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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Iqaluit West)

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(Iqaluit East)

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Adamee Komoartok

(Pangnirtung)

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(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)
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Hon. James Arreak

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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
Monday, March 7, 2011

Members Present:

Honourable Eva Aariak, Honourable James Arreak, Honourable Tagak Curley, Mr. Ron Elliott, 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): Good day. I would like to ask Mr. Curley to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. The first item in our orders of the day is Ministers' Statements. Madam Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 019 – 3(3):
Uranium Public Forums**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good afternoon" to the people of Iqaluit East.

(interpretation ends) *Uqaqtittijii*, many Nunavummiut have strong opinions about uranium mining in our territory and others may want to have the opportunity to receive more information to form an opinion.

Guided by the principles of *Aajiiqatigiinniq* and *Ikajuqtigiinniq*, the Government of Nunavut will be hosting public forums during the next two months. These forums are intended to inform our government in moving forward from the six principles on uranium development to develop a position and policy on uranium in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, we want to give Nunavummiut an opportunity to express their views before deciding what our government's position is on uranium. The public forums will be held on March 16 to 17 in Iqaluit, on March 30 to 31 in Baker Lake, and on April 12 to 13 in Cambridge Bay. Each public forum will include an open house where the public can gather information; a presentation by experts and representative panellists; and a public meeting where the public can voice their views and opinions and ask questions of the panellists.

I thank the organizations that are coming together despite their differing viewpoints to help create an effective public dialogue about this important issue. The panellists will include Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Nunavut Makitagunarningit, the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, and Golder Associates.

Uqaqtittijii, to ensure that every community is represented, I have extended an invitation to each mayor to nominate one individual who will have their travel costs to a regional forum paid by our government.

For those people not able to attend the public meetings, today we are launching

a website: www.uranium.gov.nu.ca. Our website provides relevant information and an opportunity for public input. Everyone is encouraged to learn about uranium by reading the information on the website, then to participate in the process by telling us what they think about uranium in Nunavut. In addition to the website, feedback will also be received by phone, email, fax, and by letters, as well as cable ads and spots on community radio. Posters in every community will explain how to provide your input.

Uqaqtittijii, I encourage all Nunavummiut to take this opportunity to voice their thoughts and opinions to assist our government as it forms its position on uranium. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 020 – 3(3):
Leave and Attendance
Management**

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government and our human resources department have long recognized the need to effectively manage leave and attendance. This need is a well established and a well understood best business practice.

Best practice for managing leave and attendance must include three basic elements which also help define the work that is now taking place and will be taking place in the future:

First, that a management system and its program elements need to ensure that our work environment is one that enables and encourages our employees to do the best possible job, to attend work regularly, and to encourage their co-workers to do the same.

Secondly, that any program or procedure is applied consistently and fairly across the organization, recognizing that there are many circumstances that require special attention. This is driven by human rights legislation, labour arbitration decisions, collective agreements, and human resources policies, directives, and procedures. The key here is a well-defined, written, and effective process understood and supported by process owners and stakeholders.

And thirdly, an effective and versatile human resources information management system, as any leave and attendance program requires absolutely accurate and timely data, in order to define what is happening in the organization, defining our risk exposures and loss. The key is good data used to set standards and define operational performance.

The Government of Nunavut is a caring and compassionate employer. Our management systems and programs all focus on ensuring that we are a center of excellence and an organization that people seek to be a part of. To be a centre of excellence, our management systems must be transparent and effective, targeting quality processes and continuous improvement.

We also have a solemn duty in managing the public trust and ensuring that our

employees, our clients, and our customers understand what we are doing, how we are doing it, and the costs involved. The purpose of managing leave and attendance is not to target the legitimate use of allowed leave or to discipline individuals with poor attendance. The purpose is to ensure that all leaves are used as they are intended and that attendance management focuses on changing poor attendance to good and good attendance to excellent.

To this end, Human Resources has recently staffed a professional level position in employee relations, our new leave and attendance consultant who will focus on this important program. This position supports our senior and line management in understanding this complex issue, providing information, education, and assistance as tools that will help improve not only services to Nunavummiut, but provide a more rewarding and fulfilling work environment for all GN employees as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 021 – 3(3): Fur Sales and Fur Handling Workshops

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to share some positive news with respect to fur harvesting and sales in Nunavut. I am pleased to report that at the first Fur Harvesters Auction of 2011 which took place in early January in North Bay, Ontario, demand and prices were high for all of Nunavut's long fur species.

Nunavut furs and sealskins grossed \$386,561 at this auction, with polar bears and arctic fox selling particularly well.

Since the international market crash for sealskins resulting from the European Union seal product ban, demand and prices for sealskins has remained low. However, 1,431 sealskins were sold at this auction, which indicates some level of interest in Nunavut sealskins. As you know, my department continues to fight the EU seal ban and, through its sealskin purchase program, continues to protect Nunavut harvesters from shouldering the economic burden this ban has caused.

The Department of Environment is committed to supporting Nunavutmiut in ensuring that fur harvesting remains a sustainable and reliable source of income, especially where other economic opportunities are limited. To this end, in partnership with Fur Harvesters Auction and with funding provided by CanNor, we have recently piloted a series of fur handling workshops in the communities of Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, and Arviat. These workshops provided training to approximately 70 harvesters in the preparation of wolf and wolverine pelts for sale to the taxidermy market. The goal of these workshops has been to help harvesters better understand how to prepare hides with the goal of maximizing market value for their furs. Feedback on this program has been extremely positive, and we look forward to offering three more workshops in the Kitikmeot region in March.

I look forward to keeping my colleagues informed of the positive steps we are

taking to support fur harvesters in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. There being none. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 028 – 3(3): Happy Birthday to Wife Lucie

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation because I believe that at times, we don't express enough of our pride towards our wives.

My wife arrived on Friday and was supposed to leave yesterday, but since I didn't want her to leave, she agreed to extend her stay for another day. However, our grandchildren are really missing her, so she has to depart.

Mr. Speaker, I usually don't have an opportunity to express my pride publicly. Nonetheless, it was my wife's birthday on Saturday while she was here and on February 17 while we were visiting Hall Beach, we had our 41st anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I want to state that as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, only when you are provided support by your spouse and children can one represent your constituents properly. I can say, Mr. Speaker, that if my wife,

Lucie, didn't support me, I wouldn't be here today.

Shortly after her birthday, we found we have 32 grandchildren and one great-grandchild named Ukaliannuk. I want to share my celebration with my colleagues.

I'm sure that if my colleagues were not provided support, perhaps like me, you would have a stressful time. With the support of our spouses, we need to take time to express our appreciation of our loved ones, even at the Legislative Assembly. I just wanted to make that comment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I wish to thank you for mentioning our relatives who are our biggest supporters. Member for Quttiktuq.

Member's Statement 029 – 3(3): Nutrition North Canada

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that March has been designated as National Nutrition Month, I am pleased to rise today to again speak about the Nutrition North Canada Program.

Mr. Speaker, during last week's sitting of the Legislative Assembly I tabled a copy of the recently released Report of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development on the Nutrition North Canada Program. As I noted when I tabled this document, it contains a number of recommendations that I hope the federal government will review with an open mind.

I think that it's extremely important to recognize that suggestions for how to strengthen an important program such as this should not be interpreted as an attack. I would also note with appreciation the Prime Minister's recent comments on the program, which suggested that Ottawa is open to suggestions for how to improve it. I applaud this approach. Mr. Speaker, I have also noted that ITK President Mary Simon has commented positively on the report and encouraged the federal government to address Inuit-specific concerns.

Mr. Speaker, two of the recommendations that the House of Commons Standing Committee presented are especially worthy of consideration.

The first of these encourages the department and the external advisory board to "be flexible in the delivery of the Nutrition North Canada program, including the determination of community and food eligibility lists, to allow for special circumstances." As I have been noting in my recent statements and letters, the circumstances facing the three communities of the High Arctic that I represent are clearly unique in many important respects.

The second recommendation in the report that I want to focus on today concerns country food. Many of my colleagues have been speaking during this sitting of the Legislative Assembly about issues concerning country food and I offer them my full support. The report recommends that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, in conjunction with the external advisory board, "review the country food component of

the program to consider options to expand and support the sharing networks and harvesters making up traditional, non-commercial Aboriginal food systems."

I agree that the Nutrition North Canada Program cannot be limited to only foods that are processed in specific plants; it must support the transportation of country foods between our communities in every way, and I would note that there is clearly room for increased cooperation... .

Speaker (interpretation): Member, your time is up. If you want to extend your statement, you have to ask for unanimous consent.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to request unanimous consent to continue with my Member's Statement. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues. I was hoping to slip it in there like you have allowed other people to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to note for the record that I do not support the separate recommendation of the separatist Bloc Quebecois party to possibly, and I quote, "introduce the Nutrition North Canada Program as a pilot project in Nunavut, specifically in a few communities." Mr. Speaker, this attitude suggests to me that we are viewed as communities and

peoples to be experimented on, and that's not acceptable.

Mr. Speaker, we will be hearing from witnesses on this new program at a later date, and I look forward to continuing to make recommendations and suggestions in a constructive manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove.

**Member's Statement 030 – 3(3):
Avataq First Air Cup**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's have a good day. I rise today to remark on the hockey tournament that occurred in Rankin Inlet with teams from all over competing for the Avataq First Air Cup. Unfortunately I was unable to attend because I had to be in Iqaluit, so I would like to apologize. Quite a few communities came for the tournament, with teams from Arviat, Repulse Bay, Whale Cove, Baker Lake, Iqaluit, Coral Harbour, and there were also four teams from Rankin Inlet. There were ten teams all together and it was a very good tournament.

Organizing a hockey tournament is complex; it requires the contribution of many volunteers, planners, and so on. First of all, I would like to thank the volunteers. Without your tireless efforts, we wouldn't be able to make this tournament a success. I would like to thank all of the players who travelled. Everyone was welcomed and I am proud of our community's hospitality. There

was also a draw and Jonathan Ekwalak from Whale Cove won a Ford Ranger. I envy his luck.

The standings were as follows, from the fourth place team to the first place team: the fourth place was the team from Arviat; the third place team was from Repulse Bay; the second place was the winners of last year's cup, Huka Inuks from Rankin Inlet; and the winning team was the Rankin Inlet team called the Rankin Inlet Miners. We would like to thank all of the teams that attended this tournament and we hope to see you next year. I am happy that everyone had a good tournament. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We congratulate them for having a good hockey tournament. Member for Natilik.

**Member's Statement 031 – 3(3):
Looking Out for Our Elders**

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the elderly women in Nunavut, who are fortunately not too many. However, some elders are abused by their relatives.

Mr. Speaker, I heard recently that in Ontario, there was 68-year-old elder who was found unconscious in a shed and apparently her son and his wife starved the old lady and confined her into that shed that was uninhabitable and cold, so she suffered from frostbite and cold. She was abused in that sense. Mr. Speaker, I am always thankful that luckily we have not experienced that in Nunavut, to have such a shocking case of abuse.

However, abuse does occur in our communities. Prior to abuse occurring, I would like to ensure that we support the elders of Nunavut, especially elderly widows. Mr. Speaker, some of our elders are scolded, caused mental anguish, and bothered for money by their relatives who make them worry about these matters. Occasionally they are beaten, but we should never cause any additional worry to our beloved elders.

Mr. Speaker, I know that among some of our constituents, elders are worried and they are being caused concern by their own relatives. Some relatives are very abusive towards their elders and their families. I know some elders don't know who or where to turn to, and then they feel useless and worthless, and they don't like to report that abuse. Who can they turn to? Who can they talk to? I would like to ask that question.

I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. The member is asking for unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There no nays. Member for Nattilik, you may proceed.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I was just stating, who can elders turn to when they are abused? On more than one occasion, I have found out that some of the elders pay the bills of their kids although they may not have their own personal bills. Who can they turn to? Who can they ask to represent them?

I believe that the government and hamlets can do more to prevent elderly abuse, perhaps in partnership and cooperation, to ensure that we beat elderly abuse, to ensure that does not occur. I believe that we have to respect our elders and we have to ask for their wisdom. Perhaps the probation officers and the social workers, including the justice committees, the housing association, and others, can gather and try to address elderly abuse instances in their communities. How can they better protect our elders?

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has a telephone number that elders and youth can call, but this toll-free number is only accessible in the mornings and I find that intolerable.

Mr. Speaker, I personally think that government should be more creative in trying to address elders' needs and to protect our elders and elderly women in our territory's communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 032 – 3(3): Addressing Health Concerns

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to ask our government to re-evaluate how the health concerns of Nunavummiut are received, addressed, and responded to.

Mr. Speaker, in the past, we had the regional health boards. A representative

from every single community was appointed to these boards. These individuals would hear the issues, complaints, and concerns of their fellow community residents and bring them forward to be addressed by the health care system. In those days, the board members even had the power to set direction and policy based on what the people told them.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the dissolution of the regional health boards was an attempt to make our health system more efficient. In principle, given our limited resources, this may have been a good idea at the time. In practice, however, and over the past decade, it has simply resulted in an expansion of the bureaucracy. To be frank, management personnel are not necessarily in touch with what the people in the communities are feeling and needing.

Mr. Speaker, who can residents turn to now when they have questions, concerns, and sometimes fears about their health, their treatment, and their future? Since I became an MLA in the Third Assembly, I have learned that many people feel that I am their only option. Mr. Speaker, I ran for office because I am committed to representing the people of my constituency. I want the best for them. But I often feel powerless to assist them in this area.

