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**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable Peter Kilabuk, M.L.A.**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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#### **James Arreak**

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#### **Hon. Patterk Netser**

(Nanulik)

*Minister of Environment; Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board*

#### **Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

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#### **Levi Barnabas**

(Quttiktuq)

*Chair, Full Caucus; Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole; Regular Members' Caucus*

#### **Hon. Paul Okalik**

(Iqaluit West)

*Premier; Minister of Justice; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs*

#### **Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

*Striking Committee; Management and Services Board*

#### **Hon. Levinia Brown**

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Friday, November 24, 2006**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Mr. Joe Allen Evyagotailak, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Honourable Patterk Netser, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable David Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask that Mr. Simailak lead us in a prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier and members.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Education. Mr. Picco.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 123 – 2(3): Minister Brown Absent from House**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning. I'd like to take this opportunity to advise the members that Minister Levinia Brown will be absent from the house today, November 24, 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Minister. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Minister's Statement 124 – 2(3): 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Association des Francophones du Nunavut**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to stand today in this House to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Association de Francophones du Nunavut. Since its foundation in 1981 the Francophone Association has been an example of perseverance and determination for all Nunavummiut. Their convictions based on respect of rights for their culture and language has influenced positively the development of this community. For the last 25 years the association, the Francophone Association has provided the necessary leadership in building a vibrant and dynamic francophonie in our territory.

Mr. Speaker and members, please join me in commemorating this event and wishing a long life to the Francophone Association in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Picco.

**Minister's Statement 125 – 2(3): Qulliq Energy Corporation Annual Report**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to inform members that I'll be tabling the Qulliq Energy Corporation Annual Report for the year ending March 31 for the year 2006. This is the fifth audited financial statements of the corporation since its inception on April 1, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to announce that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has continued to turn its financial direction around while demonstrating fiscal control, efficiency and enhanced its business standards. This is a great accomplishment.

The results show that Qulliq Energy Corporation has managed to turn a modest operational profit based on tighter financial management, administration, improved energy efficiency and a base rate adjustment during the spring of 2005.

Mr. Speaker, while we are not in a position to generate the rates of return that would secure healthy innovations and efficiency upgrading for our plant and equipment, we can for the first time anticipate that achievement in the next year.

Mr. Speaker, the corporation shows sustained or improved performance in costs per kilowatt hour, plant efficiencies, Inuit employment, return on investment, and is clearly moving towards replacement diesel generation consistent with Pinasuaqtavut.

Qulliq Energy Corporation is working in four key ways to stabilize prices and produce cleaner forms of energy in Nunavut. We are improving plant efficiency, investing in residual heat projects, raising awareness of energy efficiency and exploring new ways to generate electricity. Each of these efforts is outlined in the annual report.

For the past year, the corporation has been looking at hydroelectric generation potential around Iqaluit. As the financial situation solidifies, we anticipate that this work continues and Qulliq Energy Corporation move towards the capacity to undertake additional alternative generation projects.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we are confident that these changes demonstrate Qulliq Energy Corporation's commitment to strengthening the financial structure and the corporation's ability to maintain a reliable power generation system that manages Nunavut's energy needs today and in the future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 312 – 2(3): High School Graduates**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last summer in August...I rise today in this House because last August there were two graduates and I'd like to congratulate them and also their parents. The two graduates are: Joe Angotinguar Jr. a Rankin resident who is going to school in Naujaat, and Amy Kaludjak. I am very proud of them that they completed their schooling and hopefully they will go on to higher education. At the time the minister wasn't able to attend, but I expect that this school year the graduates will be higher and I encourage the minister to attend the graduation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

#### **Member's Statement 313 – 2(3): Nunavut Public Housing Rent Scale**

**Mr. Arreak**: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise today Mr. Speaker, on the issue of Nunavut's Public Housing Rent Scale. As you will recall, the rent scale was reviewed and a new rent scale was implemented during the First Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents are concerned that, as it stands, the rent scale continues to be a disincentive to work. It is also challenging for Nunavummiut who have seasonal employment because rent can fluctuate.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Quttiktuq has often raised the issue of the calculation of rent and the fact that employee benefits are included as income for the purposes of determining rent. I would like to add my concerns to his on this issue. I question how fair it is that benefits of employment such as vacation travel assistance are included as income for the purpose of calculating rent.

Mr. Speaker, the new rent scale was introduced in 2003. Now, more than three years later, I think it is time for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to review the rent scale to ensure that it is working as intended and to make the results of the review public by tabling them in the House.

Later today I will be tabling a petition from Clyde River requesting that the Nunavut Public Rent Scale be reviewed. There are 169 signatures on this petition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

**Member's Statement 314 – 2(3): Congratulations to Youth Parliament Participant Mick Appaqaq**

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be patient this morning. I rise today to say how proud I was of Mick Appaqaq from my community of Sanikiluaq who participated the first Nunavut Youth Parliament organized by this Legislative Assembly.

I was very impressed with Mick's members' statements on the importance of our culture. He is concerned that the youth today are losing their language. They are forgetting who they are and where they come from. He felt that it is important that youth receive cultural education and he feels that we can all help to bring back our culture if only we pass our skills on to our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, in following his advice I encourage all Nunavummiut to speak more Inuktitut to their children, take them out on the land to camps, or take them fishing, go berry picking, and please tell them stories of our past.

Just as Mick is proud to be an Inuk I too am very proud to be an Inuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

**Member's Statement 315 – 2(3): High Arctic in Need of Arenas**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in regards to my two constituent communities that don't have arenas. In the Capital Plan we don't see anything for those two communities.

The young people are involved during Arctic Winter Games trials, but they can only participate in a limited number of sports, especially for Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay. They only play the indoor games because that's the only place where they can practice. We are happy that they do get medals, but we should expand their participation so that the High Arctic young people can also participate in skating, or playing in the arena. We are forever asking for them to get arenas because that would expand their participation, especially for the High Arctic. For example, it stays dark all winter long and it'll be dark all day long and the only place the young people can go to for leisure is the very small gyms.

It gets quite windy and if they want to play hockey they have to use an outdoor rink and they have to remove the snow. There is some wildlife; there are polar bears and other different wild animals that might be dangerous to the children who are playing outside. For that reason my two constituent communities need arenas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. So you'll know, the Youth Member also indicated the same thing when that person was here. Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

### **Member's Statement 316 – 2(3): Support for a Kugluktuk Elders' Care Facility**

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a beautiful morning.

(interpretation ends) I rise today in support of the establishment of an Elders' care facility in the community of Kugluktuk.

I have been lobbying the government on this issue for some time. I have asked questions. I have submitted documents such as the proposal from the Kugluktuk Elders' Committee. I have spoken on this issue in the House a number of times.

In recent months I have been made aware of two more cases where Kugluktuk elders were receiving care away from home, outside of Nunavut, and far from family and friends.

We were raised to respect our elders, to listen to our elders, and to learn from our elders. How can we ask the youth of today to gain valuable knowledge from their elders when those important people are taken away to live out of their lives, far from home with little or no contact with their families?

Many of us know how important our traditional food is to our well-being, for both body and soul. Our elders need and crave these foods. Sadly this type of food is often not available in Fort Smith, or Winnipeg or even Yellowknife. In Kugluktuk, however, there is lots of country food in the area, just waiting to be harvested. Our elders need to be close to that food.

According to the most recent population statistics, there are nearly 100 people who are the age of 65 living in the community of Kugluktuk. This represents over seven percent of the entire community, a higher population than almost all other communities in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask unanimous consent to finish my statement. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Members.

This represents over seven percent of the entire community, a higher population than almost all other communities in Nunavut. And again I say: a higher population than almost all other communities in Nunavut.

If priorities were truly based on needs, Mr. Speaker, I believe this would be another strong argument for the establishment of an elders' care facility in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Member's Statement 317 –2(3): Charitable Donations Highest Nunavummiut**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Tuesday I shared with members the success of the first Annual Invitational Golf Classic that raised money for the Habitat for Humanity Iqaluit chapter.

I would like to rise today to thank all Nunavummiut for their contributions to numerous worthy causes through their charitable donations. I have been proud to have been able to rise in this House every year when Canada-wide statistics are released on charitable donations.

I am again proud to say that 2005 was the fifth consecutive year that Nunavut led the provinces and territories in terms of median donations.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, it's important to note that these statistics only take into account donations for which official tax receipts were provided. I know that Nunavummiut make donations every day without requesting a tax receipt.

