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Speaker: The Honourable Paul Okalik, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Iqaluit West)

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(Iqaluit East)

Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister responsible for Immigration; Minister responsible for the Status of Women

Adamee Komoartok

(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)
Government House Leader; Minister of Community and Government Services; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation

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(South Baffin)

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Hon. James Arreak

(Uqqummiut)

Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Languages; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

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(Amittuq)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation

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(Tununiq)

Moses Aupaluktuq

(Baker Lake)

Hon. Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice

Hon. Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Minister of Education; Minister of Human Resources; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Hon. Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister responsible for Homelessness

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, March 3, 2011

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Paul Okalik) (interpretation): Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Good afternoon. Before we proceed, I would like to ask Mr. Shewchuk to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Shewchuk. Good day. The first item is Ministers' Statements. Minister of Community and Government Services.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 011 – 3(3):
Minister Arreak Absent from
House**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Good day, Mr. Speaker. I also say "good day" to our audience. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise members that the Hon. Minister James Arreak will be absent from the House today because he is ill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment.

**Minister's Statement 012 – 3(3): Davis
Strait Polar Bear Harvest**

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform members that the Department of Environment is currently consulting with the communities of Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, and Kimmirut regarding a potential recommendation to increase the total allowable harvest for polar bears in the Davis Strait subpopulation.

From 2005 to 2007, we conducted a comprehensive population survey of Davis Strait. The survey provided an estimate of approximately 2,158 polar bears, substantially higher than the previous estimate. We are currently discussing the results with the communities and pending the results of those discussions, we anticipate soon to be in a position to recommend that the NWMB consider increasing the harvest.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Mr. Speaker, as you know, scientific and other information sometimes indicate that there are conservation concerns and a need to reduce harvesting when populations have declined. This current situation in Davis Strait illustrates that is not always the case, and when populations increase, we respond by increasing harvest.

Our wildlife management system has to remain dynamic and responsive to both conservation needs and the needs of harvesters. We remain committed to

using the best available information from a number of sources to inform wildlife management decisions that ensure the availability of Nunavut's wildlife resources for future generations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

**Minister's Statement 013 – 3(3):
Status of Nunavut's Mining and
Mineral Exploration Industry**

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the performance and growth of the mining and exploration industry is vital to the economy and prosperity of Nunavut. The situation we currently see and anticipate in the near term is very encouraging.

Clearly the benchmark achievement in 2010 was the opening of the Meadowbank mine near Baker Lake, returning Nunavut to the status of mineral producer. Meadowbank's gold output for last year should approach 280,000 ounces, ramping up to full production in 2011. Meadowbank is now adding nearly 15 percent to Nunavut's Gross Domestic Product. Some time in 2012, the first producing mine at Hope Bay, Doris, will add to gold output.

>>Applause

Further mine developments at Meliadine near Rankin Inlet and at Mary River are also visible on the horizon.

Given Nunavut's vastness and still largely unlocked mineral potential, pure exploration remains a mainstay of our minerals economy. Many hundreds of Nunavummiut are seasonably employed at exploration camps or with the local businesses providing services like supply and expediting.

Mr. Speaker, exploration in Nunavut shrank substantially in 2009 with the onset of recession and scarce investment money, but commodity prices have rebounded quickly and are widely viewed by economists as spearheading a recovery. So in 2010, Nunavut's exploration sector recovered substantially to about \$290 million. Adding ongoing construction at Meadowbank, Hope Bay, and elsewhere, total mine-related spending approached \$500 million. The indications for 2011 are even stronger. More than \$300 million are expected to be spent on exploration in Nunavut. With a big construction year upcoming at Hope Bay, total mines and minerals spending should approach \$1 billion in Nunavut this year.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work with our partners here and in the industry to see that the people of Nunavut participate fully in this important aspect of building a modern territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. There being none. (interpretation ends) Item 3. (interpretation) Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 023 – 3(3): Medical Travel Issues in Baker Lake

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a statement on behalf of my constituents in Baker Lake. I will raise questions to the appropriate minister when we reach question period. This issue has caused quite a concern to Baker Lake residents respecting medical travel and the problems associated with the travel from the point of departure to the destination.

Many residents do not have vehicles to facilitate their egress to the airport and this is the biggest complaint by far that is voiced on the local radio. Many patients are unable to get to the airport and further, when they leave the community to reach the southern service centre, it can take a whole day to travel the entire breadth of the Kivalliq region down to Winnipeg. Many residents who travel for medical treatment are also elders, including parents with children requiring treatment under the medical travel program. When the travel involves a number of stopovers, this can cause more stress as the patients have to suffer through multiple landings and takeoffs prior to reaching their destination.

In particular, I want to reiterate a point I made last year during a Member's Statement. I raised the point respecting patients who face difficulties getting transportation from their home to the airport. I stated that many patients are unable to get transportation to the airport and many patients are also unable to pay the taxi fare to the airport. To exacerbate their difficulties further, the aircraft they

take has no room to stretch or walk around in. The washroom facility is inadequate for elders with limited mobility, for parents with children, and especially for patients with disabilities. Many people become impatient to leave the aircraft upon arrival.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I believe patient care, comfort, and dignity should and must have far more value than medical travel contracts for airline cost sharing or market share. The people of Baker Lake want to have the choice and dignity to travel on the airlines that they would feel most comfortable with.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude my Member's Statement and also advise that I would like to follow up these matters later on in the Legislative Assembly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. There are no more hands up. (interpretation ends) Item 4. (interpretation) Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 5. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for South Baffin.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 037 – 3(3): Energy Issues

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Energy.

During yesterday's oral question period, the Minister of Finance assured the House that the government is staying on top of the world price of oil, the price

which drives our energy costs here in Nunavut. Can the Minister of Energy update the House today on the status of the government's pre-purchase program for bulk petroleum products? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Energy.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Yes, we are exercising our pre-purchase option for this year, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for South Baffin.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut's Energy Strategy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on October 30, 2007. The strategy indicated that the government would be considering "a review of current GN travel policies, a five percent reduction target for government-related travel," using hybrid vehicles, "public transportation in Iqaluit, and graduated registration fees based on the size of vehicle engines." Can the Minister of Energy clarify which of these ideas are actually being implemented? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Energy.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our department has concluded and tabled the document regarding the hybrid energy vehicle. It had some benefit and also had some issues with it. We tabled that, I believe, in earlier sessions, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for South Baffin.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 1, 2007, the provisions in the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* providing for the creation of an Affordable Energy Fund came into force. Under the law, the purpose of the fund is to "hold money appropriated to it in order, directly or indirectly, to subsidize the cost of energy or otherwise make energy more affordable." Can the minister inform the House today how the government has been using the Affordable Energy Fund and can he clarify how much money is currently in the fund? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Energy.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we seem to be jumping from the energy fund binder to the Qulliq Energy Corporation and back. I'll have to get back to the minister on that as I do not have the particular details that he is asking for at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Okay, the minister has said that you are also a minister and that he will get back to you perhaps in cabinet. (interpretation) Member for South Baffin.

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is quite an honour, but anyway, I recognize that no decisions have been taken yet concerning the General Rate Application that has been submitted by QEC. Although the word "prudence" was also missing from the Minister of Finance's Budget Address this week, it

would seem to me that it would only be prudent for the government to start planning for different scenarios involving power rates. Can the Minister of Energy assure us that this planning is now taking place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Energy.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my hon. colleague for allowing me to call him a minister and I apologize for that.

Mr. Speaker, yes, Qulliq Energy is working hard to ensure that the energy we do provide is the best of quality and at the best rate that we could afford. Our managers are constantly seeking ways to ensure that energy is affordable and looking for ways to reduce costs in terms of maintenance and looking at new equipment, and so on, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq.

Question 038 – 3(3): Use of Government Vehicles for Medical Travel Patients

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon as well to my esteemed colleagues. I am unsure as to whom I shall direct my question to, but I will start off with directing the question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. If I am mistaken, please inform me.

This question revolves around medical patients in the communities who have to catch flights to attend medical

appointments and specifically in relation to disabled people. In Igloolik, the vehicles used for transporting patients do not have any ramp access and sometimes when they are going to the airport, they have to wait for a long time to get on.

Although the health centre and social services have vehicles, I am unsure of the policy for the use of these vehicles by these departments in the communities. I would like to understand what the purpose of these vehicles are which are used. I'm going to start by directing this question to the Minister of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't quite get the gist of the question. Perhaps if the member could clarify how they are not supported. I believe he was saying that due to certain problems, certain people have issues.

When you look at our policies, especially the Non-Insured Health Benefits program, there are certain criteria we have to follow and this applies to all aboriginal people. This also applies to aviation and other transportation methods. The federal government is a partner, along with Nunavut Tunngavik, and they have to agree to the review of the Non-Insured Health Benefits program.

We have pushed to try and include these kinds of access items for vehicles. Certain communities have applied for different vehicles. I know it has caused a barrier in the past, but at this time, what we can say is that we don't have the

ability to buy the proper types of vehicles with ramp access. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Amittuq.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. Again, in some of the communities, especially where the community doesn't even have a taxi, the hamlet employees are always willing to assist whenever they have the capability, but it always goes back to the question of who is ultimately responsible for transporting medical patients inside the community from their home to the airport. At this time, due to the lack of adequate vehicles, they are having a hard time trying to deal with those particular patients. The nurses and other patients are able to go back and forth with no barriers.

I'm wondering if the minister could review the policy, especially to see how they could provide assistance to patients who are stuck. They are asked to travel, but due to their sickness and illness, they can't physically look after themselves. So I'm wondering if the minister can look after that and see how they can correct it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Exactly, we will look into that and this is something that we have considered. We had thought about enacting a policy to apply to the communities. I had tasked a departmental official to see how we

could provide support. I recall there was a question about this issue and we have provided a response.

It may come to a point where we have to contract it out because the government has issues related to insurance policies. If a medical patient is being transported in a non-medical vehicle and there is an accident, then the insurance wouldn't apply. So you are able to include that in the contract and ensure that the insurance applies in that case.

Mr. Speaker, we will have to look at all of the variables and ensure that we resolve a lot of the barriers we're facing today. It's always very cold in the winter and this causes a big problem in some communities. There are some communities that receive the Non-Insured Health Benefits: Arctic Bay has their airport furthest from the community; next is Whale Cove at 13 miles; and then Coral Harbour at 12 miles; as well as other communities that have long access roads to the airport.

There are certain restrictions that apply and that is the biggest obstacle that they face at this time, but I want to assure the member that we will keep that in consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Amittuq.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for stating that they will keep that in consideration. It is quite obvious that people in duress, especially those who are suffering from terminal illness, are always looking for assistance. A lot of them go on the local radio and they

want to be transferred between certain places.

If insurance is the biggest obstacle, then you should perhaps be looking at our people. Even the community residents have to look after their own and if you are going to look at insurance, then that could apply to the entire community. Based on his response, I will await a reply following his review and if there is nothing done up until the June session, I will ensure that I bring it up again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question, but I'm sure the minister will look into this for the next session. Member for Hudson Bay.

Question 039 – 3(3): Homeowner Fuel Rebate Program

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Finance.

During yesterday's oral question period, I asked the minister questions about the government's Homeowner Fuel Rebate Program. The minister informed the Legislative Assembly that the government's Homeowner Fuel Rebate Program was, and I quote, "a very good program." However, Mr. Speaker, he also said that the program is not necessary this year because it's a program that's only provided in certain years if we have funding available and the weather is unseasonably cold. Can the minister clarify whether the decision to not offer the program again this year was driven by dollars or degrees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. A very important question. Minister of Finance.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for following up. I certainly applaud his initiative and actions to help homeowners.

Mr. Speaker, since Mr. Rumbolt asked the question yesterday, I have gone back to my officials and we're looking very closely at the program to see if there's a way that we can consider funding it again this year. As we have indicated earlier in the budget speech this week, funds are very tight, but I would like to assure the member opposite that I'll take a closer look at it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Your supplementary, Member for Hudson Bay.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had other questions, but considering that the minister has already considered looking into this further, I would like to thank the minister for that on behalf of all of the homeowners in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): That was just a comment. Member for Akulliq.

Question 040 – 3(3): Issues with Medical Diagnosis

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

A couple of days ago, we were reviewing the minister's departmental

allocations and the minister spoke to the priorities of his department. At that time, I stated that I hadn't read anything related to health prevention issues. Furthermore, inside the *Tamapta* policy document, it speaks about healthy living for Nunavummiut and to ensure that we prevent sicknesses for our residents.

I would like an update as we often hear of stories of people in Nunavut who make appointments to the health centre but the nurses tell the person that they are fine. It seems, Mr. Speaker that the proper diagnosis is only made when the disease has become advanced and becomes untreatable.

Many people believe in the government and want to use the health system, but why is it we see misdiagnosis? Is it because the person does not look ill or sick when they go to the health centre, or is it that the medical practitioners don't want to conduct testing? Why do we have a system that allows people to suffer illnesses and by the time the proper diagnosis is made, it is too late and untreatable? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I responded to this earlier, but I will have to go back to the *Hansard*.

