail of which kind of complaint, I think it's bordering on privacy concerns and so on, but we can assure you that we get a lot of them and we address every single one of them. My deputy is going to explain exactly some of what they look like and how we deal with them. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister of Health and Social Services knows, we are here elected to become instruments to seek, to the best of our abilities, to find solutions for these types of problems that exist in Nunavut especially, maybe not so much in the rest of the country. Often times, we are talking about not being up to par versus our southern neighbours just because they have more facilities and so forth to depend on a lot more than us Nunavutmiut.

I'm only trying to bring up the issue not in a critical way but in hopes that we will be accepted when we are serious about a unilingual member going to the

nursing station and given Tylenol only to be medevaced out because the intestines have burst open. That's serious, that's very serious.

So I hope the minister will understand that I'm not taking this as a personal agenda or anything of that nature. I'm only trying to address an issue of a problem that exists in Nunavut. I for one would be more than willing to become part of the solution instead of being part of the problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Would the minister like to respond to that? Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. We will continue to wait for that suggestion. When it's ready, we will be ready to address it and we certainly appreciate any contribution that we can make. I know that our primary care workers in communities are there to provide and treat patients as they come in, and I think, by and large, without all of the amenities and resources available to other Canadians, may not be available within their communities because they do have a secondary medical. There are a lot more advanced facilities and treatments adopted throughout but we don't have those in our communities, but what we have in communities, I think that they do a fairly good job at this most of the time.

There are some areas that pose difficult questions to the department and to health officials. Hopefully, we will continue to improve and provide a better service to them. We have learned from the mistakes that have been made, and we will continue to learn and surely, we will

continue to work towards solving and not creating other problems. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to state for the record that even as government, we have to be seen to be able to see from the patient's perspective, not just to protect the interests of the department or our government.

I think it's very crucial to see the intent of frustrations and whatnot that some of the clients or patients have gone through without necessarily making any noise afterwards. They just try to take it in and then not be able to go anywhere beyond that situation that they have confronted.

I think it would do well, Mr. Chairman, that at least from time to time, we should allow ourselves to not just become defensive but be able to try to understand the other side of the coin. That's all I want to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I didn't really see a question there, but if you want to comment to that, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think the department will continue to just be complacent with what we see. We said that we will continue to learn and we will continue to apply new techniques that do work.

Our primary care workers have a second opinion available. At all times, doctors are on standby. That's not a defensive statement, that's a fact. And we will continue to improve that. We will not

compromise on the health situation of Nunavutmiut. I for one will never do that. I have been around for a while and I will not compromise in providing a second type of class treatment available.

My deputy indicated earlier that he had put in place a number of standards that continue to try and provide the best care available within the resources that we have. We know we cannot compare ourselves to outside of Nunavut borders, but what we have in Nunavut, we must make it work and that we're committed to doing.

We will give complements where complements are due, and we will continue to improve providing that we receive constructive suggestions on how to improve our services in Nunavut and make it cost-effective as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I just want to follow up on my colleague for Nanulik's questions. I think they were very constructive.

We see news from elsewhere whenever there is a misdiagnosis, for example, and there is a trend of public inquiries held to determine what happened so they can fix it. We haven't had any here even though there have been a few that we know of that have taken place.

I would like to know what the department will do when there are known cases of misdiagnosis, for example. What steps will they take so that we can reassure our constituents that

their welfare will be looked after in those cases? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. We may not have a public inquiry or whatnot to address misdiagnoses of patients throughout Nunavut. I have only been here for a year and a half and I believe my colleague was there for ten years.

I don't know what kinds of inquiries or whatnot were initiated at that time, but I would like my deputy to respond because I think some of these questions really involve the actual evidence collected and provided as to those particular institutions where they should be addressed. I said earlier that we will not compromise the health of Nunavutmiut if there is anything that we can do about it.

I would like my deputy to respond to some of the questions. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do, as the minister indicated, take these concerns very seriously and we take the recommendations and comments from the members very seriously as well.

Again, this is process and I know people don't like to hear process. We have some established processes that we have initiated over the years where we do a peer review right now on instances that do occur where there have been

complaints or if there has been a misdiagnosis. We do follow up on those particular concerns in the department.