Also it's important to point out and note that the while Nunavut has the highest median donation, it has the smallest percentage of people claiming the donation. And I believe that this discrepancy speaks clearly to the income gap in our territory. A small percentage of our population has the means to make generous donations although the remainder of our population struggles to make ends meet.

As my former colleague from Baker Lake would say, “It’s no secret that the key to getting a good job is to secure good education.” Given Nunavut’s low graduation rate, low literacy skills and poor numeracy skills, it is clear that we are failing our children. Mr. Speaker, it’s time to invest in educating our youth and encouraging them to graduate from high school and go on to post secondary studies. It is time to speak out against the heartless and shortsighted federal cuts to literacy programs.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the day when Nunavut has both the highest median charitable donations and highest percentage of people making donations in our country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation) Members’ Statements. Mr. Picco.

### **Member’s Statement 318 – 2(3): Qikiqtaani General Hospital Tour**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday members had an opportunity to tour and visit the construction site of the Qikiqtaani General Hospital.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq for the kind invitation to all the members to tour the facility. This is a facility is a state of the art complex with patients’ services being integrated within the design and function of the hospital. The open concept on two floors allows for natural lighting throughout the building.

It is replacing a building designed and built over 40 years ago for our community and our region with a combined population of less than 6,000 people. Today our population in Iqaluit alone is well over or almost 7,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, the hospital project has been in various stages of development for almost 18 years. It will be an exciting and momentous day for the people, the patients, the staff and elected officials when the new Qikiqtaani General Hospital opens in the New Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Minister. And also thank and appreciate. Members’ Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

### **Member’s Statement 319 – 2(3): Cosmetology Course at Killinik High School**

**Mr. Peterson.** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House about an exciting initiative underway in Killiniq High School in Cambridge Bay this week.

Mr. Speaker, Inuksuk Enterprises which is one of our community's great corporate citizens, approached the new principal for the idea of a 15-hour cosmetology course that allows students to earn credit towards eventual graduation. Mr. Speaker, the Principal agreed and there are now 16 to 20 students ranging in ages from 14 to 18, learning all there is to know about the field of aesthetics.

They are learning about skin care, hygiene, pedicures, manicures, facial preparation care, and make up application. Mr. Speaker, also there are two boys on this course, so it's interesting; they're taking an interest in that stuff.

Mr. Speaker, the course has proven to be a hit for the students; comments from the students are that it is most awesome course that they've taken that they need more courses like this. Parents are thankful for this course as well, and the teachers also are involved and having fun. Mr. Speaker, the course would not have been possible without the support of Canadian North, Inukshuk Enterprises, the Iqaluktuutiak District Education Committee, Merle Norman Cosmetics out of Yellowknife, Green Row Suites, and of course the high school.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for all high school students to have a variety of courses that interest and excite them and encourage them to attend school. It is courses like this that may spark some of them to pursue careers in esthetics after high school. It is a really big industry outside of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, one of the side benefits of this course is that the instructor arrived with a full range of Merrill Norman Spa services. During the after school hours, local residents were taking advantage in signing up for massages, facials, manicures, and pedicures. I'm not sure if anyone has signed up for any waxing jobs. Who knows, this may prove to be a future business opportunity for some of the students who have an entrepreneurial attitude.

I would like the House to join me in congratulating the high school and business community for making this cosmetology course a reality for the Killiniq High School students. It is another fine example where anything is possible when people work together to help our youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

#### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Speaker** (interpretation): I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Jack Anawak and welcome him to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 352– 2(3): Arenas for the High Arctic

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my member's statement I talked about the need for arenas in the High Arctic. I would like to ask my question, perhaps to the Premier or to the Finance Minister; I'm not too sure who I should direct my question to.

But in the smaller communities it's very hard for economic opportunities and there are hardly any opportunities available in the smaller communities. If they're going to try and obtain an arena, the hamlet has to match up the funds. If they're going to be planning to build an arena, how do you provide some kind of support to the communities, especially when they want to build a capital project such as arenas or community halls? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, member. I would like to ask Minister Picco if he can respond to the question. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member is aware, the capital planning process is carried out through the auspices of the Department of Community and Government Services. In the case where a selected hamlet is interested in having an arena put forward as a capital project, then that procedure is already outlined with the hamlets. At the same time, there are some economies of scale when we look at the cost of the facility and the nature of the facility for a designated community. So, hopefully, that helps answer the member's questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister Picco and I have been working on this file for eight years but the Resolute Bay arena was in the capital plan, but now it seems to have disappeared because the smaller communities had their capital plans, but when they don't have any funding to match it up do you take the plans out of the capital plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier on the capital planning process, projects are brought forward and recognized through Community and Government Services.

Each hamlet has an opportunity to submit to the government at the time what their priorities are in the capital plan. The government's challenge is to be able to evenly distribute the money that is available within the capital budget to a given community.

In this case, the community of Resolute Bay, I believe, has been requesting an arena for some period of time. And I remember just a few years when we did a capital planning tour with the member, and I was in Resolute Bay with him looking at the capital plan. That was a request of the community at that time.

Again, the capital planning process is prioritized and it's based on the needs of the community, and again, it has to be faced and challenged with the dollars that are available through the capital planning process of the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the government or the minister's department can provide...at the time when I worked for the hamlet there used to be a corporate sponsor list that a community could request funding from. I have not seen anything since.

Can the minister provide a list of the names of sponsor companies so that the hamlet can apply for funding from those sponsor companies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the member has been in contact with the Department of National Defense on the opportunities for a training base and some other military infrastructure in the High Arctic. As the member is just mentioning, he is talking about the private sector and the opportunity to partner. I know that the Premier has been in a conversation also about the opportunities within the military to look at partnering for this type of infrastructure.

So there are different avenues that we can take. The member has been very proactive and very strong in trying to get the extra recreational facilities for the community, and I think everyone commends him on doing that.

I think there are opportunities of partnering not only with the private sector, but also with our federal partners through the Department of National Defense. And, that's one avenue that he has to continue to follow up.

What I'll do is that when Minister Brown comes back, and again she's out of town because of a weather delay, early next week, I'll tell her what the issue is with the member and then make sure that we facilitate a meeting between the member and the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services to ensure that the capital prioritization for the community is being brought forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for the information, but I also represent the community of Grise Fiord.

There used to be available in the hamlet called...*inaudible*... and they had corporate sponsors that we can ask for money from, but I guess there is a sponsoring company that should be listed so we can ask them for part of the money to build recreation infrastructure in our communities.

Can the minister ask the Community and Government Services minister about what companies can sponsor the Hamlet Council of Grise Fiord to get some funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can provide that information to Minister Brown early next week.

I think the member is moving in the right direction in that there are opportunities with large corporations throughout Canada that are interested in provided recreational opportunities and that may be inclusive of infrastructure. I believe that that is avenue that the member is being very proactive in moving forward on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Orders of the Day. Item 6. Oral Questions.

### **Question 353 – 2(3): Budget Deficit**

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance; I would like him to answer it not the other Minister that answered the question.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, in the Minister's fiscal update, he talked about our wonderful financial position that we are in. He had indicated that instead of the originally budgeted deficit of \$7.6 million, we are now forecasting an \$8.7 million deficit for this fiscal year.

And he goes on, he says in addition there is a whole bunch of different supplementary appropriation that are going to be coming forward. If I add those up, including the \$8.7 million, is he indicating then we are actually looking at a \$32.4 million accumulated deficit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have an \$8.7 million deficit this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for clarifying that. For this fiscal year it says \$8.7 million, but then the following paragraph starts off with “In addition bringing forward supplementary appropriation bills for consideration,” there is roughly \$8.7 million for the Department of Health, \$17.5 million for maintenance funding, \$7.5 million for supplementary funding capital.

Are those included in the \$8.7 million or are they on top of that \$8.7 million? When I add those up that is where I get \$32.4 million. Could he clarify that Mr. Speaker? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said that there is \$2.5 million and \$17.5 million. That is included, added to that deficit. I don't really want to talk about the supplementary bills that I mentioned because we have not discussed them as of yet. In total we are going to be in a deficit of \$8.7 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not asking the minister to go into detail about the supplementary appropriation but the fact that he did mention them in his fiscal update with the amounts and where they are going generally. And it says in his statement it talks about forecasting \$8.7 million deficit for this fiscal year and then it says “in addition.”

So I just want a clarification again, for the record, that \$8.7 million plus what they are bringing in the supplementary appropriation is what we are going to be looking at for a deficit or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Finance, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The \$8.7 million is the deficit for this year for the government. That is the deficit that is predicted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, there is another mixed message that is going out where it says \$8.7 million and then it says in addition there is another \$24 million that is on top of that, after that, it says it is going to be included in that and

I understand that with the reduction measures that the government is looking at the departments bringing forward to them to find some savings that that may change and that those are just projections.