Public health and medical services are two separate divisions. If we looked at the public health division, they provide quite a few services if we were to review their mandate. The division provides a lot of disease prevention initiatives, such as vaccinations, flu shots, and those

types of services provided by public health. If you look at the Public Health Strategy, it involves the community health representatives. They are being tasked to look at disease prevention, tobacco cessation, and other similar public service announcements via the local radios, and we also have a quit line program that is a toll-free number.

Furthermore, if you look at diseases like cancer, sexually transmitted infections, and mental issues, there is a plethora of information out there for young people. People would be able to go to the public health facility and peruse the information on the notice boards, but there are many Inuit who dislike reading health notices in syllabics and whenever the patient is bilingual, invariably, they will read the English forms or check online for the information. The digital age allows our people to research specific diseases and to collect information via the World Wide Web. The digital information available via the computer continues to grow. This includes information on healthy living and healthy bodies.

I can also state that funding for community wellness programs is provided in all of our communities from the federal government in partnership with our territorial government departments. They are currently working on the details of these programs. These initiatives are ongoing and have improved. I can state that in comparing this to the past, it has improved.

However, why have these diseases become more prevalent in Nunavut? What are the underlying reasons and mitigating factors for the increases in the number of people suffering from these

diseases? I personally cannot even answer this question myself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Akulliq.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People can generally tell when they are suffering from sickness. Even if they don't read about the symptoms, they know that they are sick as their body is in pain. When a person is suffering from pain, they go to the health centre where they explain the symptoms to the nurses, but they're not properly diagnosed and just sent home.

On more than one occasion, I have heard from patients' relatives who question why our doctors find out the cause of sickness when it's too late for it to be treatable. The patient is suffering and tries to get it treated. How can we correct the misdiagnoses that occur? Perhaps once the health department personnel are fully staffed in all communities and we have specialists available, we may have less of an issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to respond to the member in regard to the nurses in the community health centres. Their duties don't include full diagnosis and they are not doctors, so they are unable to properly diagnose the cause, but they generally refer an issue to a doctor. Either they refer the patient to the next visitation of the doctor or if they feel that the sickness is at an advanced

stage, then they send them out for testing.

It would be a lot better if the diagnosis was faster and they were able to diagnose them properly. In some cases, only when specialists arrive in the community are they able to properly test and diagnose the person. It's very hard to try to diagnose every patient and every illness. Sometimes they are lucky that they are able to do a proper diagnosis. It seems a lot of people fall through the cracks and misdiagnosis is generally not on purpose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your supplementary, Member for Akulliq.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. minister for his response. We are aware of the many difficulties that we have and sometimes you have to wait for a specialist. However, when the specialist arrives in the community, they are so inundated with work that they are unable to see all of the patients. This is a problem in itself.

Many people have concerns, including the nurses. So I urge that the department look at not just setting aside two or three days for a specialist to arrive in a community, but to give them enough time so that they are able to diagnose all of the patients who require them. Again, we can't just walk across the road and go to a doctor and say, "I would like to make an appointment." A lot of times, we have to wait an indeterminate amount of time before the next specialist visit. Is there any way to fix the time lag here? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I personally can't respond to this because I'm not a medical expert by any means. We do have a chief medical officer who takes notes and we will ensure that we pass along the concerns of the member, including their recommendations.

Again, illnesses and diseases run the gamut from terminal to ongoing, so we have to try to look at the most prevalent sicknesses and prioritize the specialists. Sometimes it may involve participation between the patient and the nurses. If we start taking ownership of the health system, then it would enable the communities to better able to deal with health issues.

I'm very satisfied that you have expressed the concerns of your constituents. We will pass along your concerns and issues to the chief medical officer and we will ensure that our medical experts review them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Member for Akulliq.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the Hon. Minister Curley. Perhaps the community health representatives could go on the local radio to give advance notice of a week or two prior to the doctor's or specialist's arrival. I would like to cite this example: "The specialist will be coming on March 15. If you want to make an appointment, then come to the health centre." It would make it a lot

easier for communities if they knew ahead of time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will try to keep that recommendation in mind. I believe that we can make improvements. If you recall yesterday during our committee review, the deputy minister responded that there was a communication strategy but that we need to improve our communication with respect to public advisories and health matters. They will be revising the communication strategy, which I reviewed, with respect to local advisories about visiting specialists.

If the member wants to raise a further question with respect to this issue, it would also assist us in our attempts to make revisions. I believe that it can be incorporated as we need to keep our residents well informed about the visits in the future. I concur with you on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Member for Nanulik.

Question 041 – 3(3): Status of Airport Equipment Shelter for Chesterfield Inlet

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

Now that the minister has had time to update his binders, I want to follow up on the information that the minister provided to me this week concerning the

airport equipment shelter for Chesterfield Inlet. In his return to my oral question, the minister indicated that the department has, and I quote, “revised the scope of these buildings and has re-tendered the projects.” Can the minister clarify exactly what changes have been made to the Chesterfield Inlet Airport Equipment Shelter project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Transportation.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the re-tendering of any kind of specific project like that is usually due to over-budgeting. The project that we hope to have accomplished in Chesterfield Inlet and the modifications to the RFP is usually based on the amount of money available for that specific project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his return to my oral question, the minister did indicate those factors for 2010. The original budget for the Chesterfield Inlet Airport Equipment Shelter was \$600,000, which was provided through the federal Building Canada Fund. Can the minister clarify whether this tender was for both the materials and labour to construct the shelter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Transportation.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I thank you for that very

important question. The budgets that are put forth for specific projects like that are usually for the complete package; for transportation, for supplies, and the construction of the infrastructure as detailed in the RFP. Again, Mr. Speaker, some of the revamping of the RFPs is usually because we do need to find the appropriate construction company to build these equipment shelters on budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your supplementary, Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his return to my oral question, the minister indicated that this project has been re-tendered and that the tender will close on March 8 of this year. As I noted in my Member’s Statement a few days ago, I believe that it would be helpful for the government to provide MLAs with copies of the tenders and RFPs that are issued for projects in their constituencies. Will the minister commit to providing me with a copy of the tender documents for the Chesterfield Inlet Airport Equipment Shelter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Transportation.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work closely with another department in the tendering process, that being CGS, and surely will accommodate in getting more information out to the communities and the hamlets on specific tenders for their communities. Yes, I will commit to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his return to my oral question, the minister indicated that “The department is hopeful that these projects can all be successfully awarded for delivery and construction in the 2011 season.” As I noted earlier, the funding for this and other airport equipment shelter projects in Repulse Bay and Igloolik was provided through the federal Building Canada Fund. As the minister indicated in his response to my question, the bids that the department received were all above budget. Can the minister clarify whether the federal funds will remain available to the GN until such time as the projects are successfully tendered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister of Transportation.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For some of these specific projects, yes, we do use the Building Canada Fund and other programs that may be available through the ACAP programs. For sure, Mr. Speaker, the problems we do have in staying on schedule for some of these construction projects are usually due to getting the right construction company, the right bids, and the right tendering, which we always hope are on budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Member for Quttiktuq.

Question 042 – 3(3): Update on Grise Fiord Community Complex

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

Mr. Speaker, I realize, within the Government of Nunavut, we have very limited capital dollars. A project that has been going on in Grise Fiord for the last couple of years is the community complex, which is at a price tag of about \$10 million. I was wondering if the minister could give me an update on that project. Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The update on that project is that the community wanted to make some changes, which is information that I relayed to the minister and the community with support from the community, which includes significant changes to proposed infrastructure there. Planning is underway to make sure that the request of the community for changes does happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Member for High Arctic.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the timeline for the project, originally the changes that you had talked about were incorporated and were supposed to be included in the designs for the building, and then it has gone through another set of capital planning.

It was the committee's understanding that the budget would be \$10 million with the changes that were already incorporated and that materials would be coming on the sealift boat this year. Is the timeline still being maintained at that speed? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, as for the letter that we sent and had consent with the municipality, in the details to that, we had both parties agree that because the construction of the facility and changes to it are in excess of the planned original \$11.6 million to the project, the project grew quite significantly, Mr. Speaker, and because of the growth of the facility, the community was in support of delaying construction for a year. We are basing the delay of the construction for a year with the full support of the Municipality of Grise Fiord. So the construction will go ahead as planned with agreement from the community to commence in the fall of 2012. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the agreement for the construction of the building, is it all inclusive with Government of Nunavut funds or is it part of the Building Canada Fund? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The original plan of the \$11.6 million was always 75-25 in terms of funding with the federal government and this government's dollars. The project has grown quite significantly and we are working with the consultant at the moment to see where we can tweak the estimates on construction and begin to look for funding for the project elsewhere. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, with it being Building Canada funds that are actually provided in partnership with the federal government, is there a sunset period on those Building Canada funds? Now that the timeline has been held back two years, is there a possibility of losing those funds or is it still guaranteed? Thank you.

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Speaker, no, the plan for construction is still the fall of 2012 and we will be accessing the same funds. It won't hinder anything in terms of that. We are working with consultants in terms of trying to figure out where we could cut costs because the costs for it have increased significantly, and we will be revisiting the funding formula and see where and how we can possibly reduce our costs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Pangnirtung.

Question 043 – 3(3): Polar Bear Quota to NWMB

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to wish my fellow residents a good afternoon.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment based on his Minister's Statement.

If you recall, the three communities of Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, and Kimmirut share a polar bear quota. The population base is fairly large, but most of us know that the polar bear quotas are quite small. There are more bears that are starting to arrive into our communities. The minister stated that the three communities are being consulted on the results of the latest findings. The minister also stated that there would be a report sent to the NWMB.

My question to the minister is: what is the possible timeframe for increasing the quota? I know that they still have to consult with the communities. When would the quota be increased by the NWMB? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question and concern. I would like to advise the House and him that the communities have been consulted; consultation is done with the communities. It's a very good news situation, and I expect that once everybody agrees to what that increase may be through the NWMB, we would like to see this implemented before this comes into effect for this new year,

which begins on July 1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your supplementary, Member for Pangnirtung.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Many of our local residents will at least be updated on the status.

Any time the government makes a decision regarding wildlife and when they are reducing a quota for a specified animal, it's quite obvious that they immediately cut the quota without consulting the community and without working with the community. The North has a lot of polar bears, and I'm wondering whether or not they could make the process easier to include the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We expect that it will start in the new licence year under the *Wildlife Act*, which begins on July 1, for resetting TAHs. Consultations have been done, but the decision is not yet finalized because it needs to go through the NWMB process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your supplementary, Member for Pangnirtung.

Mr. Komoartok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. We are looking forward to the results. Now, if it's going to be

implemented by next year and if this does not proceed, can we expect that the quotas will remain as they are? I would like to get clarification on that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment.

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope I didn't create confusion, but I'll be clear about this that we hope that the decision will be made through the NWMB process and that the total allowable harvest could be adjusted and implemented July 1 of 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Member for Baker Lake.

Question 044 – 3(3): Personal Use of Government Property

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the ED&T minister, the Hon. Taptuna.

Considering the cost cuts to government budgets, there have been concerns from numerous constituents of conducting other business on GN time or personal use of equipment, such as vehicles or tools, as raised by colleagues of mine in the Chamber here.

Mr. Speaker, there are issues that I will ask further in detail during this session. However, my question to the minister is: is there a policy in place that encourages or condones storing or repairing personal vehicles in GN facilities and/or on GN time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Which minister would like to respond to the question? (interpretation ends) Minister for Community and Government Services is in charge of government buildings and structures. Maybe the member would like to clarify which building he may be talking about so that the appropriate minister can respond. Member for Baker Lake.

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had directed the question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, but I made a mistake. I'm sorry.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In looking at government operations, especially government property and infrastructure, it's to be used mainly to further the government's operations. This is whether it's a building, a garage, a vehicle, or infrastructure. If it is owned by the government, it is to be used solely for the purposes of the government operations prior to an agreement being established between the government and the community. These are the regulatory rules we have to abide by and they have to be followed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq.

Question 045 – 3(3): Community Freezers and Country Food Distribution Initiatives

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the

Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Earlier this week, the Commissioner of Nunavut's Opening Address announced that the Government of Nunavut will support the distribution of country food and launch a program to help municipalities upgrade, repair, or replace their community freezers. Mr. Speaker, this is welcome news for my communities that I represent in this House. Can the hon. minister indicate which communities will receive assistance in the coming year to upgrade, repair, or replace their community freezers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, the program hasn't been tabled to start the projects.