There is also the process of using the coroner's process where required. Yes, if there is a public inquiry required for some of the things like if there is a misdiagnosis and if it requires a public inquiry, that's likely a step that the government will take and encourage that process in order to ensure that the quality and care of services for Nunavummiut are addressed. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I think the other question that my colleague was trying to get at is that there is no real way of getting a second opinion in the smaller communities. Perhaps there is some way of communicating a request for a second opinion, like a phone number that our constituents can call to talk to a doctor or something, and a lot of those concerns can be alleviated as well in the future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know whether I made myself clear or not earlier. I know that even within the other previous government, there was always a second opinion available. Doctors are on standby for every nurse in health centres throughout Nunavut. It's just a matter of a telephone call away.

I remember going into the health centre in Rankin Inlet and they did phone a doctor in Vancouver who was on standby. When a doctor is not available, if he is tied up, in other jurisdictions, they have doctors of different types on standby. I'll let my deputy explain further that procedure and how it's used. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really have too much to add but to say that we do have doctors available that will provide that service.

If patients continue to be concerned about the treatment that they are receiving at the health centre, there is a process for that as well. We will communicate these processes more aggressively over the next several years or months to come, or weeks and days, so that people understand what process that they need to follow when they do have complaints about their treatment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wasn't talking about Rankin Inlet or Iqaluit, but I've had relatives in smaller communities fly themselves to Iqaluit to get a second opinion at their own expense.

It's a real challenge for those people living outside of the centres where there are readily-available doctors that you can get a second opinion from. So it's those smaller communities that don't

have that service that we are trying to follow up on. Is there some way that we can deal with those? Perhaps the department can find a better way of managing those. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I don't think we can indicate in this House that the larger communities have better care. There may be more resources and whatnot in terms of the population and the number of nurses or health care workers available in some larger places, but the health centres in each community have access through local health workers to additional help if they do need it. It's not something that is not available; it is available.

Like the deputy minister indicated, we probably have to promote that a bit more, I'm sure. Probably the local nurses normally make judgments of their own, but from the administration side, we can certainly encourage them to be more proactive on that. I'll have the deputy explain further on exactly what I mean. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I don't have much to add to the minister's response, just to say that we do hear the member's recommendations and observations, and their request for improved services to the department.

What we can commit to doing is reviewing these on a case-by-case basis

as well as reviewing whether we need a system of referral or a second opinion process. So we will take those under advisement and we will follow up accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move on to another subject. I would also like to thank Mr. Elliott for asking questions with respect to smaller communities and the need for local residents to go to the health centres. They usually go on local radio stations to announce who should be going to the health centre and I have said that the health department expressed concern that this is a breach of confidentiality. The fact is, however, that this is a long-established practice and it seems like it's something that needs to be fixed.

The deputy's response doesn't seem complete. I requested that your department consult with the Information and Privacy Commissioner to find out if there was a breach of any laws. It seems like there was no connection or they didn't ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner. So my question is: did you consult the Information and Privacy Commissioner on this long-standing practice? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I think we can do that. Certainly, we did not get a request from the Assembly to ask the Integrity Commissioner or the Privacy Commissioner on that, but it was alluded

too that it may infringe on a privacy related issue, but the deputy minister will respond to that further. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can confirm that we have started the process of consulting with the Privacy Commissioner's office on getting their advice on that. Even after what I said yesterday that we have always used this as a practice to do the radio announcements, it's just something practical that we have done over the years in Nunavut, but we will be following up on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I wouldn't be pressing this if the department was not overly concerned of other privacy matters. When you're dealing with a rather dangerous disease, privacy seemed to override that part. It costs us quite a bit of money by the looks of it, so that's why I'm following up on this.

If there are breaches, usually, if I'm going to have my rights overruled and overwritten in some way, I sign it away on a form and I do not see this practice for those individuals whose names are advertised via radio every day. I think their rights are being waived and they should be given a clear understanding that that's taking place in those cases.