Mr. Speaker, also in his statement they had indicated, as worrisome as overspending is today, our projections for the future are cause for even greater concern. Can he give us an idea of what those projected deficits look like in the future? Surely, again, recognizing the fact that they are just projections based on current spending levels and that, what kind of numbers did they have to look at in order to come up with a statement like that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The projections that we have for our deficit are just estimates. We're not really sure exactly what's going to happen. Like we said before that we are requesting money from the federal government. We have not heard from the federal government how much more money that we'll be receiving.

But we are projecting that there'll be more money that we would want to spend. I can't really say for sure exactly how much in the deficit we're going to be in future years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 354 – 2(3): Hiring Weekend RCMP Dispatch for the Communities**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Yesterday during our members' statements I talked about the RCMP in the smaller communities not being present enough especially on the weekend when a person speaks to the RCMP and they receive a call from Iqaluit and especially for the unilingual people when they request the RCMP.

I wonder if the minister and his department could perhaps get an individual that can answer the telephones instead of getting a recording. Can the minister look into getting an individual that can answer the telephone in person at night during non-working hours on the weekend? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Justice, Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have heard about the problem occurring and at times some people are not really informed as to what kinds of routes that they can take. So there are concerns that there's no person answering the telephone on the weekend. They can be shown how to get in touch with the RCMP. I know that this is a concern not just in the smaller communities, but in the larger communities as well.

We have tried to keep an Inuktitut-speaking person on the answering machine, but if there are more problems we can rectify that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those kinds of things can be of great assistance to the smaller communities where a lot of people don't have any jobs. The Department of Justice, and the hamlet, or the Community and Government Services minister can probably find some funding, I'm sure that it won't be very large and the people in the smaller communities can get employment; someone who could work at night on the weekend and to answer telephones.

I wonder if the minister can look at this seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Department of Justice Minister, Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said to the member, we will look into this. Although we don't have very much funding...but we can try to look at it to see what kinds of things that we can get. I would like to be able to tell the members that if they can come and see the RCMP answering services here they can probably have a better understanding as to how it operates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People know that there is not a person working, manning the telephone services in person, because it happened in my community of Repulse Bay even though they phoned the RCMP offices, or RCMP detachment. If there's a person that is under the influence of drugs or alcohol and they want to report those individuals and they cannot, what they say is, "I'm sorry, but we can't look after you right now because we don't have enough RCMP."

They shouldn't be saying that we don't have time to; we don't have enough staff to look after you. They shouldn't be saying that. I wonder if the minister could inform the public in the near future about how there could be another way to man those telephones. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister for Justice, Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Yes, we try to help the smaller communities as well as the bigger communities because they never had RCMP officers before in their communities and we try to look after them, to make sure that they are in a safe community.

Like if there has been anything that went wrong in a community, such as an emergency, it's a concern of ours as well and we would like to be informed so we could solve it. Like I said before that, if any of the members would like to see the telephone systems that are being utilized at this time in Iqaluit, they could come and see it for themselves because if you take a look at it then you can learn better as to how it operates.

So I will be open to members and the public too, if they want to take a look at how the RCMP telephone number operates.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

### **Question 355 – 2(3): Housing Allocation to the Communities**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the announcement earlier this year by the feds for \$300 million for housing in Nunavut is much appreciated. This still falls short of what we require in Nunavut and the Government of Nunavut subsequently announced that they would build 725 houses with these funds. My question for the minister: can the minister explain to the House the allocation methodology that the Nunavut Housing Corporation used to determine the community allocations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Housing Corporation worked with the local housing authorities to decide where the houses were going to be built. They also looked at the size of the community, and the population. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. As I mentioned, \$300 million is far less than Nunavut needs to adequately address the critical housing shortage that we face.

I believe the numbers are well over 3,000 houses to meet the current needs. My question for the minister: can the minister update the House on the current lobbying activities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to convince the federal government that we need more housing desperately in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a government, we are going to keep working with the organizations in the government to make sure that we get more housing for the people of Nunavut.

With this \$300 million, we will keep lobbying the federal government and as you are well aware, the populations in each of the Nunavut communities are increasing constantly.

We'll work with the federal government at every opportunity, and we will keep lobbying them to make sure that we get more housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I asked the Minister of Finance how the Government of Nunavut would finance the approximate \$13 million needed to provide the operations and maintenance to operate the additional 725 new houses.

He replied that the Minister of Nunavut Housing Corporation saying that there are options that they have in place where the money will come from for the operations and maintenance.

My question for the minister; will the minister outline to the House where he will find the additional operations and maintenance to operate those 725 houses given the current immediate bleak financial situation that the Minister of Finance said we are in? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our staff and the Government of Nunavut will have to find out how they are going to get the operations and maintenance dollars.

And, if we're going to build 725 houses we'll have to show the federal government that if we're going to be building additional houses that the Government of Nunavut will be able to provide the operations and maintenance dollars.

In the next three years, we will estimate how much it cost to operate and maintain those houses, where we would get the dollars, and we will definitely have to work with the federal government to make sure that we do have the operations and maintenance dollars for these new houses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer.

The Minister of Finance said earlier this week that the government has to start operating like we would operate our own houses as private citizens. As a private citizen I wouldn't build a house if I couldn't pay for the monthly fuel bills, and didn't have a job, and no additional sources of funding.

My question for the minister; would the minister tell the House if the Nunavut Housing Corporation would ever stop construction of public and social housing if they could not find the operations and maintenance to operate them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure how to answer your question because we have never gone through that situation and we most definitely don't...won't want to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

### **Question 356 – 2(3): School Safety Plans**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course we won't want to see the government coming to that situation, but I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

When we are watching TV we see students getting massacred or an individual going on a shooting spree. I would like to know if the students in Nunavut are in a safe environment and if we, if should there be such an incident are we protecting our children? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister responsible for Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been, I guess it's very disconcerting when you see the TV and see what's happened there recently in Quebec and what we have seen over the past couple of years in the United States with school shootings. Our schools are safe and we have several points put in place.

I don't want to get into the, say some of these things in public, because then the public would find out, and if you were trying to do something you would know what was there in security ways.

So I can say a couple of quick things for the member, and for the public at large. Our schools are generally very safe. We actually have, as the member is aware, in every community now in every school, we have surveillance cameras in place which are

monitored through, in most cases, through the principal's offices in the school. So that means someone approaching the school, in the school itself, can be seen on closed-circuit TV.

The doors in the school are locked and closed - you can access them from the inside, but not from the outside, in some regards. There are specific entrances, and so on, in place for the general public to be able to enter the school.

You know I have children in school and I feel very confident that our schools are very safe. From time to time we do get bomb scares and so on in our schools and we have had a couple, for example, in Iqaluit last school season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In case of an emergency or of such a situation are, do you have a close working relationship or are the RCMP ready to go there if such a situation would occur in the Nunavut communities? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In general, there are emergency response plans in place by the protection agency, in this case, the RCMP, if an issue arose at any given public institution, being a school or a government building or private institution or being a domestic house, for example, or a business, then the RCMP are trained to react to that incident, and to those incidents.

In this case when we are talking specifically about the school, those same plans would follow the generalized plan that is in place by a tactical squad, if necessary, what have you, with the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Center, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Question 357 – 2(3): Nunavut Government Deficit Concern**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question, again, is for the Minister of Finance.

My last supplementary question, what I'm trying to get at is if you look at that the statement that was made in his fiscal update, about as worrisome as our overspending is today our projections for the future are cause for even greater concern.

What I'm looking to get at from the minister, if he could inform the Members of this House and the public, you know, even though we know those are just projections, they must be pretty bad if they have a statement like that in there.



So, I'm just wondering if he could inform us of what numbers they were looking at. What were they projecting the deficit to be? You've got an \$8.7 million deficit this year, and what the projected accumulated deficits were, say over that amount. They've done it over the two, three, four years, for him to be able to include a statement like that in his fiscal update. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for your question.

I don't have the numbers with me, but I can say that for the next three years we are looking at a larger deficit than the deficit of \$8.7 million. We can work around the numbers and possibly reduce the deficit amount and very possibly there could be additional revenue coming into the government.

So this is anticipated. I can't really give you a concrete figure at this point, but what I said was that we are anticipating an additional deficit but we don't have concrete numbers to go by. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, I can appreciate that these are just projected numbers and they are projections in hopes of securing additional funding from the federal government through our Territorial Formula Financing Agreement.

