



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

2nd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 42

Wednesday, November 29, 2006

Pages 2537 – 2591

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Pangnirtung)

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(Nattilik)
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(Rankin Inlet North)
Striking Committee; Management and Services Board; Regular Members' Caucus

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(Cambridge Bay)
Striking Committee; Management and Services Board

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(South Baffin)
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James Arvaluk
(Tununiq)

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(Nanulik)
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Hon. Louis Tapardjuk
(Amittuq)
Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Human Resources

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Hon. Levinia Brown
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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	2537
Ministers' Statements	2537
Members' Statements	2542
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	2549
Oral Questions.....	2551
Tabling of Documents	2569
First Reading of Bills	2571
Second Reading of Bills.....	2572
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	2573
Report of the Committee of the Whole	2590
Orders of the Day	2590

A.

Daily References

Wednesday, November 29, 2006.....2537

B.

Ministers' Statements

136 – 2(3): Recognition of Community Justice Committee Members (Okalik)2537
137 – 2(3): Did you Know? MYATT (Aglukkaq)2538
138 – 2(3): Financial Positions of Nunavut Municipalities (Brown)2539
139 – 2(3): Senior Fuel Subsidy Program (Picco).....2540
140 – 2(3): Health Integration Initiative (Aglukkaq)2541

C.

Members' Statements

327 – 2(3): Status of Crisis Shelters in Nunavut (Evyagotailak).....2542
328– 2(3): NHC Home Repair Programs (Barnabas).....2542
329 – 2(3): Medical Travel Services in the Kivalliq (Mapsalak)2543
330 – 2(3): Income Support Deductions (Alagalak)2544
331 – 2(3): Recognition of Constituent's Achievements (Picco).....2545
332 – 2(3): Increased Federal Funding for Nunavut (Arreak).....2546
333 – 2(3): Message from Tagak Curley & New Constituency Assistant (Brown)2546
334 – 2(3): Kitikmeot Kids Speak (Peterson)2547
335 – 2(3): Wildlife Migration (Kattuk)2548
336 – 2(3): Nunavut Territorial Government (Arvaluk)2548

D.

Oral Questions

379 – 2(3): Assistance for Business Community (Tootoo)	2551
380 – 2(3): Government of Nunavut Hiring Freeze (Peterson).....	2553
381 – 2(3): Crisis Shelters in Nunavut (Evyagotailak).....	2555
382 – 2(3): Medical Travel and Emergency Services (Mapsalak)	2558
383 – 2(3): Applications for Territorial Drivers Licence (Kattuk).....	2560
384 – 2(3): Home Repair Programs Addressing Overcrowding (Barnabas)	2561
385 – 2(3): Contract Obligations Within Communities (Arreak).....	2562
386 – 2(3): Relocation of Airstrip in Pond Inlet (Arvaluk)	2563
387 – 2(3): Cases Resulting in Legal Action NBCC/KBDC (Tootoo)	2565
388 – 2(3): Absolute Homelessness (Peterson).....	2567

E.

Tabled Documents

184 – 2(3): NLCA Annual Report 2001-04 (Okalik)	2569
185 – 2(3): Ministerial Travel Expenses – Fiscal Year Ending 2005-06 (Okalik).....	2569
186 – 2(3): Let’s Listen to Kids! – Domestic Violence (Peterson)	2570
187 – 2(3): Piliriqatigiinnngniq – Working Together for the Common Good/Health Integration Project in Nunavut (Aglukkaq).....	2570
188 – 2(3): Food Mail Contract (Barnabas)	2570
189 – 2(3): FPT Sports and Physical Activity Report (Tapardjuk).....	2570
190 – 2(3): Email from Michael Sanagan Dated September 19, 2002 (Tootoo).....	2571

F.

Bills

Bill 28 – Deficit Reduction Act – First Reading	2571
Bill 29 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – First Reading	2572
Bill 26 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2007-08 – Review in Committee – Culture, Language, Elders and Youth	2573
Bill 26 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2007-08 – Review in Committee – Nunavut Housing Corporation	2587

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, November 29, 2006

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, 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 Smailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Evyagotailak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Members, I would like to welcome Gail Bennett, who is from the Northwest Territories' Legislative Assembly. She is the Deputy Clerk. She will be here with us for two days. Gail, welcome to the House.

>>*Applause*

Thank you. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 136 – 2(3): Recognition of Community Justice Committee Members

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to commend the longest serving Community Justice Committee members and to ensure that their hard work does not go unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention a few names that have served with the Community Justice Committees since the Government of the Northwest Territories first introduced the Community Justice Programs, which were carried over to Nunavut's inception. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Leah Evic, and Mrs. Geela Sowdluapik of Pangnirtung, have served as Community Justice Committee members for over 25 years.

I would also like to extend my sincerest congratulations to Mr. Mariano Aupilardjuk, who has been named as the recipient of Ron Weed Award this year. The Ron Weed Award is an award that recognizes Canadians who have demonstrated, through their hard work or lifestyle, ways of transforming human relationships through restorative justice practices.

Mariano Aupilardjuk has done this by enabling and promoting communication and healing between people in conflict, whether they're victims, offenders, colleagues, families or neighbours. He has been doing that for a very long time.

There are countless members that have contributed their valuable time and efforts for more than ten years. However, I will not be able to name them all as there are just too many dedicated people involved in community justice.

All of these people have clearly demonstrated through their work that Inuit traditional values can be incorporated into today's justice system.

Community Justice Committees conduct healing programs, counsel offenders, and victims, and run crime prevention programs that focus on developing cultural self-esteem amongst the younger generations.

This past year, the Community Justice Committees gathered for regional workshops between January and March 2006. They have worked on various improvements to their committee processes and created regional and community action plans.

Training was received, including mediation techniques and a focus on increasing the involvement of victims in the community justice process. I would like to recognize and thank all of the countless volunteers who serve our communities in this way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Minister's Statement 137 – 2(3): Did you Know? MYATT

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You may recognize this phrase, "Did you know?"

If you have been walking or driving around town, you have seen it painted in the snow in a number of areas. This is a very important question from a very important group. Mr. Speaker, this group raising this question is MYATT, the Minister's Youth Action Team on Tobacco.

This group is represented by Nunavut youth and young adults and they are helping Health and Social Services address the high rate of smoking in the north. The question they put to us is simple. It represents the important question that smokers should ask themselves when it comes to taking responsibility for their health.

Mr. Speaker, these individuals have come from all over Nunavut and are here in Iqaluit preparing their action plan for the next year, comparing notes and exchanging ideas. This program is working in Nunavut; we have reduced the smoking rate by 12 percent overall in Nunavut since the program started.

>>Applause

Each youth will be going back to their community to pass on what they have learned. Mr. Speaker, I would like the members to join me in congratulating these young Nunavummiut for their hard work and dedication.

I would like to be able to recognize each and every one of them on our behalf as well this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Brown.

Minister's Statement 138 – 2(3): Financial Positions of Nunavut Municipalities

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update the members of this House on the financial positions of municipalities in Nunavut.

As of March 31, 2003, 13 Nunavut communities had financial deficits and six of those communities had deficits well in excess of half a million dollars.

Mr. Speaker, municipalities were in a financial crisis.

At that point, Community and Government Services was directed to get the financial positions of communities back under control. Since then, with an extensive effort by councils, municipal staff and staff from Community and Government Services, there has been a tremendous improvement in the financial health of communities primarily as a result of four key developments.

First was the increased effort and commitment of municipal councils, and their staff, to better manage their operations within the guidelines within the budget.

The second development is the significant increase in training programs being delivered to municipal staff by the MTO and Community and Government Services. This training has assisted the communities by building the capacity of municipal staff to better manage both municipal budgets and operations.

Thirdly Mr. Speaker; is the increased monitoring of municipal finances by the staff of Community and Government Services and the active assistance extended by staff to communities to help them better manage community budgets?

Mr. Speaker the final development was the increases to core municipal funding in both 2003 and 2005. This increase resulted in funding levels that are 30 percent higher than what municipalities received in 2002.

This much-needed funding has taken some of the pressure of ever-increasing costs off municipalities and greatly assisted them by providing quality service to residents. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that on March 31, 2006 only one community had a financial deficit and that deficit was so minor that it should be eliminated within the first quarter of this operating year.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Community and Government Services and the Government of Nunavut I applaud the efforts of municipal councils and staff for their tremendous efforts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

Minister's Statement 139 – 2(3): Senior Fuel Subsidy Program

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would to take this opportunity to advise my colleagues about our recent changes to our Senior Fuel Subsidy Program. The Senior Fuel Subsidy Program helps to offset the high cost of home heating fuel for eligible homeowners in Nunavut who are 60 years of age and older.

Eligible seniors must have income levels less than the maximum allowable and must not be receiving income support benefits. The maximum total allowable income is based on total household income not just the homeowners. Eligible seniors are reimbursed the full cost up to the maximum number of litres of fuel allowed under this program for their community. The maximum subsidy ranges from 2,500 to 3,175 litres of fuel for eligible applicant.

Mr. Speaker, at my request, the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program was simplified effective this past September 1. This program changes include a streamlined application process, a Nunavut-wide income threshold and an increase in the threshold from \$39,000 to \$50,000.