That's all I ask and I look forward to the opinion that you get from our Privacy

Commissioner. I'll leave it at that for now. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. I didn't hear a question there and I don't have anybody else on the list here for questions, so we will go back to H-7. Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Treatment. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$157,063,000. Do you agree? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to raise this question. I had raised the same issue during standing committee regarding the reimbursement of expenditures, such as this \$150,063,000 funding that the federal government administers. I'm aware that the federal government has appropriated this funding for the operations of the health department, specifically as it relates to medical travel and treatments.

However, we are also aware that every dollar that is spent for Inuit has to be reimbursed by the federal government. That was why I asked questions pertaining to whether every dollar used for Inuit health matters is fully reimbursed. The answer I received was that it was unclear as to how much of these funds would be reimbursed under the federal programs. My question to you is: is it still unclear as to what percentage is to be reimbursed from the federal government?

Let me clarify that, Mr. Chairman. Way back when the federal government enacted the *Indian Act*, okay... I apologize for not using the proper parliamentary procedure. I should not

use the term “okay.” In any event, I was just trying to be as concise as I can.

When the *Indian Act* was enacted by Parliament, it included amongst its provisions, which have never been retracted yet, that any treatment requiring hospitalization or medical services for Inuit falls under the *Indian Act*. Do you apply these provisions to ensure that the department is fully reimbursed by the federal government for providing health care to Inuit? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question asked by our colleague is quite complex as it revolves around the Constitution and the aboriginal rights administered by the federal government. Due to this reason, I feel that it is impossible to respond fully to this question, although I understand where he is coming from.

However, in relation to Nunavut in particular as well as the Northwest Territories, there are different funds within the pool of funds contained in the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. The difference is that we also service the general public, which is above and beyond the program parameters, such as public insurance.

Some of the items that cannot go through public health insurance, such as eye care, ear care, and other services under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, are reimbursable. Every penny is reimbursed. We are generally allocated a lump sum with an imposed ceiling and the funding that is segregated

for Inuit health care is not broken down, so I don't think we get every penny that is due to us.

Perhaps if the member can add some details as to his question in regard to the program, I can better grasp where he is trying to go with his line of questioning. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. Yes, this issue is very complex and it's quite obvious that it's challenging to attempt to get what is due to us, but there is a danger here.

If we, as an aboriginal people, don't push for full reimbursement, especially since we comprise a tiny portion of the Canadian population, we may find ourselves being abandoned financially by the federal government in the future. This may apply to most of the remote territories of Canada. This would apply especially as the glitz of Canada's newest territory fades away and perhaps as we work towards devolving powers, such as through the Mineral Accord.

Is there not a danger that under the *Indian Act*, which is part of the fiduciary duty of the federal government to its aboriginal peoples in cases where there is no other government such as provincial governments, the agreements that were made will result in the loss of Inuit rights?

For example, you said that this is unclear and therefore, difficult to determine how much money should be reimbursed by the federal government. Almost all of

the funds under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program are fully reimbursed. However, some of the funds are pooled together and ceiling constraints are imposed, as you so succinctly pointed out.

Is it not a danger that if we don't get all funds reimbursed, then this fund will be pared down, perhaps even to the point of being completely abolished and thereby sidestepping the federal government's obligation to fully fund all health care for Inuit as per the Act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I fully comprehend where Mr. Arvaluk's concern is coming from. I thank him for providing more details on his concern because this is something the government has to keep in mind in the legislature and I believe that these concerns have to be voiced politically as this is a political question.

This doesn't just apply towards my department and perhaps the whole Cabinet ought to deliberate on this matter. As an example, we could possibly add health facilities and capital projects that are consuming a lot of funds currently and seem to just keep rising. We have never received any reimbursement for these health care facilities from the federal government.

The rising costs associated with health care eats up the majority of the budget. The health department budget alone consumes one-third of our entire budget. For this reason, although this has never

surfaced in the Cabinet discussion agendas, it is an issue we find ourselves discussing more and more, especially the issues raised by Mr. Arvaluk. I believe that we have to keep our MP apprised of our situation and this is becoming obvious as we face these challenges.