But in order to go to the table with his federal colleagues we have to have some numbers and he said that it is more than \$8.7 million that they're looking at this year. In his statement he said it's important for the government to keep the people fully informed openly, honestly, and promptly.

So my question to the minister then is: would he be willing to provide what those accumulated deficit projections are, given the information they know today, and working on what we're looking at changing? Would he provide that information to the members of the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, and as you said you understood, these are estimates only. If I can produce documents or numbers I will do so and I will direct my staff to compile the numbers. The member stated that he understands that these are estimates and yes, they are estimated numbers.

We were looking at the monies that we get from the federal government and we're also looking at other trends. I don't know if it's going to stay the same but we would like to see a reduction in this deficit in the coming years.

I will direct my staff to do what they can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really believe that the government has come out with some strong directives here to try and curb that over spending, and I think one important thing within any organization is if people know the situation that we're faced with, they're probably better off being able to understand why and where we can make cuts.

Right now we don't know; the picture is bad. That doesn't really tell us anything. If we're asking people to pay more in taxes; asking our departmental staff to cut spending. I think they have a right to know that "If you don't, this is what we're looking at; what could happen".

For that reason, I'd like to get those projected accumulated deficits for maybe the next three or four years, whatever they have out there, so that the public service and the people of Nunavut can see exactly why we have to take the measures that the government has brought forward in his statement that we need to do something about it because if we just tell them that things are bad, and if you want buy-in from the people, you have to sell it to the people and I think that by providing that information; that will do it.

So I ask the minister: would he provide to the members of this House what those projected accumulated deficits will be that they have for the next three or four years? We all know that they're projections, and things can change, and hopefully they will. Just to give an idea for the members of this House, for the public service, for the people across the territory to understand why the government has to take the action that it has. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand his questions and his reasons. As I stated earlier I will try and find what those might be. If I do find something then I will give it to the Legislative Assembly. Then if I can do so, then I will do it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response but I have a question; he's the Minister of Finance and it's his departmental information and he indicated that "if he can do it". What could be preventing him from providing us with that information if he has it? I think it's a pretty safe guess that they do have it otherwise you wouldn't see a statement like that in there. Just to get an idea of what excuses that they

could have as to why they couldn't inform us of what those numbers are? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I fully understand his question. Looking at the forecast that we have, there are figures and the projections keep changing just about every day as to we might over-expend, but it's clear that we won't have enough. At this time, because every year it increases by 3.5 percent and the assistance that we used to get every year was six to seven percent annually...because the funding that we receive from the federal government is insufficient in my department.

As I have stated before that my department will look into what kind of information that we can provide you on the future projections. When we are deliberating the future projections in the future I will provide the information on the future projection's deficits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

### **Question 358 – 2(3): Update on Status of Obtaining Passports**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Immigration in regards to passports. Up to today, while I visited my constituents, this question came up again as to what is happening with the photographer and it is clear now what we see through the media that we will need passports to go into the United States.

Can the minister give us an update as to the status of this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister responsible for Immigration, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. The United States Government just recently announced in the last week that in the New Year, visitors from Canada and other jurisdictions will have to have a legitimate passport to enter into the country.

Now, here in Nunavut, as the member has raised again when we had a public meeting in Resolute Bay and also in Grise Fiord, that there has been issues with getting a proper photographer in place so that the picture standard that the Canadian Passport office needs can be met. There was a dedicated photographer here for example in Iqaluit doing passport pictures and that person now is taking another position and is still doing it part time. Other than that, we really don't have the equipment in communities.

What we have done, as Minister responsible for the issue of Immigration, the issue of passports is a federal responsibility but we do have a role to play. I've gone back to my Cabinet colleagues and we are looking at opportunities and I hope to be in a position in the next week and a half to be able to move forward on a plan to work with our federal partner in providing the services that the member has requested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your first supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for giving me that information.

The photographer was going to go to the communities, at my last question when we started dealing with passports. I wonder if the department has funding available for the photographer to visit the communities because they have to have a certified photographer and that photographer would come and visit my constituents. Is there funding available for such visits? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Immigration, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct again. In our other discussions in the House here and in discussions with our federal counterparts...the way to look at how we can fund this type of program, there are two avenues to access.

One would be looking at, domestically here in Nunavut, to see if the equipment that we have available for taking photographs for example for drivers' licenses and ID's, would that meet the standards necessary for Immigration Canada. That is number one. Number two; if that is not the case, then how do we facilitate the taking of the photograph for passports options.

What we are looking right now is negotiations with our federal partner. We are looking at approaching our federal partner say look here we have a need here in Nunavut. We believe it is a federal responsibility is there an opportunity not only logistically, but financially to help us out and deliver this program. So that is the avenue that we are moving in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that it will cost money to deal with the passport pictures and I know that it is going to cost a fee for the individuals who'd like to get a passport but my question is, for example for gun registration we kept on paying money to renew our re-certification and it cost \$5 billion for the gun registration.

Perhaps, have you discussed the cost, how much it would cost in order to try and obtain a passport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister responsible for Immigration, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two issues here: one is the cost of a passport. All Canadians have to pay for their passport, and that's a fee schedule set by the federal government.

Second point is, to actually obtain a passport, the Canadian citizen has to have a photographer take an accurate passport photo. And that has to be approved by the immigration office when the passport is issued.

That's a secondary cost to the consumer. What we are looking at, in consultation with our Ottawa office, and the federal government is to see if there is an opportunity to facilitate that photographer to travel to Nunavut communities if necessary, and to see what type of logistics support we would provide.

At the same time we believe this is a federal responsibility, but we do realize that there is a need in Nunavut to be able to provide these services and that's why I suggested that we're looking at the two avenues.

The Immigration Secretariat, which I am the minister of, we don't actually have a set budget in the House as the members know. I do have one staff person who works on behalf and for this file through the gracious offices of the Premier through Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Carson who is the Assistant Deputy Minister in Ottawa and he's been stick handling this file with our federal department. We're hoping to be in the position to move forward on an agreement with our federal partner.

I'm scheduled to meet with the Federal Immigration Minister, Mr. Solberg, on March 1, I believe is in Ottawa, and I would hope to be at a position by that time to have an agreement in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Your final supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we know it would cost, to visit those communities and also for accommodation for those people who wish to apply for passports, and they have to pay. Would that offset the cost or would they be able to, or how would this be arranged? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is Friday, which is a light kind of a levity day and I would suggest we take it out of the minister's constituency budget, but that wouldn't be appropriate.

There are two fee schedules in place for passport photos as I indicated. One is the actual fee to purchase a passport; everyone has to pay that as a Canadian citizen.

The second fee is actually in conjunction with that and is the actual taking of the picture and the individual has to pay for that also.

What we're suggesting is that maybe an opportunity exists where we, in partnership with the federal government, can hire a photographer on a one shot kind of a deal, to go around to all of our communities, get the standard picture taken. If someone would like to have a passport picture taken. They would pay the photographer for that service, and our federal partner, in negotiation with us, we'd look at, what are the logistic and the other administrative costs to be able to facilitate that touring around to the communities.

That's the basis of where we would like to bring this to our federal partner. Again, passport and passport issues are a federal responsibility. We believe, on the Nunavut side, we are trying to help our constituents and that's why we are trying to help facilitate this agreement with our federal partner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

### **Question 359 – 2(3): Hiring Freeze**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Earlier this week the Minister of Finance announced in his economic statement that the Government of Nunavut instituted a hiring freeze in the government departments.

My question for the minister: could the minister clarify to the House, the instructions that he gave to the Government of Nunavut departments to identify which positions should be frozen within their departments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for Finance, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the deputy ministers within our government had met to deal with this issue and they were the ones to identify the positions.

Well, they had asked and they agreed to look into which positions would be frozen, but right now, we're working on this issue and the other departments are working on these, also as long as we...(interpretation ends)...program and services presently offered by this government. (interpretation) That's how it is set up, and we had asked or requested the departments to look into which positions would be frozen, so that it up to the discretion of each department which positions will be frozen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral Questions. Your first supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. The minister stated in his Economic Statement that he asked the departments to freeze all currently vacant positions that do not negatively impact delivery of necessary programs and services. To me, that is giving a very wide, vague definition. I imagine that is up to the discretion of the departments.

My concern is that departments under pressure, under instruction from the cabinet to find one percent, two percent, three percent, they may decide to freeze essential positions and Mr. Speaker, we already know we have a critical shortage of Social Workers in Nunavut, nurses and doctors as well, and this may be due to burn out or lack of housing.