The revised process means seniors have to submit fewer pieces of information when they apply. As well, all program forms have been simplified to make it easier to complete. By establishing one income threshold and increasing it to \$50,000, we believe the program is more accessible and more understandable for more seniors.

We have used public service announcements and community posters to advise seniors and the general public of the changes. We have also rewritten the guidelines of the

program for use by income support workers and our Career and Early Childhood Services employees.

Mr. Speaker, *Pinasuaqtavut* supports the development of programs and services that are fair, understandable and easy to access. The revised Senior Fuel Subsidy Program is an example of *Pinasuaqtavut* in action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Minister's Statement 140 – 2(3): Health Integration Initiative

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later on today I'll be tabling the recently completed Health Integration Initiative Report. Keeping people healthy and developing healthy communities is the responsibility of many people. The Department of Health and Social Services is looking to increase collaboration with other governments and agencies in order to improve healthcare in Nunavut.

The Health Integration Initiative is a process that was used for the past two years to identify opportunities and set out potential next steps for Health Canada, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Department of Health and Social Services. The final report of this multi-party consultation, *Piliriqatigiitsiarniq: Working Together for the Common Good*. The Health Integration Initiative Project in Nunavut was formally released on November 1.

The report sets out recommendations for ways to increase the integration of federal/territorial health promotion and illness prevention programs. Of particular interest are the areas of maternal and children's health, dental health, mental health, and addictions treatment. The goal is to improve the health status of Inuit in Nunavut.

The Department of Health and Social Services recognizes the importance of collaboration amongst front-line care providers, regardless of who they work for. Increased involvement for other governments and agencies can only enhance our efforts to help Nunavummiut have healthy lives.

The department is now working with the federal government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated through the new Nunavut Tri-Party Advisory Committee on Health. Together we are reviewing how best to implement the important recommendations in the report.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is to be commended for its leadership in this process. The Nunavut Project was one of just eight Health Integration Initiative exercises funded by Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. Copies of the report are

available from NTI or can be found on the Health and Social Services website at www.gov.nu.ca/hsssite/recent.shtml.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Do we have any more Ministers' Statements? Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 327 – 2(3): Status of Crisis Shelters in Nunavut

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address an issue that remains unresolved in my community, even though efforts have been made to get the Kugluktuk Crisis Shelter picked back up and running.

I have heard in the news that the Crisis Shelter in Iqaluit had also faced the sad possibility of closure due to lack of funding. Thankfully, some third party-funding came through at the last minute.

Mr. Speaker, it is very disturbing to hear that our crisis shelters are having such difficulty in staying open. I'm sure that all members have heard the most recent statistics on domestic violence in Nunavut. Those numbers reveal that we still have a long ways to go before Nunavummiut can feel safe and secure in their home.

I call on this government to address this issue fully and look for long-term support and solutions for our crisis shelters so that those in need have a safe and secure place to go when they're in danger.

At the appropriate time I will be asking questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 328– 2(3): NHC Home Repair Programs

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to draw attention of the House to what I see as an opportunity for the government to support homeowners.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the government has limited funding for the construction of new units in the territory. I was pleased to note that 36 units will be added to the public

housing portfolio in my constituency through the federally-funded Nunavut Housing Trust. The possibility exists to reduce the waiting list for the public housing in other ways.

The Homeowner Renovation Program allows homeowners to apply to a maximum of \$50,000 to renovate their home. It is disappointing that some of the criteria for the approval of an application to the Homeowner Renovation Program can limit the ability of Nunavummiut to address overcrowding.

For example, if a homeowner wants to renovate their home by adding a room for an adult child, the project would not necessarily be considered as a priority because an adult child is not dependent and could qualify for a public housing unit. It would be ideal if the corporation could fund projects that would increase the size of the home and allow for renovation projects that would allow adult children to continue to share their parental home.

This would address overcrowding in the home and remove people from the waiting list for public housing.

Mr. Speaker, the program only allows one application per homeowner per year. This is another limitation on homeowners. Even the first approved application is for less than \$50,000 maximum. The applicant cannot be approved a second time in one year.

I think that multiple applications to the program should be considered as long as the maximum amount of assistance has not been reached.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking questions on this issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Very well timed, Mr. Barnabas. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Member's Statement 329 – 2(3): Medical Travel Services in the Kivalliq

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise some concerns that have been brought to my attention from my constituents in Repulse Bay on the issue of medical travel.

Mr. Speaker, an incident occurred recently that affected a number of my constituents who were returning home to Repulse Bay from Winnipeg on a scheduled flight, operated by Kivalliq Air, going through Rankin Inlet.

They had to stop in Rankin Inlet because the aircraft they were on was required for an emergency medivac and the passengers were required to stay in Rankin Inlet for a period of time.

I recognize that life and death emergencies need to be taken care of, especially when there is an emergency, but these patients had to stay in Rankin Inlet for a period of time even though this was a scheduled flight.

I am concerned however; the carrier which has a contract for medical travel in my region may not have enough aircraft and other resources to fulfill its contractual obligations with the government and maintain its scheduled services without interruption.

Mr. Speaker, travelling for medical treatment can be a stressful experience. I believe every effort should be made to ensure that our constituents do not experience unnecessary delays. I wish that the department review the patients to make sure that the patients are sent home as soon as possible.

At the appropriate time I will be asking questions to the Minister Responsible for Health and Social Services in regard to this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Mr. Alagalak.

Member's Statement 330 – 2(3): Income Support Deductions

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have wanted to talk about this for some time. I rise today to express a concern brought forward by my constituents regarding deductions from income support payments.

Mr. Speaker, when an income support client goes to apply for social assistance and an evaluation is carried out by income support worker, the income support assessment takes into account any income the client may have earned from casual or seasonal employment, and sometimes the income support worker relies on hearsay.

It also takes into account unearned income that the client may have received such as National Child Benefits Supplement. Until recently, such lump sums as a dividend paid to Co-op members were also considered as income and deducted from the amount of social assistance received by income support clients who are also co-op members.

Even though some members of the family give money to that individual they are considered as income.

Mr. Speaker, I want an item that is still included in the list of deductions as the value of gifts such as airline ticket from a parent, or other family members; an airline ticket provided to family member as a gift is not the same as a voucher for cash, it is a gesture intended to do something decent for someone else.

Mr. Speaker, I would like consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. The member is asking for consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Alagalak, continue.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a problem that we have in the communities of Nunavut, and the government should do something about it. Sometimes the parents have children to feed and sometimes the food is hard to come by and because the head of the family cannot always go hunting because they don't have the money to get gas.

I would like to encourage government to review the regulations listing that to determine social assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 331 – 2(3): Recognition of Constituent's Achievements

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Arreak congratulated two former residents of Clyde River for their achievements in completing law school and being admitted to the Nunavut Bar.

Mr. Speaker, both graduates are working moms, role models, and constituents of mine in Iqaluit East. And, I, too, want to take this opportunity to congratulate them.

Seven years ago, on April 1, 1999 when Nunavut was started, if anyone said that in less than ten years, in actuality in seven years, Nunavut would graduate our first nurses, would graduate our first lawyers, and would have a Nunavummiut playing in the National Hockey League, very few people would have believed it.

Mr. Speaker, one of the promises of Nunavut was to provide new and emerging opportunities for Nunavummiut to take pride in our culture and to succeed.

Susan Enuaraq and Jordin Tootoo and Sandra Inutiq are just three examples of what we can accomplish if given a chance and support.

In the next 10 years I predict our first Nunavut general practitioner doctor, our first Nunavummiut scientist and our first Nunavummiut pro golfer probably, maybe from your hometown of Panniqtuuq Mr. Speaker.

Nunavut has many assets diamonds, gold, iron ore and oil. It has a young and growing workforce. Of course there are going to be potholes and bumps along the way. However, Nunavut's greatest assets are her people and faith in our future.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you that future is pretty bright. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

Member's Statement 332 – 2(3): Increased Federal Funding for Nunavut

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Picco just mentioned the people that graduated and I would like to follow suit.

Here in Nunavut whenever there is research being done they always say that Nunavut is very dangerous because there are a lot of people that smoke and there is a lot of pollution and not enough literacy and a lot of alcoholics as opposed to the rest of Canada. There is a lot of violence in Nunavut and also there are a lot of bad things happen in Nunavut as compared to the rest of Canada.

I know that there are good things that happen here in Nunavut.

I know that when there is a study done Nunavut is thought of as being very bad. I would like to encourage the federal government to help us a little bit more to make Nunavut a better place to live. And I know that our government is trying their very best to try to do what they can with the little bit of money that they have. I would also like to encourage the federal government to make Nunavut a brighter place to stay for our future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Ms. Brown.

Member's Statement 333 – 2(3): Message from Tagak Curley & New Constituency Assistant

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I talked with Tagak Curley before we went to the House. He would like to me to relay a message to say thank you especially to Mr. John Quirke, the Clerk of the House also to thank the Members of the Legislative Assembly and this is the message that I got from Tagak Curley and he wanted to relay to you that he is listening to the doctors and will be back to the session in January.