In fact, during the Baffin Mayors Conference, I did indicate that we're going to be working on more or less a first come first served basis, depending on the applications. For the most part, we're talking to the communities and encouraging them to put in their application so that we can get to the project. We want to do the project in a correct way, through the regular practices. For the most part, we do want to make sure that the communities are being respected by actually bringing in their applications and it is more or less first come first served. Again everything depends on the evaluation of the proposals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your supplementary, Member for Akulliq.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. minister for his answer. I think every Member of this House will remember that on the same day that the Hon. Minister for Finance made his address, I indicated about the same issue and wished that this would be considered on a first come first served basis, and the hon. minister has repeated exactly what I requested. Will the hon. minister consider that I was the first member to request a freezer for my community? Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I've got to state that there is an application process. We are working with other departments and also with the federal government, specifically Natural Resources Canada, and we are looking at ways for alternative energy for the community freezers.

Mr. Speaker, everyone knows that each community is unique climate-wise. There are some communities that do not need community freezers for six or seven months out of the year, compared to some that do need them ten months out of the year, so we're taking that into consideration. Of course, our partners like NTI, and these other organizations, including the hamlets and businesses, want to do the process fairly.

Mr. Speaker, one of his communities did receive a community freezer just

recently, three years ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your supplementary, Member for Akulliq.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing and understanding that the hon. minister has not got into this initiative or incentive or activity in detail, will the minister consider a community project? My community of Kugaaruk is one that is ideal for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister responsible for that, the minister responsible to all of the Nunavut communities for that matter, we do have to try and come up with a fair option, a fair evaluation of the application, and I respect his request of first come first served, but we do have to take into consideration all of the communities for that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Member for Akulliq.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not trying to provoke an argument, but the hon. minister has stated that it will be on a first come first served basis in this House. So will the minister consider Kugaaruk as one of the pilot project communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I respect the member's thoughts on not provoking any kind of argument.

Mr. Speaker, when I mentioned first come first served, yes, of course, we will take a look at the applications on a first come first served basis and evaluate and analyze the applications. Again I've got to mention that we're working with a number of organizations, including NTI and other organizations, not-for-profit organizations. Hopefully some of these businesses are including the mining companies and I intend to speak with all of them.

I have already indicated that we're hoping that we can put community freezers into all of the communities for food security. Of course, that's one of the major things that we want to do within the poverty reduction file. We do have to work on that, and food security is front and foremost on this poverty reduction file that we're working on together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 046 – 3(3): Public Engagement Process

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

I wanted to go back and revisit his Minister's Statement of the other day where he updated us on the public engagement of poverty reduction. I didn't want to get into a discussion about

the definition of poverty, I got in enough trouble last time, but it's nice to know that everybody is enjoying that and thinking about coming up with a definition now.

In his Minister's Statement, he mentions that communities have been asked to collect information that will then be compiled for the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat. I was wondering: who specifically is responsible in the community for collecting that information? I know if the GLOs were up and running, it would probably be them, but they are not there yet. So who in the communities are collecting this information to report back to you? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. As I have indicated in my Minister's Statement, we're engaging our partners within the communities, the hamlets, the business communities, not for profit, and throughout these public engagements, we will determine the working action plan and get some folks online there. Of course, everything is going to be coordinated through our Anti-Poverty Secretariat. We do hope that we're going to be getting partners from the other communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I want to be actively engaged in this project as well. If the minister could commit to providing me a list of the

people in my three communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay who are providing information to the Nunavut Anti-Poverty Secretariat. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, we're engaging all organizations and we don't necessarily have an agreement but we do have consensus on who is going to be participating and it's the hamlets, the hamlet councils, NTI, and also Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and we're hoping that we will get more participation from the other regions.

I will commit to keeping the member updated on the progress. We do have upcoming round table discussions, which I indicated in my Minister's Statement a couple of days ago, and I intend to keep the whole House updated, including Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I applaud the government for the manner in which they are attempting to approach and get as many people in the communities involved, but in terms of the partnerships that are being formed, are there certain specific groups that are actually mandated to carry out and provide the information and make the decisions on this strategy? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a joint effort by all of our organizations, the hamlets, and we will set up a committee to implement the action plans that we come up with through the public engagement process. I am one of the co-chairs, including the vice-president of NTI, for these round table discussions. Once there is an agreement on which action and how we're going to implement it is resolved, we do have some indications of which steps we're going to be taking next and I'll keep the House informed on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that the first round table is actually happening next month in April. He had mentioned NTI and QIA and he also mentioned hamlets in terms of partners. With the consultation that has gone on so far, is the approach that the GN is taking in terms of its engagement with the communities being supported by all of its partners? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that the question is very clear. In the word "supporting," does he actually mean funding money? The organizations do support the process that we're doing with poverty reduction, but specifically for funds, no, not yet at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq.

Question 047 – 3(3): Funding for Meat/Fish Plants

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

My question revolves around a matter that he identified in his Minister's Statement with respect to mining companies. It seems like they will be passing the exploration phase and getting into the development phase. That will bring about a lot of job creation. However, Mr. Speaker, a lot of Inuit are still dependent on hunting and fishing. It brings about joy and they enjoy this even as a side activity.

Can the minister provide some updates as to the possibility of Hall Beach or Igloolik getting a fish plant? They are envious of the meat plants in Pangnirtung and Rankin Inlet. Can the minister provide some background as to how a community can apply towards getting a meat plant or how they can go about the process of either the HTO in Hall Beach or Igloolik, or if it ought to be a joint venture to try and get a meat plant? It could provide a lot of economic development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that very good question. Mr. Speaker, we do have meat and fish plants in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, again, through the application process from a community, we have to evaluate the feasibility of such an endeavour. Again, if a community does want a meat plant, that depends on exactly what's available out there. For fisheries, there's usually a protocol where there's a five-year exploratory fishery to determine how large a quota it is going to be.

Once an application comes in from a community, we will certainly look at it and support the folks who are trying to come up with the plan and the feasibility study for the meat plant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Member for Amittuq.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to speak about fisheries research, as they conducted a lot of research on these lakes.

Just last week, the minister stated in his Minister's Statement that they were going to try to establish more commercial fisheries. Igloolik was mentioned as one of the possible communities that could sustain a fishery. With further mine developments planned at Mary River, the lakes surrounding that area hold a lot of char with potential commercial stocks. It could conceivably become a commercial operation in Igloolik and Hall Beach.

I would like to ask this question to the minister. They may have problems incorporating the commercial fishery with the mine because the mining company wants to develop the road and the railway. With respect to this issue, Mr. Speaker, can the minister inform us

whether we deal with conservation officers in this case?

Perhaps I should direct that to the Department of Environment. My question is: how can we provide HTOs with more support when they are looking at providing income via the commercial fisheries? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try and answer the first question before I get onto the second one.

Mr. Speaker, the regulatory process goes through NIRB and the communities. I appreciate the member's concern on the effects of the mining at Mary River on his communities. The process does go through a regulatory system, the Nunavut Water Board and the Nunavut Impact Review Board. Some of these concerns that are brought up by the communities have to be mitigated to a situation where both parties agree to a certain topic.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the regulatory process, the community, the proponent, and most participants who are registered as interveners for a project do have to mitigate and discuss solutions and options for such an endeavour. Otherwise, there is no project certificate given by NIRB to a proponent, a developer. Most of the concerns that a community has, has to be mitigated to a certain extent where the proponent and the regulators are satisfied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Member for Amittuq.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, these are two separate items. I was talking about a meat and fish plant. Perhaps if I were to write it up, then it could be more understandable. It's quite obvious that we have to follow federal regulations that relate to commercial fisheries.

Our community has often deliberated on whether they should have plants specifically for fermenting walrus meat as there is demand for this food. There are a lot of initiatives that Inuit could undertake, but if I were to say that, maybe the minister would be too grossed out to look at this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question and comment. Mr. Speaker, the other question that I wanted to answer before was that I'll speak to my colleague on whether he can supply more assistance for the wildlife offices in Pond Inlet and Igloolik.

But, Mr. Speaker, a letter of his concerns and an application forwarded to the department, I would really appreciate that and our department would appreciate that, including his comments on whether it's going to be a meat plant or a fish plant, whether it's going to be a commercial activity or inter-settlement. We've got to determine whether it's

going to be commercial or just for inter-settlement trade. That makes a big difference. For sure with a commercial activity, you do have to get the federal inspectors involved, but for inter-settlement trade, that's not really necessary.

I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Question period is now over, although you can still ask written questions. (interpretation ends) Item 7. (interpretation) Written Questions. Member for Baker Lake.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 003 – 3(3): Municipal Governance and Financial Management

Mr. Aupaluktuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Nunavummiut have called for accountability and transparency at all levels. I hold myself accountable. As promised, I swore an oath to Nunavut and most importantly, those who elected me, the people of Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Community and Government Services told the House yesterday that the government does not go through the financial records of municipalities. That may be so, but under subsection 144(4) of the *Hamlets Act* and the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, municipal financial statements are required by law to be submitted to the minister not later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year.

Accordingly, I have some written questions for the minister today. I am hopeful that the government's responses will help to clarify the issues that I raised yesterday in the House. They are quite detailed, so I ask that they be entered into the record as read.

1. Within the meaning of subsection 144(4) of the *Hamlets Act* and subsection 144(4) of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, what were the contents of the financial statements for the Municipality of Baker Lake for the 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-2010 fiscal years?
2. Within the meaning of subsection 144(4) of the *Hamlets Act* and subsection 144(4) of the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, what information concerning the procurement, contracting and leasing activities of municipal corporations is provided to the minister?
3. What were the procurement, contracting and leasing activities of the Municipality of Baker Lake for the 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-2010 fiscal years?
4. Within the meaning of the Government of Nunavut's response to Recommendation #4 of the *2010 Report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on the Review of the 2009-2010 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut*, what is the status of the Government of Nunavut's consultations with the Nunavut Association of

Municipalities regarding the application of access to information and protection of privacy legislation to municipal governments in Nunavut?

5. Within the meaning of section 5 of the territorial *Conflict of Interest Act*, on how many occasions since April 1, 1999 has an application to the Nunavut Court of Justice been made for a determination of the question of whether or not a member has contravened subsection 2(1) or (2) of the Act?
6. Within the meaning of section 5 of the territorial *Conflict of Interest Act*, what assistance is available to voters from departments, boards, or agencies of the Government of Nunavut in obtaining legal counsel to assist in making an application to the Nunavut Court of Justice?

(interpretation) Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Written Questions. There are no more hands up. (interpretation ends) Item 8. (interpretation) Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 9. (interpretation) Replies to Opening Address. (interpretation ends) Item 10. (interpretation) Replies to Budget Address. (interpretation ends) Item 11. (interpretation) Petitions. (interpretation ends) Item 12. (interpretation) Responses to Petitions. (interpretation ends) Item 13. (interpretation) Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation ends) Item 14. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. Madam Premier.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 017 – 3(3): Elders Program Strategy 2010-2014

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's unfortunate that my colleague, Minister Arreak, is not here. On behalf of Minister Arreak, I rise today to table the Elders Program Strategy 2010-2014. The Department of CLEY has been guided by Nunavut elders to establish priorities in programming for the next four years. I am happy to share this document with my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. There are no more hands up. (interpretation ends) Item 15. (interpretation) Notices of Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 16. (interpretation) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 17. (interpretation) Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 18. (interpretation) First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 19. (interpretation) Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Environment.

Item 19: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 02 – An Act to Amend the Scientists Act – Second Reading

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North, that Bill 2, *An Act to Amend the Scientists Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Scientists Act* to provide clear authority to appoint the science advisor and

science administrator. The bill also updates terminology used in the Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Abstained. The motion is carried. Bill 2 can now be referred to a standing committee for review.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance.

Bill 03 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Second Reading

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 3, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Income Tax Act* to i) update the amount of tax payable; ii) reflect amendments made in the federal Act respecting deductions on account of foreign taxes paid; iii) simplify the incorporation of changes made in the federal Act respecting payment of the child tax benefit; iv) adopt general anti-avoidance rules; and v) clarify certain provisions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Abstained. The motion for Bill 3 is carried and is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation for review.

(interpretation ends) Item 19.
(interpretation) Second Reading of Bills.
Minister of Justice.

**Bill 04 – Miscellaneous Statutes
Amendment Act, 2011 – Second
Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 4, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2011*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects inconsistencies and errors in certain Acts of Nunavut, corrects references relating to the Northwest Territories Statutes, and repeals provisions that have ceased to have effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Abstained. The motion is carried. Minister of Justice.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent of the House to waive Rule 67(2) and have Bill 4 moved into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The minister is asking for unanimous consent to have Bill 4 immediately moved into the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 4 can now be moved into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Justice.

**Bill 05 – Miscellaneous Statutes
Amendment Act, 2011, No. 2 –
Second Reading**

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 5, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2011, No. 2*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects errors in the French version of certain enactments of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour of the bill. Opposed. The motion is carried. Minister.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent of the House to waive Rule 67(2) and have Bill 5 moved into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The minister is asking for unanimous consent to have Bill 5 immediately moved into the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 5 can now be moved into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

Looking at our orders of the day,
(interpretation ends) Item 20.
(interpretation) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 4, and 5 with Mr. Schell in the Chair.