My question for the Minister: would he confirm with the House that essential positions such as the ones I just mentioned will not be frozen in the coming, or next fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is exactly how it is. Each department was requested to identify which positions that are not essential could be frozen. To make sure these vacant positions, as long as they don't negatively affect the programs and services, we asked the departments to identify the positions.

I'm sure that the ministers are working towards that goal and to make sure that they will put your concern into consideration to make sure they don't freeze essential positions. So with your concerns, all the Nunavummiut and members are concerned because we don't want to freeze essential positions in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that reassuring answer. I hope the ministers heed his words. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut often hires consultants as casuals to provide services to the departments where a qualified employee is not available. Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering if the minister can confirm if the hiring freeze applies to the consultants and casuals as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for Finance. Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's evident that each department is looking at that. I'm sure that each minister will consider this when they start looking at which position could be frozen in the departments, but it is evident that we will include that in considerations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. The hiring freeze is likely to be accompanied by an increase in overtime to pay current employees to work longer hours to deliver programs and services to Nunavut.

My question for the minister is: can he give an indication as to how much he estimates the Government of Nunavut can and will save by implementing a hiring freeze here in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot really respond to that question right now because we don't even understand how many positions could be frozen so therefore I cannot really respond, but it's clear that as soon as the departments start setting up and making their recommendations to the Cabinet that it will be clear as to how much it will cost. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Question 360 – 2(3): Deadline Given to Hiring Freeze**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think from that last exchange between my colleague from Cambridge Bay and the Minister of Finance it seems pretty clear that our federal government is helping us towards global warming but also moving us towards an ice age here in the government.

My question for the Minister of Finance is, in his fiscal update, or financial report that he gave us on Tuesday he indicated that all departments have been asked to bring forward expenditure reduction proposals that could be implemented in the short term. Can the minister indicate what timeframe or what timeline he has given the departments to provide them with those proposals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the deputy ministers have been working on this as a priority, but at this time I cannot say when it is going to be clear to identify. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know and I have said before that the Department of Finance is the middle man between the budgets and then the departmental budgets; they just collect the information from the departments. In the past they have indicated



that some of the reasons for the public accounts, and things like that to be late is some of the line departments weren't getting the information to the Department of Finance in a timely manner.

What I'm looking for is: did the Department of Finance give a time deadline as to when these proposals were to be brought forward to them for review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was dealt with mainly by deputy ministers. I apologize I wasn't given any timeline, or deadline personally, myself. I didn't ask my deputy minister what the timeline is to receive those proposals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we all know that this is a project that needs to be undertaken by senior civil servants for their departments. The minister has just indicated that he wasn't aware of a deadline. I am just wondering if he could check into that and find out from his deputy if any instructions were given as to when that deadline would be because if there is no deadline it can go on, and on, and on, just like the energizer bunny. We want to see what those reductions would be.

Given that, once he has checked in with his deputy as well on that, could he look into the idea of, I would assume that those reduction proposals would have to be approved by each individual minister, and once that is done would they provide that to the Department of Finance and would he provide that information to the Members of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will look into all your requests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, you will note that the allotted time for Question Period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committee on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Tapardjuk.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 168 – 2(3): Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Francophone Affairs – Ottawa, Ontario, October 12-13, 2006**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a document: Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Francophone Affairs, Ottawa Ontario October 12-13, 2006.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Please forward the documents to the Table Officers. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

**Tabled Document 169 – 2(3): Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal – Annual Report to March 31, 2006**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table the following document: Human Rights Tribunal Annual Report to March 31, 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Please bring the documents up. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Picco.

**Tabled Document 170 – 2(3): QEC Annual Report – March 31, 2006**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following document: The Qulliq Energy Corporation Annual Report March 31, 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

**Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow the first reading of Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #4, 2005-06*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 23 may be read for the first time today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Minister.

**Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act #4, 2005-06 – First Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik, that Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #4, 2005-06*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour, please indicate. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 23 has had its first reading.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I seek a consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow the first reading of Bill 24, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #2, 2006-07*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. The minister is seeking consent to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 24 can have first reading today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Minister.

**Bill 24 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act #2, 2006-07 – First Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 24, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #2, 2006-07*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Question is being called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 24 has had its first reading.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, Mr. Speaker, I seek consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow the first reading of Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #2, 2006-07*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The minister is asking to waive the two-day requirement, Rule 62 (1), for first reading of Bill 25. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Minister, go ahead.

**Bill 25 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #2, 2006-07 – First Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #2, 2006-07*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 25 had its first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request the consent of this House to waive the two-day requirement to allow the first reading of Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) The minister is asking to waive the two-day requirement for the first reading of Bill 27. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Go ahead, Madame Minister.

### **Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 27 has had its first reading.

(interpretation ends) Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Aglukkaq.

### **Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request the consent of this Assembly to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for the second reading of Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The minister is seeking consent to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 27 can have second reading today. Are there any nays? (interpretation) There are no nays. Please proceed, minister.

### **Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act – Second Reading**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the *Pharmacy Act* in a number of ways: it clarifies that the Act does not prevent a nurse practitioner from exercising a privilege conferred by legislation relating to the practice of a nurse practitioner.

It updates the definitions of “narcotic.” It increases the penalties for a contravention of the Act or regulations. It changes all references to the Northwest Territories so that the Act will refer to Nunavut and other changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried, and Bill 27 has had second reading, and accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

**Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act #4, 2005-06 – Second Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act #4, 2005-06*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes a supplementary appropriation for the Government of Nunavut to defray the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principal of the motion. Question has been called. All in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 23 has had second reading. It is ready, and accordingly, the bill is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

**Bill 24 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act #2, 2006-07 – Second Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 24, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act # 2, 2006-07*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of Nunavut to defray the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principal of the bill. All in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried, and Bill 24 has had second reading. Accordingly, the bill is referred to the committee.

Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

**Bill 25 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #2, 2006-07 – Second Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #2, 2006-07*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of Nunavut to defray the capital costs of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried, and Bill 25 has had second reading. Accordingly, the bill stands referred to the committee.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters. Bills 23, 24 and 26 with Mr. Barnabas in the Chair.

Before we go to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a break for an hour.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 11:45 and Committee resumed at 13:01*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Barnabas)(interpretation): Good afternoon. The committee will come to order. At this time in the committee of the whole we will be discussing Bills 23, 24, 25, and 26. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 26 and the capital estimates for the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Are we in agreement to continue with the capital estimates for the Department of Education?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

#### **Bill 26 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2007-08 – Review in Committee – Education**

**Chairman**: Agreed. I would like to ask the Minister of Education if he has any witnesses that he would like to bring to the table.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do, and I would ask them to join me now at the witness table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Sergeant-at-Arms, can you assist his officials?

Thank you. (interpretation) For the record I would like the minister to introduce his officials. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today, I have with me on my immediate left, Mr. Lorne Levy, who is the mentor for capital projects and also the senior person within government for the Department of Education, and also now with Community and Government Services for Capital Planning. On my immediate right is Mr. Tim Innualuk, and Tim is the Capital Planner now for the Department of Education. In the audience, in the Gallery we have the Deputy Minister of Education, Kathy Okpik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We're on page G-6. Mr. Arreak had the floor. Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister and his officials for returning. I was asking about the Inuksuk School in Qikiqtarjuaq. The response that the minister gave me some of them we have already heard.

(interpretation ends) On March 7, 2006 I asked the Minister of Education what he had done to respond to this motion. I was, and the House was lead to believe, that he was going to move the construction forward. He replied that he was going to ask his capital planners to review opportunities within the capital budget to see if the project could be moved up.

I would like further clarification on exactly what opportunities were identified and why they were unsuccessful in bringing the project forward? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we said yesterday that we have the school in Qikiqtarjuaq. We realize that we need to replace that school, but based on the dollars that were available and the change in those between last spring and now this year, almost a year later, we don't have the luxury or the monetary values, the dollars in the capital budget, to be able to advance that project.

I think the operative word was "could" and I did review it, I actually had it moved up and we had to bring it back in line because of the cash-flowing of the capital projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is the way it goes for the smaller communities, it seems. The bigger communities, whenever there's an

infrastructure that is supposed to be built, they go ahead with them, but the smaller communities should be considered the same as the larger communities.

And in Qikiqtarjuaq, the Qikiqtarjuaq school is very old and the equipment is not adequate. It has been inspected by the Fire Marshall and he found a lot of things that were wrong within the building. And there's a lack of space as well and not very many classrooms. The Inuktitut teacher that teaches them in the library of that building of the school is not adequate as well because it has to be utilized by all the students.