I'm unsure of how best or through which avenue I could provide a response, so I'll leave it at that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. We're going to take a five-minute break here. Our health minister requested a five-minute break for health reasons and seeing as he's the health minister, I think we will grant him that. We will be back in five minutes.

>>Committee recessed at 17:25 and resumed at 17:34

Chairman: Welcome back. Mr. Arvaluk, do you have any more questions? Go ahead.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed I do. Be that as it may, it is beneficial to know these things when we are administering programs for them.

Perhaps in asking about this example, it is sometimes difficult to delineate the funding eligible for reimbursement under the *Indian Act* that determines how much the federal government must fund. If an Inuk gets sick, is the priority on delivering essential health services and not so much on the correct category for costing out the service as per the federal government?

I would then like to raise this question with regard to southern provinces and

perhaps one or two of the other territories, as I'm unsure of Yukon's status. Are communities or reservations completely funded by the federal government? In those cases, does the federal government directly administer health care either by providing public servants for administration or the nurses directly for this health care?

Is it transferred to the provincial government as part of their jurisdiction? If that is the case, are these agreements similar to the ones between the provinces and the federal government? Do they have to try and get reimbursed for their administration of health care for the First Nations as per the *Indian Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are real questions we must ask and are quite important to remember.

Personally, I'm not the minister responsible for the *Indian Act* nor am I the aboriginal affairs minister. However, we do know that as it pertains to health services, at least based on my knowledge... Mr. Campbell may supplement my response in more detail as he is more familiar with these issues than I am. He is also quite familiar with the situation in Manitoba.

As far as my understanding of the *Indian Act*, the provisions relating to health care are not part of the provincial jurisdiction. As a matter of fact, the First Nations don't want the provinces to have anything to do with health care. They have treaties and health care services are

directly administered by the federal government. They prefer not to involve the provinces as they don't want to transfer their rights. Perhaps in different cases, there may be partnerships, particularly in more remote areas, but in some places, 100 percent is funded through the Indian affairs department of the federal government.

With respect to how health centres and medical administration is dealt with, I will have to defer that to Mr. Campbell as he has a better understanding than I do. I would ask that he explain how it is dealt with in other areas. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to supplement some of the minister's responses, the federal government is responsible for health delivery services in the First Nations communities on the reserves, but they also have agreements with the provincial governments to provide certain services on reserves.

There's not very much for me to add, but Madam Voth did work in the Manitoba health system and she might be able to provide more information with regard to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think our minister has communicated it very well. Already, the federal government does provide the services in health care centres on the reserves. If specialized services are required, of

course, they're flown to specialized hospital facilities in the south.

My understanding is that in Nunavut, the decision was made that Nunavut would deliver the health care services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Voth. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. So if someone is sick from a First Nations community or reserve and is sent for treatment in larger hospitals like Ottawa Civic or Calgary, then does the Manitoba government keep track of all of the costs incurred for that First Nations person and they try their best to get ultimately 100 percent back from the federal government? Is that how it works? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Chairman, Madam Voth will respond to that. She has tremendous experience in dealing with the financial issues related to all of that in Manitoba. Thank you.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Manitoba, if it's an insured service that is provided by the province, then the province would pay for that insured service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Voth. Any more questions, Mr. Arvaluk?

Mr. Arvaluk: I'm not quite clear. Can you clarify that a little bit? In Manitoba, the minister would send a bill to the federal government for non-insured services. Is that what you are saying? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Voth again will respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The services that would be provided at the hospital facilities in the south would be considered an insured service under the *Canada Health Act*. As such, it would be provided by the province and the province would pay for that insured service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Voth. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: I heard correctly, then that is not my concern. My concern is what about those who are not insured but come under the *Indian Act* for the purpose of treatment. How do they receive it in the larger centres like Winnipeg, who come from northern Manitoba, for example, that are being treated in Winnipeg?