He is thinking of you and he said Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the members.

I also have a message from Whale Cove that my constituency assistant from Whale Cove had to leave the community to move to another community and I received another constituency assistant.

The new constituency assistant is Mary Kanayuk Voisey from Whale Cove and I will make sure that I have the telephone number and fax number to you in the near future. And also e-mail you the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Member's Statement 334 – 2(3): Kitikmeot Kids Speak

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House about an important initiative that was started earlier this year in the Kitikmeot by the Kitikmeot Law Centre.

As everyone in Nunavut should know by now, substance abuse and domestic violence are inextricably linked. The damage that substance abuse wreaks on our families and our communities is very severe.

There is seldom a day that goes by in Nunavut where one of our loved ones or a friend doesn't become a victim of violence. The media reports and studies on this issue are shocking. A recent report by Statistics Canada, *Victimization and Offending in Canada's Territories*, reveals a number of disturbing facts about the situation here at home.

Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot Law Centre traveled to all the communities in the region to speak to the grade six classes about domestic violence. Rather than talk to adults, they talked with the kids. Some of the questions they asked the kids were:

1. How does violence make you feel?
2. What do you think causes domestic violence?
3. What is the solution?

We should listen to the kids because many of them are witnessing first hand what is happening in our communities. In response to the question; how does make you feel?, the kids replied with such answers as; mad, scared, alone, discouraged, heart going fast, worried about parents getting hurt, you wish you could sleep somewhere else, and many others.

In response to the question; what do you think causes domestic violence? They replied with answers such as: alcohol, drugs, fighting over alcohol, jealousy, addictions, no respect, and anger, to name only some of the comments.

In response to the question: what is the solution? They replied with these answers: cry hard so they stop, tell parents how it makes you feel when they are sober, no drugs or alcohol, tell people that you care for them, get counselling.

These were only some of their solutions. The “Kitikmeot Kids Speak,” is an important initiative that was welcomed in all the Kitikmeot communities because it lets children open up and talk about a serious issue rather than hiding it. A poster called Domestic Violence Sucks was created by Suzie Powers of Kugluktuk and it won first prize and now runs on the local co-op television channel in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to join me in congratulating the Kitikmeot Law Centre on their initiative and also to join me in thanking the Kitikmeot grade six students for opening up and sharing their innermost fears and hopes with all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members’ Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Member’s Statement 335 – 2(3): Wildlife Migration

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the Members of the House...like the Inuit people say that the wildlife moves around; the people that study animals don’t think so. The Inuit people believe that the wildlife migrates and moves around all over the place. I’ll use this as an example: there were 10 seals that were radio-collared. The smallest one was radio-collared in the beginning of September.

Apparently one was from the Arviat area, and went around Coral Harbour, and it’s now in Sanikiluaq. So Inuit say wildlife moves around, and it should be a good example for biologists that the animals don’t stay in one area. That is a good example that I have from Arviat to Sanikiluaq.

I wanted to inform the members of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. I have no more names for Members. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

Member’s Statement 336 – 2(3): Nunavut Territorial Government

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we hear people talking that ever since we had the Nunavut Government; everything is hard to come by.

I just wanted to remember at the time the federal government was in the communities when we were children. The Inuit people could not vote their own government. They also lived in matchbox houses and then for their bathroom they had used honey buckets.

The Inuit people could not vote, they didn't have any airstrips, and they could not use money to buy things in the store. Their children, Mr. Speaker, could not go to school in their own home community; they had to bring them to another area to go to school, even at the age of six.

Mr. Speaker, the people that wanted to go out to earn money could not do that because this was being held by the people of the Hudson's Bay Company.

I would like to remind the people of Nunavut that I would like to thank the leaders that were there at the time, I would also like to tell them that we have our own government now, and to tell those leaders at that time to thank them for working very hard for the Inuit people to be part of Canada, to have their own government and look after themselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We also thank them. Members' Statements. Thank you. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Aglukkaq.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the members in the House, I want to take this opportunity to introduce the MYATT participants and the youth from Nunavut.

As I call your names out, if you can stand up so that they know who I'm referring to. I'm going to start off with my constituents: Delphine Petooloot and Charlie Qayutinuak.

>>Applause

Tina Anawak of Cambridge Bay and Santana Driscoll of Cambridge Bay as well.

>>Applause

Two from Kugaaruk; Gwen Karlik and Donna Rodnunsky.

>>Applause

Two from Kugluktuk; Nicole Nivingolak and Janet Kadlun.

>>Applause

(interpretation) From Arviat; Lazarus Illaungiyok.

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) From Baker Lake; Siobhan Iksiktaaryuk, she's not here.

(interpretation) From Iqaluit; Sileema Angoyuak and Nolan Idlout and Bjorn Simonsen

>> *Applause*

(interpretation ends) Two individuals I'm going to mention that went home today. Samantha Pudlat and Oqittu Qimirpik from Cape Dorset.

>> *Applause*

From Kimmirut is Aalaa Michael. Resolute Bay; Moses Aronsen.

>> *Applause*

From Pangnirtung; Roselynn Akulukjuk and Natasha Nakashuk.

>> *Applause*

Pond Inlet; Joyce Angnetsiak, and Alison Kopalie from Qikiqtarjuaq.

And I'd like to also say the names the facilitators are Rowena Rodriguez, youth facilitator and Aveliegh Gateman who are not here. And Jonathan Cruz as well as Christina Lamothe and a Taloyoak teacher, George Hill.

>> *Applause*

And everyone welcome to the Gallery. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you and welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't realize the Minister was going to welcome everybody. It is not very often I welcome young people to the House from Cambridge Bay, so I would like to take the opportunity to do that today. Welcome Tina Anawak, Santana Driscoll, and I think her nickname is Santana. Welcome to the Gallery and welcome to Iqaluit. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rarely recognize anybody from Kugluktuk.

They were recognized earlier and I would like to recognize Janet Kuniqtana Kadluk, Nicole Nivingolak. Both are from Kugluktuk and welcome to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Member for Quttiqtuq, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also like to recognize Moses Aronsen. His parents really help the community by hunting and being on committees in the community and I know Moses quite well and he helps a lot and volunteers a lot in the schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Colleagues, only one member usually recognizes a person, but we are not going with that every day; we are making an exception. Mr. Alagalak from Arviat.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that is Illungaiyok's grandchild. He lives in Arviat and goes out hunting and I call him umingmak because we went musk ox hunting one time. If you can, come and visit my office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. I know I recognized our pages yesterday, but one of the pages' mother's Julia Tautuajuk is here. Welcome to the Gallery.

>> *Applause*

Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 379 – 2(3): Assistance for Business Community

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Economic Development. Last week he was saying he was missing standing up and answering questions. So I will give him his chance to make up for lost time.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I have been talking about this week with the minister with questions is dealing with the role that Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and other organizations like in the Kivalliq, the Keewatin Business Development Centre, play in developing the economy and helping small businesses develop in Nunavut.

And we all know, as I said yesterday, these types of organizations generally are a lender of last resort when individuals can't get financing from other sources that's where the government comes in and helps us through their contributions to these organizations.

And we also know it's unfortunate that sometimes businesses do fail for whatever reason but they fail, someone moves from one community to another. When things like that happen, when a business is in trouble, does the department through these organizations, the government through these organizations look for avenues in which to resolve these matters so that, say, if someone's moving, if there's an opportunity for someone else to take over that's interested in taking over the business, taking over the loan and that to continue that business in the community rather than a business folding and the loan going into default, is that something that they do? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The corporation, we try and assist them as to how it would succeed. They have Keewatin Business Development Centre or Baffin Business Development Centre; those are different corporations that assist the businesses in the community, and we are committed to helping those businesses, for instance, if the owners are moving to a different community. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I missed the very last part of that answer but given it sounds like the minister is saying that they do try and look to assist individuals and keep businesses going in the communities.

In the unfortunate event that that doesn't happen and a loan goes into default for the reason of a business failing for whatever reason, what type of approaches does the government use in looking on how...I wonder how they're going to pursue a matter like that in the event where someone has gone in default of the loan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister for Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is an agreement in place where if they want our assistance and we have to look at this very seriously and work closely with them because we don't want to see failed businesses because it's very difficult to try and start a business.

We try and look for some ways how to assist them, Keewatin Business Development Centre as I mentioned, but for our department, we try and look at ways how best we can assist those businesses that are getting into deeper debt because we don't want to see our businesses fail in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that was a response to my first question. My first supplementary question was dealing with what avenues, or what kind of criteria that they use if a loan does go on default and what action that they'll take in any particular case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have what we go through. I'll take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. (interpretation ends) The question is being taken as notice. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Question 380 – 2(3): Government of Nunavut Hiring Freeze

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Finance. Almost two years ago I asked the minister why the Government of Nunavut would have to impose a hiring freeze to address financial problems.

Last week the minister announced that all government departments have been asked to identify and freeze all currently vacant positions that do not negatively impact the delivery of necessary programs and services.

I took a look this morning at the current job vacancies of the Government of Nunavut's website and saw that there were over a couple of dozen positions advertised.

