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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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Hon. Louis Tapardjuk
(Amittuq)
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Hon. Levinia Brown
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, November 30, 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 Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask that Ms. Brown say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier, Ministers, Members, and guests. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 141 – 2(3): Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce that the Nunavik Land Claims Agreement was initialled on November 15, 2006. This agreement is the final Inuit land claims agreement in Canada and completes the process that Nunavik Inuit began in 1975, when they concluded the James Bay and northern Quebec Agreements.

This agreement will give the Nunavik Inuit a capital transfer of \$86 million and defined benefits and land ownership within their traditional settlement area in Nunavik. The agreement has been ratified by the Inuit of Nunavik through a referendum vote that was held this past October. The result was 78 percent of the eligible voters were in favour of the agreement.

The Government of Nunavut and Canada will now ratify the agreement. The official signing of the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement will take place in Kuujjuaq on December 1, with all the appropriate parties present. I will be signing the agreement on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, and attending the signing ceremonies on December 1 in Kuujjuaq, Nunavik.

This will be the first time the Government of Nunavut will be a signatory to a Land Claims Agreement. The Government of Nunavut will be taking an active role in the Nunavik Marine Region once this agreement is ratified.

It will have representatives on the three co-management boards established by the claim and the Government of Nunavut will also have a member on the Nunavik Implementation Panel.

The Government of Nunavut congratulates Nunavimmiut on their new agreement and looks forward to working with Nunavik Inuit and the Government of Canada to implement the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Ministers' Statements. Minister Simailak.

Minister's Statement 142 – 2(3): Update on the Crown Agency Council

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to bring members of the Assembly up-to-date on some of the activities that the Crown Agency Council is currently engaged in to assist our public agencies.

Later today I will table the activities report of the Crown Agency Council to the end of March 2006, and the territorial corporation letters of expectation for fiscal 2006-07. Before the end of this Session I will also be tabling the responses to these letters of expectation from our territorial corporations.

We have refreshed the mandate of the Crown Agency Council and are taking proactive, cooperative approach to matters of particular concern to our public agencies. Over the last few months, we have actively engaged our public agencies in a dialogue on several aspects of common interest.

We will continue that dialogue in a spirit of increased multilateral communication, cooperation and mutual respect and assistance as we continue to do our best to assist in ensuring the financial and corporate health of our public agencies.

Mr. Speaker, while doing this, we are providing to this House and all Nunavummiut a level of accountability and transparency from Nunavut public agencies that is required and, indeed, deserved.

Some of the initiatives we are pursuing include:

- Including the budgets of public agencies in a special appendix in 2007-08 main estimates;
- Including the corporate plans of territorial corporations in a volume to be tabled at the same time as the Government of Nunavut departmental business plans are tabled;

- A dialogue on Government of Nunavut policies that apply to public agencies and how they may be implemented, coordination of and assistance with territorial corporation year-end planning for the fiscal year 2006-07. This is with the objective of tabling their annual reports within legislative requirements;
- Assistance to territorial corporations regarding the implementation of any new accounting standards that may be required;
- Ongoing research with respect to governance models, including providing information, as well as pursuing a basic governance model that could be used by our public agencies
- In the longer-term, investigating the enabling legislation of public agencies and providing suggestions for improvement as necessary;
- Ongoing liaison and assistance between public agencies and the Government of Nunavut as required.

Mr. Speaker, I will table this document, the Crown Agency Council's Activity Report and will assure you that the Crown Agency Council is actively working to help coordinate the activities of the corporations and agencies within our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 143 – 2(3): Update on Territorial Parks

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our territorial parks have been established throughout Nunavut for various purposes such as community camping and recreational areas, to protect important cultural, archaeological, and natural areas and as important tourism destinations that help support local economies. It is important our parks not only meet the needs of visitors, but also for the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in 2006:

- We developed new emergency shelters in Katannilik Park near Kimmirut and the Kekerten Park in Pangnirtung for visitor safety needs.
- We also built new outhouses and other facilities for Kugluktuk Bloody Falls Territorial Park near Kugluktuk; and
- We rebuilt campgrounds in Pond Inlet and Resolute Bay.

These projects are in addition to park facilities recently constructed in Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga (Rankin Inlet), a boathouse in Katannilik Park (Kimmirut) for visitor safety and emergency response; and campground restoration projects in Pangnirtung and Kimmirut.