I would like to ask for unanimous consent to complete my Member's Statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is asking for unanimous consent to complete his statement. Are

there any nays? There are no nays. Member, you may proceed.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, my colleagues.

I want the best for them. But I often feel powerless to assist them in this area. It is frustrating for them and me that I cannot provide the answers they seek.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Department of Health and Social Services has established a formal complaints process by which people can submit their concerns about such matters as the services that they have received from medical professionals. However, I am not sure that this process is meeting their needs.

A few days ago, the Hon. Minister for Health and Social Services mentioned the concept of a health ombudsman. To my mind, an ombudsman is someone that people can go and talk to and have their issues addressed. Perhaps this is an avenue that could be explored further.

Mr. Speaker, there are also health committees of council that have a role to play in the health and wellness of their community. Perhaps some consideration could be given to modifying their role within our health system.

Mr. Speaker, it pains me greatly that I cannot always provide adequate support or answers to my constituents' health concerns. I ask the government to consider some alternative options to addressing this need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. Member for Iqaluit East.

**Member's Statement 033 – 3(3):
Iqaluit Hockey Tournament**

Hon. Eva Aariak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to continue along the vein of my colleague's statements from Amittuq regarding his gratitude and my fellow minister from Rankin Inlet South in reference to the hockey tournament. This weekend seemed very short; there were hockey tournaments all over Nunavut, including a junior tournament here in Iqaluit. It must be hockey times in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a representative for Iqaluit East to celebrate the success of the hockey tournaments, the coordinators, the coaches, the many volunteers, especially the parents who were involved in this minor hockey tournament here in Iqaluit.

Further, there were three-on-three tournaments; there were the novice, atom, and peewee divisions. Ted Hickey coordinated the whole tournament. It was also very good to witness that hockey association also filled in a female hockey team. Pat Gardener was also looking after the four-on-four tournament with the bantam and midgets. That also occurred over the weekend.

Again, we keep stating, Mr. Speaker, that exercise is a very good benefit and now, in this House, we can cite very good examples of how exercise contributes to Nunavummiut by referencing the participation of these young hockey players.

(interpretation ends) All of the young hockey players who took part in the hockey tournament this past weekend are great role models in showing their love of sport and their sportsmanship. Congratulations to who organized the events and to all who took part.

Mr. Speaker, let this be a reminder to all of us to stay healthy and active.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) It was an all-round good weekend. Montreal won every game they played, so it was perfect. Member for Baffin South.

**Member's Statement 034 – 3(3):
Capital Planning Priorities**

Mr. Schell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the issue of capital planning in Nunavut. As members will recall, I made a statement in this House on June 9 of last year concerning the importance of ensuring that our smaller communities are not left behind when it comes to addressing their infrastructure needs.

Mr. Speaker, as members are aware, the community of Kimmirut has been waiting for a very long time for a new airport. Its current location and runway severely limits the types of aircraft that can serve the community. As anyone who has ever flown into Kimmirut can attest, the landing is one of the most, how shall I put it, exciting experiences an air traveller can have.

Mr. Speaker, I have raised this issue on a number of occasions in this House on

behalf of the community. When I asked this question last June, the reply that I received was that the government is “not in a position to undertake a feasibility study on relocating the Kimmirut Airport” at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I have noted that the government’s new business plan indicates that, and I quote, “The Department of Community & Government Services is improving the community consultation process, which will focus on improving community participation, fairness, transparency and accountability in the capital planning process.” Mr. Speaker, I applaud this commitment and I look forward to seeing more details on how it will actually be accomplished.

I was especially pleased to see that the government recognizes that fairness is an important value to include in our capital planning process and I look forward to seeing it reflected in next year’s capital budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members’ Statements. There are no more hands up. Going back to our orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 009 – 3(3): Transformers on Apex Road

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in response to Question 9 – 3(3) asked by Mr. Fred Schell, Member for South Baffin, in response to transformers on the Apex Road.

Mr. Speaker, after reviewing the 36 structures between the Arctic Winter Games Arena and the Apex Bridge, we have narrowed down the reference in the oral question to pole numbers 47, 48, and 49. The three “transformers” that the member referred to are actually voltage regulators used to maintain voltages at the proper level. There units were originally intended to be used two years ago but the project was halted. Upon completion of the 25 kilovolt conversions in Iqaluit, these regulators will be removed and can easily be used in future projects where voltage regulation problems arise.

In response to the 15 kilovolt system, when Qulliq Energy was part of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, some thought was given to a voltage conversion within the Iqaluit system from the current 5 kilovolt to a 15 kilovolt. A decision was made to acquire transformers for dual voltage so they could be switched between either voltage classes without replacement of the unit.

During the 2005 planning study, a long-term solution was developed to convert the Iqaluit distribution system to a higher 25 kilovolt class.

QEC found that of the 455 pole mount transformers in service and stocked in Iqaluit, about 30 units were dual voltage. All of these units are salvageable. During the original system planning study, these were identified as salvageable equipment that would be reused in other QEC systems that utilize the 15 kilovolt voltage class (i.e. Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Coral Harbour). Even the existing 5 kilovolt class equipment being retired in Iqaluit

is intended to be used in other 5 kilovolt systems in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, this could result in savings of \$750,000 overall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Item. 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit Centre.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had announced last week, the Department of Education held its first ever early childhood education conference.

It gives me great pleasure today to recognize Kunuunnguaq Fleischer standing right here behind me. He's a project coordinator on early childhood education for the Home Rule Government of Greenland. He was a keynote speaker this weekend. I would like to recognize him for being here and again thank him for the wonderful presentation that he provided to our early childhood educators over the weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Ivalu Adolfsen, who is also a presenter, but she left earlier today.

I would like to welcome him to the Gallery, and I'm sure we will be seeing more of each other over the years ahead as we continue to foster this great working relationship. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Member for Rankin Inlet North.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) I wish a good afternoon to the residents of Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome to the Gallery someone I got to know awhile back ago, you won't believe this, when I was 18 years old. He is the former Deputy Commissioner of Yukon Territory and a long-serving federal mandarin, if I may use that word, Mr. Peter Gillespie from Ottawa.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I can't picture you at 18.

>>Laughter

Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There being none. (interpretation ends) Item 6. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 059 – 3(3): Addressing Health Concerns

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. The minister, in my opinion, only looks as if he just turned 28 years old.

>>Laughter

At least in his appearance, he seems that young.

When you try to provide assistance to one of your constituents as a regular MLA, you sometimes have difficulty as you are the sole representative of your constituents and they also have a wide range of issues that they want dealt with. With respect to health issues, I'm also approached by quite a few constituents with concerns that one cannot speak to in this House since they are generally confidential information. One cannot even mention any names here in the House, and that is a given.

During the mayors' summit in Rankin Inlet, I informed the (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister for Health and Social Services (interpretation) that perhaps the department should consider empowering the local health committees that exist in the hamlets. How can we ensure that concerns are voiced locally and have a local body express these concerns so that issues can be resolved?

As MLAs, even though we wish to provide assistance, we cannot always do so since we run into obstacles. Perhaps if there was a regional health board that provided a grassroots perspective or even by incorporating or empowering the local health committees so that they can pass along the concerns. Has the minister looked into this issue to see if we can improve the way medical complaints are processed?

When the minister was a regular MLA, I recall him stating a concern from his constituents. He stated that whenever a person went to the health centre, the usual advice was, (interpretation ends) "Take one aspirin or Tylenol and call me in the morning." I recall that he said that when he was a regular member. So I wonder if he has looked at the options of

ensuring that medically related complaints or concerns are dealt with in a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is an excellent question and we will not brush it off as we need to improve the system. Perhaps if I could say this, Mr. Speaker, sometimes we forget that a lot of our operations are proceeding smoothly. Our employees are excellent workers who work tirelessly, with many nurses and managers looking after a slew of responsibilities, such as arranging travel.

Even as we speak, our employees are busy working to address medical issues all over Nunavut. They are looking after sick people, arranging medevacs, medical trips, and future appointments for testing. Yes, it falls short of expectations. Perhaps we haven't done enough, but these are not the only reasons as funding remains the biggest obstacle for our nurses. We are always juggling our budget and continually in a deficit.

With respect to the member's comments, as I stated previously, we have to review the whole system, not just the administrators but the medical profession. There is a director of medical affairs and some of the complaints have to go through that office due to the reasons that complaints, if they were not supervised, could go all over to people who are not their bosses. Due to that reason, we have found this process to be very complex, but we will not stop

trying to improve our health system, as I stated to the member.

Some time near the middle of the month, the deputy minister will be starting in our department. For the time being, that's all I can respond to, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Member for Akulliq.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Hon. Minister of Health. I also concur with my colleague, Louis Tapardjuk, who spoke about the fact that we have to appreciate the people who work hard. We are very appreciative of the workers in the health system. On behalf of my constituents in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, I thank everyone who works so tirelessly and they save many lives. The nurses are not thanked enough by our people, and this includes our educators and all of the public officials that we have in our government.

However, when the deputy minister is starting his position, I hope that the minister will speak to him about planning to address these concerns and to ensure that an update is provided to the members on what the plans are to deal with these issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we can undertake that and as per my previous response to the member last week, one of the ways to improve this is to work with the community health committees.

If you also want to see the nurse in charge, you can request that she provide a report or if the committee has any questions, they can request the nurse in charge to attend their meeting. This also happens occasionally when government officials are asked to attend meetings.

So we will ensure that this is open as it can help alleviate concerns when the concerns are discussed in such forums as hamlet councils. We like this approach and we are open to this type of interaction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The Member for Quttiktuq would now like to ask questions.

Question 060 – 3(3): Preventing Viral Illness

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Over the past few days, we have heard on a number of occasions of how the spread of viral illnesses, such as RSV, and certain strains of flu have been impacting our communities, some of them tragically. In response to questions on this issue, the minister indicated that these illnesses are mostly affecting those individuals who have “less strong immunities.”

Can the minister inform this House what measures are in place to provide additional protection to these more vulnerable members of our society to help them fight off viral illnesses, such as the ones they have recently been exposed to? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member is alluding to the response that, in part, I think was the public awareness issued by the Chief Medical Health Officer of Nunavut. I stand by that response and my statement to him the other day referred to that, that those with less strong immunities should consult with the local health centres, including young children and the elderly people, because this is the time of the year that the flu season has been quite active in Nunavut.

It's important that the public directive that the chief medical officer issued the other day, I think it was on March 4, should be taken seriously in view of the fact that there are active influenza-like illnesses that are going on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that there is a specific immunization vaccine that can be given to infants that helps to boost their immune system. Can the minister indicate what consideration has been given to purchasing and administering such a vaccine to Nunavut's infants to help them resist viral illnesses? Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the best thing to do is to consult with the local health officials. If you're talking about a particular

community, it's best that advice and that information be obtained from local health centres because many of the most serious illnesses are taken on a case-by-case basis and therefore, the local health facility staff members are able to best answer that particular question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2009, the Canadian Paediatric Society made a number of recommendations with respect to the immunization of children in the North. Can the minister tell this House if his department now follows those recommendations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That particular organization makes a series of recommendations every year. Based on their annual reports and so on, that was one component of their recommendations. The information that I have on that is they are more or less reviewing that recommendation because it's very complex. I think it's difficult to compel people to obligate them to take a particular vaccine when, in fact, it may require a doctor's advice whether or not the dose of medication that is in question is really appropriate or not.

So I can advise the member that yes, we have considered it. At the same time, we are advised by the same organization that they are reviewing their recommendations and it may even be

taken off their recommendation portfolio. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems to me that by making investments in prevention measures, such as vaccines like the one I described, the Department of Health and Social Services could save a lot of money on the expensive intervention that becomes necessary when our very young and elderly residents get so sick. Will the minister commit to considering purchasing the necessary vaccinations and administering them to Nunavut's most vulnerable sectors of our population? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We consult with our partners throughout, including Health Canada, and if there is a pandemic flu-like influenza going on, we work together with them. We will stick by the recommendations of our chief medical officer, including the director of medical affairs, who are in touch with the daily federal activities. We will do our best to keep track of what's needed for Nunavutmiut in terms of improving their health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 061 – 3(3): EU Ban on Seal Products

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. Thank you so much for your public announcement about the Thunder Bay fur sale and the price of sealskins. I am happy that the skins still have a price, so we need to first of all thank you for that. If the skins were worthless, it would be very regretful. On behalf of my constituents, I thank you for the fact that sealskins still have a price and many people are grateful to have an income.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to his report about the European Union and their sealskin ban, which they put into a lawsuit to enact the ban, I would like to know if that ban is now in place and I would like the minister to provide an update. In his Minister's Statement, he talked about the ban and the fact that the seal ban was enacted by the European Union. I would like to know what the status of that particular ban is because my constituents in Igloolik and Hall Beach, comprising Amittuq, want to know its status. Is the ban still in effect or can we expect that this ban will be overturned? 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. I'll try and clarify the situation for him.

The European Union has put a ban in place that is in effect right now. However, the member knows that there are two processes that are in place to oppose this ban. One is through the ITK and all of the individual groups and

HTOs that are responsible that are taking legal action on their own. The other one that we support also is through the Canadian government, through the World Trade Organization. So there is a ban in effect. However, we are opposing those bans and both of them are in legal action opposing them. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe it would have been better if I had included this as an addendum to my question. At this time, my question I want to ask is... I just wanted to continue my questioning and not lose a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

What are your expectations on this lawsuit currently being fought by the European Union and Canada with respect to the matter that is before the World Trade Organization? The agreement has been sidestepped and based on this, what are your expectations about the World Trade Organization's decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I'm not a judge and I can't foresee the future. However, obviously we hope the outcome is in our favour and that our appeals are upheld and won so that the European Union nations can accept seal products and we can sell sealskins back to the European Union. It's very important that this issue be resolved at some point into the future.