We will take a 20-minute break and the Committee of the Whole will begin after the break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 14:50 and
Committee resumed at 15:18*

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

Chairman (Mr. Schell): The Committee of the Whole will come to order. In the Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 1, 4, and 5. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 1 and the Department of Health and Social Services, followed by the Department of Education. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement to continue with the O&M budget for the Department of Health and Social Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations &
Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 –
Consideration in Committee –
Health and Social Services**

Chairman: Are we in agreement that Minister Curley and his staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please escort the minister and his officials down to the witness table.

Minister Curley, could you please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will introduce my staff. On my right is the Assistant Deputy Minister, Raj Downe, and to my left is our Finance Officer, Ms. Debora Voth. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Yesterday, we were on page H-6. Any more questions on H-6, Public Health? Okay, if not, we will go to Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Public Health. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$17,193,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move on to H-7. Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Treatment. Any questions? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the Hon. Minister of Health and Social Services and his witnesses is to do with staffing at the community health centres. The staffing level at our community health centre has not changed for a number of years and the budget has not changed since 2010-11. What plans are in place to review the staffing requirements at our community health centres? That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will seek some help from my officials on this.

In terms of an introduction, I just want to indicate that unless the community has grown to a particular size, the contingency of the staffing normally remains the same. If there is a demand for further services, the department normally responds to try and deal with a particular situation that is happening. We're doing much the same thing right now in Igloolik, which has some increase in the flu-like symptoms. Today we sent a doctor to Igloolik to help with the treatment of our clients in Igloolik.

But I shall wait for further questions. (interpretation) That's it for now. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I am out of order, I will stand corrected.

One of the most common things when I travel to my communities in the Akulliq riding and living in my two communities is that people complain about the treatment they don't get. Earlier in the House, I talked about and I don't have to remind everyone that people are told that they have this chronic disease when it's too late. It is not uncommon, Mr. Chairman, when a mother goes to the health centre and tells the person at the centre that the baby is sick. I believe that the only person who really knows that the baby is sick is the mother. That's according to the traditional values and understanding. The traditional values and understanding is recognized by this government through the *Tamapta* plan.

So quite often, people go home disappointed.

My question again to the hon. minister is: what factors are taken into account when assigning individual nurses to specific community health centres? It's connected to my first question, but to determine I need a little more detailed answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Downe.

Ms. Downe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we do is we have a government hiring process, we follow the HR process, and if staff is needed in a health centre, we go through the staffing process and we staff the position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Again, I expect that I will be corrected if I am out of order.

There is a complaints process in the government for medical health, but that never seemed to be used because I get an array of these complaints and I'm reluctant to deal with them because they deal with individual people and cases, and so on.

Through the complaints process of the health and social services department, how often do you receive these complaints? If there was a little more recognition for the community health committees, perhaps they could deal with those local issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. In terms of the question itself, we receive a lot of complaints, including complaints as well passed on to us by the MLAs. In most cases, when there is an evaluation of a particular complaint, we normally respond and we take the complaint seriously.

The nature of the medical services is such that we normally keep these complaints confidential. As a result of that, it's really quite, in a way, to try and contain it through the medical profession and authorities, the one that we try to keep in that line. If we were to try and find another way of non-medical representatives engaged in supervising medical and nursing staff in communities, it is possible that there could be some disruption. As a result of that, we are very cautious in how best to continue to deal with this thing.

We could do better, no doubt, in communities. I think also the public eventually has, in some ways, when I use the word, to take ownership of the facilities and health services, as we have done with the school services. There was quite a good reputation with the school services and school programs. I believe there is some way that we can improve ways, but it's going to take a bit of work and we are not ignoring that possibility at all. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to indicate for the record that I recognize that for every story, case, and complaint, there are two sides. I want to indicate that to the House. As a politician, professional person, and an individual, I recognize

that fact, so I just want to say that for the record.

I don't know if these are repeat complaints, but as I indicated before, I don't really want to dwell on this issue. I would like to state that I hope your department will give more recognition to the community health centres, to the hamlets in their respective communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes it then.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Yes, I think that's one part of my offer is that eventually communities have to feel that the services provided by health centres belong to the communities. By and large, the government is paying for the total costs, but actually the health facilities really are the communities' health services. As we have accepted, the schools belong to the communities. It's going to take time.

We take seriously the hamlet councils in most cases, in larger communities, like the RCMP does. If they are invited, they report to the council. We always take seriously that if the nurse in charge is invited to appear before the council, they will appear before the council to explain what's going on, and so on. So that's an offer that's a standing offer.

Not every nurse will appear before the council because they have duties to continue to serve and treat the patients and clients needed, but the nurses in charge have been aware that if they are invited by the council, they are to appear before them and hear and be heard by the council members. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also wanted to state that some of these cases could be isolated or repeated over and over, but when there is a complaint, I think we also have the obligation to take them seriously in order to try and correct them without having to go outside of the community. That is why I'm indicating more than once in this House that I wish that the local health committee would be given more responsibility in dealing with the community's issues under the hamlet council. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's just a comment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to one of the priorities on page 137 in the business plan, it talks about the implementation of the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy and including the partners of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the RCMP, and the Embrace Life Council. I was wondering if the minister could give us an update as to what's happening with the actual implementation plan in terms of when it will be tabled in the House and when it will be starting to be implemented into all of the departments. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I did make a remark in one of the question periods that since the strategy was rolled out in the fall, we did indicate at that time that implementations would follow. The three partners, particularly Health and

Social Services, NTI, and the Embrace Life Council, were then working on the implementation plan. There have been a number of meetings taking place since the fall.

I did receive a draft plan yesterday, I believe, put on my table. The three partners are getting close to signing onto the implementation strategic plan. Once all of the partners have signed onto it, we are looking forward to rolling that out so that the communities can take part in activities that all of the partners have agreed to. That's as far as I can go right now. It still needs signatures from the partners that I just mentioned. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so I have clarification because I know there is different wording; in some respects, it's called the implementation plan and in other respects, it's called the action plan. In terms of the actual action plan, is it agreed to upon by all three supporting members? Obviously the Government of Nunavut is the one that's the lead in terms of providing and saying what would be happening, but then it has to be agreed upon by NTI, the RCMP, and the Embrace Life Council. I'm just wondering: are all three of the partners on board with this? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I'm not particularly a party to the discussions on this. I know it takes time to get more than one partner, or three in this case, to agree to the wording and that kind of timeline and everything else, but that is something that they are

optimistic. The information that I have from the officials is that they have until about the middle of March to finalize this implementation plan. You were right, it's called an action plan occasionally; it's probably a matter of preference, really.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Just to add more remarks about the Suicide Prevention Strategy, before the partnership acceptance happens, the draft action plan is undergoing a terminology review and that's being done through CLEY. So once the terminology review is completed, it will go forward for partnership acceptance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the timeline that the minister was mentioning, by the end of April, the action plan will be completed and signed off by all partners. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would say by the end of April that we would have it approved by the partnership. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On H-9 under Treatment, we're looking to and your department is looking for approval of \$248,000 to the Embrace Life Council and it has been pretty consistent for the last couple years as to the amount that has been passed on to the committee. Is this sort of like a

reoccurring amount that they don't actually have to reapply for? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not new money for the Embrace Life Council; it is money that they've had access to for the last number of years. We provide funding in the amount of approximately \$248,000 and that's in the form of a contribution agreement and a secondment agreement to the Embrace Life Council. We expect that that would continue on in this next fiscal year as well. Again, that is not new money, that that's money that has been available for the Embrace Life Council for the last number of years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. Again I think this probably was a lot of the talk with the GN in terms of self-reliance. Maybe this is a good example of community members and communities taking charge and actually building on different programs. Obviously they are reporting and all of the mechanisms they have in place are working out because it hasn't sort of changed and the relationship is there. In terms of reporting, is everything working out fine with that relationship? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the partnership is one good example. They have gotten this far by developing the major strategic plan that we tabled in the fall and now they are working towards it. Throughout

the development stages, they did continue on with the training programs that in *Qallunaatitut*, it's called ASIST and in Inuktitut, it's called *Uqaqatigiillu*, training individuals practically in every community how to help with the awareness training for individuals willing to help out with this important issue, and so on. That's going to continue on. I believe that the partnership is really something that I am personally amazed with and I hope that once the implementation plan is developed, they will continue with this work. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sort of jumping ahead on page 137 as well, one of the priorities for 2012-13. I'm glad that the government is following up and I know that I have done Members' Statements on it in terms of the review of the *Mental Health Act*, so it's nice to see that these are priorities for the government as well. I believe it was in 2002 that there was a mental health strategy completed. I'm wondering: how has that been working out from 2002 until now in terms of following that strategy? Has that been very helpful in working towards reviewing this Act? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that is a very important piece of document that is very thorough. It covers quite a lot of cases that people who specialize in mental health can use as a guide. In that document, there is also a reference for treatment centres, and so on, but it's

really quite an involved document and very professionally done, in my opinion.

That document is now being used to develop other programs that are needed, particularly for the treatment of substance abuse and treatment centres that the department is planning. So it's using that document to try and wiggle out of that document the implementation strategy and action plan that are needed, and therefore, eventually roll out and develop those centres so that we can begin to have people benefit from that instead of being sent down to various locations across the country. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister mentioned the idea of alcohol and drug abuse prevention or programs that are offered. In the main estimates on H-9 under Treatment, there is \$1,099,000 for alcohol and drug treatment programs. I was just wondering if the minister could explain what that is going to go to. Is that to provide services and send people south to places like Mamisarvik or is that for more local and homegrown opportunities for people to receive treatment? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that program currently is being used for treatment programs in the south. We don't have the programs available today in the North, so we actually send them south to residential care and that would be for a few weeks. That's what the \$1,099,000 is for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan on page 137, the second priority for 2011-12 is to “Develop land-based and facility-based addictions treatment programs and services...” I’m assuming that’s for the territories, within the territories. Is that correct? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: The answer is yes.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know there are other MLAs who actually want to ask questions about where these facilities will be and which communities they will be in, so I’ll save those questions for them.

My question is in terms of answering my previous question about the \$1,099,000 that is for treatment out of territory. Where is the money coming from to build these programs in terms of facilities or operation dollars? I don’t see where it is in the main estimates. If you could point it out for me. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. I think what you will see in the business plan somewhere is that this year will be the planning and design, more like a planning year. We’re not able to develop the plans specifically to the regions, although it’s a priority that we’re now taking seriously. We’re working very hard to try and get these facilities established in at least two main regions,

the Kitikmeot has been mentioned as one and Baffin.

The Kivalliq has a particularly very effective men’s program going, which they don’t mind using as mobile instead of one location, and that’s been going on for a number of years. Currently these are funded by community wellness programs, and so on. They are able to benefit from some of the programs within the existing budget. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to ask specific questions about the Qikiqtani General Hospital. In terms of that building being opened up, I think one of the ministers today talked about the idea that the building itself is actually bigger than the requirements. I just wonder: is that building being used at 100 percent capacity in terms of all beds filled, all floors occupied with patients? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Downe.

Ms. Downe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to take that under consideration. We have an implementation plan, so we are working with the implementation plan, but we will get you the details later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in terms of knowing whether the hospital is actually working at capacity, your department is not aware of that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Chairman, really, we're not ready, obviously, but it's a 32-bed hospital and thank goodness it's not fully 100 percent utilized every day. Otherwise, we would be wondering why all of the people are that sick every day. It's there, obviously, and ready to accommodate that many people. Like my ADM says, we will provide you with more information. Obviously we need to consult with our doctors. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, then maybe could you explain a little bit more of the implementation plan and how your department sees the hospital coming online? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: We can do that. I think, since it opened a few years ago, it has been providing an effective service of all kinds of residential services that it's responsible for. We are proud to again remind the member that it has received its full accreditation and certification from Accreditation Canada, which was really quite involved, because it does provide quite effective regional medical needs. We will provide the member with the kind of question that he is asking. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to clarify too. I wasn't talking about the efficiency of the staff and the quality of services being provided at the hospital. I was talking and referring

mainly to capacity and effectiveness of use of space. We saw in Pangnirtung, a health centre sit for a year being heated and power being paid for, and we saw that in Gjoa Haven as well and somewhat in Igloolik with the long-term care facilities not being utilized.

We're talking about cost-saving measures and tightening our belts. We're paying for heat, hydro, and whatnot in these facilities. I'm just wondering if there are better ways of using them. One of the suggestions I was having is if we are sending people for treatment for mental health and whatnot, why can't we assign certain beds within the hospital to accommodate those types of clients. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: I share the first part of the member's question that I wasn't also responding to him about capacities only. That's not what Accreditation Canada normally uses on their checklist, if he goes onto their website and reads about it.