That's the interest I have because I'm hoping that we will learn something so that our territorial government will not be so burdened in paying for the patients of the First Nations in Nunavut, namely me or somebody else who is not insured, who should have been paid for by the federal government, not the Nunavut

government. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Voth will again clarify that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, it's actually the service that has been insured; whether the service that is provided would be an insured service under the *Canada Health Act* or not, all Manitobans would be provided with that insured service whether they are First Nations or not. So if it's an insured service, it is provided by the province. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Voth. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Now it is confusing. But nonetheless, maybe the minister can assure me that his department would try... I believe in devolution. I'm not arguing the need for devolution because we can look after it better than the federal government by a long shot.

We were raised under the federal program and it wasn't very good. In fact, some of the people who have died in southern institutions come from Nunavut, would never return and would never be found where they were buried, etcetera. That would be unthinkable today.

I congratulate the Nunavut government, especially the Department of Health, for

being very careful as to how well they treat their patients. I'm not arguing that. What I'm saying is that the federal government still has a responsibility to have their service by the GN and in turn, under the *Indian Act*, under their fiduciary responsibility, to pay for it, whatever the costs incurred by the GN. I guess the question is: how do you measure the effectiveness of that? Can you sometimes maybe provide us with the effectiveness of getting the money back from the federal government under the *Indian Act*? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know exactly where he's coming from. There is \$157 million in public insurance and all people with health cards are covered under that whether they're Inuk or non-Inuk to deal with any health problems that they may have.

In the south, they have the same set-up. If they're covered under public insurance, then they're covered whether they are First Nations or not. Following the *Indian Act*, as the deputy minister mentioned about reserves, some have an agreement with the provincial government.

It's a little bit easier to comprehend when you're living in the south because First Nations have two financial supporters in that field. It's a little bit less clear up here. I don't know whether it's a TFF or some other formula, but the problem is that the federal government doesn't give us a set amount of dollars.

With Mr. Arvaluk's questioning, we have to look at it a little bit more closely and see what is covered under the *Indian Act*, whether we're talking about the services or infrastructure and whatnot. At this time, I can't give him a direct response, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Your time is up, Mr. Arvaluk. Any more questions on the Treatment Branch before I call for an agreement? If not, we will go to Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Treatment. On H-7. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$157,063,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move on to H-8. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Health Insurance Programs. Are there any questions? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Health Insurance Branch of your department provides the Extended Health Benefits Program to assist individuals who are not covered under the non-insurable health branch program for Inuit and other aboriginals.

One of your department's priorities for 2010-11 as indicated on page H-14 of the business plan will be to "Finalize the review of territorial supplementary health programs." Will this review include options for health insurance, such as Blue Cross, for individuals who are not covered under the NIHB or health insurance programs such as those provided by the Government of Nunavut employees? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy minister will respond to that question.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will take those recommendations and when we do the review, we will certainly take some of those into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Are there any other questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was waiting for my question, but I'll ask that instead.

I think this program fits those who consider themselves Nunavut transients or are covered under an insurance program. However, we have some friends originally from the south that will never go back to the south again and are not covered under the territorial employment program or any other program.

I think we had a good example a few months ago when a person was being kicked out of the Larga House for being a non-Inuk, who is probably not as well off as a whole lot of Inuit, for just being that kind of person. Are you prepared now in the event happens? What kind of direction do you give your employees now so that kind of embarrassment does not occur again? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand his concern very clearly.

We know that the program funding is inadequate and it has been utilized for a while now. A question was raised in regard to those individuals who don't qualify under the public health benefit program. However, there is just an ancillary assistance package for people who don't have employee health benefits, such as assistance with hotels and per diems when they are travelling.

The Extended Health Benefits Program applies to those individuals who are non-registered Indians as well as for non-Inuit residents and it applies to elderly residents over 60 years old, if I am not mistaken. This program funding is usually insufficient to meet all of the demand. This program is being used fully and demand is growing. The review of the programs comes at an opportune time since we have found areas that require improvement.

We have informed our staff that the aboriginal health benefits that are provided by the federal government are applied towards accommodation facilities which are run by private businesses and whose staff is not ours, such as at the facilities in Ottawa and Winnipeg. They are independent operations of private businesses. We have asked that they welcome all residents and ensure that certain practices are corrected.