I think at this point in time, though, I want to make it clear to Nunavutmiut and to the member that ever since this ban came into place, we are still delivering our seal program as it was prior to the ban. Sealers and hunters are still receiving the same amount of money that they always did and we will continue those programs and support them throughout this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my hon. colleague for that response. You are obviously aware that the government doesn't have endless funds to keep paying for skins without getting paid for these skins and recuperating some of their funds.

Based on what I understood from your response, the government will still buy these sealskins even though they may not be worth much money. How long will this program run, especially if you look at the sealskin ban? Will the sealskin purchasing be ongoing? Can I tell my constituents not to worry as the government will continue to buy their sealskins? Can you clarify that for their benefit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a little puzzled about the member's situation and comments. On one hand, he wants to support the sealers and on the other hand, he doesn't

want the government to do that, so I'm a little puzzled about that situation.

We are in place to support the sealers. We are not sure how long the seal ban is going to be on and the legal action it's going to take. However, it's costing the Government of Nunavut approximately \$500,000 annually to implement the sealskin program and to pay the hunters and sealers a fair market price.

As I said in my Minister's Statement today, we are selling our sealskins at maybe somewhat of a loss. However, we are also bringing a lot of those sealskins back into Nunavut to be reclaimed and reused in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me speak to this issue first. I never stated that I wanted the government to stop purchasing sealskins. What I asked was: how long will this program continue with the low returns on sealskin prices? I wanted it clearly understood.

Let me ask my last question. We just heard about a new agreement between China and Canada to start selling sealskins, including seal products, such as meat and blubber. How or what expectations should my constituents have in Amittuq regarding this new agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Daniel Shewchuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member brings up a very good question. Establishing this market with China is a very positive step, both in the sealskin and the edible products of seals. It's going to take time to develop and market the meat and edible products. However, the demand that China shows, even in the sealskin products in the future, could be very good. Hopefully this relationship we have will increase our sealskins and China will buy more of them. As they have such a huge population of 1.4 billion people, if we can secure that market, the European market is going to be outnumbered by China. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 062 – 3(3): Public Tender - Medical Travel

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

In a GN press release that was sent out on March 2, it talked about the public tender for the medical air travel contract. In it, it describes how, and in conjunction with some of the questions that were answered during Committee of the Whole, there was a three-year commitment to the medical travel in the initial agreement with an extension of one by one.

My understanding is that in September of last year, the Government of Nunavut could have, if they so wished, written to the contractor to continue on with the medical contract. They did not do this, so they have now put out the request for

proposals and gave a four-month extension to that.

I just wanted to ask the minister why his department chose to go with releasing a new RFP instead of renewing the one by one part of the contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is the responsibility of the government to exercise that option. As a government, we chose to exercise the option of going for an RFP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Were there specific reasons why the government chose to go in that direction? As the minister pointed out, there were specific reasons to not renew it and I was just wondering if he could explain what those were. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Speaker, absolutely yes, there were. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering if the minister could actually walk us through point by point what those specific reasons were, not yes and no but if he could outline what they

are in short, concise answers. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Speaker, the government will entertain the RFP. The contractors have agreed to extend the service and they agreed with our proposition that they will be active in submitting their proposal. We look forward to improving the service not just for one component of the regions but for all of the regions throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. I know the minister was mentioning that the current contractor is in negotiations and putting in an RFP. Thank you for that information. Going back to the specific reasons as to why cabinet and the GN decided to put out the RFP, the minister said earlier that there were specific reasons but he still hasn't told me what those specific reasons are. Thank you.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley: Mr. Speaker, I could probably do that, but I don't know whether the member would take my word for it; he hasn't often done that. So the reason is I think we're moving forward with the request for proposals mode right now and it won't be long before we receive the proposals. All of the Nunavutmiut, particularly medical clients, will have improved services

which will cover all aspects of the conditions and we hope that the contractors will comply with the conditions that are put into the RFPs and the contracts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 063 – 3(3): Feasibility Study for New Airport in Kimmirut

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

I'm going back to my Member's Statement earlier on today in regard to the runway conditions in Kimmirut. The residents of Kimmirut have been waiting for a long time to try to get a new airport and as a matter of fact, I think, since 1989. When I went there campaigning when I was running for MLA, I stated that we would try to get them a new airport. They basically told me, "There were many MLAs prior to you that tried that and I'm sure there will be a bunch more after you leave."

My question for the minister is: when will the minister commit to actually doing a feasibility study as to the relocation of the airport in Kimmirut? 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, I don't have that level of detail with me at this moment, so I'll take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The minister has taken the question as notice. When they have the response, they will provide it to you. Member for Amittuq.

Question 064 – 3(3): Assistance for Victims in Igloolik

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made the move to this side, so let me raise questions now that I am able. I find that on this side, responses make you want to ask questions.

This is a very difficult matter to voice, but we also have to know that the Minister of Health is responsible. I would like to raise this question. We have heard via the radio and other news media about the difficult time we are experiencing in our community based on the deaths of a couple of young babies. This is not about the illness but about a matter that impacts the adult residents of our community.

Currently the Catholic priest who was brought in from Belgium to face charges is in the news and he is currently incarcerated awaiting his trial. As this case continues, it seems Igloolik is hanging on a limb. As people are aware, based on the news, he has impacted many people who are in immense pain and who have had flashbacks about the abuse that they suffered at his hands when they were just children. A lot of these past victims are now adults, but they were abused as young children and many of them are suffering even though they are now adults.

Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Health and Social Services tell me whether or

not there will be counsellors or a psychiatrist who can provide support for these victims in the interim period between now and when the court case proceeds? We seem to be in limbo and I think we really need to provide assistance to these people who need it. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start with that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I completely agree with my fellow MLA's assessment of the situation. We are sympathetic with those victims who were abused as youth and are now adults. I have spoken with the member in the past about these situations. I believe it was February 4 that we started looking at the medical side of trying to provide these services.

We had sent a psychiatric nurse to Igloolik. We also shipped up another assistant who could provide more help. There was more than one staff member who was dealing with this matter. We have dealt with the Embrace Life Council to see how they can provide assistance. We will continue to have dialogue with various agencies to see how we can provide more resources to assist those victims.

If the member can provide some more feedback on those who require immediate help, then we can try to see how we can deal with it. We also have a psychiatric doctor, Dr. Crawford, who is our sounding board and our expert with respect to the medical services to be provided. We have used her skills to identify those who are most in need.

If there are other urgent cases that we need to hear about, we would like to be apprised of them as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have identified previously in this House that this minister is working extremely hard to fulfill his mandate. I don't want anyone to think that I feel the Minister of Health is not working hard enough, but we have to understand where things come from, and I have to thank the Department of Health for their excellent work.

This is something that communities are clamouring for. Yes, we have doctors, especially psychiatrists, and other experts who can provide assistance, but we must not forget that our own culture and our lives have been severely impacted. Can the minister advise me if the hamlets were to request assistance... ? For example, the healing group in Coral Harbour has been very effective, as well as others. This has impacted more than just the victims; it has impacted the parents and others. It's not just the victims themselves who need consoling.

Is there any other assistance available that they can provide if an agency or council were to request further funding assistance or even more facilitation or even healing that is more Inuit-friendly? At a minimum, can an expert go to the community to assist the older people especially who are impacted by this event? Some of the elder parents of the victims are unilingual and they are the

ones who must not be forgotten as they need the help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand where the member is coming from. As per my response, if they require more assistance, I want to be notified as soon as possible so that we can provide assistance to Igloolik residents.

We have to deal with this separately, but we are open to offering assistance and if you were to request assistance, then we will immediately respond to the Hamlet of Igloolik's request. We will await the request for assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you very much. I am very grateful for that offer and it's obvious that I will have to consult with my constituents. Perhaps the churches themselves have to be partially to blame because they are supposed to be offering these services since they were the ones who sent the person to our community.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I just want to express my gratitude for the hospitality and I want the minister to expect a request of assistance from the hamlet council. I have brought it up because earlier on this morning, I had called to find out about their needs and this is what they wanted to know about. Thank you for that piece of information, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 065 – 3(3): Single Entrance/Exit Dwelling Units

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

I forget how they are called in English, three-plexes or multi-plexes. I was informed that there was one three-plex that has only one door. Apparently when the door is iced up, it can't open and it becomes a safety hazard. Has the minister been informed whether or not this is the case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Hon. Tagak Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first I have heard of it. I would like to get more details from the member if that is the case. I haven't been informed whether or not this is the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): I would like to thank the minister for his response and the fact that this is the first he has heard of it. Perhaps if he could check with the housing manager in Repulse Bay, he can be informed as to whether or not this is the case. I was informed about this situation from Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Hon. Tagak Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Yes, we can look into that to see if they are public housing or whether or not it is a separate unit or if it is privately owned. We will find out the details and once we look into it, we will provide the details to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. There are no more hands up. Member for Quttiktuq.

Question 066 – 3(3): Upgrading of Energy Generator Program

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

This afternoon, we received a response to the 5 kV and 15 kV distribution systems. The other day there was a Minister's Statement talking about the 25 kV distribution system. In his Minister's Statement, he spoke about this being an upgrade and it being a major multi-year project for QEC. I'm just wondering: in which year did this multi-year project actually begin? I know in the information he gave in reply to the question from Mr. Schell, it said a date of 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. The upgrading of the 25 kilovolt, I

believe, was in the latter part of the 2000s. I don't know exactly what year that started, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For this project, I was wondering: exactly when will the total upgrade be complete, in which year that will be done? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are anticipating phase 1 of the project to be completed some time between May and June of 2011. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of all of the phases in the program, when will be the completion date actually be? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're anticipating the completion, I believe and I stand to be corrected, if my information serves me correct, would be around 2013. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my final question, I was wondering: what's the total anticipated cost for the entire project? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. I believe it's around \$14 million, Mr. Speaker. Again I stand to be corrected, but I think that's the projected cost. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 067 – 3(3): \$3 Million
Outfitter Liability Fund**

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Recently he talked about \$3 million in the Federal Community Development Trust Fund. I was wondering if he could explain exactly what that trust is. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. I'm trying to recall when I made the member's statement about the \$3 million community trust fund. I believe that was an Act to repeal an Act that was related to the outfitters liability insurance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If that's the case and the \$3 million will be going from the repeal of the Act, what will be done with that money? Will it be going to Nunavut Tourism? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The actual amount was \$3.8 million. The repeal is to access that fund to include it in the poverty strategy file that we are working on and one of them, of course, is for the community freezers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the actual amount is \$3.8 million, which I thank the minister for pointing that out. At the same time, you had mentioned that part of the money was going to the Anti-Poverty Strategy fund, and then going to the community freezers. Do you have any dollar figures as to exactly how much that is and a breakdown? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister for Economic Development.

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. We do have a schedule of the amounts yet to be approved and these are extending into 2014. Of course, some of the amounts include some other departments, such as DOE, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, and the Department of Environment. These amounts include \$1.3 million going to DOE, \$260,000 for

tourism and cultural industries, \$320,000 going into the regional socio-economic monitoring committees, and also another \$300,000 for the Nunavut Coastal Resource Inventory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the mention of community freezers, I know there were other MLAs that brought the question up as well as a concern in terms of providing traditional and country food in the community and having people within the community provide not the traditional labour force but filling up the freezers.

Is one of the considerations in the rollout of the community freezers... ? Is it specifically freezers alone or are communities going to be able to apply for a community freezer with the addition of a meat processing plant as well? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated to my colleague from the Kitikmeot the other day, for an application process, we're going to be reviewing the applications for community freezers, not necessarily for meat plants. I also indicated that we're considering inter-settlement trade of country foods. By way of doing that, it's going to be more or less a non-commercial entity, a non-commercial meat plant. For a commercial meat plant, you do need federal inspectors to

approve the product being sold to other jurisdictions.

For this, we're looking at inter-settlement trade and specifically for community freezers, not necessarily meat plants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. There are no more hands up. Thank you. Going to our orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 7. (interpretation) Written Questions. (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. Member for Quttiktuq.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 020 – 3(3):

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Total Allowable Harvest Recommendations for Nunavut Narwhal and Beluga Populations

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' central and arctic region total allowable harvest recommendations for Nunavut's narwhal and beluga populations.

Mr. Speaker, this is the document and research that is being used to support the

federal government's recommendation to change the number of whales our constituents are allowed to hunt. I encourage all members to view this document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. There being none. (interpretation ends) Item 15. (interpretation) Notices of Motions. Member for Quttiktuq.

Item 15: Notices of Motions

Motion 002 – 3(3): Referral of Tabled Documents 248 – 3(2), 249 – 3(2), 251 – 3(2), 274 – 3(2), 275 – 3(2) – Notice

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for South Baffin, that Tabled Document 248 – 3(2), *Government of Nunavut 2009-2010 Contract Activity Report*; Tabled Document 249 – 3(2), *Government of Nunavut 2009-2010 Lease Activity Report*; Tabled Document 251 – 3(2), *Government of Nunavut 2009-2010 Procurement Activity Report*; Tabled Document 274 – 3(2), *Qulliq Energy Corporation 2008-2009 Lease, Contract and Procurement Activity Report*; and Tabled Document 275 – 3(2), *Qulliq Energy Corporation 2009-2010 Lease, Contract and Procurement Activity Report* be referred to the Committee of the Whole for concurrent consideration.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (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. (interpretation ends) Item 20. (interpretation) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 4, and 5 with the Member for Nanulik in the Chair.