My question for the minister is: can he inform the House if this hiring freeze is now in place as of today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No we have not put a freeze on jobs. We're still waiting from the departments so they can identify as to which positions should be frozen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. In the same statement the minister announced, he referred to necessary programs and services.

My question for the minister is: can he clarify for the House the process for defining what a necessary program or service is, and will the line departments be able to make the decisions, or will the Department of Finance or Human Resources make it for them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are looking at which positions should be opened, like for the Department of Health or for emergencies. Those kinds of positions are essential services. We have asked them not to put a freeze on them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. When the minister does make the freeze official can he tell the House if he envisions it as being an indefinite freeze, or will it be lifted at the beginning of the next fiscal year, April 1, 2007? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time we are looking at the new year close to March 31 or we will be looking at it in February or March and see what the government is going to be like fiscally. Then we'll decide how long the hiring freeze is going to be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the hiring freeze goes into effect it'll affect the Government of Nunavut employees and they're covered by the Nunavut Employees Union. I thought I better ask this question to the minister. The minister is well aware that the collective agreement between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Employees Union expires in September.

I wonder if the minister can update us today on the status of the collective bargaining between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Employees Union, and give members a sense of how far apart the Government of Nunavut is from the Nunavut Employees Union on their initial bargaining positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a responsibility of a totally different department, so I can't really answer your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Question 381 – 2(3): Crisis Shelters in Nunavut

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

The crisis shelter in Kugluktuk has experienced a number of difficulties in keeping its doors open. Recently the Hamlet of Kugluktuk received some funding to get the crisis shelter operating again, but the amount was only enough for a few months.

I have heard that shelters in Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit have approached outside parties for help. Not every crisis shelter has the staff or the ability to do this. Can the minister provide an update on exactly how many crisis shelters are currently operating in Nunavut, and in which communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The crisis shelters in Nunavut; there is one in Cambridge Bay, Taloyoak, Iqaluit, and Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Can the minister update this House on what support her department can provide to help communities access outside funding or support to operate a crisis shelter, or even safe homes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Next week, we'll be releasing a report from the Violence Against Women Symposium, which will also outline a number of recommendations that are going forward for us to try and address violence in general in the north.

Currently the department provides over \$1 million in funding to support those facilities that are in place. We are trying to look at other means to try and get assistance from

organizations like the YWCA, or through the mining companies, and try and address ways of addressing violence in our communities.

One of the items that I had discussions with some community providers is to look to Inuit organizations, through the IIBA process and to act as interveners in those proposals and receive some assistance from the mining sector to address some of the violence that is resulting from people having more money and access to liquor and so on, as part of the social envelope.

That's one of the discussions we had taking place, but as it is right now; there is no formal process around that. Internally, we are trying to address violence, not just in providing a building to give a safe place for women to go to, but also around the whole issue of counselling for people that need assistance in addressing their tempers.

So those are the kinds of initiatives under way, and still in place, but the issue of our current statistics is alarming, and we are going forward with various recommendations resulting from the symposium that was held in Iqaluit in January. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's just that a lot of our constituents go through a lot in the communities and it's very hard to try and help them especially when there's hardly any money to help them out. Can the minister update this House on what other options her department is considering to address the funding crisis faced by shelters across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Before I allow the minister, I have to correct myself. That was your second supplementary, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned in my response earlier that the Government of Nunavut is going forward with the recommendations that came as a result of our consultations back in January with a number of Nunavummiut. I believe over a hundred people participated in that conference.

There are number of recommendations coming out of that symposium that we will be releasing in the House next week that will outline some of the initiatives that this government is trying to work in partnership with communities, as well as Inuit organizations in addressing violence.

This current system that we have in place, or their current facilities, we provide a total of 39 beds for women experiencing violence and that is also for children. We are trying to address the situation around finances, and I think it's no secret that this government is in some, experiencing some challenges around that so we will continue to try and do that.

One of the areas that we are exploring is the issue around safe homes, so these are ongoing initiatives. Next week we will be able to speak to the specific recommendations that are coming out of that symposium. As it is right now, we have those facilities open and we provide funding internally.

Right now, we don't have any funding from outside agencies other than the government to keep those operational. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again I thank the minister. The statistics on spousal violence in Nunavut shows that this is a bigger problem here than anywhere else in Canada. Would the minister commit to allocating significant resources to keep our crisis centres open and offering programs to reduce violence in our territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The statistics in Nunavut are alarming, we know that. The federal government released a report which took three territories to lobby over four years through the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers' Meetings to have Stats Canada record aboriginal women in their statistics around violence.

That report was released in St. John in October. As a result the federal government announced initiatives for First Nations Aboriginal Women that excluded Inuit. That was a concern that we had expressed to our colleagues as well as the other two Premiers when they had met here.

We are trying to continue to address those types of issues. Within the department itself, as it is right now, we are working in the new year main estimates in the next few months. We can look into that. As it is right now, it is a bit difficult. We are under a financial crunch so we will continue to try and address some of those initiatives and perhaps also work with other agencies, such as our Land Claims groups. Perhaps the Inuit organizations that are negotiating IIBAs will also contribute to supporting shelters in the community or services to victims or the abusers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister.

Before we proceed, please make sure that your questions and responses are as brief as possible and to the point.

Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Question 382 – 2(3): Medical Travel and Emergency Services

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Members' Statement I indicated that we had a concern about medical travel and emergency services. I know that it has to be a service that has to be provided, but we are concerned about the scheduled flights and the interruption of those scheduled flights in order to accommodate medical travel.

I would like to ask the minister if there's any agreement in place between the medical services providers and the government about medical travel and how they should be used.

Speaker (interpretation): The question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The contracts that we have in place with the airline companies are strictly for providing medivac contracts. In that contract we don't have anything around scheduled flights; scheduled flights are the private sector piece, so the agreements that we have with the airlines are strictly around medical travel or medivacs. (interpretation) I hope he understands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. I directed that question to the Minister of Health and Social Services and I didn't say that in my first question.

When there's a contract and an agreement between the Department of Health and Social Services and the air carriers do the aircraft have to be medically equipped for patients, if you understand my question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand the member's question correctly, the question is around whether an aircraft that is being used for medivacs is equipped with medical equipment. That's the question. From what I understand, that is a requirement. I could be wrong with this, but it also depends on the type of care that will be provided. Say if it's an infant that requires an incubator then we have to put an incubator into the aircraft, and so on.

So in terms of how that is organized, I'm not sure of that process, but normally medivacs would require not only meds, nurses, or doctors, but some equipment as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, as well as the minister. Then do I understand correctly, that this medical airplane equipment even though there's hardly medical equipment on the plane then it's okay for the airline to be contracted.

The reason why I am asking this question is that the airlines that are used for scheduled flights was recently used for a medivac. We were quite concerned about the issue of having to have medical equipment required on the plane.

So, therefore, do I understand that a plane that doesn't have medical equipment on it can still be used for a medivac? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a follow up to the member's statement earlier, I have asked the staff to look into that particular situation.

I'm not aware of what resulted in a scheduled aircraft being used for the medivac. I heard about it today as well as from Mr. Alagalak. I'm following up on that particular situation. I don't know the background behind that.

Again, to clarify for the member; when aircraft are being used for medevacs, there are medical flight nurses on every flight with the appropriate equipment, and depending on how serious the situation is other special equipment is put on board such as an incubator or oxygen tanks and so on, based on what the patient needs are.

What the standard equipment is on each aircraft, I don't know what those are, but I can provide the member with that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response.

Yes, I want to see medical airline providers have proper services for Inuit. That is why I'm asking those questions. I would like to thank the minister for stating that she will look into this.

After she looks into that, I would like the minister to let me know even, not just during the session, but sometime soon in the future, if she could get back to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will provide that information as soon as I hear back from my staff in Rankin Inlet as to what happened there. As soon as I have it, I will provide it to the members. Thank you.

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

Question 383 – 2(3): Applications for Territorial Drivers Licence

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation.

Currently, although I know about it, I do want to ask questions in regard to this. Currently we're experiencing problems in Sanikiluaq about driver's licenses, especially outside of Iqaluit.

In Sanikiluaq, if a person wants to apply for a driver's license, they have to fill out a form, and send it to Iqaluit for processing. That's how the procedure is. Can the minister tell me what his department is doing to make this process more efficient and easier for my constituents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently we are now reviewing and renewing the applications for driver's licenses in Nunavut. In 2008 we will be coming up with a new driver's license.

We will also be reviewing how we can make it easier for the communities to process their driver's licenses more efficiently. And also, we will make our driver's licenses safer, and all the smaller communities will have to send their applications to Iqaluit for processing, whether it is Iqaluit or Rankin Inlet, or to Cambridge Bay. We will also look at reviewing that process to make sure that it will be more efficient for Nunavummiut.

So we will also review that part and we will review all drivers' licenses for the future. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased with the minister's response, but can he tell me what assistance his department provides to unilingual residents who require assistance with filling out the forms? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I thought all of the communities dealt with drivers' license applications and I thought there was an employee in each community. So I will look to see if we have an employee in Sanikiluaq.

All the staff that work in the communities are bilingual people, and I will look into it to make sure that this individual, who works in your community, is bilingual because we need staff in all the communities, and I believe they're Inuit bilingual people.