To compare this very modern, in some ways, very effective service of the Qikiqtani General Hospital to a local or regional facility or health centre that was built, it was full of particular structural engineering issues that were not fully completed and as a result, were delayed mainly because of the contracting issues. Also, the inspections that were done with the help of CGS; there were compliance issues that were not fully in place, so it wasn't the government's fault that the Pangnirtung facility didn't open on time. There were a whole slew of deficiencies that we have had to wait because they were the responsibility of

the warranty issues in place and we just couldn't walk in.

The treatment facilities are not just... If he reads the mental health strategic plan, it's really quite involved. Doctors need to assess those individuals. We're not just going to fix individuals whom we label as requiring mental health help or whatever and just put them over to treatment centres. They have to be willing individuals. There are confidential and professional assessments needed. We can't just open up a bed there and say, "There you go." We need staffing, qualified individuals, people who can counsel and confidentially treat those individuals, and so on.

For us to be constantly undermined and that we're wasting millions, I think it's not appropriate sometimes. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response. The fact is that we ended up paying for power and heat for those facilities, no matter who was to blame. I'm just saying that the hospital is open now and I was just curious to find out whether it was effectively being used in terms of cost-saving measures. The minister has committed to getting back to us on the implementation plan for the hospital, so that's good.

My next question on page 137 in terms of the priorities for 2011-12, it's the fourth bullet where it talks about implementing phased-in components of the Clinical Quality Assurance Program. I was wondering if you could explain

what the Clinical Quality Assurance Program is. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Downe.

Ms. Downe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Especially the Department of Health and Social Services, any care or any service we provide, we have to provide within a lot of guidelines. What it is about is ensuring that our standards are met when, for example, a hospital or a facility is being accredited and that we are able to meet Accreditation Canada's requirements. So we have to ensure that we comply with those standards and requirements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question would be: in terms of it being phased in, in terms of different components, when will it actually be totally in place and implemented 100 percent? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Downe.

Ms. Downe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Quality assurance and risk management is ongoing; it happens on a day-to-day basis. In Nunavut, we have quality standards that we operate to and it is continuous. We provide service and we continually try and improve as possible, so there is no start date and end date. We check ourselves forever and ever with the idea of continued quality service improvement. It's never a perfect service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Talk about being caught off guard.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked this question previously to the Minister of Health and Social Services but I wish to raise it again. I want to note that I am proud of this initiative as we are all aware that residents in many communities have addiction problems, whether that is alcohol or other substances. In those communities where they don't have too many residents addicted to these substances, I had asked if the healing programs could be provided.

In looking at the future, have you made any plans to provide a facility that will help with addictions? Most people travel out of Nunavut to attend to these programs, but in most cases, they are going to a place that has countless opportunities to purchase these substances, whether it is alcohol or another substance. When they are in these addiction programs, it can make it extremely hard to fight their addictions since the substances are readily available and that has occurred in the past.

Will the government be looking to fix these challenges when they are looking at a healing centre that can be placed where there is no alcohol or other substances while they are in the program? If that was understandable, that is my question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, based on my previous response, the plan we wish

to undertake is detailed in our business plan. It includes details on how the funds are to be allocated and it will be spent in our last term this winter. We will be specifically gearing it towards facilities, and we have thought of placing one in Cambridge Bay as well as in Iqaluit.

With respect to the ongoing Coral Harbour Healing Circle, we want to see it supported and certified so that they can go to the other communities that are requesting their assistance. In the upcoming winter, we will start trying to incorporate that into the mental health wellness program. The division is actually in Cambridge Bay. They have a director now, Norman Hatlevik and the fact we had nobody to fill this position meant this was the reason for the delay of the business plan.

We are hoping this winter that we will be able to provide more detail on how funds are to be allocated towards these facilities in the immediate future and to ensure that patients don't have to be shipped out of the territory to get treatment and to offer this as a government. I believe this was an issue that we discussed in cabinet and it was supported by my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do agree with the hon. minister. As a community, we have a vision to become self-sufficient and self-reliant so that we don't need outside help. This is a vision to try to initiate that and it will all pretty much stem from the creation of the men's group. They were trying to provide a better future for men

in our community, but you have to involve all of the residents in the communities, especially when you talk about addictions and mental health issues.

I believe we have to keep it open specifically in our own community at first because it's very expensive to ship healers out to various regions. We have to be a little selfish because we have to ensure our community is healthy and better their lives. This allows the healers to work with all of the residents. Due to that reason, I just wanted to get more details from the minister on this matter and I thank the minister for his prior response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I'll respond briefly. We are very grateful to the Coral Harbour group. Deputy Minister Campbell and I went there recently in September and we had Acting ADM Greeley accompany us when we met with the hamlet representatives. They reported on their plan and how they were looking at providing that service in Nunavut.

We will be keeping the funding support for Coral Harbour in our allocation. We don't want to just leave organizations that are operating efficiently behind when we're trying to deal with all of these health issues. There will be a review done as to what assistance they require in trying to attain a facility for mental health and a treatment centre.

It's quite obvious that some patients will suffer from mental health issues and there are a lot of people who are unwilling to admit that they have a

problem and therefore, they're not willing to apply for assistance or to ask for assistance.

The hospital is not a mental health facility; it's mainly dealing with sicknesses and health issues. It's not specifically built for mental health. If you look at the community health centres, they're specifically for health and they're not geared towards mental issues. All medical facilities are primarily for medical purposes and not for mental health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for being open to comments. I just want to add to some of the questions and comments made by my colleagues with relation to some of the issues that were brought up.

What about the patients who are sent south for treatment for addictions? There is no support because when these people return back to Nunavut, they are supposed to be getting support services and follow-up treatments. In most cases, when there is no follow-up for people who have undergone treatment, they tend to go back to their old habits.

When we're talking about people who require addiction treatment, are there any other options where we can provide more support for these people, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) During our preparation

and planning, I have received letters and correspondence from various bodies and individuals. They reminded us that these are some of the issues we have to consider, especially when people are sent out for addiction treatment. It seems like they're just left to their own whiles once their treatment is over.

We were reminded and we want to be reminded that these are issues we have to deal with, but again, this is not the first time that we have heard about it and as we're trying to deal with these issues at the local level, I imagine that the rate of addictions may increase because with the number of different drugs and alcohol becoming available, more of our residents may become susceptible to addictions. There is quite a bit of gap in that area and we are aware of that.

With respect to the wellness program which is run in Rankin Inlet, I have seen the benefits of that program, especially when creating groups, like the Alcoholics Anonymous group. The wellness group in Rankin Inlet has created a couple of organizations. I imagine that this will occur throughout other communities. We will keep that in consideration. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for providing that response. Furthermore, in looking at your business plan for 2011-12, it's obvious that the operations for the hospitals or community health centres will not be increased. This relates to community health centre operations. Does this mean that your prior budget for operating these community health centres is static and

doesn't require an increase? That's what I would like to know, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. As you realize, competition for GN budget dollars is strong. In order for us to achieve different staffing levels at the community health centres, we have to provide a very strong business case to the Department of Finance, and that is not something that can be developed overnight.

We have undertaken the process already of creating a database of health levels in different communities, so we have a good understanding today of the health issues in the different communities. We are working on a model of a number of staffing levels that we do need in each community based on the health status and based on the population levels, etcetera. That has not been completed to date. This has been spearheaded by our Deputy Minister, Alex Campbell. That work needs to be completed in order for us to take forward to the Department of Finance to support different levels of staffing within the community health centres.

I hope that answers the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank Ms. Voth for her response. I imagine that my colleagues have a few questions left and I want to leave them some room to ask their questions.

I would like to comment on this particular issue that is related to liquor management as well as the review of the *Liquor Act*. In the old days, there used to be personnel specifically focusing on addictions and mental health issues. Perhaps we could revisit that and reconsider the old approach of dealing with addictions under this particular division. This is just a comment, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I know that they're reviewing the *Child and Family Services Act*. When a child is apprehended and once the child becomes a permanent ward, the child is usually adopted by a home that wants a child. How much are we paying for those services? I know in the past that the department has paid monthly for adopting a child. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I'm going to need your help. I thought we covered social services already. It is not even under that area. I thought we were under H-7 now, under Treatment.

Chairman: Yes, you're correct, we're under Treatment. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sorry. (interpretation ends) I'll ask that as a written question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was one of the first people

to put up my hand and one of the last to be recognized. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, as some of my colleagues stated earlier, a lot of our patients are sent to the south for medical treatment and our patients are housed in boarding homes. If the boarding homes are full, hotels are used. Can the minister tell us what percentage of time that the boarding homes are to maximum capacity and hotels have to be used to house boarding home patients? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Maybe it's because you're in a southern island, I don't know, but anyway, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Chairman, I cannot answer that question. I would have to check the record. It depends on the spike in the number of sicknesses, obviously, and I know that in Winnipeg, in some cases, it differs every year, but there are times. We have to do more and check our records a bit more to provide the whole details. I'm not sure which particular regions or communities he is talking about. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In particular, I was talking about the Winnipeg facility. It seems quite often patients are housed in hotels because the facility is full.

My line of questioning was going to be around what is the cost difference between housing a person in a medical boarding home and housing a person in a

hotel. I'm just wondering if you do a comparison and find out if it's cheaper to keep them in the boarding home or if it's cheaper to keep them in hotels. I'm just wondering if you track that kind of expense. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. I think the information is available. There are rates that are set by the Non-Insured Health Benefits which mainly pay for all of the costs of Nunavutmiut, mostly those clients who are taking advantage of these boarding homes. The rates are set by the federal committee, which includes NTI, Health and Social Services, and the federal government and they do differ from region to region.

Our finance official may have the record here, but that's not for her to provide. I can provide you with more details in a number of ways, but I'm going to try and see if our finance officer has information on that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When our clients are housed in hotels, it's due to overflow at the boarding facility. The boarding facility is actually responsible for making the arrangements with the hotels, so we in turn actually still fund the boarding facility at the same rate and the boarding facility is responsible for the payment of any hotel costs for the overflow clients at this time. So we pay at the same rate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if you are funding a boarding home for all of the monies and the boarding home is responsible for providing the hotels, are we 100 percent sure that hotels are getting paid by the boarding home or is that the responsibility of this government? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be an agreement between the boarding home and the hotel facility, and we don't monitor that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a little bit confusing. If hotels are used and you are waiting for the boarding home to pay them, I'm just wondering: have you ever heard of any cases where hotels were not being paid by the boarding homes when they were used to house medical patients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have never received any complaints from a hotel that they have not been paid by a boarding home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to go back to one of the comments that Mr. Curley mentioned where he had said that alcoholism wasn't an illness. It's my understanding that alcoholism is an illness.

An Hon. Member: A Point of Order.

Chairman: To the Point of Order. Mr. Curley.

Point of Order

Hon. Tagak Curley: My Point of Order is this: I never said it was an illness. If I said it in Inuktitut, I apologize. You may have misunderstood. What I said was the regional hospitals and health centres are not set up here as mental facilities. These are a different set of facilities. Where he got that idea, I just have no idea. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott, to the Point of Order.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of what came through and what I was listening to in the interpretation, it sounded like he had said that the health centres and facilities were for illnesses and people with illnesses. That was my point and wanted clarification. To me, he has given clarification that it is considered an illness. That's all I was looking for, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. I did offer him to read the Mental Health Strategy, which is really quite professionally done, I say again, very involved, and treats mental illness as a very serious issue that the Nunavut government has to look at. If you are reading it, I know it's prepared by doctors and certified by them because it's quite specific in some cases. We're lacking services in that regard and therefore, one of the components often

mentioned is that we need to have treatment centres.

It's all over the place, but our Mental Health Division is now trying to focus on establishing these centres so that we can become part of the ongoing services provided and responded to as a result of the Mental Health Strategy that was tabled in 2002. So we're working towards that and I say again that the cabinet is supportive of that, but they left it, that this year will be the development year so we have our plans properly and documents in place so that there is no room for confusion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. To the Point of Order, I find Mr. Curley's explanation of his Point of Order is clarified. Go ahead, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Curley. Recently on February 23, there was an article written in the *Nunatsiaq News*. It was entitled, "New scheme irks Nunavut pharmacists." I was wondering if the minister could explain what's actually happening with the new way in which his department will be handling medical supplies, pills, and medication for clients. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I have not had an opportunity to read the article. It has been alluded to me that there was one, but the information I have is that it wasn't meant to be accurate, it wasn't meant to be fair, nor did it ask any of the government officials whether or not the information in the story that they were

creating was actually factual or not. I think it was the opinion of one person or the journalist in question about what's happening.

We do have a plan. As a result, the pharmacy program is part of medical services. We cannot do without it. Health centres depend on supplies. We have partners throughout Nunavut that we have engaged, at least three retailers in the territory. They are important partners and their services will continue.

There is also a regulatory side at the national level. Some is related to pandemic stuff that is critical. Therefore, some of these supplies cannot be obtained from the retailer because the federal government is responsible. For instance, for H1N1, all of the provinces had to buy in bulk and the federal government was responsible for buying them directly on a cost shared basis. These pandemic related drug supplies will be purchased continually through the national pandemic plan as well as the territorial pandemic plan.