We will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 14:51 and Committee resumed at 15:18*

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

Chairman (Mr. Ningeongan) (interpretation): Good afternoon. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. (interpretation ends) In 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. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the Department of Education and, if time permits, we shall move on to Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. Are we agreed to continue with the O&M budget for the Department of Education?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that Minister Tootoo and his staff can go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

(interpretation ends) Thank you. For the record, Minister Tootoo, if you can, perhaps, introduce your officials.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope you all had a good weekend. Again I would like to welcome my officials here. To my left is Ms. Kathy Okpik, she's the Deputy Minister of the Department of Education, and to my right is Mr. David Pealow, who is the Controller of School Operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Thank you to your officials. (interpretation) Welcome. (interpretation ends) We were on page G-6 and taking questions on page G-6. Corporate Services for the Department of Education. Any questions? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask a couple of questions about the new website in terms of what was happening with the student financial assistance for Nunavut. I know that the department has worked on the new website. I'm just wondering: are applications available online on the website? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that you can go onto the website and see an application, and there is contact information there for individuals to get a hold of for the applications. Right now, as of yet, the applications themselves are not available on the website. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Your second question, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Friday, Ms. Ugyuk was asking questions about the new student information system. In standing committee meetings, we had been given an update on the T5 Solution. I think that's what the program that they use for income support is called. I'm just wondering: is this new student information system the same as what the health department or Health and Social Services is doing, where they sort of piggyback and layer the system so that it works together and functions together? Do the two systems work in tandem to track information in terms of students who are in school and then possibly when they finish school, whether they're out in the community on social assistance or they have gotten a job or gone on to further education or post-secondary education? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Elliott, for your second question. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The student information [system] is a standalone system just to be able to provide all of the information

on students from when they enter the school to when they leave the school, and that's it. So right now, they're not looking at trying to integrate it with any other system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I don't have any other names. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to welcome the minister and his officials as I am glad to see you again. Since you are at the witness table, I know that this is due to the review of the bill and also to answer questions. It is prudent to ask questions.

I want to ask about attendance and late arrivals. Some students either arrive late or not at all. I believe that it states in the main estimates, Mr. Chairman, that there is an information system that will keep all of the attendance records for all schools, especially to determine the students who arrive late and those who attend regularly. When can we expect this system to be available? When can we expect to see this implemented? When can we expect to see the system operational?

Once the system has been implemented and if we want information on which school has the best attendance or if we want to identify a school that has truancy issues or other reasons, when would this program be made available? That is the question I wanted to ask the witnesses, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The pilot phase of the project

of the student information system will be in the 2011-12 year and hopefully, if things go well, we will have full implementation in the 2012-13 year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to raise this question, although one of my colleagues may have already asked about this matter. It is with respect to the Auditor General's 2007 report, where she identifies the particulars related to the Nunavut Student Financial Assistance program. It states that the program requires a review. Have the Auditor General's recommendations for this program been undertaken? There was speculation that there was room for improvement. Has the student financial assistance program been reviewed or has a work plan to implement the recommendations been laid out? Is this still under development? I would like that matter clarified, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe on Friday, we had indicated that the work plan is being implemented and we would get back by formal letter to the members as to the exact status of the implementation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you. If it's alright with you, Mr.

Chairman, I would like to recognize (interpretation ends) my wife, Celine, (interpretation) who is sitting over there in the Gallery. Thank you.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Welcome, Celine.

I have no more names on my list. (interpretation ends) Education. Branch Summary. Corporate Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$2,739,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Branch Summary on G-7. Education. Career and Early Childhood Services. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your department's daycare grants and contributions budget supports community daycare operations and training for staff. Are there currently adequate child care spaces and programs in all Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the very quick and easy answer to that is no, there isn't. I believe there are somewhere between 200 and 300 people on the waiting list just here in Iqaluit alone to get onto the waiting list to get into a licensed child care facility. I believe, Nunavut-wide, there are probably somewhere in the neighbourhood of 900 people on various waiting lists and I can break it down; 404 of those are infants, 389 are

preschool, and 113 of those are school aged children.

I believe I indicated last week that we are still committed to anywhere we're looking at new infrastructure in a community or renovations we're looking at including and incorporating child care spaces in those new facilities or within those projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many communities in Nunavut at present do not have any daycares at all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make sure I got my numbers right. Sorry for the delay.

Mr. Chairman, it's my understanding that there is only one community in Nunavut that doesn't have a facility in it and that's Igloolik. I think there are four or five other communities that do have facilities in them right now but they are not operating. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You say there are 900 Nunavut-wide waiting to get into the daycare system. What efforts is your department doing in order to

accommodate more children in daycares? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has encouraged community groups. For example, I mentioned Igloolik as the only place without a facility. So we have staff in the department there working with individuals and organizations in the community to try and help them identify funds to get going.

What we do have right now through the department is O&M program contributions to pay for their operations and maintenance costs. There are some start-up dollars, some health and safety dollars, some administration dollars, and eligible participant dollars that are available through O&M. There are various O&M programs that support child care facilities in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan, it indicates that one of your priorities for 2012-13 will be to review the *Child Day Care Act*. What will this review focus on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated last week and hopefully I'm indicated the same this week, the major focus of the review of the Act is to make sure that it is

compliant with the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the new *Education Act*, DEAs also have certain responsibilities for early childhood education programs in the communities. To date, how many DEAs have initiated early childhood programs and in which communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding right now, with this new funding that's available to the district education authorities to utilize for early childhood programs that promote language and culture, there are two communities right now that we have received proposals from. I believe information and packages were sent out to all of the district education authorities. It's a proposal-based selection right now and we have only received two. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you have any idea which two communities did submit their proposals or you don't have this information at this time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information available at this time, but I'm sure I'll be able to get it for the member before the end of the day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Branch Summary of Early Childhood Services, in your response to Hon. Rumbolt, you stated that there are a number of communities that have facilities for daycare but are not operating. So why aren't they operating? Is there a budget shortfall or no staffing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There could be a number of different issues that result in that. It could range anywhere from staffing to financial problems to having a board or organization set up and established in good standing to be able to run it. So it's a mix of different circumstances in each case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to concentrate on the career side of the department in terms of specifically the training that was going on with the career development officers. I was wondering if we could get an update as to how that was rolling out. Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that two courses were held in November here in Iqaluit and there are going to be courses held on, I think, the 15th to the 17th in Baker Lake. Also, they will be looking at expanded training for other staff in the Department of Education being considered to occur throughout the 2010-11 year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering: is your department experiencing any trouble with retention of career development officers across the territory? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that the Department of Education is not immune to some of the challenges in turnover that are apparent throughout the government. So in certain cases, we do have challenges trying to retain staff, but we take all of our efforts to try and ensure that when a position does become vacant, we try and fill it as quickly as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seem to remember, with the career development officer training that was going on, it was hoped to have some type of affiliation with Nunavut Arctic

College in terms of qualifications. Is this the way the department is going or is there some type of affiliation with the training? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, we are working with the Canadian Career Council Development Foundation on identifying those things and also, we are continuing to work with Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the concerns or questions is in terms of program delivery in different communities. Is there sort of a regulation as to how many community visits that a community would receive from a career development officer in a given year? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's nothing that defines how many times per community a career development officer has to visit. What we strive for or attempt to try to get is a minimum of three visits per community per year. Again, Mr. Chairman, that depends on as long as we have a career development officer in the capacity. There are some communities or some regions that aren't fully staffed with career development officers, so sometimes we are unable to meet the three visits per year to each community

as a result of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to think that that's what I was sort of trying to get at in terms of the ability of career development officers to actually get to the communities. It's hard because of the distance that they have to travel, and then with problems with retention and in turnover, sometimes communities sort of fall through the cracks.

Again I don't want to be taken as saying that they are not giving good service because I know it's hard in terms of... I kind of deal with some of them on a regular basis and with the resources they have and the people in the office, like you had said, it's hard to provide services to all of the communities. Has there been any thought given in terms of how to help the career development officers do their jobs better, whether it's an affiliation with the income support workers to provide... ?

One of the things that we were told by the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services was sort of a laddering approach for nursing and CHRs. Is there some type of training or partnering with that or possibly the GLOs? I'm just wondering: has your department been thinking about that or looking at that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are pretty different

deliverables in each of those areas. Career development officers work in that area; income support officers are a completely different thing. Right now, we're not looking at combining any of those duties. As new programs or positions roll out, there is the option of taking a look to see if there can be efficiencies in service as things roll out, but at this point in time right now, we are not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. In terms of social assistance contributions, I think the Minister of Finance announced there was an increase of dollars going to this division to actually pass on, I think, about a 10 percent increase in social assistance. I'm just wondering: with all of the work that you're doing with the Anti-Poverty Strategy, is this one area of real concentration for your department, along with ED&T, to see what options can be provided for people in the communities who are on social assistance?

In talking to people about the increase, a lot of people are happy and are thankful to get more dollars in their pockets to be able to buy food and clothing. At the same time, some people are saying, "Well, what are we doing to actually allow those people to go to school or get a better education and get off of social assistance instead of continuing to rely on it?" And I figured, if you could explain how your department is working with ED&T and (inaudible) as a regular member, this would be a huge area that you would want to concentrate on to get those people off social assistance so that

they're contributing to the community and the economy aspect of it and helping out. Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the Income Support Program, there are different things in there where we try to encourage individuals to either try to gain meaningful employment or enter into training that would allow and lead them to gain meaningful employment. So those mechanisms are there.

I know that we do our best to ensure that income support clients are aware of those options that are made available to them, if they choose to pursue it, and we certainly encourage those individuals that the opportunity is there and encourage them to either look at gaining meaningful employment or obtaining the training to gain meaningful employment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, one of the things I really don't want to have happen is people misunderstand what I'm actually saying or what I'm trying to get across.

I know a lot of people in my two communities who are on social assistance and they do provide meaningfully to the community and it goes along with the discussion that I think the Department of Education had for quite a few years in terms of what's meaningful work. With all of the talk of the Anti-Poverty Strategy and having

people go out on the land and fill those community freezers with country food to be able to provide for the community, to me, that's the idea of a productive choice, which I know the program already is being offered.

I know that there is a lot of people in my communities, in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay, if given the opportunity with being provided with gas, oil, and food to go out on the land, they would much prefer going out on the land and being able to still provide for their family with the regular social assistance, but at the same time, come back with a bountiful harvest of country food to be able to share with the community, and then feel that pride in who they are and what they're doing, and being able to provide and help out the community as a whole. A lot of that goes on now and sometimes it ends up being the wage earners who help subsidize that.

It's maybe more of a comment or more of a question or ideas from your department to see how we can make that work in terms of making the Anti-Poverty Strategy work. Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that Mr. Elliott said what he believes in and is pushing for, and I would like to assure him that this government does as well. Having said that, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has a lead role in that and they have already committed to a public engagement process. We feel that we should wait until that public engagement

process is concluded and the comments and ideas, which I'm sure there's an idea just like the one that the member talked about would be included in there, from the communities are analyzed by the working group before we make any changes to any of the programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I have no more names for G-7. Branch Summary. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan under (interpretation ends) Apprenticeship Program Delivery, (interpretation) is it for students who wish to go through the apprenticeship program or trades and occupational programs?

Further, it speaks about encouraging the private sector, such as stores and private businesses, to provide support for this initiative. The Department of Education wants to increase the budget in the amount of \$103,000 for the (interpretation ends) apprenticeship program delivery.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, can I get some information as to why the amount is going to be increased? Is it because the number of apprenticeship students will be increased or are you increasing the budget for the apprenticeship program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was an increase in the uptake of the program in the Kitikmeot region, so that's where the increase is.

There have been more people taking advantage of the program, a bigger demand or draw on it, so the additional resources were allocated to meet that demand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for clarifying that. Since this increase is for the Kitikmeot, can you clarify why more students wish to enter the apprenticeship program in the Kitikmeot than the Kivalliq and Baffin regions? I would like to see the reasoning why this increase seems only specified for the Kitikmeot, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that the delivery of this program is done on a regional basis. I think it was the Kitikmeot region that had identified the increased demand and the need for the dollars. So that's a request that comes out of the regional office for that based on the request that they are getting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I have no more names. G-7. Branch Summary. Minister Tootoo, you want to ask a question?

>> *Laughter*

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Oh, do I ever.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, I just want to clarify before I move on from this stage a question that was just asked a little while ago by, I believe, Mr. Rumbolt on the number of proposals that we received. My eyesight isn't as good as it used to be and I mistook a five for a two. So there are five applications that have been received for the Early Childhood Education Program funding from Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kugluktuk, Apex, and Hall Beach. I just wanted to clarify that for the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Perhaps Ms. Okpik will lend you her glasses.

>> *Laughter*

Branch Summary. Education. Career and Early Childhood Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$45,358,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page G-8. Education. Branch Summary. K-12 School Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$141,832,000. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the new *Education Act* and the new *Inuit Language Protection Act*, what specific progress was made in 2010-11 towards meeting the requirements in all Nunavut schools? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, as I have indicated a number of times, the main thing that we have been doing this year is providing in-service training to staff and district education authorities in the communities to ensure that they are aware of what additional roles and responsibilities they have. There has also been a lot of work on regulation development, which is something I believe I spoke to the other day, at the request of the communities. It's taking longer than we had initially set as a target. So a lot of it is that type of work that has been going on over the last year or so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will your department be able to meet the timeline set out in legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Other than the revised timeline for regulations to get those done, our goal is still to meet the timelines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of your department's ongoing priorities has been to develop and implement policies with respect to such things as attendance, discipline, and school completion. What progress has been made to date in finalizing and

implementing such policies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just caught the attendance. What were the other two areas that the member indicated? Thanks.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was attendance, discipline, and school completion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, Mr. Chairman, I believe that a lot of the work done in this area as far as attendance were working on and develop the student information system so that there can be a consistent means of recording that information across the territory. Right now, there are three different systems and one in each region and it's not always being applied consistently, so we're trying to get this up and running.