So I will look into that for your community to see what kind of procedure they have in place. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps this is my last supplementary. Can the minister tell me how many applications from Sanikiluaq his department has received each year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I don't know the number of applications from Sanikiluaq, but I can look into it. I'm sure that there are monthly driver's license applications, too, so I will look into that through my officials. Thank you.

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

Question 384 – 2(3): Home Repair Programs Addressing Overcrowding

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Earlier in my Member's Statement I talked about the corporation's Home Repair Program. Can the minister tell me what the corporation is doing to help homeowners address issues of overcrowding in their homes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Yes, we deal with that program. I think there are five different repair programs and we prioritize them.

So we have staff that work on these programs and we have limited resources for the Home Repair Program, or for renovations, or for additions. So we review each case and those cases are reviewed by the staff of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recognizing that some homeowners...when they are going to be building their homes, they hire homeless people. (interpretation ends) Recognizing that overcrowding in housing is a problem for Nunavummiut who own their own home and also recognizing that fact that creating multi-generational homes can help to address the strain on public housing, can the minister tell me if funding is available for homeowners' projects under the federally funded Nunavut Housing trust? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The homeowners' renovation program is from our government here but this \$200 million that you are talking about is for the construction of Nunavut Housing. The funding we have will go through that Trust. The home renovation funds were received from the federal government in the amount of \$200 million and they were funding in the Nunavut Housing Trust. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my final question. Will the minister commit to reviewing the current limitations of applications to the home repair program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at the financial restraint that our Nunavut Government is in, we have limited resources and we would like to see Capital Estimates approved for this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

Question 385 – 2(3): Contract Obligations Within Communities

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services. In some communities, especially in the smaller communities, there are multi-year contracts and some of those contractors don't live in the same community where they are contracted in. So therefore they are not developing, they are not assisting or helping to develop the communities and they are not helping the Nunavut economic strategy. These smaller communities in all of Nunavut we've agreed to develop the communities.

The people who take care of the contracts do they have some means to measure to make sure that these contract obligations are being met in the community such as developing the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would also like to thank the member for asking the question in regard to the contracts. Community and Government Services takes care of and are responsible for contracts and they do have regulations and they do try and abide by the regulations and also work with NNI and CGS. People who take care of those contracts do visit the communities. But I would like to tell the member that yes we monitor them all the time. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister. The people in my community, economic development people would like to, in my community, want to see what is happening with the contracts in my community of Clyde River. They wanted to find out whether it's benefiting my community or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be able to provide the member with the information on paper and I will make sure that the review is done in his community because Community and Government Services deals with the contracts and I could work with my official and talk with the member in regard to those contracts in his community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Tunnunig, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 386 – 2(3): Relocation of Airstrip in Pond Inlet

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister for Transportation, I heard from the Hamlet of Pond Inlet that there was a study done about the relocation of the airstrip because the airstrip is in the middle of the community. They even said that they have selected a site to move the airstrip. I wonder if the Department of Transportation is still reviewing that relocation of the airstrip. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister for Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All the, we do the review of all the airstrips in each community of Nunavut and we are also making, doing an airport in Arctic Bay and we talked about for a number years the locations of the airstrips in each community but the only problem is that we don't have enough funding to do the relocation or the study of, or the relocation of airstrips in each community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the minister has heard from the people of Pond Inlet, especially from the Hamlet Council, because of the high cost of goods. BaffinLand wanted to use Pond Inlet as an office, and when you go from High Arctic, it takes a long time to get to Pond Inlet. I think Mr. Barnabas knows about that.

So if Pond Inlet was to get jet services then the other communities would also have jet services and the jet can go from Ottawa to Pond Inlet, and I think I'm sure that the minister knows about that. Has the minister and his officials done, have they done a study on whether it would be cheaper for the community of Pond Inlet to have jet services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we have done is looked at it, those communities under the Transportation Strategy, and we are under review of those communities. We have had talks with the federal government as well to see what kinds of airstrips that those smaller communities can have, especially if they can be a route, or a scheduled airline for jet services. This is an ongoing process right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though you're not a person that's good with numbers you already know whether the Nunavut Government is really doing their job. If they relocate the airstrip and the federal government would pay for that relocation, and the old airstrip would be used to put houses in.

Can the minister tell me whether his department is committed to about \$100 million to use that old airstrip for housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those are possibilities, especially with the two communities that have an airstrip in the middle of the community.

Those would be very good to build houses on. We will be looking into it and once we relocate an airstrip we can look at what we can do with the money that is provided to us and we would like to have the assistance of the federal government to make sure that those airstrips are built properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask the minister if he will visit Pond Inlet and have open exploratory discussions with the Hamlet Council about the pros and cons about benefits it will have if it can be included in IIBA negotiations to include the relocation of the airport by the federal government.

If he's invited would he be receptive to taking the trip to Pond Inlet to meet with the Council on that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I was invited I would be able to attend the meeting with the Hamlet Council, but I'm not sure when I will be able to attend to see what kinds of airstrip relocation that they want and whether there would be changes in the service of the airlines. And to see for myself exactly what the wishes of the Hamlet Council are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 387 – 2(3): Cases Resulting in Legal Action NBCC/KBDC

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development, and I'll be very short and blunt on this. Is the minister aware of any cases that NBCC or KBDC had pursued legal action on or done as a result of race, or whether someone was an Inuk, or a non-Inuk, or a southerner, or a northerner? Is he aware of any cases that have proceeded based on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The court cases that are now presently in the courts, I'm not really sure how many there are, so, I'm not really sure exactly what progress has taken place in regard to race.

We would also like to have everybody working together no matter what race they are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know I asked the Minister Responsible for Economic Development and Transportation last March if they were made aware of any legal actions that were taking place because he had indicated at that time that the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and other organizations would go through the Department of Justice to use their lawyers.

My question to the minister is; is he advised when legal action is taken at some point in any case, is he aware of any cases that have been pushed forward for legal action with one of the factors being that an individual is a northerner or a southerner? It's simple. Is he aware of any cases like that? Yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am aware of a couple of issues that are in the court process right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure he's aware of some that are in the process, but he still didn't answer my question. Is he aware of any of these cases that have been moved forward because an individual was a southerner or a northerner? For those reasons, is he aware of any of those things that were pushed before the courts by the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation or KBDC based on the fact that the individual that they're taking to court may happen to be a southerner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that response that he's not aware of that not being a factor used in anything, it will probably come to a bit of a surprise to him under Tabling of Documents, when I table a document that indicates that one of the factors that they're looking at is legal action being followed up on in a case was because an individual was a southerner.

If he says that he's not aware of that, if he was, would that be something that the department, that the government would condone? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first time that I've heard of this and I'm not sure as to exactly what he's referring to. It would be interesting to know.

This is the first I've heard of this. We want to treat everybody equally in Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Question 388 – 2(3): Absolute Homelessness

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Homelessness.

In the past, the minister spoke about homelessness and absolute homelessness in Nunavut; absolute homelessness refers to people who have absolutely no home to go to, although both are very serious in Nunavut, but particularly, absolute homelessness when temperatures are minus 40 degrees outside.

My question for the minister: can the minister update the House on how many Nunavummiut are absolutely homeless and which communities have dedicated facilities like homeless shelters that provide them with a room for the night? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. There may be two questions in that. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I counted three, Mr. Speaker.

Very quickly, the Homeless Secretariat was set up by this government, and again, I want to reiterate that the Nunavut Government is the only jurisdiction in the country other than the federal government to have a Minister responsible for the Issue of Homelessness and a secretariat set up.

We have one facility dedicated specifically for the issue of homelessness that is right now here in Iqaluit. It was a facility that was developed by the community, not through territorial funds, or indeed, through federal funds, in 1996-97, called the Oqota Emergency Shelter.

I would invite the member to join me on Saturday when the shelter will be officially opened, when we will have the Commissioner of the Salvation Army and a Brass Band from the Salvation Army in town to do the official opening.

At any given time, there are over 20 beds available in the community for the issue of homelessness. At the same time, there is an arrangement with the women's shelter when

there are women who are in a position of need and are homeless that we can actually help assist and fund.

That is the case in some of the other communities, for example, in the member's community if the need arises. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I certainly will try and take him up on that opportunity on Saturday.

I think him and I are playing indoor soccer that day, as well, either before or after, so we will spend the afternoon together.

During the Committee of the Whole I reviewed the 2006-07 main estimates. The House approved \$200,000 for the Minister's Homelessness Secretariat. A question for the minister: has the secretariat produced any up-to-date reports on the current status of the homelessness issue in Nunavut and have they made any recommendations or actions to address them? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just very quickly on the status, we put in \$100,000 in the Homeless Secretariat. Part of that money for 2005-06 was used to fund 'My Room' Project, which is a project on homelessness in Cape Dorset, which has actually received national attention as they did a fantastic job on that.

We also put additional money into the Nunavut Status of Women's Council to help them fund a program on the Homeless Status of Women across Nunavut.

At the same time, we put some additional funds into the Oqota Shelter because of the demand on their services. We've seen the demand on the homeless shelter here in Iqaluit, going from 10 to 12 beds to, as I said earlier, over 20 beds.