Mr. Speaker, in order for Nunavummiut and visitors to know why these places are special to us, we built interpretive signs and trails at Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park in Iqaluit that describe our ancestors' use of this area and wildlife, bird life and vegetation.

Over the next year, we will be installing new signs and trails in Ovayok Territorial Park in Cambridge Bay that describe the legend of Ovayok; and in Iqalugaarjuup Nunanga Territorial Park in Rankin Inlet to take visitors back in time to see how our ancestors lived more than 4,000 years ago.

In Gjoa Haven, we will be replacing the signs that describe the search for the Northwest Passage. We are also working closely with Nunavummiut to identify and develop new parks and special places in areas such as Clyde River and Kugaaruk.

Mr. Speaker, it is the government's goal to ensure our residents, their children, and grandchildren can continue to experience the land as our ancestors did many years ago.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 144 – 2(3): Fire Fighters Competition

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the members of the House of the achievements of our firefighters at the National Aboriginal Firefighters competition.

Mr. Speaker, firefighters from across Nunavut came to Rankin Inlet to compete against each other for the right to go to the National Aboriginal Firefighters Competition in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

This is the very first time that firefighters across Nunavut came together to train and compete against other teams at a national level. Mr. Speaker, four teams were established with representation from all three regions on each team.

For three days they practised firefighting evolutions, and on the fourth day an actual competition between the four teams was run, and the team with the best score was chosen to represent Nunavut in Prince Albert.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut team consisted of Adamie Nuna from Cape Dorset, Junior Tiktak from Rankin Inlet, Patrick Lyall of Taloyoak, Bobby Kakolak of Kugluktuk, Luutaaq Qaumagiaq from Cape Dorset and Sam Amarudjauk of Rankin Inlet. The team was coached by Specialist Fire Training Officer Jim Fairbank.

Mr. Speaker, our team placed fifth in the National competition and received unanimous support from their firefighter peers as the team displaying the most sportsmanlike attitude. They were awarded the 2006 Team Sportsman Award as a result.

Mr. Speaker, through the efforts of the Office of the Fire Marshal and the Municipal Training Organization we can see that our volunteer firefighters are achieving a national level of competence. I wish to congratulate all the members of the Nunavut team on their outstanding accomplishment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. And we also wish to congratulate those firefighters. Ministers' Statements. Minister Picco.

Minister's Statement 145 – 2(3): Tabling of Nunavut Arctic College Graduate Survey

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later today I will table the Graduate Survey of Nunavut Arctic College. This survey was completed earlier this year by the Academic Affairs division of the college and is one of the most comprehensive surveys completed to date. It was geared towards the students who graduated in 2005.

Mr. Speaker, the Graduate Survey is an important tool in that it helps the college gather important information to develop and improve plans for the delivery of programs and services.

Some of the highlights of this year's survey include:

- 95 percent of Nunavut Arctic College graduates were satisfied with their program
- there was a high level of satisfaction with the quality of teacher instruction
- 97 percent of respondents would recommend Nunavut Arctic College to others
- 75 percent of graduates surveyed were employed at the time of being surveyed

Mr. Speaker, I think results such as this provide a strong indication that Nunavut Arctic College is providing programs that are relevant and preparing our students for a variety of employment opportunities in Nunavut and abroad. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Tununig, Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 337 – 2(3): Raising National Awareness of the Health Status of Inuit

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge the important role played by our national organization representing Inuit across Canada. The Inuit Tapariit Kanatami in raising awareness of critical health issues facing Inuit in Canada.

Mr. Speaker earlier this week the Aboriginal Health Summit was held in Vancouver BC. The Inuit delegation was led by Inuit Tapariit Kanatami President Mary Simon who spoke very eloquently of the need to establish a focal point within Health Canada to address Inuit-specific needs.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Uqqurmiut spoke yesterday about the number of lifestyle and social issues facing our communities, families, youth, and elders. These issues have a devastating impact on the health of Nunavummiut. A report published by our own Department of Health and Social Services, as well as by Health Canada supports this observation.

Nunavummiut have a life expectancy that is ten years less than that of average Canadians. These statistics are partly due to an unacceptably high rate of suicides. Four times as many Nunavummiut dies from lung cancer as compared to the rest of Canada. Dental health, mental illness, diabetes, and tuberculosis are critical health issues for our population.