Right now, as I said before this year, we used to just get those reports twice a year and now we're getting them monthly from the schools as part of the principals' report. So we're looking at getting the information in a more timely and consistent manner to try and identify and address the attendance issues. We have also done in-service training with the district education authorities and the

schools for the development of an attendance policy with them.

I think there has been a lot of work done over the last couple of years to provide a safe school environment. I think everyone felt that that might have been one of the challenges of why some of these young people were not attending, because it was not a warm, welcoming environment in the school.

We have also done some work in trying to engage the parents. One thing, as I had indicated in my opening comments and last week, is that there needs to be a partnership where it's not just the school that's responsible for ensuring that a child is attending school. There is also a role on behalf of the parents as well to ensure that their child is attending school and ready to learn when they're there.

We're looking at developing a tripartite type of partnership between the teachers, the parents, and the students to have them all involved where they have parent-teacher interviews, where they're including the student, where they're developing portfolios to show what their work was like when they started at whatever part of the school year and as they move along, they're added into their portfolio to show the improvement that they have made in the work. A lot of it is just parental engagement. I think we need to really work with the school and the staff in the school need to work with the district education authority and the parents to really ensure that people are attending school.

As far as school completion, this is something that I was talking about last week where we're looking at developing standards or developing a new

assessment system within the schools to be able to assess the students and be able to identify where they may need extra work. If school staff see that a student is having problems, there are requirements, I believe, to identify that to the school team and, if necessary, develop an individual learning plan for that individual to be able to help move them forward.

I think we're also taking steps in looking at developing and providing other opportunities within the system, whether they're multiple options type programs, to have programming that will attract and retain students in the programs so that they can continue and complete their schooling. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Mr. Rumbolt, do you have some more questions?

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister mentioned that the policies were slightly different in the three regions. Will you be moving towards implementing the same policies in all schools? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you talking about the attendance policies? Mr. Chairman, I believe what the department is doing is providing training to the district education authorities. They are the ones that are responsible for developing the attendance policies in the communities. So we're providing training to them and ideas of this is what it should consist of for their policy. Once those policies are

developed and approved by the district education authorities, they are sent on to us.

With the new student information system, we want to just make sure how attendance is calculated and recorded is done in a consistent manner all across the territory. Like I said, right now, there are three different systems. When I talk about systems, the different computer programs or systems in each region are not all the same. So we're hoping to have one system that would recognize the input from all of the communities that would be inputted in a consistent manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question will be: what is the current status of the new high school graduation requirements and what is your department doing to ensure that they are comparable to high school graduation standards in other jurisdictions across Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I'm aware, there have been no changes other than the requirement for the *Aulajaaqtut* program.

As I indicated earlier, prior to the department implementing any of the curricula that we develop to be delivered in the high school system, they're run by different post-secondary institutions in the south. If you look at the *Aulajaaqtut*

program in grade 10 and 12, that's something that was sent out to, I believe, about 24 or 26 different post-secondary institutions in the south to ensure that it would comply with their entrance requirements. They have all indicated that it did.

Any curriculum that is being developed to be implemented is undergoing that same process. We are ensuring that it meets the requirements of the post-secondary institutions in the south prior to implementing it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. About two years ago, in fact, I think, to be exact, we celebrated the graduation of the Teacher Education Program. I think there were about nine or ten students who successfully graduated from the program. If there are challenges, we want to know what the challenges are, Mr. Chairman.

Are we under G-8, Mr. Chairman? Yes, we are. Thank you. My wife just left and I was daydreaming again. Sorry about that.

>> *Laughter*

She's leaving and I want her to be safe, so my mind was elsewhere.

Mr. Minister, your business plan for 2010-12 discusses a number of educator training initiatives, including teacher education programs in the communities, Inuit language specialists, school counsellors, and student support assistants. Have these initiatives been

successful and, if not, what are the main challenges in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the program that is out there, the NTEP program, is successful. The only challenge is that we need more students. I believe there are about 10 different programs being offered across the territory right now with a total of about 98 students enrolled in that program, so it's nice to see that we're seeing increasing numbers there. We just need more individuals to enter into the program.

We're developing a community school counsellor program right now. We hope to have it implemented and start training of that next year. Right now, we're also taking a look at our NTEP program. It's geared towards K-6 teaching. We're also looking at developing a middle school NTEP program, so it would allow graduates from that program to work in the middle school area. We're also looking at what it would take to develop a program for high school teachers as well.

I know for high school, they need their Bachelor of Education. That's something that we have been encouraging over the years through different leadership programs, graduates from the NTEP program to continue on for their Master of Education. Right now, there are 22 educators who have recently started the second round of their master's program. We are making progress there. We just need more numbers of people to get into the program.

Like I said, the focus of NTEP up to now has been in the primary grades, strictly because that's where the language of instruction requirement was and the biggest need and we're seeing the larger numbers. But having had that run for a while, now we're realizing and starting to look at developing programs to address the middle school and high school teachers as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, you indicated that you need more students. What seems to be the problem? Do you have a career development program or do you have an awareness program in your department? Why aren't students coming forward then wanting to become a teacher?

I thought there were young people who wanted to develop their own career, and teaching would be one of the areas of programs that they should be attracted to. So what seems to be the problem now? How good is your career development program, in your own mind? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Ningark. Just a reminder, I have been pressured from the regular members as well as the other side of the House to try and be brief and precise to the point when you're asking questions or giving responses. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my mind, I think we're doing what we can with the resources that we have. Whenever there are career

development shows going on in different communities, we're always trying to encourage students to enter into the teaching profession. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask how this is increasing in Nunavut. How are the numbers of graduates increasing in terms of a percentage? Secondly, I would like to know the numbers of students who drop out. I would like to hear about this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Sorry but just to clarify, is it graduates from high school or from the NTEP program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) What are Nunavut's current rates for graduation and dropouts? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: I missed half of that again. Sorry, Mr. Chairman, it was switching back and forth, so I only caught part of the question. Sorry, Jeannie.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk: Very slowly.

>>*Laughter*

What are Nunavut's current rates for high school graduation and dropouts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that's something that we have seen increase over the years. We have seen an increase between 2000 and 2010 of roughly 50 percent in the number of graduates. The graduation rate, I believe, for 2009-2010 is about 37 percent and the three-year average from 2007 to 2010 for the drop-out rate is about 50 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The high school in Gjoa Haven is set for minor repairs and renovations this year. The DEA of Gjoa Haven would like to know when that will be done. The second question would be the DEA also has students going to high school from the primary level. Some of them have disabilities and their concern is that the disability access needs to be looked at, at the high school in Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the member is aware, the high school in Gjoa Haven is scheduled

for renovations in the 2012-13 fiscal year, but in the interim, the department has allocated \$1.5 million to address the current health and safety issues to ensure that the school is safe for occupancy until things are safe and until the renovations take place.

It's my understanding that there was an indoor air quality assessment that was supposed to happen last month. Once all of that information is put together, our capital people and other design people will be working with Community and Government Services to develop a scope of work to address those issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The DEA would like to know when the work is going to be done on the safety issue. Is it this coming spring when the school is out or during the school calendar year? That's what they would like to know. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would assume it would be depending on what comes out of the assessment and the development of the scope of work that needs to be done. There may be some stuff that could be done immediately upon determining that and there may be some stuff that may have to wait until over the summer, depending on what's done. Until all of those different evaluations are analyzed and looked at and the scope of work is developed, it would be a little tough to

determine exactly what's going to start when. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, the DEA would like to know about elementary school students. Some of the students will be going to high school and there are some students with physical disabilities. The high school is going to be inaccessible for the students who are disabled. I think that needs to be looked at right away. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would assume that if those access issues are identified as part of the health and safety evaluation that's going to be done there, they will be addressed accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another question that I would like to ask. The elders who are teaching life skills are starting to be hired or at least that is the expectation.

For elders already on a pension and who will be hired as instructors and receive a salary, will their pension be reduced accordingly? Has the department considered if this will impact elders' pensions since they will be on salary? However, in the Northwest Territories, they're starting to find out that the pensions of the elders are being reduced because they are on salary. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk.
Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's the first I have heard, but it's something I'll commit to following up. I don't know if we would have that answer right now. I know that's something that has been looked at, but I'll commit to getting back to the member. As I said, it's the first time that I have heard that that could be an issue for elders. So I'll take a look and see how it has been addressed and make sure I notify the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to go to G-14 under K-12 School Operations for the summary of grants and contributions, where it has the district education authority contribution as being \$14,062,000. I'm assuming that's the money that's divided up between every school and every DEA across the territory. If that's the case, I'm wondering: how do you determine how much each district education authority in the community receives? Is it on a per capita basis or is it need driven? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that it's based on enrolment, so it's basically a formula-driven process that identifies how much the DEAs are eligible to receive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the French school here in Iqaluit, how many students are enrolled in that school? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: We don't have that number with us right now, Mr. Chairman, but I'm sure we will have it before too long. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So again on G-14, for the \$231,000 that the school receives, is that on a per capita basis as well? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The École des Trois Soleils is funded a little bit differently because we provide a certain amount of funding and a lot of the funding also comes from Heritage Canada, so there are some requirements tied in with Heritage Canada and obligations for us to fund a certain level. That's my understanding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm assuming too that the PYs for those positions are under the general

compensations and benefits for all of the schools. Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you. That's correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the figure of 14:1 student-instructor ratio, the school would fall under the same requirement as well of having 14:1. Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you. My understanding is yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The questions are just more out of curiosity and since we have ministers on that side for Iqaluit, the question couldn't actually be asked. So just to see how their school works and how it works, I figured I would ask those questions.

Going back to page G-8 under compensation and benefits, it is \$117,198,000. In your opening comments, you had made the statement that \$7.4 million was going to compensation and benefits to provide better services in the school. If you look at the dollar figure from 2010-11, which

was \$103,248,000, there's still about \$6 million that's unaccounted for. Are there more PYs being added to it to come up to \$117,000, or what accounts for that \$6 million? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that \$7.4 million, I also indicated that a big chunk of that is including the casual wages as well as additional staff requirements to bring our student-educator ratio to 14:1. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to some of the questions that were being asked about the attendance policy and the new *Education Act*, I had a specific question. It's my understanding that if someone is 18 years of age and under and not in school but if they're employed and working, the employer could actually be fined a fee, unless they're under some type of individual education plan like the minister had talked about, where individuals receive special credits or a special benefit from working at the same time as learning and mentoring. Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. There needs to be like a learning plan set up with the employer for that individual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So people don't get confused, it's only during school hours, not in the evenings, so it doesn't affect the people who work in the evening.

I guess that brings me to my next question in terms of supporting *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. I know a lot of people and a lot of young people do go out on the land. One of the big successes that we have in Arctic Bay and it sort of ties in with Pond Inlet, Igloolik, Hall Beach, Clyde River, and Repulse Bay is programs such as the Nunavut Quest, where sometimes parents will pull their students out of school for a month and they're out on the land and they're learning land skills. Will there be a requirement to have an individual education program set up for them so that they can actually get credits and quantify that learning that's going on in a traditional way? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In cases like that, I think it's an acknowledgement that they're out there learning and they can get an excused absence if they come in and request that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And then the second part of my question: is there a way of actually receiving CTS credits or some type of

credit towards their grade 12 graduation certificate? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that they can if it's set up through like a special project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My final question on this topic would be, as mentioned, it is set and agreed that there would be a fine for the employer if they didn't provide a learning plan during working hours for the individual under 18. Will the same policies be in place for individuals who are pulled out of school who are under 18 who go out and participate on land trips like this? Will there be fines levied if an individual education plan is not provided for that person? Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: My understanding is no. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I don't have anymore... Ms. Ugyuk

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I almost forgot to ask this question. The elementary school in Gjoa Haven has issues with their temperature control panel. It gets too cold in some areas and too warm in other areas of the building. I believe that the old schools in other communities are in similar

situations with antiquated heating systems. I imagine that they are already looking into this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can check with my officials to see if that has been reported and what has been done and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Elliott, I thought you were down to your last question.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, actually I said it's my last question on this line of questioning having to do with the attendance policy, but this is another topic and area. I just wanted to help Mr. Tootoo shift his focus from attendance and policy to other areas, but I'm sorry for the confusion.

On G-14 again under the summary of grants and contributions, there's \$1.6 million for district education authorities ECE. I was wondering if you could explain what that is for. Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I indicated earlier that there was funding available to the district education authorities to develop early childhood education programs to promote Inuit language and culture. That's what that funding is for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my final comment and I'm hoping to get a commitment from the minister. Hopefully I can explain it properly because I don't know if I came across the other day.

In terms of the breakfast program and again going back to when the Minister of Health was before us, \$500,000 is being put for the breakfast program and tied in with providing a nutritious meal for people who are at most need and fits in with the *Tamapta* Mandate. Where I get confused is I wouldn't want... . Again, I think that all MLAs are the same. They wouldn't want their community to be penalized because of the initiative and good intentions of their community members.