The member is also correct that this Saturday is a very busy day and I do ask him that he would join me on Saturday. I'm not sure if I could play soccer, I hurt my knee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. You sit beside the Minister of Health, so maybe you should get your knee checked out before Saturday because I totally expect him to be there for a good cause.

Could the minister tell the House when he's going to table some information from the Cape Dorset pilot project and the Nunavut Status of Women's Council Report that he referred to his last answer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Homelessness Initiative Program "In My Room" from Cape Dorset is publicly available; it has been released, there have been some media connections on it. So that is widely available.

The study undertaken by the Nunavut Status of Women's Council on women and homelessness, that report has also been complete. Maybe if you could go to the Office of the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Status of Women's Council, you would be able to access that file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for telling me where that information is.

Mr. Speaker, the minister has recently had plans to meet with the federal minister to talk about homelessness issues in Nunavut and across the country, and other issues as well. I wonder if the minister could update the House on the outcome of that meeting with the federal minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for Homelessness, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't able to follow through on our meeting with the minister. Through the Canadian Ministers' Council of Education we have been attempting to meet with Minister Finley. Right now, we are actually scheduled sometime early in the new year to meet with the federal minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Please note that the Question Period is now over. My apologies. 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 Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 184 – 2(3): NLCA Annual Report 2001-04

Tabled Document 185 – 2(3): Ministerial Travel Expenses – Fiscal Year Ending 2005-06

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table two documents: the first one being an agreement, NLCA Annual Report 2001-04, and the other: Ministerial Travel Expenses for Fiscal Year ending 2005-06. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. Please bring the documents to the table. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 186 – 2(3): Let’s Listen to Kids! – Domestic Violence

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document a poster I referred to in my member’s statement. This prize winning poster is from the Kitikmeot Kids Speak and it’s entitled: Let’s Listen to Kids! Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Can the member please provide the tabled document to the Clerk’s table? Tabling of Documents. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Tabled Document 187 – 2(3): Piliriqatigiinnngniq – Working Together for the Common Good/Health Integration Project in Nunavut

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following documents: *Piliriqatigiinnngniq: Working Together for the Common Good/Health Integration Initiative Project in Nunavut* as per my Minister’s Statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Tabled Document 188 – 2(3): Food Mail Contract

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): I wish to table, from one of my constituents in Resolute Bay, a letter that was written by the federal government minister in regard to the new contract with the Food Mail Program and awarding the contract to First Air.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the Food Mail Program is to ensure that northerners receive nutritious foods at affordable prices. I encourage members of the public to make their views known on this important issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Please bring the documents to the Clerk’s table. Tabling of Documents. Minister Tapardjuk.

Tabled Document 189 – 2(3): FPT Sports and Physical Activity Report

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, the Federal/Provincial and Territorial Physical Activity report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

Tabled Document 190 – 2(3): Email from Michael Sanagan Dated September 19, 2002

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a document. It's a copy of an email between Norma Lafergy from KBDC and Michael Sanagan from Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and in it Mr. Speaker, it says, in part, that we should consider getting Solicitor McNiven to vet this file if no response to letter number two. Also we can consider the fact that he is a well paid GN employee and consequently set in motion the garnishee process and we can't afford to write off or ignore this one and in fact we should be very tough given the optics.

This is the disturbing part, Mr. Speaker; he could be one of the southern counter-balances to the file on...*indecipherable*.... I'd like to table that.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Please have that document brought forward please. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. My apologies. (interpretation) Thank you, we'll deal with it tomorrow.

(interpretation ends) Item 16. Motions. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request of consent of this Assembly to waive the two day notice requirement to allow first reading of Bill 28, *Deficit Reduction Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The minister is seeking consent to waive Rule 62 (1) so that Bill 28...sorry can we get clarification there...so that Bill 28 can have first reading today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You can proceed, minister.

Bill 28 – Deficit Reduction Act – First Reading

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 28, *Deficit Reduction Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 28 has had its first reading.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I seek consent from this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The minister is asking to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 29 can have its first reading. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Minister.

Bill 29 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – First Reading

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues. I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act* be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 29 has had first reading.

Item. 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for second reading of Bill 28, *Deficit Reduction Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The minister is seeking consent to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 28 can have second reading today. Are there any nays? There are nays so we can't proceed. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the one-day notice requirement to allow for second reading of Bill 29, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister is seeking consent to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 29 can have second reading today. Are there any nays? There are nays so you can't proceed.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Thank you. Item 19. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 23, 24, 25, and 26 with Mr. Arreak in the Chair.

(interpretation) Before we proceed, we'll have a 20-minute break. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:34 and Committee resumed at 16:06*

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 23, 24, 25, and 26. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We wish to continue with Bill 26 and the review of the Capital Estimates for Cultures, Language, Elders and Youth, followed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. If time permits, we will then proceed with the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Are we in agreement to continue with Capital Estimates for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 26 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2007-08 – Review in Committee – Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Tapardjuk, do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table? Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would escort the individuals, please.

Thank you. Welcome Mr. Minister and your officials. For the information of the House, would you please introduce your officials. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is David Akeegok who is the deputy minister, and on my right is David Kolot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Welcome. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have ten minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more

than once to a matter under discussion, but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

Members, are there any general comments? I suggest to members that whenever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome Mr. Minister, and his officials, and I would like to thank the minister's department in regard to the heritage centres. There are going to be small ones opening up in the smaller communities. I would like to thank the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for giving us the assistance when we were setting it up. I hope that they give their full support to the other communities.

For the information of the House, as we know there are not enough financial resources available. I keep referring to the elders' facilities. For example, they need a facility where they can congregate, where they can hold their meetings and where they can go where they can do counselling. When they're counselling, they are very helpful to their community.

The elders can be involved in the decision-making of this department. In the High Arctic communities, I would like to make sure that the elders are involved and fully participate when there are meetings.

I would like to urge the minister to make sure that the elders are involved when they're talking about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, and to have adequate financial resources. They are of great value to the community and they are a lot more knowledgeable and a lot wiser than us, the younger generation.

I just wanted to make those comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. General comments, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In general comments, again, I would like to make sure that in 1999 when the government departments were being established, this department was the first one to be established. We were told that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth at that time when Mr. Kattuk was the minister was set up on its own. It's a very important department.

The reason why that is the Inuit out there have respect for this department and he's very visible to the communities, much more so than the other departments, for example, the Department of Finance. This particular department is a lot more visible and also the Wildlife Department.

I'd like to touch on two issues and one respecting capital estimates. I used to ask the Department of Human Resources, and I'm not sure who the minister is, but I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

As a preamble: the information that goes to the community from the government departments costs a lot of money. If you want to advertise in the newspaper, for example, they advertise news releases, they advertise in the Nunatsiaq News. A long time ago I put an advertisement sending out Season's Greeting. Sometimes the government uses a whole page. And the people find it very hard to read those advertisements.

The volunteers who go to the local radio station usually bring their own music and we know that by going to www.qiniq.com we can download free music. Would this department be able to consider getting computers for the local radio stations?

The computers are not that expensive; we would probably spend \$26,000 to buy computers for each of the communities and they can download their own free music. I would like to have this considered the next time we are discussing Capital Estimates and the Appropriations Act.

The next one I wrote, the communities wrote a letter to Community and Government Services and other organizations about the elders and the youth and suicide prevention. They wanted to utilize the old nursing station in Pond Inlet and I would like to thank the Minister of Community and Government Services for responding to the hamlet. We were told that facility was surplus or the Department of Health responded saying that building was surplus and they were going to have discussions with the hamlet.

I would also like this to be considered by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth as of course it is going to cost money. If we give that responsibility of elders, youth and suicide prevention and it could be very well coordinated. I would like this to be considered by the Department of CLEY. We already have a facility and we'll have to plan properly and set it up so that the operations don't cost too much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome you because this department is very interesting and I am very glad that you're making an appearance in front of the committee.

We don't know if these monies are going to be enough, but we will find that out in the future. One thing I want to touch on is in regard to the Capital Estimates and that this would be a stepping stone for getting some of the programs going.

This department should be collecting history so that it can be used in the future. The Member for Kugluktuk had a concern about the unique lifestyle and culture over there. I think that there are four communities or more that have distinct cultures. There are the

inland people and the coastal people and there are people from the west and people from the east. They have different styles of living on the land, different dialects and different clothing and so on.

So I think that we should all agree to work together for the common good. We know that there is a merging of cultures in Nunavut, so your department will probably have to make a concrete decision on this.

The reason why I brought this up is that when we're going to be collecting that data and showing the differences in the regions and communities, there will be entities established to deal with those issues. And of course, we won't be able to cover every distinction as this entity will have to operate financially. It is going to be very expensive - there are transportation costs from different regions to different points.

We will also have to realize that this entity that I'm referring to will have to make sure that every different culture and language is represented fairly.

I wanted to make those comments. I think that we're just starting the planning to date. We have to have a longer plan. I wanted to make those comments, but I would like to welcome you for making an appearance and it's going to be an ongoing decision in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. We're dealing with the capital estimates. I will ring the bell as we don't have a quorum.