If it is going to be deferred again, I would not want to see this because we believed in the House that it would be advanced. Will the minister please consider that building again to have it renovated as soon as possible? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. An early construction date could be revisited for a next capital planning cycle if access to that funding was available. So again, on a continuing basis we are reviewing the capital budget to see if there's some flexibility within that. That's what we committed to yesterday when we were discussing the situation in Sanikiluaq, and I would make the same commitment for Qikiqtarjuaq.

The school is at 94 percent occupancy and was designed as a K-9 school and now it's K-12. So the information that the member has given is correct. Again, we tried to advance it within the capital budget through the motion in the House, but I just didn't have the opportunity to do that with the dollar values that were available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time we are on Page G-6. Department of Education. Are there any other questions from the other members? Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple days ago I had mentioned on my members' statements that the schools need to be renovated and be in good states for the teachers and the children.

I would like to know if the minister can again provide me with some information on what age is the school in Kugluktuk, the high school. I'm sure it's probably close to 40 years old or a little bit more.

Also, when would it be possible to get that school renovated because one of my constituents had brought up that the school needs good renovation because the rugs in some of the classrooms were all worn out and not in good shape. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Mr. Minister.



**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two schools in Kugluktuk. We have the Jimmy Hikak Ilinniarvik, as well as the Kugluktuk High School. The original construction year was 1994. The Kugluktuk High School was last renovated in 1998. The Jimmy Hikak School was renovated in 1999. Those are actually quite recent schools.

When we have issues around carpets and stuff like that, that's under the minor capital program. Through the Department of Community and Government Services we have them review our schools when there's a minor repair like carpeting, and so on, then that's facilitated through that Community and Government Services auspices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Evyagotailak, do you have any more questions?

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I don't have any other questions, but I'd like to thank the minister for giving me some information on when the high school was renovated, because I wanted to know when it was last renovated.

Yes, I would sure be glad to see that those carpets are taken out as soon as possible and replaced with new ones because there's a lot of traffic that's going on in the schools, especially on the weekdays. A lot of teachers and the students are not very comfortable, especially if there is a big hole in the floor; the carpets...some pieces that are coming apart. I don't think that that would be very comfortable for the young people and also the teachers.

I would urge the minister to try and get that fixed up properly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. (interpretation) I think that's a comment, not a question. We are on Department of Education. (interpretation ends) Detail of Capital. Corporate Services. Tangible Assets. Headquarters Region. \$6,185, 000. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Evyagotailak's comments and Mr. Arreak's comments, just to follow up on their question, I think the government should really take a close look because those renovations at the schools have to happen. I guess Inuksuk High School has to get some renovations as well.

The minister stated that it is going to be \$22 million just to do some renovations in that school but that could build a new school. I just want the Department of Education to know that adult education centre will be renovated in 2010 and 2011 because the minister said that there is no funding for that.

I would like to remind the minister and his officials that this used to be a student residence in the 1960's, or a children's home. Those people that used to stay there are now grandparents.

I would like the Department of Education to know that they used to have asbestos lining in that building and it probably has dangers to the health. Is the department of Education going to look for funding to replace these buildings that have been built in the 60s and to replace them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Picco

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Just very quickly on Mr. Allen's comment on the carpet, I was with Mr. Allen this past spring in Kugluktuk. We mentioned this to the Department of Community and Government Services to make sure that was taken care of because they do the maintenance for us. If it hasn't been repaired, we'll just need another order to follow up with Kugluktuk to get that done.

Specifically on Mr. Arvaluk's comment; the Inuksuk High School is a good example. Right now we have \$26 million to renovate that school. It is one of the oldest schools, as members know, in Nunavut, but to go ahead and build another school the same size would cost \$40 million. That is our best estimate. So it is actually cheaper in the long run for us to actually to renovate that building. That's what we're trying to do.

Specifically on renovation projects, the majority of our schools have been renovated and upgraded, in the past ten years. The oldest asset that we have on the books is about 36 years old for a facility. Even in those two cases there had been major renovations.

Whenever major renovation occur, if there's asbestos or any of those other types of products at the school or learning centre then those are dealt with at that time because of the codes. Every time we do a renovation you have to bring the whole building up to modern standards and those types of issues are taken care of that time. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk do you have any other questions?

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): My question is that I'm not only talking about Pond Inlet; it is also a concern of Qikiqtarjuaq. And with these older facilities, are you going to be looking for third party funding so that they can be renovated prior to 2010 and 2011? And I am talking about elementary schools in Pond Inlet and Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. To the question.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The high school in Pond actually brand new; built in 1999. Olayuk School in Pond, the member talks about was actually built in 1987. There were two major renovations, one in 1994 and again in 2002.

The situation in Qikiqtarjuaq, and there's no argument from me or from any of the members on the issues there. We need to be able to deal with that school. It was originally built in 1990 and again it was built for K-9; it's being used for K-12. When we

looked at the cash flow within the budget itself, the Qikiqtarjuaq School we estimated to be over \$9 million to be able to do that project. I just didn't have the money in the budget to be able to do that. It's one of those cash flow issues.

So I'd say it again, and I repeat in the House, that as the budget cycle continues in the New Year we'll have an opportunity to go back. And if there's an opportunity to bring it forward in the budget that's what we'll do, but I'm not able to put something in the budget if I don't have the money for it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): We are speaking in the Nunavut language, but I don't think we are understanding one another. I'm talking about the adult learning centre in Pond Inlet. The CLC; I'm not sure what else to call it.

What I'm trying to say is: are you and your department going to be looking for third party funding? And which programs or facilities are of lower priority than the CLC in Pond Inlet because it's slated to be replaced in 2010. What monies can we look for within our department that could be put in last and put this forward? Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had some discussion on the CLC yesterday in Pond Inlet, and again, it's a project that we have in the capital plan. It is there. The only opportunity we have to bring this project forward would be to advance it in the capital plan but then I have to identify the money.

So if I try to find \$2 million or \$3 million for that and try to find \$9 million for Qikiqtarjuaq, try to find several million dollars for Sanikiluaq, I can't pull it out of the air.

I don't know what third party funding I could get to help me facilitate the construction of the facility. Educational facilities, health facilities, those come directly from the Government of Nunavut's own capital planning processes.

If the member has some ideas for third party funding that we could access to build that type of project, then that is something that I would be willing to entertain. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

We are well aware that they are getting prepared to start the development in Mary River, and they will require employees. We know what plans there are to develop the site at Mary River. What kind of employees will be required? The Government of Nunavut

could look at accessing third party funding and I don't know if they do that. I don't know if there is going to be training required to prepare for the opening of the Mary River site.

We know that there are empty buildings available in Nanisivik that could be used as a training centre. Are you going to meet, or have discussions with BaffinLand and see if you can come to an agreement so that you can build the new Community Learning Centre in Pond Inlet? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just very quickly, I have had an opportunity to meet with some of the officials from BaffinLand. It is my understanding that we are looking at a window between five and seven years before the development of that mine.

The Community Learning Centre in Pond is actually scheduled to begin in 2010. We're in the 2007 budget, so you're talking about three and a half years.

So the new Community Learning Centre in Pond Inlet will actually be built and in place before the beginning or the opening of the mine on the positive side, which would be between five and seven years. So that gives us that lead window.

At the same time, again, the capital budget is always being revisited and updated. If, as the Minister of Finance has mentioned, if we get extra money from the federal government, if the territorial funding program changes and so on, maybe there will be some extra money.

And again, these are three projects that I would bring forward in the capital budget that are prioritized. We tried to do that last year with the Qikiqtarjuaq School, based on the Committee of the Whole motion, but nine months later we find ourselves in a different fiscal situation, and we're not able to do that.

So I will try to contact again the BaffinLand Mining Corporation people to see what their time frame is for the operation and opening of the mine. My understanding is it is a five or seven year window out from where we are today. That will give us time to have the Community Learning Centre in place.

In the meantime, if there is a shorter window, if there is an opportunity to access third party funds from them, like Mr. Arvaluk suggested, and I think is a good suggestion, then I think we should follow that up.

So, I'm prepared to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** I think this is a very good opportunity for the Government of Nunavut to explore different avenues to get funding for the Community Learning Centre because

very soon, in fact if it's not happening already, an Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement is being negotiated with Qikiqtani Inuit Association, BaffinLand and the Government of Canada.

These could be part of...if we are going to be negotiating an Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement properly, then all sorts of benefits could be negotiated for Pond Inlet; a Community Learning Centre could be one of them. Airport relocation or a jet airstrip could be one of them.