So for example, the community of Resolute Bay has a breakfast program, Arctic Bay has one as well and so does Grise Fiord, but the bulk of the communities' Brighter Futures money is used to purchase stuff, food, apples, oranges, for that program and that means that they don't have any other Brighter Futures money for any other programs that are available, which could run to benefit youth and young people in the community. So now if there's new money allocated for that, then what's going to happen is... . In my view, I should be telling them not to apply for the Brighter Futures money for the breakfast program under that and apply for the \$500,000 for the breakfast program so that they can free up that money to run other needed programs in the community.

As we're all aware, there's only so many dollars to go around. So maybe the commitment I would like you to do is to

write a letter to the DEAs that would... . Like you said, each community does it differently in terms of monitoring it and applying for funds. So my communities don't have to write two proposals to access the money, whether it's through the breakfast program that the minister is rolling out with Health and Social Services or the Brighter Futures money. Again, there's a whole other level of proposal writing and reporting back. Again, we've got volunteers most of the time here doing this work, so I don't want to overburden them and have them with troubles. So if you could commit to writing a letter explaining to them the two programs and how to access the funding. Thank you.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if it would be appropriate for the Department of Education to write a letter to district education authorities outlining other organizations' or departments' programs, but I would commit to passing it onto my colleague from Health and Social Services.

When they're rolling out their program, it might be a good idea, if there is a group applying for the Brighter Futures program, to ask them if the format in which their application is done for one would be sent to both or maybe look at applying for both. That's not a Department of Education program, so I don't have any of the details on that, but I would just ask my colleague from Health to make sure that they look at that and that they do it in that manner when they're rolling out their program and

providing information to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I have no more names. Education. Branch Summary. K-12 School Operations. Total. Operations and Maintenance. \$141,832,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Next page. Agreed?

>> *Laughter*

Branch Summary. Education. Adult Learning and Post Secondary Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$10,803,000. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try to be concise, short, and to the point. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the minister, the Hon. Minister for Education. The amount of funding student financial assistance grants in 2011-12 has been significantly increased since 2010-11. What specifically accounts for this increase? I think that's pretty close to half a million dollar increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is an indication where our costs going up are a good thing. It's just a result of more students apply for Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students. As a result of more students applying and getting accepted into post-secondary institutions, the grants going out to them are increasing, as well as the travel costs related to the

additional growth in students attending post-secondary education, which is a good thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Speaking of post-secondary education, your department continues to offer the Special Professions Program Fund to support students entering into post-secondary professional programs in a southern institution. How many students are currently supported through this program and what professions are they studying? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that there are two individuals under this program and the only one I know offhand is the veterinarian training. I'll find out what the other one is taking and let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Tapardjuk, I would like say that if you wish to speak on a certain page, I would appreciate it if you could raise your hand to identify yourself so that we can put you on the list. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize for not raising my hand.

In the business plan under (interpretation ends) Adult Programs and Services, (interpretation) it states that it will be decreased in 2011-12. What is the reason

for the decrease in the (interpretation ends) Adult Programs and Services? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to say the wrong thing, but I would like to ask the member to clarify exactly where and an amount, and then I'll be able to respond accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): It is on page 113 of the business plan. It looks as if it has been decreased by a fairly large amount from 2010. If you look at the (interpretation ends) Adult Programs and Services Division, (interpretation) it seems the funding for the whole division has been decreased. Is that correct? I would like to get that clarified because all of the other budget items seem to have been increased with this one exception regarding the entire operations. I would like to understand why this division has been decreased, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand him correctly, I think what this has done where the department has taken a look at historical spending in the past and where there has been lapsing of dollars in one area, we're looking at other areas where we don't have enough resources. So it's just a matter of re-profiling dollars. Rather

than saying we need that extra money there and we're not using it in that area, we're moving it into areas where it can be used. So there is absolutely no impact on any of the programs or services as a result of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I apologize for not raising my hand, but we have time.

I want to ask about (interpretation ends) Adult Literacy, (interpretation) which is a priority for Nunavut and we have to try to increase it, especially as it is required for jobs. With the adult literacy program, it states that it will not be a priority until 2013-14. It also shows a budgetary decrease of \$10,000. I would like this clarified as I imagine there is a reason for it not being a priority for this government. I would like to know what the reasons are for not making it a priority issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I want to reiterate that the reduction, I think, is just a salary adjustment type thing and there is no impact on the programs or services as a result of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): If that is the case, will it be adjusted for 2012-14? I just want it clarified. Do I understand this will not be decreased but

it has been calculated to adjust the operational budget? I would like to get that clarified, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my understanding that it's actually, as I indicated, salary adjustments in that area and in other areas, there have been increases in O&M funding to allow for travel and things like that. Again, as I indicated, there is no impact on the programs or services; it's actually giving them more ability to have a little bit of O&M dollars to work with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I have no more names on my list. G-9. Branch Summary. Education. Adult Learning and Post Secondary Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$10,803,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page G-11. Branch Summary. Education. Curriculum and School Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$18,991,000. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Under school services, the department has been working on the new curriculum for several years and resources for both primary and secondary grades. This has been in development for quite some time, with meetings in Arviat and other communities. What is the current status of curriculum development? We have heard in the past that the teachers themselves have had to produce their own curriculum to be used in elementary

schools. How much work has been completed on this item, Mr. Chairman?

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the member quite clearly points out, in the past, there was not a lot of curriculum in Inuktitut. I think there has been a lot of work over the years to develop not only curriculum but materials and resources for teachers to use in the classrooms.

A made-in-Nunavut curriculum, a course like the *Aulajaaqtut* program, is one that has been developed for grades 10 to 12 and now we're looking at developing that similar type curriculum for the middle school area and other areas. There has been a considerable amount of not only curriculum resources that have been developed.

If you look from 10 to 12, as I pointed out, the *Aulajaaqtut* courses on health, wellness, self-esteem, values, leadership, and positive relationship building; there have been three Inuktitut language arts courses developed; there have been three social studies units developed; three science courses on land, oceans, and weather; some communications stuff; entrepreneurial programs. That's in the high school area.

In the middle school area, they have done language arts development, again social studies, some science stuff on diversity, and other areas in sciences is underway right now.

They are currently working on a curriculum, teaching resources, and learning materials for grades 1 to 3. It

would be bilingual integrated units that teach health, social studies, science concepts, and language arts skills. They are looking at moving forward in looking at developing similar stuff for grades 4 to 6.

So that's just a little bit of an example of some of the work that has been done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I thank the minister for his clarification. When we were first attending school, the teachers would give us lessons, although we didn't quite understand everything they were saying. Today the situation is completely different based on my knowledge.

With respect to new teachers who arrive for the first time in our communities, they must suffer from culture shock when they go to the school as they don't understand the Inuit language or culture and Inuit are trying to repatriate their cultural values, such as a welcoming environment in the schools. What about other services for these brand new teachers who are arriving into the Inuit homeland and will be teaching in Nunavut for the first time?

Are there orientation packages for new teachers coming into the communities who are not familiar with our culture and environment? Do they have a cultural orientation for the new teachers going into the communities? If you can at least give us an indication as to what kind of orientation programs you have, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there is some type of orientation to new education staff going into a community. I think they receive some type of a package from our regional school operations divisions. They also meet with the principal. As far as anything else in there, exactly what it entails, I would be happy to provide the member with more detailed information if I have missed anything there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I think orientation is a must because sometimes we have problems with teachers due to the lack of information. It would be nice to get that information.

What I have noticed as well is that the Young Men's Engagement Project was established in previous years. Can you describe some of the successes and challenges experienced by this initiative to date and what specific activities are planned for these youth? It has become obvious that there are more females graduating from school than young men. So how did this Young Men's Engagement Project go in previous years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an initiative that took place in Pangnirtung. I believe that there was some third party funding involved to interest young men to continuing

learning. It's my understanding that most of the activities that they participated in took place outside of the school. There were things like small engine repair, construction of huts for the spring camp program, and other practical and hands-on initiatives. I think it was recognized that this initiative that went on there has been considered to be very successful.

We want to be able to use the lessons that we have learned in Pangnirtung with that program in order to change the way we do business with schools so that young men find school more interesting and challenging for them. As I had indicated before, we're looking at developing a multiple options type program, which would take those kinds of things into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Ms. Ugyuk.

Ms. Ugyuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Your department has been developing new graduation requirements for Nunavut students. What curriculum work is being done to ensure that Nunavut high school graduation requirements are comparable to other Canadian jurisdictions so that graduates have the basic skills necessary to enter into post-secondary studies anywhere in Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Ugyuk. Minister Tootoo.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, I think we're sending any new curriculum that we're developing to be offered in the high school system to different

universities and other post-secondary institutions in the south to make sure that they meet their entrance requirements. That's something that we did with the *Aulajaaqtut* program and the Inuktitut language arts programs. I said that these have been accepted as meeting their entrance requirements at about 26 different universities and colleges across the country.

As any new stuff is developed, we are planning to do the same thing to ensure that anything we roll out will have the requirements and standards necessary for students to be able to get credit towards and have that course recognized by a post-secondary institution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I have no more names on G-11. Branch Summary. Education. Curriculum and School Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$18,991,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page G-12. Education. Branch Summary. Income Support. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,016,000. Is that the correct reading? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to income support, I'm just wondering: is the demand for income support rising each year and, if it is, what kind of percentage are we seeing the increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the committee's indulgence, I would ask that Ms. Okpik be excused from the witness table and if it would be okay with members if we brought in Ms. Sandy Teiman, who is the Director of Income Support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. (interpretation) Is it okay with the committee?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can escort Ms. Okpik out.

Thank you. Minister Tootoo, for the record, please introduce your official.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make sure I recognized her by her right title earlier and I did. So I would like to welcome at the witness table Ms. Sandy Teiman. She's the director of income support for the Department of Education.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Tootoo, I was actually waiting for a name, but Mr. Rumbolt, can you ask your question again, please, for Ms. Teiman.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to income support, I'm just wondering if the demand for income support is on the rise throughout Nunavut and, if it is, what kind of percentage of increase are we looking at each year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if it's as a result of the increase in students going to post-secondary institutions or getting more training that's an increase in that area. We have actually seen a slight decrease and that number dropping over the last few years. In 2008, there were 15,523 individuals on income support, which is roughly about 50 percent of the population. In 2009, it dropped to 14,037, which is about 44 percent of the population. In 2010, there were 13,716, which is roughly 41 percent of the population. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's nice to see a decrease in that department.

On a different note, I have asked the minister through his office this question and I would like to ask again for the record. Often, income support recipients escort medical patients to southern hospitals. Sometimes the escorts could be out of the community for a month or maybe even two months, depending on the reason they are escorting certain people. However, they are still on income support and they still have expenses at home but are unable to physically go to the income support office. My question is: what expenses are still covered by income support for this type of client and what process does the client have to take to ensure that they receive the benefits? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll take a first stab at this and if I miss anything, I'll ask Ms. Teiman to supplement my response.

Mr. Chairman, first off, I just want to thank the member for bringing this issue to my attention. I think it's important to recognize that any individual who is making a commitment to escort someone to the south for medical is greatly appreciated. I know a lot of people who are working a lot of times can't afford the time to be able to do that.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, the individual would still be eligible. If income support is paying their rent or the utilities if they have a house, those expenses would still be covered. It's my understanding that the only benefit that they wouldn't get is the food allowance because when they are out on an escort service, their food is provided at one of the boarding homes in the south that they are at or even could be here in Iqaluit that the meals are provided for them.

Also, Mr. Chairman, they are also eligible to receive any portion of a clothing allowance that they may have if they have stored it or used it. Having said that, Mr. Chairman, if the individual is single, if they are part of a family, the member has a family, the rest of the family still gets the food allowance that they would be eligible for. Hopefully that clarifies it.

I think the only other most important thing is if an individual knows that they're going to be asked to go out as an escort on medical travel, it's important that they contact their income support worker prior to them leaving and all of

that would be explained. I think in some cases where that doesn't happen is where you could run into problems and having to go back and try and redress them. If that is happening, we do value that service being provided to the patients, but it's important that the clients inform the income support worker prior to them leaving. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I have no more names. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under G-12, like the other branch summary activities, travel and transportation dropped significantly in this particular activity and other particular activities that we just went through. What accounts for this drop in travel and transportation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The decrease in travel and transportation had to do with the electronic case management system. It was part of the funding that was identified for the training component of it and we have now moved it into the maintenance component, so that's why there's a decrease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. I have no more names on G-12. Education. Summary. Income Support. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,016,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go back to page G-3. Department Summary. Education. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$224,765,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are we agreed that the Department of Education is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Tootoo if he has any closing comments.

Hon. Hunter Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First off, I would just like to thank my officials for preparing me for today. A lot of hard work goes into putting our binders together, as I'm sure everyone knows. I would thank them for all of the hard work that they have put into being able to put me in a position where I can answer the questions that the members have.

I would also like to thank all of the members for the support and the comments and suggestions that they have made. I think that this government has said that education is a priority and I think we have seen, through the questions that the members have raised, their support for education being a priority of this government. I look forward to moving ahead with some of the plans and initiatives that we're going ahead with this year. I look forward to providing members with updates on how things are going and continue to look to get feedback from them as to how we can continue to improve these things as they come up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tootoo. Thank you to your officials. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can escort the officials out, please. We will now proceed to the next department with Mr. Schell in the Chair.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2011-2012 – Consideration in Committee – Community and Government Services

Chairman (Mr. Schell): Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak, to make his opening remarks.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to review the... .

Chairman: Sorry, Mr. Kusugak. We don't have quorum. We have to wait until we get one more.

Okay, go ahead now. Thank you.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): I thank you again. I wanted to say "thank you" three times anyways.