Also, let's not forget we have maybe 25 different health facilities in Nunavut. They require a stock in their local supplies so that patients, our clients, are not just given Tylenol medication. According to standards applied, they require at least a five-day supply at all times in case of emergencies.

There are also educational services required that have to be conducted by technicians. Who best should hire those technicians? These are not new; these have been in place for a number of years now. It's important that our technicians fully understand federal, national, and territorial regulations. For further

information, I'll have Madam Voth explain exactly what's going on.

We did, Mr. Chairman, about two weeks ago, invite the shareholders of the two regional corporations and their personnel to meet with our departmental officials through my deputy minister. They went out excited, there were happy, and there were no disagreements whatsoever. That was confirmed to me when I met with them, by all places, at the restaurant. They were quite excited and happy about it, including their presidents and their chief executive officers.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the department is looking at various different delivery models for the pharmaceutical program. We are in internal consultations as well. We don't really have a strategy to report here to the committee today. I would like to say that what we would be working towards would be a business case. It would go forward through the Department of Finance's estimates process in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister must have anticipated my question coming because he was talking about who better would be to hire and put these people in place than the GN employees.

But the article actually mentioned about the Iqaluit-based territorial drug distribution supervisor, three pharmacy technicians in Iqaluit, one pharmacy technician in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. Are those positions and

those PYs what we are approving here today? Like you said, the strategy and the plan won't be in place until September. Will that be in next year's fiscal budget or is it in this budget this year? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The new model that we're examining for the pharmaceutical program is not in the 2011-12 budget. We are looking at developing a business case that would go forward through the estimates process for the 2012-13 budget. We're working in a multiple number of years; I believe it is 2012-13. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That helps too. In terms of when I read the article, it seemed like it was going to be happening right away, but I guess it would be status quo from now until that next budget. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I have the question repeated, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: No problem. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that I was asking was with the way that the pharmaceutical products are being distributed and handled, nothing will be changing until the 2012-13 fiscal year. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the strategy would go forward in the business case that would be delivered in the fall, so that would be for the fiscal year of 2012-13. We are not asking for any new funding for a new model for this year; we are continuing the status quo as far as I know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, when I read the article for the first time, I thought, "Oh, jeez. We just finished the Auditor General's report on the HR and it takes 318 days to fill a position. You better start advertising now. That way, positions are filled by the time the program rolls out." That was all of the questions I had, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the summary activity under H-7, someone was asking about when there is overflow in the boarding home, in transit, some patients have to stay at a hotel. My question is pertaining to that specific concern. How much are these people paid for meals at the hotel? I would assume that they are given money for meals; breakfast, lunch, and supper. How can the minister assure me that there is, in fact, enough money for the patient to eat at the hotel? If the minister has the information, how much money do you give these patients staying at the hotel because of the overflow in boarding homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The clients who would be staying overnight in the hotels would be brought back to the boarding home for their meals, and I would like to clarify...

Chairman: Go ahead, Ms. Voth first and then Minister Curley.

Ms. Voth: I would like to clarify that this is under the NIHB program, which is a Vote 4, so the costs do not fall under the treatment area of the Vote 1. I just wanted to make that clarification as well, that it's a Health Canada program and it's funded through the Vote 4 funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Now Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Like we indicated, the boarding home arranges for the overflow of individuals and they are responsible for the meals as set at certain rates. So they advise the hotel, "For breakfast, it's this amount, lunch for this amount and that amount." When the patient does have a meal, they charge it but if they exceed it, they have to pay the difference. If you want that rate, we can provide it as we don't have it with us at the moment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much is this amount and how much is that amount in terms of dollars? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't think he has that information, but I think he said that he was going to get that information to you, but go ahead, Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: No, I think I did respond that I said we don't have that information. That's the way it works in the Kivalliq. Whether it's different in the Kitikmeot, I'm not sure, but we will get that information provided. They do have a set amount for breakfast and we will provide that information. I'll say it again, we shall provide it. Thank you

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. I would imagine the hon. minister would provide the information to all of the MLAs here in this Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: We shall provide it to the committee, which we are responsible for responding to the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: We're under Public Health?

Chairman: We are under Treatment.

Ms. Ugyuk: Treatment? Thank you. You guys are looking at implementing a plan or something for a new treatment centre for addictions. Do you guys know where it will be? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan for the treatment centre is still under review. We have an RFP out for expression of interest. I understand that that closed in mid-February. We're creating the plan. We don't actually have solid plans in place of where the

treatment facilities will be. We are working on that plan and that RFP process is providing the information to develop that plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I just want to remind the members that we are on Bill 1, which is operations and maintenance and not on capital. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker... Mr. Chairman. I apologize. On page 136 of the business plan, in the Home Care Program, which I believe is for disabled people at home who require assistance day to day, there will be a review of the program to be completed by March 31, 2011. Maybe I can get clarification about the review. What exactly will be the subject of this review? Is the consideration towards lowering the number of home care recipients? Is it about the capacity? Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, after receiving more information on this review, I can ask more questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Downe.

Ms. Downe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we know, the Home Care Program is basically more of a Vote 4 funding, with a small amount of funding coming from the territorial government.

Yes, we are looking at the service level and the capacity. We cannot put a home care worker in each community as permanent; it is on a needs basis. Once a client is assessed and if they need home care service, we assign a home care worker to serve the client on an as and when needed basis, so it's not permanent. We just don't have

permanent home care people if there is no need for home care service in any particular community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the witness. It's written that there will be a review conducted on this program. It's apparent that a report will be presented after the review is complete. It has caused some problematic issues, such as why home care workers have to be able to speak in English.

The majority of people requiring care are usually elders no longer capable of looking after themselves. The elders have requested that the home care workers should be older, be able to communicate with the elder, and be able to listen to their concerns. We were informed afterwards that if a person wanted to work as a home care worker, then they have to be able to speak in English in order to qualify as a worker for these elders. Is this true? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Downe.

Ms. Downe: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why it is needed that a home care worker be bilingual is because there are forms that need to be filled out. There are still instructions and national standards that have to be followed, so that is why it is needed to have preferably a bilingual home care worker. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, in my opinion, I believe that this requires further review since the focus should be on the wishes of our elders who require care. The requirement to be bilingual should be secondary to the needs of our elders. The people who require care should be our priority, as people who may not speak English are usually more capable, especially in relation to life experiences. They know that the elders need care and the home care workers are alone for extended periods looking after them. When this program is being reviewed, this aspect has to be reconsidered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) With respect to some of our responsibilities, it would be better to view them as a whole and not to segregate them when asking questions about them.

We have students taking courses, such as those in the Nursing Program, who are increasing in number and we want to see it succeed so that we can have more nurses. We currently have students taking one-year, two-year, and three-year programs, with some students taking a four-year program. As these students graduate, they will definitely be an asset.

With respect to home care, you don't just care for a person. If the patient has an illness, you have to be able to recognize the symptoms. As an example, doctors usually check up on the patients, especially if the sickness wasn't diagnosed at an earlier stage. We have heard many cases about this. The elders

we are discussing can have debilitating illness or physical frailties which force them to have home care workers, assisted by nurses. So it's generally easier to accommodate when the worker is bilingual. If the worker is an Inuk, then they should be able to converse in English.

On top of this, we also have national standards related to home care nurses. They require licences and if they didn't require these qualifications, we wouldn't be so adamant about these workers also being nurses. That is why the requirement for bilingual home care workers is there. However, the number of home care nurses is increasing, so we will eventually have the majority of workers who would be able to speak in Inuktitut providing this care. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. Once everyone has agreed to a common understanding... . Further, what the people who require home care have asked for are workers who can talk to the patients so that it makes their job easier.

It's obvious that when you conduct your review, as per your stated business plan, that you will report back on the how changes will be made. However, I have a concern that applies to our current situation. In just a short while, it may not be as critical down the road. Those of us who are bilingual are also getting older and when we require care, we have the option to speak either language. The people whom I am concerned about are those who require care today. It looks as if this will be subject to a review and

once completed, we will see a report in this House down the road on this matter.

This is just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment there. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is on page 135 of the business plan. Under Treatment, in the Mental Health section, there is a \$2 million increase over last year that the department is asking for. I was wondering if the minister could explain exactly what is happening with that, whether there are new PYs being offered or new programs being offered. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$2 million has to do with increases that we're experiencing today in the out-of-territory residential program as it relates to mental health clients. We do have a portion of the residential care program that's in social services and then also in the mental health, so we put that under Treatment. That \$2 million are the costs that we're experiencing today in the residential care program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For patients who are being sent out, are there specific locations that are determined and only those can be used or are there exceptions? I'm assuming there are service contracts or something that has to be set up, but are there only

specific ones that they can go to? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We actually have an RFP process that we have gone through for the second time. We would like to make it an annual process. I understand that CGS is setting it up already for the third year.

Through the RFP process, we ask for interest in providing the residential care services and then what kind of services can they provide. So then we have a panel of people who review the submissions from the proponents and then they are either added to the listing of residential care facilities that we use or they're not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For my next question, I wanted to go back to the main estimates on page H-9, the summary of grants and contributions under Treatment. The line item is Maternal Health Strategy. There is \$170,000 allocated for that strategy. I was wondering if the minister could explain what that strategy is going to be about. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The strategy for the midwifery program... We have been delivering a program in Cambridge Bay since September of 2010. We have a curriculum that reflects both Inuit cultural values as well as Canadian and international midwifery standards. The

contribution portion of the \$170,000 will be in place to run the Midwifery Education Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the money actually goes for training to have more midwives in the territory. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I have no more names on my list here. Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Treatment. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$164,650,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will move on to H-8. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Health Insurance Programs. Any questions? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you. Under this branch summary, there are activities about health insurance programs, territorial health insurance programs, supplementary health benefits, and also vital statistics.

My question is pertaining to vital statistics. Mr. Chairman, the Vital Statistics Division manages and administers the Health Insurance Program, as well as recording and administering information related to births, deaths, and marriages.

Page 139 of the business plan, Mr. Speaker, indicates that one of your department's priorities for 2011-12 will be to "Review the *Vital Statistics Act* for possible amendment." The question is this, Mr. Chairman: what kinds of issues have resulted in the plan to review this legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that the Vital Statistics Program has not had a review for a number of years and I believe it is prudent to review policies within Health and Social Services periodically. We want to do a review of the Vital Statistics Program, but I'm not aware of an urgent issue right now that is causing us to initiate the review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a difficult time getting information from Vital Statistics as it is. I hope that people like me will be able to use the local health centre to get the information once they're in place. That's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Anybody want to respond to it? No. It's just a comment. Anybody else got questions on Health Insurance Programs? Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, with respect to the Non-Insured Health Benefits program, it seems that the funding won't increase for the 2011-12 fiscal year. Furthermore, with the shared responsibility of the regional Inuit associations, I believe they have an

opportunity to discuss certain parts of the program. Additionally, with respect to funding allocations through the Non-Insured Health Benefits program, it looks as if the funding won't be increased in this fiscal year.

Can the minister explain how the Non-Insured Health Benefits will support the patients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Curley.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had dialogue with the federal government regarding this program. The last agreement we came to had a four-year life. I don't have the actual end date, but it is a lot faster now.

I believe that for the last fiscal year, there was about \$2 million set aside specifically for medical travel, including lodging and some of the particulars that you mentioned. The medical travel portion is the largest amount of money we spend, but again, there are other services we provide, such as the Territorial Health System Sustainability Initiative and the THAF program. We were allocated an extra \$10 million specifically for medical travel, which will end in the fiscal year. This was a one-time federal grant to assist us with medical expenditures.

It's quite obvious that we will face more difficulties down the road, but we are in continuing dialogue with the federal government. As our population is increasing, they would have to increase the funding specifically for medical travel. But I want to assure the member who is asking the questions, Mr. Chairman, that we will not be letting this

program fall between the federal government and the NTI partners that also sit on this program administration committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask for a bit of an update. One of the things in the Auditor General's report was, in terms of the expenses and giving money back through the uninsured health benefits, the Department of Health and Social Services wasn't reporting back fast enough or there were names that were wrong or misspelled. The last time you gave us an update, the department was actually doing a better job, and so more money was being recovered. Is that still on track and are records being kept better? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, actually our costs under the program of NIHB have actually escalated up to \$26 million, I understand, for last year. I would expect that that would be the same for this fiscal year that's ending. It is a demand-driven program as well. We do provide forecasts to Health Canada on where we think that the program will come in at the end of the year, but this is their program, so it is demand driven, and they keep a close eye on what the costs are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. In terms of demand driven, does that mean that there is no actual cap on it? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Voth.

Ms. Voth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We begin the year with an initial contribution agreement with Health Canada. When our forecasts show that we think it's going to be higher than the contribution agreement, then we request to have an amendment to the contribution agreement from Health Canada. We work very closely with them with regard to the forecasts, where we will come in at the end of the year.