If the Government of Nunavut can't talk to Pond Inletmiut about what they would like to include in the Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement than I think this is an opportune time.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements take different forms. The majority of the forms, because it is spelled out in the Land Claims Agreement, which is the beauty of having that in place, it spells out specific regulations and detail that the mining companies have to follow. In most cases to date the Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements specify training opportunities, for example, in mining programs.

The Government of Nunavut's responsibility to provide that training with dollar values and what have you that comes from the Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement. I think the member makes a good point and that maybe there might be something outside the scope of the Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement other than training, which would include infrastructure and so on.

That has to be negotiated, as the member has suggested, with the different parties. I think the minister responsible under the Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement is here and has heard those comments and I am sure that is something the members may have an opportunity to raise with them at some point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Okay, Mr. Chairman, very last question. Will he then talk to the Minister responsible for Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement negotiations to suggest what training and learning opportunities can be prepared for Pond Inlet including the building of Community Learning Centre and the type of training that will be required when they build the heavy equipment operator course centres in Iqaluit, Rankin and Cambridge Bay; how these can be geared towards potential employment or future employments when the mine is operating?

I think that we can appreciate that the mine, in preparation for actual production, that the mine employs approximately 40 Pond Inletmiut already. That started several years ago

through local Co-op in Pond Inlet. Right now, they are being hired, every single one of them trained or not, as labourers right now.

I think the Government of Nunavut can demand through the Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement that anyone qualified as journeymen should be recognized as such and be paid accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, just a little outside the scope of capital. Just very quickly then: Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements are signed off on behalf of the Regional Inuit Association. They are the lead negotiator, along with the mining interest in this case. The Government of Nunavut has a role to play in that, but we are not the dominant player within what should be dictated to the mining companies. That follows through from the Regional Inuit Associations.

However, again as I said earlier, maybe this is something that can be raised in those types of discussions with the mining company in particular. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Just to remind the members try to stay within the topic of the Corporate Services. We are under G-6. So you can raise questions. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the Minister's officials back to the House today.

Listening to the minister's opening comments yesterday and listening to all the discussions in the last two sittings during Committee of the Whole, it seems to me that we have a real problem with providing schools, new schools in Nunavut. I see there is only one, one listed in your capital estimates.

I'm wondering if the minister could give us an indication from his department what long-term plans that the department has for providing new schools in other communities. And when I say long term I'm thinking over the next five to ten years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been very aggressive in the Department of Education with the dollar values that are available to us. We have built several new schools, as the member is aware, since 1999 including a new high school in his community. And we have also carried out major renovations to many others.

What we try to do is we base the facility replacement, and or, renovation on a set of criteria and standards. I supplied those standards and listings to the Standing Committee on Education earlier in our briefings on our program.

We have new schools in the budgets, forecasted for Sanikiluaq as well as Coral Harbor, for example, to move forward. We also have major renovations that were talked about in Gjoa Haven when the tender was put out. So there is a plan in place. Again, it's based on need, based on the occupancy levels, the age of the facility, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information.

I wonder if the minister could provide the House with the report or list of your analysis of the current status of elementary and high schools in Nunavut. I'm looking for the information that you might have used to help you guide your decisions and information such as how many of the schools are currently at or over 100 percent capacity; you mentioned one yesterday at 110 percent capacity. There may be others. You mentioned some that are at 65 percent capacity.

As my colleague from Kugluktuk mentioned earlier, the school in Kugluktuk, elementary school and high school in Kugluktuk are getting a little bit old. I wonder if that report could contain information on the age of the school, condition of the school, when it was built, when it was renovated or how many times it was renovated.

That would be helpful information for Members of the Legislative Assembly and for the public to review. I wonder if the minister could comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the information that the member has just requested has been provided to the committee and to the standing committee and it can be shared with the member, I'm sure, between the committees.

I will just give you an example: we have a list that lists all the schools, original year of construction, the age of the building, the last year of the renovation, the year since the last renovation, the occupancy of the school, the status of the school, and so on. So all that is a criterion that's put in place and then we look at the replacement of the school. We also have a criterion in place that when a school reaches, let's say 94 percent occupancy, and we are looking at the next four or five years that it's going to be over 100 percent occupancy then we begin that planning process.

So we are always trying to be two, or three, or four years out from that window. Almost every school in Nunavut has received a major renovation over the past several years; some of them more than once. An example would be, you know, when you look at Kugaaruk, it is a good example: built in 1986, major renovation in 2000 and 2003. In

Pond Inlet, Ulaajuk School, built in 1987, major renovation in 1994, again in 2002. We look at Taloyoak Netsilik School, built in 1978, major renovation in 1996, and so on.

All that information had been provided to the committee. However, if the member would like to have that information also we could provide that to him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. Unfortunately, I can't sit in all committees. I'll ask our researcher to provide that information.

You mentioned earlier about the new high school in Cambridge Bay. I think it burned down originally and it took three years for it to be reconstructed. They came up with an innovative plan. It wasn't reconstructed simply as a high school; it included a heritage centre and a community library.

So we got three important facilities for the community and they're all contributing significantly to our well-being, health, and education of the community, and visitors to the community. Tourists, mining people, and everyone else that go into the facility, they're really impressed.

I am wondering if the minister could comment on whether Education has considered similar types of structures in the communities where rather than just having a high school, or an elementary school, you also combine it with heritage centers, or public library and kill two or three birds with one stone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's the philosophy that we have taken in the Department of Education over the last couple of years is that when we're doing a renovation, or building a new facility, that we take into account the total community needs and not just the educational needs.

A good example of that is in Arviat where we just completed the school; we have built the media centre in the school itself. The community can put on plays and theatrical productions, and so on. In Baker Lake we've built in a community library in that facility. Aqsarniq here that just had the major renovation has now the Teaching Learning Centre in there where the curriculum is being developed.

We've also outlined, as I said earlier, that every new facility that is built in Nunavut educational-wise as well as the major renovation, would include a comprehensive daycare space available for the community.



So I think we're following up on that process that the member has mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. That's good to know. I think that we have to be very cognizant of saving money and trying to get more bang for our buck, where we can. Providing those kinds of facilities within facilities is an attractive alternative to trying to find funding separately.

Even though we did receive a new high school a few years ago, you'd like to think that you're getting a top quality facility with the kind of money that's spent. Sometime near the end they started cutting and chopping. In the case of Cambridge Bay, although the facility is beautiful and people really like it, in our gymnasium we have a floor but it is not a cushioned floor, it's a fairly hard floor. I've heard complaints from some of my younger constituents that it is very hard on their knees and joints when they're playing basketball and indoor soccer, and other sports. That's concerned me, them, and their parents; we don't want joints to start wearing out.

The acoustics in the gymnasium makes it very difficult for musical events and presentations because you're always getting, I'm not sure what the technical term is, but you get the echo, and you really can't hear the people up on the stage. We have been grappling with that problem over the last three or four years - how to fix the acoustics in the gymnasium.

Of course, I've heard from many of the basketball players in Cambridge Bay, and we've got some of the top basketball players in Nunavut, and they've mentioned to me that the basketball backboards are not good quality basketball backboards.

They're not major issues, but they are issues that people in my riding are concerned about and they've asked me to raise them whenever I can with the minister and his officials.

I wonder if the minister could comment on those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the innovations that we have put in place in the last couple of years since the construction of the Cambridge Bay school is the Terraflex sports floor.

The Terraflex sports floor is a soft cushioned floor that stands up very well in high traffic areas. It is conducive to most sports and would take issue with some of the things that the member has spoken about. So actually it would fix that problem.

They are expensive to install. And again, based on what we have available, it would be very difficult for me to be able to put in place the Terraflex sports floor in the community

when I'm trying to build something in Sanikiluaq, Qikiqtarjuaq when I don't have the money.

So again, I know the need is there. Our staff will be in there this spring again in Cambridge Bay, and I'll ask them to review the situation regarding that.

The second point of his question concerning the comment on the auditorium and the audio systems. When we design school gyms specifically and those types of spaces in the school, we don't design them to be audiophonic in the case of where the audio ambience in the room is conducive to a theatrical production and so on. We did do that in the media centre in Arviat when we were building that school.

So, that's something extra that we would put into that school, but that is something we're taking note of now and we're putting in some of our schools to see exactly what that multipurpose facility will be used for.

Again, we want our schools to be more than just K-12. We want it to be multipurpose, multifaceted piece of infrastructure or an asset for the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information.

I understand the financial situation in which the Department of Education finds itself. The acoustics we can probably live with. The basketball backboards we can deal with. They're not major issues, but when you're running on a hard floor, you've got athletes, you start incurring serious injury at a young age: ankles, joints, the knees. It something we have to be concerned with.