>>*Laughter*

I want to start by thanking you for the opportunity to review the 2011-12 main estimates and business plan for the Department of Community and Government Services in Committee of the Whole.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, as I have stated before, the Department of Community and Government Services has a large mandate, which includes

programs and services for local government, government services, petroleum products, procurement, protection services, informatics, and project and asset management. Our budget exceeds \$360 million and we have 344 positions spread over 14 communities. Mr. Chairman, I believe CGS' budget for 2011-12 speaks to government's commitment under *Tamapta* to support and strengthen our communities.

In our proposed budget, municipalities will receive an additional \$6.7 million in funding. This funding will go to support basic operations, mobile equipment, and maintenance funding for facilities. Mr. Chairman, we all know that municipalities provide basic services that affect Nunavummiut on a daily basis. In order to provide these services, they need to be adequately funded. We realize that municipalities have not received an operating increase since 2005. I am pleased to announce that they will receive an operating increase of \$4.4 million in the fiscal year 2011-12.

In 2009-2010, the GN implemented the Equipment Block Funding Program for communities, enabling them to purchase or lease heavy equipment on an annual basis. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to inform the committee that this year, we have increased the funding to \$2.5 million. This will ensure that each community receives over \$100,000 annually to make their own decisions to suit their own mobile equipment needs with the appropriate funding.

Mr. Chairman, CGS continues to invest significant resources in training to ensure that we continue to improve services and programs to our client

groups. We continue to offer over 6,500 training days a year to municipal employees through our collaboration with the Municipal Training Organization (MTO). My department works closely and collaboratively with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and the Nunavut Association of Municipal Administrators to ensure that we are meeting their requirements for training, not just what we think they should have.

Mr. Chairman, over the last five years, the Government of Nunavut has been able to access over \$320 million of federal funding to assist us in building infrastructure in the territory. Through such programs as gas tax, the Building Canada Fund, and the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, as well as the GN's own capital programs, we have made great strides towards providing needed infrastructure in the territory.

While we still have much to do in this year's budget, the government has made an investment in protecting the assets we have built by approving over \$3 million for maintenance funding for these facilities. This funding will be used to properly maintain the facilities that have been built in order to get the most value from the buildings, make them healthier places to work, and extend their useful life. This will also help defer costly capital expenditures.

Over the last two years, the GN will have invested almost \$10 million in maintenance funding. Mr. Chairman, CGS is committed to the efficient use of our scarce fiscal resources and investing in the maintenance of our facilities is a smart way to do this.

The Petroleum Products Division continues to manage the fuel provision mandate for the GN. The global oil market and currency trends also continue to be very unpredictable. The department is working hard to improve procurement practices and moderate the cost impact to Nunavummiut by capitalizing on lower prices whenever they become available through the early purchase of fuel.

Again this year, Mr. Chairman, PPD will buy and store the fuel required for the eastern Arctic resupply. This initiative allows the Government of Nunavut to try and maintain fuel prices at their current levels. The unseasonably warm winter to date is also having a positive effect on our fuel inventories that is used for heating and power production.

Service delivery to Nunavummiut by the GN will be enhanced through the upgrade of the wide area network, local area network, and municipal area networks, also known as WAN/LAN/MAN. CGS is working with the Department of Finance and QEC, as well as our other contracted suppliers, to build the new WAN/LAN/MAN infrastructure. This is a very large project, Mr. Chairman. It has taken a number of years of planning and is also part of the Strengthening Financial Management program. Two satellite hubs, one in Ottawa and one in Iqaluit, are now completed and we are in all communities in Nunavut installing communication antennas, running fibre to each GN building in addition to structured cabling within the buildings. We anticipate completion of this project within the next fiscal year. We hope to begin moving to the new GN network beginning this year.

The *Tamapta* Action Plan will be supported through these and other technology improvements. Improved communications with government will be a priority for CGS through a variety of resources and call centre technologies and working with other GN departments and the communities. Greater bandwidth will be available for the education of our children and adults, our new health care technologies using video and document transfer online, and justice video court appearances.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to Nunavut emergency management, the department has been working with hamlets to assist them with the development of emergency plans for each community. CGS continues to work with many jurisdictions to improve the response programs available to the public for search and rescue. We will continue to work with community search and rescue organizations, hamlets, and individuals in assisting in coordinating the RCMP, military and community groups in responding to searches. These efforts will continue again this year.

The territorial fire strategy implementation also continues and is providing a substantial amount of training and equipment to local fire departments throughout Nunavut, helping communities protect assets and people against fire. There will be some effective fire prevention initiatives as CGS works with Education to teach kids how to be fire safe.

Mr. Chairman, I hope my comments give an appreciation of the service centred mandate that my department has. There continues to be great value in partnerships and collaboration as we

work together to meet the needs of our government departments, communities, and the needs of Nunavummiut.

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

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

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: I do, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-in-arms, please escort the minister and witnesses in.

For the record, minister, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I didn't hear you.

Chairman: For the record, minister, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, to my left is Kathleen Lausman, Deputy Minister for the department, and to my right, Alma Power, Director of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development have comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the

Standing Committee on Community and Economic Development on its review of the 2011-12 main estimates and 2011-14 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2011-12 operations and maintenance budget of \$184.69 million has increased by approximately 7 percent since the introduction of the department's 2010-11 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 344. This is an increase of seven PYs from its 2009-2010 business plan.

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

The department's 2011-14 business plan indicates that the department is continuing to review the *Consumer Protection Act*, the Lotteries Regulations, and the *Fire Prevention Act*. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on these legislative initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, as you will recall, the *Northern Employee Benefits Service Pension Plan Protection Act* was passed during the 2009 fall sitting. Members were pleased to see that the GN listened and acted on the concerns that we raised on the need to protect municipal employees and their pension plans. The standing committee looks forward to further progress on the department's plans to "Work towards an updated pension plan legislation to regulate the NEBS pension plan for municipal employees in Nunavut and NWT."

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed budget for municipal transfer payments is increasing from \$48,686,000 in 2010-11 to \$55,282,000 in 2011-12. The standing committee is pleased to see an increase in funding allocated under the Municipal Funding Policy, which is used to assist municipalities in delivering programs and services. The department's draft 2011-14 business plan indicates that one of its 2012-13 priorities is to "Develop options and present recommendations for improved municipal funding." The standing committee is also pleased to see that the department will be working to improve municipal funding and looks forward to receiving updates on this important issue.

The department's proposed 2011-12 main estimates include \$2.5 million in funding for the Mobile Equipment Block Funding Program. This program "Provides annual core funding to assist communities in mobile equipment lifecycle planning, procurement and maintenance." The standing committee was pleased to see an increase in the funding allocated for this program and encourages the department to continually review this program to ensure that adequate funding is provided to communities for their mobile equipment needs.

Mr. Chairman, the department's proposed 2011-12 main estimates include \$850,000 in funding for the Municipal Insurance Exchange to "offset incremental costs associated with municipal insurance coverage and to implement loss control program initiatives with focus on such critical areas as fire training and fire prevention." The standing committee

supports the government's ongoing support of NAMIX until such time as the system can become self-funding and looks forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

The department's 2010-13 business plan indicated that a draft report has been developed concerning the "open-market feasibility study which develops sealift re-supply policy options." On June 2, 2010, the Minister of Community and Government Services tabled the *Considerations Regarding an Open-Market System for Annual Sealift – Summary Report December 2009* in the Legislative Assembly. During the minister's recent appearance before standing committee, members were informed that the department will be given direction by cabinet regarding the sealift resupply contract. The standing committee looks forward to receiving an update on this important issue.

The standing committee also notes the department's recent announcement concerning the award of the sealift resupply for the Kivalliq region to Nunavut Sealink and Supply Incorporated and encourages the department to work with sealift suppliers to ensure that the best possible service is provided to all communities.

The department's proposed 2011-12 main estimates include \$500,000 in annual funding to provide training to search and rescue organizations and assistance with the purchase of equipment. The standing committee encourages the department to provide clear information to communities on the process by which they can access this funding. The standing committee also encourages the minister to table the

outstanding annual reports which are required by law to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly under the territorial *Emergency Measures Act*.

Mr. Chairman, the department's 2011-14 business plan provides an update on the status of one of its priorities for the Office of the Fire Marshal. It indicates that the "New Fire Prevention Strategy has been drafted for review with communities." The standing committee looks forward to the tabling of a new strategy in the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

The standing committee notes that the proposed budget for the department's Capital Planning and Technical Services Branch is increasing from \$32,370,000 in 2010-11 to \$33,671,000 in 2011-12. Most of this increase is due to a \$1.3 million increase in the budget for building maintenance.

Mr. Chairman, the department's draft 2011-14 business plan indicates that one of its priorities for the upcoming fiscal year is to "Continue to work with the Nunavut Water Board and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for licensing compliance in the Territory" and "Create an environmental work plan toward implementation of the Municipal Waste Water Effluent Strategy."

The standing committee notes the recent news coverage regarding Nunavut communities and their lack of compliance in respect to the water licences issued by the Nunavut Water Board. MLAs have spoken on a number of occasions in the Legislative Assembly on the importance of drinking water quality and safety in Nunavut. The standing committee continues to

recommend that the department prepare and table in the Legislative Assembly a comprehensive report on water quality in all of Nunavut's communities. The standing committee also notes that the Department of Environment and the Department of Community and Government Services are currently reviewing waste management options for Nunavut. Members look forward to receiving ongoing updates on this important issue and encourage both departments to continue working with communities to ensure that they are compliant with all territorial and federal legislation regarding waste management in Nunavut.

The department's proposed 2011-12 main estimates indicate that the department's Petroleum Products Revolving Fund will have a deficit of \$7,567,000 in 2011-12. The standing committee encourages the department to closely monitor this issue.

The department's draft 2011-14 business plan provides an update on the status of one of its previous priorities, which indicated that "Tank farm specification updates to incorporate the latest environmental regulations have begun." During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members raised questions on the status of this issue and how much it will cost the GN to become compliant with the latest federal environmental regulations. Although the minister provided some information, it was not clear exactly how much it would cost the government to become compliant with the environmental regulations. The standing committee encourages the department to provide further clarification on the potential

costs associated with upgrading all tank farms in Nunavut.

Members also note that the department's business plan indicates that one of its priorities is to "Complete an inventory and condition assessment of all tank farm assets and establish a 20-year replacement plan for all tank farm assets." Members look forward to ongoing updates on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2011-12 main estimates and 2011-14 business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Rumbolt. I will now open the floor for general comments. Please save your detailed questions for the page-by-page review. Any comments? Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the increases that he mentioned for the communities.

We were asked to make ourselves brief and concise, so I'll do that. I have nothing for general comments, but I would like to ask the minister a question. Sometimes municipalities go into deficit situations and it can't be helped. You mentioned WAN/LAN/MAN. Do you think that WAN/LAN/MAN will help decrease the deficit situation in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's included in his opening comments and that's why I'm asking the question.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Ningark, for asking that question. That program will not introduce any increases and will not impact the hamlets as it is intended only for our government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Perhaps I was not understood. Will this WAN/LAN/MAN help hamlets keep track of whether they are in deficit or will this provide more support for the hamlets' financial management under the system? For example, (interpretation ends) strengthening financial management by CGS for the municipalities across Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. I understood what you were trying to say. This WAN/LAN/MAN is a computer program that allows communication within the Nunavut-wide government. It's not for municipalities and will not have an impact on them. This is for the Government of Nunavut's computer system to increase the speed of communication. If it were to provide benefits, then that is where it would show up, but this will not impact any hamlet computer system as it is not set up for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningark.

Mr. Ningark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. It would be good to help the communities in doing their financial work. There used to

be an evaluation of municipalities in the past. I thought this program was going to help in evaluating the communities. I apologize if I was mistaken, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. That's all I have for now.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment there. You want to comment on it, Minister Kusugak?

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. I know you just made a comment, but as I mentioned earlier, there is going to be additional funding for the municipalities for O&M and I'm sure that it's going to help them. Our employees are always working with the hamlet offices on how to decrease their deficit situations. We're going to keep working with the hamlets to help them stay out of deficit situations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuktitut pages are numbered but the English is not. Counting the cover sheet, I guess it is page 3 where you talk about MTO. I think this program has been in existence now for about close to ten years, for sure. You say you continue 6,500 training days a year. Is the demand for this program increasing or is it constant or is it on the decrease? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to see that there are some programs that are out there available for municipalities that they

keep wanting and because of their success, this is one of them. Mr. Chairman, it seemed like it was increasing and now it's kind of peaked, but it's constant. Every day the municipalities are taking advantage of this very worthwhile training organization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the minister. It is a very good program and it is nice to see it in the communities.

My next question is on the same subject of MTO training. As the program progresses, are we seeing more community specific training or are we still seeing a lot of regional training happening? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, those are good points. Right now, we seem to be seeing a trend. Constantly, financial management training is always there, but we're also seeing a lot more of fire prevention, firefighting, and emergency preparedness, that kind of training, a lot more happening in those areas as well, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On another page, I'm not sure where it is, but you talked about your initiatives to maintain fuel prices at their current level. In the House the other day, I think you mentioned something about 30 or 40 percent of your fuel has been

purchased. Given today's market for oil, do you think it's possible to maintain the same level with the way the fuel prices are going right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be nice to say yes, but it's one of those things that change every day. I think we purchased approximately one-third of our petroleum needs right now. We're in the process of working on purchasing gasoline products. Once all of the products are purchased, that's about the only time we will know exactly the details in terms of if there is going to be an increase or decrease or if we're going to stay the same.