Thank you. We are dealing with the capital estimates. (interpretation ends) I have no more members on my list for general comments. We'll now proceed to the page-by-page review of the capital estimates starting with page F-6. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Detail of Capital. Directorate. Grants and Contributions. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I'll probably be the main person to speak to this issue. I do want to ask the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

A few days ago our Mayor of Arviat said that the youth centre would go ahead and that it would be constructed. They had been told that the youth centres would go ahead, and I don't see any funding geared towards the Keewatin region in Arviat, for the design or for the feasibility study. Where would the funding come from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's in here for 2007-08 line item. That \$987,000 would be included in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not quite understand how much money did he talk about, and where's the figure? How much is that figure? He stated the figure which is different from what I see in my documents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. We're on F-6. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, it states on the Museums, Heritage Centres, and Elders, 2007-08, \$987,000; it's all for Nunavut so that they could apply for funding. They would get funding from the \$987,000 for youth and elders' centres and for museums.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very pleased. If you could identify what kind of buildings...it seems like this amount of money is insufficient. Is this for the design or the planning stage of these centres because it goes to various communities? This \$987,000 is for the whole of Nunavut; how much money would be allotted to Arviat for the planning of the design? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, for Arviat, elders' and youth centres design and planning stage would be \$71,000 and that's what we have allotted for the planning stage for this fiscal year. The ones we had identified is for the next fiscal year, starting on April 1. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you. This is for the planning stage of the construction and I know that the construction won't go ahead. What's your target date for the completion of these centres? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, the communities apply for funding from this line item. Our policy states that for one project that they can go up to \$200,000, especially to renovate the old units. We are not talking about new construction of units, that's the responsibility of Community and Government Services.

The amount of funding on this line item...the communities have to make their applications. According to our policy the maximum we can contribute is \$200,000 under this line item. The communities would have to apply for funding from this line item. That's how it's set up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, he clearly understands that the units that need renovations sometimes disappear because they're so old, but we never really have anything for those renovations. I'm very pleased that they will be dealt with by the government, so therefore I have no further questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask this question, which my colleague had already asked, but I keep talking about the swimming pool that we need.

I remember correctly back in the 1980s when it was still Northwest Territories; there was a swimming pool in Repulse Bay and then they had to relocate the swimming pool. This was during the Northwest Territories days.

It has been a long time since they've been promising to allocate a swimming pool to our community. Every time there was funding for our swimming pool, it would be reallocated to a different program, and we've never seen that swimming pool materialize since the 1980s.

Ever since Nunavut was created, we still haven't seen any of those plans, but as you stated that you would have, you have this funding to renovate old units and your policy states that they can go up to \$200,000 per request.

My question is: if a project costs over \$200,000 and if this unit that we're renovating was incomplete, would we be able to apply for additional funding from this line item the next year? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$616,000 would be used for, like for example, what you just said: a swimming pool or arenas. The recreational arenas, recreational facilities project, we have the same policy whereby you can apply up to \$200,000.

Each application would be reviewed if it's going to cost over \$200,000, if you identify ahead of time that your project would go over \$200,000, but we do have the policy where it is capped up to \$200,000. If the project was incomplete in 2006-07 and on the next fiscal year for 2007-08, if you'd like to complete the renovation, I think you're asking if you can reapply for funding the next year because the funding you received was insufficient to complete the renovation of your unit.

So I think that was your question so perhaps I will have my officials reply. If there was a case like that, I would like our director to respond to that question.

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

Mr. Kolot: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Recreational Facilities Projects a community can apply in one fiscal year and the maximum is \$200,000, and should that project require funds in future years, you would have to apply for that in the future years. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to ask a question again, but you already responded to that question, so I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Partly to my general comments, although I seem to understand that when we, for suicide prevention groups and elders and youth centers, by using this \$200,000, would we be able to renovate the request of Pond Inlet? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, for capital estimates, elders and youth facilities, this funding line item for capital could be used if the elders and youth projects follow the criteria, and we can review them. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the government, it's evident that we have an old two-story nursing centre and I'm sure it would cost \$5 million, but if it's renovated by community it would probably cost along the line of \$200,000. Thank you, for giving me the information.

Also, perhaps I should elaborate further. The local radio stations in the communities where we release our information, they are using Inuit language; they use Inuktitut. That's the only place they teach Inuktitut. That's where they read the information. They talk about religious and spiritual groups. And, they provide hunting information, and they provide all the current news.

That's how the local radio station is used. Also, the Government of Nunavut uses that where they announce the information. They try to use \$6,000 per year. It doesn't sound very good to use the word bucks as a member of the legislature. It's even funny. It's such a small amount; perhaps if you can provide some assistance by providing computers, and other capital items.

I think a computer these days' costs about \$1,000. I'm not talking about highly sophisticated ones. I'm talking about a regular computer that is useful for Inuit. It seems like the funding is not planned quite for what Inuit would use.

I was wondering if there was any funding in the line item on Page F-6 that could be used for that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that page, under Community Heritage, there is some funding available that the radio stations can use. If they need to have renovations done to that radio station, they can apply for funding. And on top of that, it's not here, but I think we have about \$15,000 allotted for their operations and maintenance.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Yes, I know that, but I'm talking about capital money. Say, for instance, when the ministers are here in Iqaluit, do they sort of imagine what their community is like?

The radio station is being used for everything. If the Power Corporation or the schools are going to close down, or something is going to happen in the community, even if the CBC is on, if there is an emergency, then the local radio station is used constantly.

I would like to thank the minister that there is, under Community Heritage, Elders' and Youth Centers, the radio stations can request funding. Is that up to \$200,000 as well?

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is funding that could be requested by the community. You can request funding up to \$200,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lastly, under the same page, I think I understand what the minister says on the funding that you can request has a different amounts such as community, heritage and youth centres and recreational facility projects. I understand that anybody can request for some funding under the recreational facilities as well as community, heritage, elders and youth centres.

Under which line item would it be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we have done is we have in our policy we have the money available for communications and for local community radio stations whether it be community, heritage, elders and youth centres but not from the recreational facilities. Yes, there is funding available for community, heritage, elders and youth centres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): There are a lot of people out there who do volunteer work while the same people the majority of the time they request funding from your department and sometimes they don't have a form available to them. Would it be possible to have some forms - two different forms for requesting funding for these two line items. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can't remember when but I think it was yesterday I made a Ministers' Statement and said that there is a 1-800 number that you can phone to get blank forms because they have to use those forms to request some funding.

I know that the Members of the Legislative Assembly, ordinary Members all have computers and they can access the forms from the computer and they can also phone a 1-800 number. All those things are available. It doesn't matter which language you submit your application: Inuktitut, English and in French and Inuinnaqtun.

They are all available. You can use any language you want to fill out the forms when you are requesting funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Last one, Mr. Chairman. We wanted to have a Nunavut Government that understands the people out there and we wanted to have an Inuit organization that can work with the Government of Nunavut.

I don't know where we are losing it, but it seems like Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Nunavut Government are working separately. I think they were supposed to work together to do all those things to help the Inuit people.

I just wondered if Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is going to have funding available or whether Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has worked with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for the youth, elders' centres and recreational facilities and healthy communities; to work on those things together. They were going to have a contribution agreement. Have you had a talk with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on those? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't had any discussion with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated yet on whether they can put in some money too that the people can request.

I could say that we have worked with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in regard to the Heritage Centre, and we also talked with them with the planning of the Heritage Centre and the Cultural School, but we haven't seen any money coming out of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated although we talked with each other about the Heritage Centre, and others. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I won't be asking any more questions but I have a comment. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated should be working together. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's department is one of the bigger departments and more valuable to the people in the communities.

We're not really concerned about the people that can access other funding but we have to help the young people and the elders, more so than others. I think they should be informed that under the Land Claims Agreement that they should be helping out the people of the communities, not just the employees of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, or the Board Members of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

I think the public has to be given information that there is some funding that is available because they should be included because they signed the Land Claims Agreement as well.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We are under F-6. (interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Detail of Capital. Directorate. Grants and Contributions. Total Headquarters Region. \$1,655,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Grants and Contributions. \$1,655,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total Headquarters Region. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials to the House today. A question about the Nunavut Heritage Centre, there's \$1.5 million budgeted for CLEY, but can you give us an overall idea of what you expect the final cost to be for that heritage project, when it's finally up and operational? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes according to the last survey done the building would cost \$55 million to build, but for the operations and maintenance of that building when it's in use it would cost about \$5 million altogether for the operations and the maintenance. That would be in the area of \$60 million.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. So in view of what we've been hearing in the last few days about escalating capital costs for all projects it's quite conceivable that that \$55 million price tag could easily be \$75 or \$80 million before it's constructed.

Correct me if I'm wrong: we have \$10 million from the Northern Strategy Fund. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, that would be approximately that much. About \$10 million is coming from that Northern Strategy Fund. The \$10 million is allotted for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. So, is the minister able to tell us today where he anticipates getting the additional funds necessary? We could be talking \$50 to \$60 million over the next four to five years if the facility is constructed.

Do you have a third party source of funding that you're taking a look at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have people who work on that, and we have asked them to lobby other non-government affiliated groups.