We are concerned as well with the escalating costs within the NIHB program. As I spoke to earlier to the committee, we are working on a joint project with Health Canada to gain an understanding and analyze the reasons why we are sending people south, which is one of the biggest costs, of course, under the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't have any more names on my list here. We will go to Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Health Insurance Programs. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$53,155,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go back to page H-3. Department Summary. Health and Social Services. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$296,988,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Department of Health and Social Services is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to thank Minister Curley, Ms. Downe, and Ms. Voth for appearing here before the committee. Does Minister Curley have any closing comments?

Hon. Tagak Curley: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) First of all, I would like to thank my staff and our deputy minister, who wasn't able to be with us today. I would also like to thank our Finance Officer, Debora Voth, and our ADM, Raj Downe.

I thank the members very much for asking questions. (interpretation ends) I want to thank all of you, through you, Mr. Chairman. The questions posed and the advice provided to us will be taken seriously. This is a very complex department and it's one that's also very critical. Essential services are provided by this department. We want to let you know that we take our responsibility seriously.

I want to thank my cabinet colleagues as well for supporting the number of initiatives that we are proposing. I will continue to report to members if there are any major changes happening and I continually invite questions, if they have, to my office at any given time. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Would the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the minister and officials out.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee – Education

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan): Thank you. I would like now to ask the Minister of Education, Mr. Tootoo, to make his opening remarks.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon or early evening. I am very pleased to meet with the committee to discuss the 2011-12 main estimates and business plan for the Department of Education.

Mr. Chairman, I believe education is the foundation for a healthy, strong, and flourishing Nunavut. This government has made education, self-reliance, and improved access to learning a *Tamapta* priority. Therefore, it is crucial we offer Nunavummiut the tools they need to become capable and engaged in the opportunities and future prospects of our territory and the rest of Canada.

The Department of Education aims to provide quality lifelong learning opportunities to help improve learning outcomes for all citizens of Nunavut. From early childhood education, leading to bilingual and innovative kindergarten through grade 12 programming, to quality and responsive adult learning and career development opportunities targeted to meet the growing workforce demands, to the provision of social assistance so that no one is left behind, we are determined to build a territory of educated and empowered people with the skills to succeed.

Mr. Chairman, we are working hard to make improvements to our programs and

services with the goal of enhancing the lives of Nunavummiut. As such, we are recommending some very substantial expansions to the Department of Education's overall operating budget. These include major investments in implementing and ensuring the success of the *Education Act*, as well as support to our post-secondary students, and much needed increases to two necessary social assistance benefits.

Before I get into specific details about our proposed business plan, I would like to take this opportunity to outline the changes to the layout of our business plan and main estimates. After last year's appearance before the standing committee and Committee of the Whole, the department heard concerns about the format and lack of consistency between these two documents. Mr. Chairman, we have listened to your recommendations and at the request of the Members of the Legislative Assembly, we have changed the business plan to reflect the layout of the main estimates. As such, we have restructured the lines of business in the business plan to more closely mirror the organization of the department.

You will note that we have split the regional and headquarters operations into separate lines of business. For instance, kindergarten to grade 12 programs have been separated into school operations and curriculum and school services. Additionally, the career and early childhood services lines of business have been added, incorporating all of the delivery activities for income support, skills training, early childhood education, and regional administration. The only changes made were to the order and names of these lines of

business in an effort to make them more consistent.

Mr. Chairman, I hope you and your colleagues find this helpful. I look forward to your comments and suggestions about this improvement.

Mr. Chairman, in order to put our plans into action, we have put forward a budget of close to \$225 million for the 2011-12 fiscal year. This is an \$18 million increase over last year's budget. These increases cover a number of important areas.

The Department of Education has proposed increased funding in the amount of \$8.4 million to the operations related to the implementation of the *Education Act* in the delivery of the kindergarten to grade 12 programs. Much of these new monies were forecast several years ago during our preparation for the new *Education Act*. These funds have been split into several key areas. \$7.4 million has been allocated to cover compensation and benefits for teaching and support positions in our schools. This money will ensure we realize the student-educator ratio that is better than the national average, as promised in the *Education Act*.

We value Nunavut's educators and realize the success of our students is dependent on them. Without qualified and passionate educators, our system cannot reach its full potential. I want to stress my gratitude to our teachers and reiterate Nunavut's great thanks for their hard work and encouragement to our students.

Mr. Chairman, the successful implementation of Nunavut's *Education*

Act will take several years and requires the dedication and enthusiasm of many people. Work continues as we develop regulations and implement the mandatory areas for this upcoming year. We are working with all of our education partners to engage and recognize the needs of our communities. This proactive and connected participation will make all the difference in ensuring the success of Nunavut's *Education Act*. I would like to thank all of our partners for their participation and hard work in making our unique and innovative education system a reality.

As such, \$500,000 has been budgeted for this fiscal year to further support implementation of the Act in 2011-12. These monies include salaries and operations and maintenance funds for the *Education Act* coordinator to provide programs and training as well as in-servicing for our school administrators and district education authorities. Additional funds will help guide the flow of information between the department and our hard-working district education authorities. We are also supporting a student support services position to help coordinate assistance for our students to ensure their success.

We have also asked for \$417,000 for the development of an early childhood education curriculum and resources. The Department of Education and the Government of Nunavut realize this area of education is critical in instilling a lifelong love of learning. Fostering the abilities and talents of our youngest citizens is an investment in the educational success of Nunavut's future. Developing learning resources and creating a common standard of learning for early learners across the territory will

certainly help bridge the gap between early child care and kindergarten. The department's Curriculum and School Services Branch will head this new initiative in order to ensure consistency and common learning goals between these two groups of learners.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education, in partnership with Nunavut Arctic College, provides educator training across Nunavut. An increase of \$330,000 in this upcoming fiscal year has been allocated to support the development and delivery of educator training programs in communities throughout the territory. This training is crucial to successful outcomes in the government's Inuit Employment Plan, Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, and our departmental mission to provide bilingual education under both the *Education Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

In addition, we have proposed funds of \$570,000 for staffing our new and expanded schools and to support the important task of inclusive education. Inclusive education is at the very heart of the Nunavut education system. It is our government's intent that all students will receive educational opportunities focused on their individual strengths and needs. Mr. Chairman, no two students are the same. Thus, we cannot expect their learning patterns and outcomes to fit into the same mould.

Finally, we have assigned just over \$3.8 million to increases in school staff substitute wages, of which \$1 million of this money will go directly to district education authorities to help cover the costs of their school staff substitute wages.

Mr. Chairman, moving on to the adult learning and post-secondary services side of the department, you will see an increase of almost \$2.5 million to the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students program, or FANS. As of February 21, 428 students were awarded funding for the 2010-11 school year; 263 students were registered at Nunavut Arctic College, while 165 students were attending institutions in southern Canada. Having more Nunavut students attending post-secondary educational institutions is fantastic news. It also means that we must now keep up with demand and budget additional funds to help as many students as possible. This may signal a need for long-term changes to FANS, and the department is already researching methods to ensure Nunavut students continue to receive fair, accessible, and responsive funding.

Mr. Chairman, the department has worked closely with Nunavut Arctic College for several years in preparation of the opening of the trade training centre late last year. The grand opening and subsequent start of trades programs here in Nunavut is very exciting. We are continuing this partnership to ensure facilities and equipment meet national requirements and regulations.

The Nunavut Apprenticeship Program provides financial and support services for apprentices in training programs. This includes encouraging and expanding private sector employer involvement and support. Now that Nunavummiut have the chance to learn trades skills closer to home, it is important that we invest in and expand this opportunity. This is an essential step in community self-reliance.

Mr. Chairman, our work in helping to reduce poverty and provide social assistance delivery remains a high priority. The Department of Education fully supports the priority of reducing poverty and we are an active member of the Poverty Reduction Working Group led by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. The task ahead is daunting but very necessary to the health and well-being of our territory. The department is committed to helping the government reach this *Tamapta* priority.

Mr. Chairman, we have heard members' concerns about it being too easy to access and remain on the Income Support Program. The Department of Education supports self-reliance by encouraging program recipients to pursue employment, education, training, or other opportunities that will help them move toward self-sufficiency and exit the program. However, the program cannot meet its objective of assisting recipients to be more self-reliant without their full cooperation.

The Income Support Program provides assistance to those who are unable to meet their basic needs as well as their dependants. To this aim, we have proposed a budget increase of \$3 million to the food and clothing allowances. If the budget is approved, the food allowance rates will be increased by 15 percent. The regular and seasonal clothing allowances will be combined into a single clothing benefit and increased to \$50 per person per month. It has been over five years since the last increases to the food allowances and more than ten years since increases to the clothing allowances.

Mr. Chairman, these initiatives demonstrate our commitment to *Tamapta* and ensuring that Nunavummiut basic needs are met. Therefore, the importance of these proposed increases cannot be understated. Increases to these necessary allowances will help improve the quality of life for the most vulnerable individuals and families in Nunavut. Currently almost 90 percent of the total monthly social assistance expenditures are used to provide benefits for food. Helping Nunavummiut with the resources to meet the basic standard of living that includes a healthy diet is essential, especially for children.

The Department of Education looks forward to continuing our challenging and gratifying work in the months and years ahead. The framework set out in *Tamapta* is a solid guide in helping us provide exciting and innovative programs for the success and growth of Nunavummiut. I am eager to work with the committee and my colleagues to build capacity, enhance training and education opportunities, expand the role of lifelong learning in Nunavut, and help this government reduce poverty in our capable and exceptional territory.

Mr. Chairman, I am happy to respond to any questions that the committee members may have. Thank you very much.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Yes.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It gives me great pleasure to introduce my witnesses who are here with me today. To my left is Ms. Kathy Okpik, she's the Deputy Minister for the Department of Education, and to my right is Mr. David Pealow, he's the Controller of School Operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo and your officials. (interpretation) Welcome. (interpretation ends) Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness have comments? Mr. Aupaluktuq.

Mr. Aupaluktuq: Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Wellness, I am pleased to make opening comments as we begin deliberations on the proposed 2011-12 budget of the Department of Education.

Mr. Chairman, before we begin, I would like to acknowledge the willingness of the minister and his officials to restructure the format of the budget documents that we have before us today. Under the revised format, the information provided in the business plan more closely corresponds to the structure of the main estimates and to the organization of the department itself. This new and improved format allows us to proceed through the documents much

more smoothly than previously. Members of the Legislative Assembly appreciate the minister's willingness to work together on improving the budget review process.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's proposed 2011-12 operations and maintenance budget is \$224.8 million, which is an increase of just over \$18 million from its 2010-11 operations and maintenance budget.

While planned spending appears to increase across all branches of the department, the standing committee notes a considerable increase in compensation and benefits funding. Members recognize that the implementation of the *Education Act* has required additional staffing as new positions are added to the department, such as school community counsellors, language and cultural instructors, and elders as instructors in the classroom. The total number of positions in the department is projected to increase by approximately 65 PYs from 2010-11. In addition, the standing committee notes that a new collective agreement between the government and the Nunavut Teachers Association has recently been negotiated.

Committee members continue to encourage the minister to work with his colleague, the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, to encourage more Nunavut teachers to become qualified to work at all levels of the school system.

Mr. Chairman, as we review the Department of Education's proposed operations and maintenance budget for 2011-12, committee members note that a

number of expectations placed on community-based district education authorities may take somewhat longer to be implemented than anticipated. The standing committee encourages the minister and his staff to continue providing the necessary support, resources, and training to DEAs in order that they may fulfill their obligations.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education's Kindergarten to Grade 12 School Operations Division and the various programs that support the delivery of kindergarten to grade 12 schooling in Nunavut are critical to ensuring that our young residents are able to participate in Nunavut's future economy. A basic level of education is necessary to ensure that our youth will be able to access and take advantage of new opportunities.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee will be closely monitoring the results of the department's assessment and evaluation initiatives. Members have previously expressed concerns regarding the standards of educational achievement earned by Nunavut high school graduates compared to graduates from other jurisdictions across Canada. Regular assessments of students at various stages throughout their school years would also help to highlight where curriculum objectives are not being met and whether the necessary skills and competencies are being achieved by students.

The standing committee has noted that section 126 of the new *Education Act* requires that an annual report on the "education system in Nunavut" be produced and tabled in this House. The first such report is expected in 2011.