I'd urge the minister to look very closely at the problem and give his commitment that it will be an issue that will be seriously considered by his department in trying to find the funds over the next year or two to replace that floor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Cambridge Bay school was built, it was probably the most expensive facility ever built up until that time for an educational facility. It was quite large. As the member has commented, it was not only a school but it was a piece of community infrastructure and it was also designed to hold regional meetings for all the Kitikmeot.

The Terraflex sports floor that I've talked about and that the member would like to have installed, I believe that's the model he would like, again, it's expensive, but it's something again we can look at. Our people will be over there in the spring. I need to be

able to position our dollars for a new Community Learning Center in Pond Inlet, to move forward in Qikiqtarjuaq and Sanikiluaq and that would be my priorities.

There is nothing wrong with the hardwood floor that is in there. I know it's tougher for the students and so on, but that's what we've had in place for many years across not only in Nunavut, but across Canada.

So all of our new schools we try to put the Terraflex sports floor in there and in any major renovations we're doing to schools where the gymnasium is involved, we put the floor in.

Maybe, realistically that's something the school would probably have to wait for. But again, our officials will be over to look not just at that, but some of the other issues with our educational facilities in Cambridge Bay, and I've asked them to review that status too. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I thank you for that answer. The elementary school in Cambridge Bay has like a cushion floor and it was built before the high school. So I think people compared the high school to the elementary school. I don't know what happened to the cushion floor. When we were working towards replacing the high school, we fund raised \$80,000 to contribute to the new gym or expand to a territorial sized gym so we can hold regional and territorial events.

There might be something that and I don't want to commit the community to anything; I think this would be their own decision. Perhaps if the Government of Nunavut is in there next year, talk to them about cost sharing, fund raising to help replace the floor. I don't know what kind of cost here you talk about when you mentioned the Terraflex but it surely to me seems like something we need in our high school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the flooring that is in the elementary school in Cambridge is Mundo flooring if I recall correctly. It's soft flooring, the Mundo flooring, which was done before the high school flooring was put in.

The reason for the high school flooring again, one the reasons was because of the way the facility was to be accessed to be used for regional meetings and so on, and the extra Terraflex board floor would not be conducive for that type of arrangement. That was my original understanding of it. I'll ask my people when the staff members are in Cambridge in the spring if they can address some of those issues on if there is an opportunity from the community, if the community wanted to put forward some fund raising activity, we'll have you to cost share replacement or something.

That is something again we could look at. I'll let that discussion take place amongst the officials when they're in Cambridge. Maybe the member could raise it with his community when he's back. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We're now on education. (interpretation ends) Total Headquarters. \$6,185,000. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'll agree to that part and I'll have questions further on the same page. That deals with high school renovations that the Minister was talking about earlier. I was going to say good morning but it's too late now, somebody's gone.

When I talked yesterday about the, I hate to use the term fiasco that went on up at the middle school, and I know as a result of that and at the public meetings that were held at the middle school there was some concerns raised that they certainly don't want to see something like that happen at the high school with the major renovations that are going to be going on up there over the next few years.

So I just want to ask the minister what kind of assurances we can get from him and the department officials that we won't run into any of those problems and delays and things like that, at the high school when they do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member is correct, the major renovation plans for the Inuksuk high school, I can't guarantee that there won't be logistical or administrative issues or delays once the construction schedule starts.

What I can say is that we have currently a review underway with what has occurred at the Aqsarniit School with Department of Community and Government Services and I'll make that information known to committee members, to the Standing Committee on Education at the appropriate time when I receive it and I would hope that the experience that we have from that school will help us with the other projects, including the Inuksuk High School project.

Also, at this time, if you would bear with me just for one second, the President of the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention has just joined us in the Gallery. Most of the members are aware of the good work that the President of Canadian Suicide Prevention has done. He's here visiting our own well known person: Sheila Levy. Sheila has worked for years with the Embrace Life Council, and the Crisis Line. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Adrian Hill to the Assembly.

>> *Applause*

And with that is my answer to Mr. Tootoo.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would like to welcome the visitors to the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome Mr. Hill to the Gallery. Thank you for being here and as usual, I thank the minister for his response and in pointing out our visitor to us.

I guess on the work schedule and that they have planned for the High School, has the department gone over those plans with the local District Education Authorities so that they know what to expect with the construction or the renovations over the next few years as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have met on one occasion with the District Education Authority and the staff to go over the preliminary plans and some of the designs. My understanding is they have been pleased to date with what has been planned and with the progress that has been made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we all know, and if you look at the incident that happened here over the past summer with the middle school, and I'm sure that everyone else knows in their community, is that the District Education Authorities are the front line when it comes to people in the communities having concerns about things going on in the school.

I guess in this case, given that they are the first people that the public and the parents are going to go and complain to if something does go wrong, for whatever reason, but, given that, would the minister commit to, prior to any work being done, sit down with the District Education Authority and go through it step by step so that they know exactly what to expect so that if any parents or staff come to them with any concerns or questions that they are able to provide them with the appropriate answers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next planned meeting with the District Education Authority on the capital planning process for the Inuksuk High School is December 5 and 6. What Mr. Tootoo is commenting on is actually taking place right now.

The District Education Authority actually leads the planning team for the school, for the renovations. The District Education Authority also leads the planning team for any major

renovations, or construction projects that we bring forward in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are on Page G-6. (interpretation ends) Education. Detail of Capital. Corporate Services. Tangible Assets. Total Headquarters Region. \$6,185,000.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Qikiqtaaluk Region. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$1,126,000.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. G-7. Education. Detail of Capital. Corporate Services. Tangible Assets. Total Kivalliq Region. \$3,850,000. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On here again, it shows Nunavut Arctic College student accommodation and I would assume that deals with the trade school that is going down there. I was wondering if the minister can update the members as to where that is in the works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. That is the Nunavut Arctic College accommodations. A lot of work has been done and we have actually met with the hamlet. A lot has been selected and the final design work has to be accomplished. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask the minister what type of accommodations, other than student accommodations, are being built. Is the design going to look at accommodations strictly for single students like a dormitory type place or are they going to look at a combination of single and married accommodations? I was wondering if you could give us an update on what they are looking at there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we would hopefully be in a position to tender for construction in April of 2007. The member is correct. It is a combination of single and married quarters from one and two bedroom units. A total of three buildings will be on site with a total of 27 bedrooms. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. (interpretation ends) We are on G-7. Education. Detail of Capital. Corporate services. Tangible Assets. Total Kivalliq Region. \$3,850,000. Does the committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Kitikmeot Region. \$9,234,000. Does the committee agree? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This question shouldn't take long because I already know the minister has a good answer for this. I just want to have it for the record.

I know last year, that project showed as one school and this year it shows as two schools. I know he has a very good explanation for it but if you could explain that for the record where someone were to come back and look at the capital plans over the last two years would see something that you would scratch your head at. If he could give us something so that those people wouldn't be scratching their heads once they read his comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This project in Gjoa Haven is actually two schools joined together. It's called co-joined schools and that is why you see them listed as both schools. There is no real change. It is an addition of the walkway between the two schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are on page G-7. Kitikmeot Region. Total Kitikmeot Region. \$9,234,000. Does the committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Tangible Assets. \$23,395,000. Does the committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Agreed. We will go back to G-4. Education Department. Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$23,395,000. Does the committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Agreed. Thank you, Minister, and your staff. Do you have any closing comments Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to thank the committee for their excellent questions over the last couple of days. I just want to add that myself, and the department, and the Cabinet are aware educational facilities have to be a priority.

Again, I have committed that we would revisit the budget sometime this spring to see if there is an opportunity to move some of those projects forward depending on the fiscal situation. That's the only reason why we weren't able to complete the committee motion in the House.

I know the members are all aware of that now since Mr. Simailak updated us this week on that fiscal situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. You can go back to your seat. Sergeant-at-Arms, please assist the minister and his officials.

(interpretation ends) What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Aglukkaq?

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** I would like to report progress.

**Chairman:** We have to have a motion to report progress. Are you making a motion Ms. Aglukkaq?

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Yes, I am, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Can we have some order please? Thank you.

Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Barnabas.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 26, and the capital estimates and would like to report progress. Also Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Joe Allen Evyagotailak. Thank you. The motion is order. All in favour. Opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**



**Clerk (Mr. Quirke):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of the meeting at 2:30 in the Tuktu Room; the meeting of the Standing Committee on Rules.

Orders of the Day for November 27, 2006:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 23
  - Bill 24
  - Bill 25
  - Bill 26
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Our meeting will adjourn until Monday, November 27 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 14:06*