Also, we have ongoing communication with the federal government, and since the new government, it has been delayed a bit, but we are kept up to date with the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated President to see in the near future, because under Article 33, we should have a heritage centre.

We're looking everywhere; businesses, government, the federal government, we have looked at all of those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I appreciate what the minister is saying. There are some real requirements here for such a facility, but I have to express my concern that in the budget tightening process that the Minister of Finance told us about last week and with the deficit situation that we're going to be facing in the years to come, it's going to be difficult.

We've heard from so many other departments already, particularly the Department of Community and Government Services yesterday, there is a desperate need for community halls, and hamlet offices, and municipal structures and facilities in the communities. There's just not enough money.

I'm a little concerned going forward that this project would take money away from those other vital facilities that each of our hamlets require. So I was interested in knowing if you had another source of funding; the federal government, or I guess private foundations, any of those sorts of organizations.

Another question related to this particular budget item, it ties in with the question I had with health facilities. Is there going to be a requirement for any additional housing in the City of Iqaluit to support the employees that will be required to work at this Nunavut Heritage Centre when it opens? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will let David Kolot respond to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kolot: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of the capital planning process, all government departments were required to identify incremental costs that would be related to operations and maintenance and to housing. On our capital substantiation sheet for the territorial Heritage Center with the amount of PYs identified we have an allocation for incremental housing of \$7 million in the first year of construction and then \$520,000 in the following years.

This was to ensure that all departments were adequately representing the housing requirements based on the construction of these facilities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister, and Mr. Kolot, for that information. Can you clarify how many housing units that \$7 million and that \$520,000 would represent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I'll let David Kolot respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kolot.

Mr. Kolot: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have identified 26 PYs or positions with the Heritage Center and the housing allocation per position is \$270,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Kolot for that information. So are you saying there's 26 houses, housing units required, is that what your \$270,000 per position represents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Kolot.

Mr. Kolot: The information presented, you're correct, 26 houses for the 26 staff, that's the maximum that we would expect to incur as a government. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Kolot, and the minister. One of the reasons I was concerned about this is, you know, we went through a similar exercise, not myself, but the Government of Nunavut at the time with these regional health facilities.

In Cambridge Bay, as I'm sure the minister's aware, he's heard my questions to the Minister of Housing, and the Minister of Health in the last few days, the Government of Nunavut planned a \$20 million facility and it's now constructed, and they knew it was five or six years ago, that they required 20 to 25 housing units.

As of today they're 20 to 25 housing units short. The facility is not fully operational, maybe 50 percent capacity. And the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation doesn't seem to be able to provide me with any confidence or any of my constituents, or even the government any confidence that the housing units will be available in the near term, or even the long-term to support that facility.

So if we're going to open up a \$55 million, or even an \$80 million facility, will we have the 20 to 25 housing units available? That might be a question I will have to ask the Minister for the Housing Corporation or maybe Mr. Cheree since he's in the House today, he can perhaps respond to this and tell us if the Nunavut Housing Corporation is currently in the planning process for 26 houses for this facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let my deputy respond.

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

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) This is something that we just included in the capital substantiation sheet that we do have to identify housing if we need it, if we're building a new centre in any of the places, we now have to identify whether we need the housing or not.

That's one of the things we're working on cooperatively through our capital planning books that we do identify housing. We don't just look at the centre alone; we have to look at the other outlying operations that are required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akeegok. We're on F-6. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Just to add on to what Mr. Peterson said, they're planning for a heritage centre and how many staff housing units they will need, and they will have to identify the need for housing. So they're not thinking about homeowners, that they will provide staff housing, is that how I understand it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): We are not responsible for it as Culture. What we're trying to say is; as a department, if they're going to build a heritage centre, then they will have to consider providing housing for those positions, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, minister. (interpretation ends) Tangible Assets. Total Headquarters Region. \$6,640,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Tangible Assets. \$6,640,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go back to F-4. (interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$8,295,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Thank you, Minister, Mr. Kolot, and Mr. Akeegok. Mr. Minister, if you have any closing remarks. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once this is approved, then we will be planning accordingly, and we will keep you updated on our progress. I would like to thank my colleagues for agreeing with this so that we could go ahead in 2007-08. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask Minister Akesuk for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to make his opening remarks. Minister Akesuk.

Bill 26 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2007-08 – Review in Committee – Nunavut Housing Corporation

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The corporation's capital plan for 2007-08 has an appropriation of \$15,583,000 and additional core funding of \$4,290,000 from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for a total capital budget of \$20,273,000.

(interpretation ends) The Housing Corporation has increased the funding to local housing organizations for modernization and improvement by nine percent over the next year. Over one-quarter of our housing stock is over 25 years old and is in need of repairs.

The 10-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan identified 1,000 public housing units in need of major repair, upgrade or replacement. This increase in the M&I Program will assist in upgrading our older housing units.

We have introduced warehouse acquisition funding to assist local housing organizations to meet the critical need for storage and adequate facilities necessary to maintain our Public Housing portfolio. We have also maintained the Fire Damage Fund and the Mobile Equipment Fund at the same levels as last year.

The corporation has responded to requests from seniors and disabled homeowners and is maintaining its Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program at last year's levels to ensure that these clients will have the necessary preventative maintenance tasks performed on their homes. We are funding the 2007-08 Homeownership Programs at sustainable levels.

In order to support our *Pinasuaqtavut* commitments to recruit and staff essential positions in all communities, including the smaller non-decentralized communities, the corporation will be building staff housing units in Repulse Bay, three units, Kugaaruk, two units,

Kimmirut, two units, and Resolute Bay two units, in 2007-08. Nunavut Housing Corporation is also renovating older staff housing units in smaller communities.

We were very pleased when the federal government announced that Nunavut would receive \$200 million under the Northern Housing Trust. Funding from this trust has been received but does not show in the capital estimates.

Nunavut Housing Corporation was authorized to purchase materials for this year's sealift from the Nunavut Housing Trust, and most of the construction will start in the spring of 2007.

The Financial Management Board has recently approved the delivery strategy, including the unit allocations for the housing trust. As the Nunavut Housing Corporation requires funding to implement the delivery strategy, they will be requesting necessary funding from the Financial Management Board.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today. I look forward to a meaningful discussion and we will be pleased to hear comments and to answer any questions you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Yes, I do.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would escort the witnesses, please.

Thank you. For the record, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my immediate right is the President of Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Peter Scott, and to my left is the Executive Director of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer, Eric Whitworth, and also, sitting over on our right in the Gallery is Vice-President, Mr. Abraham Tagalik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the House, Mr. President, and Mr. Vice-President. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As co-chair of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Housing I am pleased to be able to provide opening comments as we begin the review of the 2007-08 capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The standing committee had the opportunity to meet with the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation in September to review the draft 2007-08 Capital Estimates.

Members were pleased to hear the Government of Nunavut's commitment in the Minister of Finance's economic statement on Tuesday, to ensure that capital projects include a complete and accurate forecast of the cost of associated incremental housing. Members have previously raised concern that the cost of providing incremental staff housing can impact on the corporation's ability to provide new public housing units.

Members believe that the corporation's capital operations and maintenance budget should increase when new staff housing is required by other departments to ensure that the provision of public housing is not negatively impacted.

Members were pleased with the recent announcement that the 725 new public units were scheduled for construction across Nunavut under the Nunavut Housing Trust. However members recognize that the increased number of new units will dramatically increase the cost of ongoing operations and maintenance.

Members applaud the corporation's efforts to obtain federal funding to construct new units. They recognize that 725 new units will not fully address Nunavut's needs.

Members look forward to a report from the minister on the success of the Material Assistance Program that was launched in 2006-07. Members noted that there is no Government of Nunavut funding allocated to this program in 2007-08, but we understand that the program will benefit from funding under the Nunavut Housing Trust.

Members are concerned that people who qualify for funding in the homeownership programs do not always receive the support that they need to purchase the necessary materials for repairs and that the necessary repairs may not be made in a timely fashion. Members encourage the minister to review the current practices with respect to the Homeownership Repair programs to increase their efficiency.

Members believe that the impact of the Government of Nunavut's new staff housing policy on the Government's recruitment and retention efforts needs to be thoroughly tracked and evaluated. Members have heard anecdotal evidence regarding front line employees leaving their positions due to the increasing housing costs. Members encourage the minister to report to the House next year on this issue.

That concludes my comments on the 2007-08 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Individual members may wish to raise questions, or make comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Before we proceed I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have ten minutes to speak and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more

than once to a matter under discussion, but not until every member has spoken. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of housing is very, very important and I don't want to deal with it when I'm tired. I think it would be better that we'll have a more productive debate when we're not tired any more. So I would like to report progress.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Are you making a motion? Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour. There were six yeas. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Minister and your officials.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Arreak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Netser. Thank you. The motion is in 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 to all members of the meeting of the Full Caucus tomorrow morning at 9:00 at the Nanuk Room.

Orders of the Day for November 30, 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
 - Bill 28
 - Bill 29
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 23
 - Bill 24
 - Bill 25
 - Bill 26
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The House stands recessed until tomorrow, Thursday, November 30, we'll start at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:20*