Committee members anticipate that the report will contain useful information for measuring the success of our education system. The standing committee recognizes that the department is in the stages to developing an overarching student information system which will include data from student records as well as enrolment and attendance data. The committee fully supports the implementation of a standardized tracking system across all of Nunavut's schools as this will allow for improved trend evaluations in such areas as attendance, truancy and achievement levels. Members anticipate that the information in the report will also address the need for additional dropout prevention strategies, such as the Young Men's Engagement Project and others.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education administers a number of programs and resources related to adult learning. Committee members urge the Minister of Education to continue working closely with his ministerial colleagues, such as the ministers of Justice, Health and Social Services, and Nunavut Arctic College, to promote and support adult education initiatives. Committee members were very pleased to learn that budget increases to the department's Financial Aid for Nunavut Students (FANS) program is partly due to an increase in the number of students being supported in their post-secondary studies and training programs. Increases to apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs are also well-received.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that the department does not plan to increase funding for early childhood education in 2011-12. Committee members will be interested in the

department's progress towards reviewing its *Child Day Care Act*. Members have suggested that the department also consider supporting communities in their efforts to open new facilities. While initiatives in the areas of programming and training are important, they cannot be accessed if communities lack the space to deliver programs to start with.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education has the responsibility for delivering income support programs, which are directed towards assisting families and adult individuals to meet their basic needs. While the Social Assistance Program is intended as a program of last resort, demands in this area continue to be very high.

The government's most recent report on grants and contributions notes that \$28.3 million was distributed to social assistance recipients in 2009-2010. The department's business plan indicates that changes to the *Social Assistance Act* regulations will be implemented in April 2011. Given the ongoing rise in the already high costs of living across the North, increases in this area will be very much welcomed. Committee members have noted that the manner of distributing income support benefits differ from community to community and occasionally are used in a manner for which they were not intended. Committee members stand ready to support the minister in his efforts to work with communities to reduce levels of dependence and build self-reliance.

The department has invested considerable time and money in the development of a new electronic case management system for income support.

The standing committee notes that the case management system will be piloted in Iqaluit and looks forward to it being successfully rolled out across all of Nunavut's communities in due course. Once the system is operational across the territory, this will allow better monitoring of income support trends.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. Individual members may also have questions and comments as we proceed. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Aupaluktuq. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 3 of the minister's opening comments, he said there's \$7.4 million that has been allocated to cover compensation and benefits to teachers and support positions in our schools, and he went on to talk about student-educator ratios. What is the current student to teacher ratio in our schools today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that the ratio is 15:1 right now, but I just want to make it clear that it's a territory-wide ratio; it's not a school-by-school ratio. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this funding, what are you hoping the ratio would be? What kind of decrease are you hoping to get from this ratio with the new funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the *Education Act*, we had committed that our student-educator ratio would be better than the national average. Right now, the national average is currently at 14:2. We're hoping that with this additional funding, it will bring us to 14:1 for a ratio across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 5 of your opening comments, you talked about the FANS and 428 students were awarded funds in 2010-11, 263 through Arctic College and 165 in southern Canada. Compared to previous years, what are these numbers like? Is it fairly constant or are the numbers increasing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are seeing a big increase in the numbers. Just to give you an idea for enrolment statistics that we've had, in 2007-08, it was 344; in 2008-09, it was 376; in 2009-2010, it was 525; and so far this year, as of February 21, there have been 428. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that's your total enrolment, but in particular your southern enrolment, how much has that increased over the years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that breakdown with me right now. The information we have is just on the overall enrolment in FANS and we have information broken down by region, but we don't have it broken down between students going in Nunavut over the years or to southern jurisdictions. I would be more than happy to provide that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 6 of your opening comments, you talked about income support and in particular, single clothing benefits, an increase of \$50 per person per month. What was the rate before this new budget? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before this budget, once this budget is approved, like I said, it will go to \$50 a month and that will jump up from \$36.66 per month. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again it states \$50 per month. Will families have the opportunity to take the whole year in a lump sum in order to buy the more expensive winter clothing that children need? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, individual clients have the option. Some of them can choose to take it monthly. What usually happens is they usually opt to take it twice a year so that they can get their winter clothing in the fall and get a big chunk there and their summer clothing in the springtime. Usually it's something that clients are asking to let the funding build up and get it twice a year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Again I would like to remind the members if they have any general comments. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 4 of the hon. minister's opening remarks, second paragraph, first sentence, I read and I

quote, "We have also asked for \$417,000 for the development of early childhood education curriculum and resources." I would imagine this is in regard to learning materials, such as books. That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That \$417,000 in early childhood training is money for training that will support the district education authorities with new early childhood education programming. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This money has nothing to do with developing books. I'm thinking about Inuktitut and all of that stuff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's also available for development of resources as well. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I say that is because one day in the future, we want to be able to have the Inuktitut language as a working language. That's only a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. I take that just as a comment. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to welcome you, and I am ecstatic that I am able to raise questions as I recall being the one who was asked the questions, so I want to welcome your officials. I don't want to put forward too many questions, but I have some comments on the minister's opening comments. I want to speak to some of the issues.

Yes, I am happy that the *Education Act* is being implemented, as they are asking for more funding, and the fact that it's proceeding smoothly makes me very thankful. Furthermore, the funding looks as if it will be administered by the local education authority; in this case, a \$3.8 million increase, with \$1 million to be handled by the local district education authorities. I am happy to see that the DEAs will be able to have more control over their funding.

However, when we reach the appropriate question item, I will be asking questions about the DEA and the lack of qualified help, which can cause issues, related to their administering the funds and with the amounts set to be increased, it means that we have to provide more support to the DEA to do that properly. I will raise questions when we reach that item, but for the time being I'm just commenting on this, Mr. Chairman.

I also note that the income support amounts have increased. That's good. It has to increase as some families really need the income support and they have no other means of income. However, we also have a large portion of income

support recipients who, either due to their laziness or due to their upbringing on subsisting on income support, think that this is their only choice. How can we provide them with more opportunities?

As an example, perhaps we can try to lower the number of young income support recipients who are seemingly addicted to income support. We know that they have capability to do other stuff, but due to their dependence on income support, they don't try. We have to encourage them to become more self-sufficient by raising their self-esteem as Inuit and this seems to be part of the focus, obviously.

When we talk about anti-poverty measures, it's clear that the funds will be increased and this is understandable, but I don't know if the purpose is to get Inuit to become more self-reliant and we have to concentrate on these types of initiatives. I wanted to comment on this subject if it is to be included with the Anti-Poverty Strategy.

We need to brainstorm about how to ensure that income support recipients can become more self-reliant and not depend so much on income support. How do I put it? I know that people who apply for income support have to look for jobs and they get the form signed by potential employers that shows whether or not there are job openings. In some ways, the system is being played by the more astute recipients. This has to be improved and this seems obvious to me.

I also want to make a comment on an issue that the minister didn't mention, but it's a very important part of the new *Education Act* and one of the areas that

we were most proud was about having elder instructors in the schools to teach the Inuit language and cultural practices. When it's not included in the minister's opening remarks, it seems that legislation is not one that the government is proud of, at least that's how I saw it. I wonder why this was removed from the minister's opening remarks, so I will definitely have questions regarding that omission.

Further, although I may be mistaken, I didn't see any mention of early childhood pre-school programs. I know it's very beneficial, especially in our community of Igloolik, and it has prepared a lot of children for school. Due to those reasons, I will be asking questions on that issue as well.

However, I just wanted to point out what was not included in the minister's opening remarks, Mr. Chairman, as the members are recalling these items and at the appropriate time, I'll be raising questions. This is just a comment and I am grateful for this opportunity to speak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask Minister Tootoo if you wish to comment on this.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The one thing that the member points out is it's not mentioned. It's not a new initiative; it's something that has been implemented in previous years. I think that's one of the main reasons why it wasn't addressed. We focused my comments on a lot of the new initiatives that we're implementing this year. I want to assure the member that that's not something that is forgotten

about and it's something that we're diligently working on.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with the member. I have heard from not just himself, but over the years from different members and the committee itself, trying to promote more self-reliance. I think there are a number of training initiatives that are available to income support recipients. There is a 'how to prepare your future,' the transition to work program, and there is also labour market agreement funding to try and help individuals to get into training geared towards literacy and basic skill upgrading, on-the-job training, and things like that. The funding could cover things like tuition, books, safety clothing, if necessary, depending on what they are doing, living allowances, and child care.

I would like to encourage, if individuals aren't aware of this information, all they have to do is talk to the career development officer or income support worker in their community to find out more about these different programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll make my comments brief because I've got a lot of specific questions to ask as we go along. On page 5 in the last paragraph where the minister was talking about social assistance delivery and also mentioned the Poverty Reduction Working Group, I was just wondering... In terms of specific questions, I'll be asking that later when we're dealing with that specific area.

We just finished Health and Social Services and I think part of that department had a breakfast program. I was wondering: how does that fit into this whole Poverty Reduction Strategy and your department working in the working group and providing a breakfast program for the students who need it most? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My department's role in the Poverty Reduction Working Group is... . Again, that group is led by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. I think the main purpose of our officials there is we provide the working group with information and data on current programs under the umbrella of income support, as well as how the social assistance programs operate in other jurisdictions just to be able to get some background information.

As far as the breakfast or snack programs that are operated throughout the territory, what I think the government and the committee is looking at is in all schools. It offers some type of a program. In all of these places where they're offered, they're not offered by the school. They use the school facility. They're generally run by the local organization or a committee in the community made up of volunteers in the community. So I would envision that we look at trying to enhance and support them to be able to deliver those programs throughout the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I have no more names. Therefore, we will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page G-4. Education. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$872,000. Agreed? Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. On page G-4 in the business plan, can someone remind me about these new positions? It states that there will be an increase of 67 positions identified for the 2011-12 fiscal year, which are additional positions on top of their current employees by 67 positions in our current year. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister if he can clarify what these positions are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These positions, I think it's about 60 total, overall of 65.45 positions, of this, there will be roughly 60 positions that will be educator positions to meet our requirements under the *Education Act* for the student-educator ratio. There will be an *Education Act* coordinator to help with the implementation and work with the different stakeholders on the implementation of the different sections of the Act. There are also one and half positions in there that is for an income support worker in Gjoa Haven. I believe that position has been turned back. The hamlet had the contract and they're turning it back to the department. Also, in the Kivalliq, there is one secretary position that was a district education authority position that has been turned back under the new Act. Those positions

are falling under the department now. I think about just under two positions in various areas like the language specialist in the Kitikmeot, one teaching position, I believe, in the Qikiqtaaluk region, and an executive assistant for curriculum and school services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be half a PY. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. This question is geared towards the student-teacher ratio, as the legislation states that ratio will be decreased. I would like more clarification on this point.

What is the current student-teacher ratio? What is the maximum number? Is the ratio currently at the right size or will this even out? Some schools have lower ratios and sometimes teachers have a free class due to the lack of students. If this will make an improvement on the ratio, will this occur in the next school year? Further, when school starts this fall, will the ratio listed in legislation be followed? Will these positions be added to the current staff of the DEAs? I would like to get clarification on that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I had indicated, the Act requires us to have a student-educator ratio that's better than the national average. I indicated earlier that with this funding, these additional PYs will bring

us to 14:1, which is better than the national average.

The member is correct; right now, we're just compiling or we have just received and we're now going through all of the enrolment data for this school year. Based on that, once that's looked at, we will be determining where these positions go. As I said earlier, this is not the school ratio and the new ratio that we do have, again, is all based on enrolments and it doesn't necessarily mean that there will be an increase in teaching staff. There may be cases where there are increases, there may be cases where there is no change, and again, based on enrolment, there may be cases of decreases. It all depends on the enrolment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. More teachers will be hired and that seems pretty obvious.

I believe that members also have to understand this point, that the Inuit elders who will be teaching the cultural aspects have a history that goes back quite a while. These elders are getting older and some are no longer capable of continuing and may need to retire. Do you have any idea as to how many Inuit elder teachers will be retiring and how you will go about replacing them within the directorate? That's what I would like to understand, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure how many will

be retired. I believe it's in the spring sometimes when we find out, 60 days prior to the end of the school year, whether a teacher is going to be returning or not.

But I totally agree with the member and I think it's critical for us to have more Inuit teachers at all levels in the school system. I think, right now, there are currently 10 teacher education programs being offered throughout Nunavut and I believe there are about 98 students registered in those 10 programs.

I think another thing that we have seen from, let's say, 1981 to 2010, we have also seen 190 Bachelors of Education graduates from the Teacher Education Program. These are students who have gone through the Teacher Education Program and then continued on to get their Bachelors of Education, which would allow them to teach at the higher levels within the system. Right now, the NTEP program just allows the graduates to work in the elementary system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the time that it is, I was going to say that we should probably report progress because I'm going to need more than 10 minutes. Could I put forward a motion to report progress, please. Thank you.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

I would like to ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the officials from the witness table, please.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. Looking at our orders of the day, (interpretation ends) Item 21. (interpretation) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Nanulik.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? The Member for Amittuq is the seconder. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Abstained. The motion is carried. Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Item 22. (interpretation) Third Reading of Bills. There being none. (interpretation ends) Item 23. (interpretation) *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for March 4:

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. Responses to Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 1
 - Bill 4
 - Bill 5
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at nine o'clock in the morning. Enjoy your evening. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:55*

Thank you.