We have started to collaborate more effectively to deal with any issues that may arise. I have informed my staff to ensure that even if a non-eligible person goes there by mistake, they will not be

billed nor told that they owe this amount for accommodation after their allotment is expired. We have ensured that this will not happen again.

Someone was too hasty in making a decision and that unfortunate matter transpired. The funds would have been paid by the government, but that matter highlighted some problems that helped us understand how this government has to better service all of its residents. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question in terms of Non-Insured Health Benefits. It's semi-clear that if you're a resident of the territory, you have certain benefits for your health. If you're a Government of Nunavut employee, it's different. Government of Nunavut employees don't stay at Larga, they stay in a hotel and those types of things.

What about, and we talk a lot about, the agency nurses, agency social workers, any contractor who is in the territory and usually takes their money out of the territory? Are we paying their health bills if they get hurt? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy minister will answer that question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For those people who are non-residents of Nunavut, they continue to be residents in Ontario, or Manitoba, or Saskatchewan and they continue to get their health coverage through that jurisdiction. If they get sick in our territory and they need to be attended to, there is a recovery process and it's a reciprocal billing arrangement that we will provide the cost of providing that service back to that jurisdiction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if someone ended up being hurt in Arctic Bay and they had to be medevaced, that full medevac would be billed back to the province or territory of where that person lived. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy minister will answer that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Campbell: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's correct. We will try and recover those costs from the other jurisdiction or from whatever insurance program that that person is participating under, but we will do our best to recover those costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just noticed the wording of Mr. Campbell's answer. He said, "We will try," and we could, but does that mean you definitely recover those costs or does the province say, "No way, José. That's way too much money."? It would be what, \$15,000 for a medevac? Are we recovering these costs or is it not actually happening? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Chairman, the corporate director will respond to that, Madam Voth.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The cost of medical travel would not be considered an insured service in most jurisdictions. In this case, our health insurance benefits office would first try to recoup from a third party. For example, we have a recommendation, if we do have a contractor come up let's say for a specific assignment, that they do take out third party insurance for possible medevacs.

If it's an agency nurse, the agency would have third party insurance just as the federal government does for their employees, just as the GN has for their employees. If they do not have third party insurance, then the health insurance benefits office will actually bill the client that was transported out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So your department actually tracks this in terms of dollars and cents and people involved. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madam Voth again will respond to that.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the department will track that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you have a dollar figure as to how much has been paid out and how much is still outstanding or how much needs to be collected from these contractors? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Madam Voth will respond to that. Thank you.

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

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately, I don't have that dollar amount in front me here for this session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just feel since the idea of contract workers and there are so many sole source contracts that come out of the Department of Health and Social Services, it would be nice to have that information just out of curiosity to find out how much is sitting there. Is it possible to get that information? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. We can do our best to provide that information, but like our finance officer indicated, if it's immediately not available, we certainly will try and do our best to provide that info once it becomes available. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. Are there any more questions on Health and Social Programs before we go to agreement? We will go page H-8. Health and Social Programs. Branch Summary. Health Insurance Programs. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$38,335,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go back to H-3. Department Summary. Health and Social Services. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$264,507,000.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are members agreed that Health and Social Services is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Yes, I do. (interpretation) I begin with my thanks to all of the committee members. The comments, concerns, and questions you raised have been noted. We are quite proud of your commitment and our faith in you will not change as you represent your constituents.

I know that you raise questions representing the wish of your constituents as that is part of your mandate. We will try to resolve the issues as raised. Further, if you need more details with regard to your earlier questions or if you wish to see me while I'm here, our door is always open and you can come and visit me.

I'm also very grateful to my officials' assistance, specifically Deputy Minister Alex Campbell and also the Director of Corporate Services, Debora Voth.

I also thank you, Mr. Chairman, for chairing the Committee of the Whole and in providing direction to this junction. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Curley. I appreciate you showed up with your officials.

As per Rule 6(1), I now recognize the clock and will report progress to the Speaker.

Thank you, minister and your staff. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and officials out.

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

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 22 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder for the Standing Committee on Legislation, there is a meeting tomorrow morning at nine o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 10:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions

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

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
This House stands adjourned until
Wednesday, March 10, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:06*