The Inuit delegation at the Aboriginal Health Summit called on our federal counterparts to support programs that will address national issues, such as wait times and pandemic preparedness, while focusing on the unique aspects of delivering health services in the remote northern regions such as Nunavut.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the efforts of this group of individuals for raising these issues on a national stage.

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

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 338 – 2(3): Replacement of Hearing Aids

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about a concern in Arviat, and probably in all of Nunavut. We have people out there who are hard of hearing and they require hearing aids, which are run with batteries.

A lot of those people need their hearing aids repaired and they usually can't get the service up here. Even young children need hearing aids and there are a lot of the elders also.

There was one individual that I saw in Arviat who took an empty paper towel roll and used it so that he could hear what the other person is saying. Those people have a handicap that I think that they would agree with me and understand where I'm coming

from that when your body is malfunctioning in one form or another; it's very hard to be able to be independent.

I have been told by more than one person in my community that when they lose their hearing aids, or if their hearing aids are broken, they can't get them replaced. I think all hearing aids are basically the same and they're purchased by the government through Non-insured Health Benefits. You have to have owned them for a number of years before you can get a replacement.

I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statements.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking for unanimous consent to conclude his statements. There are no nays. Go ahead, Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, very much. I might not have a lot of hair, but I hear that I can get my hair replaced, or get a transplant.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge the government to look at the Non-Insured Health Benefits and see if they can get replacements at an earlier time. I would like the government to look at their policies as soon as possible so that those health benefits can be accessed by the people who need them.

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

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Members' Statements. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 339 – 2(3): Resolute Bay IBM Computer Camp

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to talk about the computer camp held just last month in Resolute Bay. The camp was sponsored by IBM Canada was started to encourage young women and Inuit to pursue careers in technology.

For three days Qarmartalik School was the focus of many hands-on activities that stimulated children's minds, while they were having a great time. Students played technology trivia games and stripped down the old computers and rebuilt them after being taught about what all of the components were used for.

Mr. Speaker, students have learned how to create web pages that showed how they live by using pictures they brought from home. As part of this camp, the best web pages were shared with the students from Humberwood Downs in Toronto via video conference. Furthermore, students also explored the use of robotics by creating computer-controlled vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, I think you and I agree that these kinds of initiatives enrich our students' learning opportunities.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the sponsors of this camp, IBM Canada, the Qiniq Network, the Qikiqtani School Operations, in addition to Qarmartalik School. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 340 – 2(3): Armed Forces Training Centre for Cambridge Bay

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to alert the House about an issue of great concern to my constituents in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, during his national 'Stand Up for Canada' election campaign, Prime Minister Stephen Harper delivered a speech on December 22, 2005 in which he promised that, "We will establish a new arctic army training centre with around of 100 regular force personnel in the area of Cambridge Bay on the Northwest Passage."

Mr. Speaker, Cambridge Bay was very proud that a national leader recognizes the strategic value that the West Kitikmeot could make to Canada's arctic sovereignty claims and to Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we since learned that the federal government is having second thoughts about Cambridge Bay in the location of the armed forces training centre.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government apparently believes that we are not a suitable choice as part of a strategic location on the Northwest Passage, despite our 60-year association with the Canadian and U.S. military since the second World War, despite our existing north warning system infrastructure, despite our north/south/east/west transportation infrastructure, despite our community infrastructure, and despite our Canadian Rangers annual training exercise with the military.

Mr. Speaker, this does not make any sense at all. The mayor and I have written a number of letters to the Minister of National Defence and the Prime Minister of Canada and expressed our deep concern over their apparent change of mind.

As you can appreciate, when a national leader makes a promise to do something and then becomes the Prime Minister of Canada, we should be forgiven for believing that it's important that he deliver on that promise.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Premier has spoken to the National Defence Minister O'Connor about this situation and reminded him about the promise he made to Cambridge Bay. I urge him to also take up this issue with the Prime Minister of Canada as well.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the House to support Cambridge Bay to be selected by the federal government as its location for the armed forces training centre in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 341 – 2(3): Reinstating Arctic Weather Forecasting Station in Iqaluit

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to talk about the situation in regard to the federal government and commitments being made and commitments being kept.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to update the House on the status of my on-going request to Environment Canada put the Arctic weather forecasting centre back here in the Arctic and not in Edmonton, Alberta 2,000 miles away.