I wouldn't hazard a guess, but we're going to do the best that we can to ensure that we don't have an increase in price. We will shoot for that and anything below that would be a bonus. It's really hard to answer it right now, Mr. Chairman, but come June or July, we will have a lot better idea of prices and effects and we should be able to hazard a guess better at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I just want to remind members that whatever is in the minister's opening comments is in the page by page. So if you could save a lot of those questions for then, but if you have any other ones, you can go ahead. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just ask one more question. One of my next questions was

going to be when you anticipate having all of the fuel purchased, but you said in June or July, so that's fine.

Is your department doing anything to increase their bulk buying earlier in the year when prices are lower? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: We do what we can in terms of purchasing early. We have to remember that we have to store the fuel products when we purchase them, so we do as early as we can. The fuel we did purchase so far, if we purchased it today, would cost us about \$2 million more than it did when we purchased it a couple of months ago. So we do try to purchase it at the earliest convenience. One of things that we have to keep in mind with petroleum products is they do have a shelf life and we do have to store them and try to consume them before the expiry date. So that's how it works, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't have anybody else on my list here, so we will go page by page. We will go to J-4. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Any questions? Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$9,123,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will go to J-5. Branch Summary. Community and Government Services. Community Support. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$64,927,000. Do you agree? Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Mr. Ningeongan had his hand up first.

On page 162 of your list of priorities for your department in terms of the increase in the continual work with the MTO and communities to advance priorities in training within the communities, I know at times, the mayors bring up the concerns about mechanic training and the ability of people in the community to work on the equipment that is being purchased, with the mobile equipment, and the newer technologies. I'm just wondering: what's your department doing to help assist that concern for the mayors? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question. We're constantly working with different departments within governments and possible people to give training in that field and working with the staff of the Municipal Training Organization to address the needs, and that is one of the many needs that we have.

We're finding that we have a growing need for heavy equipment mechanics. We have a growing need for licensed heavy equipment operators. So we're working with MTO and the municipalities to try addressing those needs, Mr. Chairman. It's good to see, with the opening of the Nunavut Trade School, that maybe we could begin to tackle some of those needs with different training departments within our government and MTO to address those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I just want to remind members that when they're asking detailed questions, they have to ask them on the page we're on, not on the previous page or anything. Go ahead, Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Okay, I'm sorry. I thought we were on page J-5.

Thank you. In terms of the Municipal Funding Policy, there was an increase from \$35,063,000 in 2010-11 to \$40,194,000 in 2011-12. I think that's the \$4.4 million increase that you were talking about. I'm just wondering: how do you divide up the funding that goes to each community in terms of a breakdown? Is it per capita, or how is it broken down? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. This is strictly the consumer price index across the board. There's a formula involved in it and that's how that was done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in terms of the \$40,194,000, it's going out to the communities. It's my understanding that that's the money that the communities or all of the hamlets use to do their core operations within them. It's divided between every community in Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, thank you. Yes, there is a formula in

place to deal with that and divide it up between communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just wondering in terms of some of the reading that we had done. It seemed like some of the smaller communities are actually faring worse in terms of staying afloat without running into deficits. I was wondering if some of it had to do with the fact that the funding formula is... . If it's on per capita basis, obviously I could see them not being able to keep up and struggling, but you had said it wasn't on a per capita basis. Maybe you could speak to that point about if a hamlet is struggling what services you provide to help them. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That formula, which we are reviewing at the moment, is not quite simply based on population, it includes population, the kind of infrastructure, the kind of equipment they have in the community. It's a little more complex than counting heads and dividing the funds or adding funds, it's a lot more complicated than that. Our department has seen the need over the past while to increase funding for municipalities and we have pushed to do that in this budget.

In terms of dealing with municipalities that may run into financial situations, I think almost all communities have come across that path, unfortunately, over the years. Our department has worked very hard with each municipality to address the deficit situations without cutting too

much of any programs or staff from municipalities. In some cases, they were able to do that. In some other cases, it's a little more trying, but we do our best. I know my staff does work very hard in order to make sure that the municipalities don't run into deficits and when they do, they try to get them out of the deficits with the least impact on the community as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask specifically about the funding for municipal liaison officers. Is this a specific contribution agreement between CGS and the hamlets? Is the way that that position is funded part of this Municipal Funding Policy where this is their operating dollars and if they want to assign a position for that, then they pay it out of that fund? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Yes, Mr. Chairman, you are correct, it's funded through the Municipal Funding Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the \$2.5 million that's being allocated for the mobile equipment block funding, how much does each community get for that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unlike the complex funding

formula for the municipalities where it's based on a whole bunch of things, this is not based on anything other than dividing the money evenly, regardless of the size of population. In this case, it's \$104,000 per municipality, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the priorities for the department on page 162 of the business plan is to assist hamlets with the implementation of the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and do an assessment of the different signs that are required by the hamlet. I'm just wondering: what type of assistance are you giving the hamlets? Are you helping them with a database? Are you looking at the overall strategy where every community has stop signs and then you're going to design the sign of how it should look in standardized form or is that a combination of working with CLEY? Just maybe explain how that's going to be working and how you're working with hamlets to work towards that goal. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: We're working closely with the hamlets on this through standing offers and things like that. What we're currently doing is inventory of signage in municipalities and working towards international signage so we don't have all different kinds of signs in all different kinds of municipalities. We're working towards international signage for all municipalities and we're working with them to address those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. That really helps because I wouldn't want to see different signs for every community. It's definitely a big cost-saving measure where you can order a large number of signs for all of the communities and do that in one shot, and then save money there, as the Minister of Finance keeps trying to find ways to save money.

My next question was about the \$320 million of federal funding that is helping to assist in building infrastructure in the territory that you had mentioned, which are projects that are going into our communities. I'm just wondering: in terms of capital carryover projects, how are we doing with that? In terms of rolling out programs, are they on time or are they falling behind? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Mr. Chairman, I think it's an interesting question. For the most part, I think we're on time. Again, it depends on different parameters and different projects. Sometimes we get a project going and we find that a municipality may want to have changes to some infrastructure and that holds us up. Sometimes we have issues, such as shipping, that may hold us up. So it depends very much on what project, where, and when. For the most part, aside from those kinds of hiccups, they are pretty much on time if there is no reason for it not to be like change in design, maybe shipping, or things like that.

But overall, there is no issue of lapsing federal funding at this time, if that's where he's headed to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I was actually asking because it was leading into something that... . When the Minister of Finance was doing his Budget Address, he mentioned the idea of not slowing down on capital projects. One of the ideas that I thought might be interesting to ask your department was the idea of, in terms of capital dollars for one fiscal year, doing a bare minimum and not starting new projects and seeing how that works, and then having time to catch up on them. From the Budget Address, it seems like that's not an approach that the Government of Nunavut wants to go. I'm not sure if the minister wanted to comment on that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: The only thing I would comment on that if I could, Mr. Chairman, is that if we did that, we could then end up running into problems of trying to spend more money or trying to expend all of the federal funds because they have sunsets. I think that if we keep going the course we are now, we should be okay. I'll leave it at that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. My next question is very specific to Resolute Bay in terms of the utilidor system. It might

seem like it's a capital question but it's really an O&M question because of the dollars that go into the funding for providing water for the communities.

I know one of the issues that the communities brought to me in terms of hamlet council members and also community members is the fact that the utilidor system costs them so much it actually is driving them into a deficit where they heat water to travel throughout the utilidor, which incurs the cost for heat, and then it travels throughout the system where there are lots of leaks, so they are actually heating more water than they actually use.

I'm just wondering: in terms of solutions, do you think one possible solution is increasing the rates for water for community members? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's kind of a Catch-22: you drop the heat of the water and now you're repairing the utilidor all over again, so it's damned if you do and damned if you don't. In terms of possibilities like increasing rates, that would be left to the municipality and not me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I know that community members don't want to spend any more costs on utilities, so that's not an option that I think the hamlet wants to go, but is there a specific process that the hamlet has to go through for increasing or is it just a matter of passing a motion at hamlet

council and they're done, they could raise the rates? Do they have to go through negotiations with CG&S to just determine a particular rate or a certain amount of an increase? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you. No, there is a process. There are municipal by-laws that they have to abide by. During that process, I believe the appropriate minister of the day would have to approve whatever increases or decreases they may be asking for in their rates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I just want to warn everyone to be careful on some of the language that is used that might not be quite appropriate in the House. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I wanted to first ask about this as most hamlet councillors are usually not up to date on the Municipal Mobile Equipment Block Funding Policy. When the funds are allocated to the hamlets, does the regulations or criteria get included in the contribution? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you for your question. Yes, we do provide information if the councillors are unaware as to why we are signing a contribution agreement with them. It identifies the purpose of the funds and what they are to be used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I asked that question was an SAO is usually the one person who knows the details and what I have noticed is that usually only the SAOs know about these policies.

I was asked to bring this question up with the department about the (interpretation ends) Municipal Mobile Equipment Block Funding Policy. (interpretation) They were wondering if you can provide the policy, along with the block funding, so that they understand the purpose for the funding so that it can be a guide for them.

The other question that I have is from reading the department's (interpretation ends) Municipal Mobile Equipment Block Funding Policy, (interpretation) I understood further that communities are required to establish a mobile equipment reserve and to set up a separate bank account. Do the municipalities have an opportunity to accumulate funds over a period of several years before spending the funds on equipment? If they are given that opportunity, can the interest be accrued to increase their funds once they have the bank account?

I was asking about several years, not a single year, for example, three years. If they want to purchase a loader or other equipment but their current equipment is still useful, could the municipalities accumulate interest on these funds during that period? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Before I respond to my colleague from Nanulik, I want to apologize if I used inappropriate language. I was warned of that in standing committee. I did it here again. I sincerely apologize for that.

(interpretation) Yes, as per your earlier statement about the policies related to the Mobile Equipment Block Fund, these funds for heavy equipment or snow clearing equipment can include this policy. We can make it available. The hamlets have full control over these funds, but the policy would allow them to understand the purpose of the funds. That is how it stands today.

With respect to your other question, yes, we can come to an agreement that this \$104,000 a year that will be allotted to the municipality. It's up to the municipality on whether they want to use those funds right away or put it in a separate bank account to accumulate interest. They will have discretion on these funds. However, every year, the auditors will look through accounts to make sure that what you allot for heavy equipment be put into the financial statements.

It is at the discretion of the hamlets. In fact, if they want to purchase a loader, they can go to the dealer and state, "This is how much we will pay this year for the loader," and then they could pay the rest in the next fiscal year. They can do that if they wish because those funds are at their discretion to purchase any heavy equipment as per the policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to give you an example. Just recently in Chesterfield Inlet, their priority list of heavy equipment included a top priority of a (interpretation ends) backhoe or excavator. (interpretation) Those kinds of equipment seem to be outside of the equipment listed in the policy. Is this a good example of how the municipality could use the funds for heavy equipment they feel is more relevant to their needs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, that is an excellent example since we should remember that when the policy was being drafted for this block funding, one of the goals was to ensure the funds were used for heavy equipment, such as graders, loaders, dump trucks, and so on.

The list of heavy equipment is not comprehensive and the list only identifies certain heavy equipment. However, I think we can easily say that it would qualify as heavy equipment so long as it fits the description of heavy equipment to handle your granular materials or snow removal responsibilities.

Even if the make or model is not specifically listed in the equipment, as long as it fits into the description of mobile equipment, then we would not be too concerned about the purchase as some communities prefer different makes, models, and mobile equipment.

Yes, it can be included in this list and I doubt that it would infringe on our policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Ningeongan.

Mr. Ningeongan (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I keep looking at the clock, but I would like clarification on the interest accumulated from putting these funds in the bank. If they accumulated interest, can the municipality use it for something other than what's in the policy?

In J-7, there's going to be discussion on search and rescue. I'm talking about snowmobiles as an example. Because they are accumulating interest in that account, can they use those funds for purchasing a snowmobile for search and rescue? You don't need to answer me right now, but that's just an example on whether we can use those interest dollars for other small capital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, if you reviewed that policy, it does not state in the policy what the interest could be used for, but what I can tell you without any compunction is that it's at the community's discretion to use the interest as they see fit.

As you stated earlier, if the community wishes to purchase a snowmobile or anything that the hamlet needs, then that is up to them and totally at the discretion of the municipality. However, the block

funding itself has to be used for its intended purpose.

Mr. Ningeongan, please note that this is new block funding provided to the municipalities. It's just being implemented now so that the hamlets can use it for purchasing heavy equipment. As the program runs longer with more funding provided, the smaller communities could have adequate funding to purchase heavy equipment over a shorter time period.

As the funds are disbursed over a couple of years, the funds could be kept until they can purchase equipment, such as loaders. Based on the adequacy of the funds, the policy can be amended as we move forward so that it could reflect the needs of hamlets. I believe that it's our common goal that when municipalities are allocated funding, so long as the stated purchase fits in the bag, so to speak, they would have more discretion to purchase equipment. That is the purpose of this fund and we would like to see this continued.

I hope that I have given you an appropriate response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In recognition of the clock, I would like to make a motion to report progress at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour. All those opposed. The

motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Sergeant-at-Arms, I guess we will remove the minister and the officials and we will be meeting with you tomorrow again.

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

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Schell: 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. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? At last, we have quite a few members scrambling to second the motion. The Member for Hudson Bay is the seconder. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Going to our orders of the day. Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. There are no hands up. *Orders of the Day*. Item 23. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder that there's a meeting of the Full Caucus for tomorrow morning starting at nine o'clock in the morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 8:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. 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

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. Enjoy your evening. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:04*