It was good news for Newfoundland when Gander weather office was re-opened because they said at that time that Halifax 450 miles away was too far away to be able to accurately forecast weather for a maritime province. In our case the weather forecasting centre is more than 2,000 miles away.

Mr. Speaker, I have written the Minister responsible, the Honourable Rona Ambrose and I've also written the Prime Minister and I've had correspondence back from both.

I've also met with Minister Ambrose during an Energy Ministers meeting in Saskatchewan and broached the subject with her. In the meantime I have again reiterated our concerns in a follow-up letter in the last two weeks with the Prime Minister about our serious concern with the quality, the accuracy and the safety concerns of weather forecasting and I want to give you an example of what has happened in the past month.

Mr. Speaker, this past month over a period of three days we had weather warnings, blizzard warnings, strong winds advisories - all were issued. Luckily the advisories were all wrong; the wind topped out at 52 kilometres an hour - a far cry from the forecasted 80 kilometres plus.

Actually in one forecast, on one given day they were talking about 90-110 kilometre an hour winds.

Mr. Speaker, reliable weather forecasts are essential and here in the Arctic it is a necessity. Our federal government has heard this concern and we wait for a positive response in the new year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 342 – 2(3): Taloyoak Youth Soccer Team

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to congratulate the Taloyoak youth soccer players.

Taloyoak youth won the gold, silver and the bronze in the recent competition in the Kitikmeot.

I want to congratulate the students and I want to identify the individuals. The Under 18 Boys who won the gold congratulations goes out to Simon Tologialik, Dennis Lyall, Peter Aqqaq, Peter Totalik, Ernie Lyall and DJ Niviaqsiq, Sam Alookie, Mathew Uttaq and Freddie Manilaq.

The Under 18 Girls that won the bronze are: Delphine Peetooloot, Lindsay Anaija, Ashley Totalik, Margaret Niviaqsiq, Vanisa Totalik, Niomie Alookie, Francis Alookie, Christina Mannilaq and Coach Gina Pizzo Lyall.

And finally the Under 14 Girls that won the silver. I'd also like to congratulate: Patricia Lyall, Sandra Aqqaq, Daisy Qamukkaq, Mary Anne Qayutinuak, Cindy Aijaut, Tommy Aqqaq and Annette Jayko, and Vanelda Eetoolook.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to wish the Taloyoak hockey players that are going down to Hay River this weekend good luck in their tournament. Best wishes also go out to Sam Alookie, Ernie Lyall, Peter Aqqaq and Anthony Paniloo and DJ Niviaqsiq and Simon Tologialik and their coach from Cambridge Bay, Dave Smith.

And I also thank Dave Smith from Cambridge Bay for providing assistance to the youth of Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 343 – 2(3): Sunken Boat Near Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Sanikiluaq have a concern in regard to the environment. We have just heard recently that the motion; a

transport went in the water in the James Bay area. James Bay is very close to Sanikiluaq and there's a current going by our island.

At the appropriate time I will be directing this question to the Minister of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Speaker (interpretation): Before we begin on behalf of the Members I would like to recognize the individuals in the House. Once I say your name please rise. I would like to welcome Pat McDermott. Pat McDermott's grade nine class: Patrick Awa, Marlene Idlout, Elisa Ipeelie, Danny Ishulutak, Joshua Kilabuk, Linda Korgak, Simon Kullualik. Judy Laisa, James Nashook, Marion Ningeok, Cindy Peter, Minnie Sageatook, Margaret Sikkinerk, Paul Unhah, and Kevin Unuiqsaraq. I would like to welcome you to the Gallery.

>>Applause

I apologize if I missed your name. Thank you.

I would also like to welcome Kelly Lybeth, the teacher, Ms. Arlooktoo, Charlie Awa, Hannis Braun, Joseph Dialla, Jackie Eegeesiak, Aluki Itorcheak, Isaiah Kalluk, Imo Natsiapik, Davidee Nauyuk, Simeonie Philip, Chico Kaunak, Todd Ryan, and Grace Tatty. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge individuals from my home community in my riding, along with Mr. Curley's riding. Joe Kaludjak, his Inuk name is *Tiriganiaq*, he's very well-known because he had many relatives. His late mother, *Ikualaaq* was very well-known because she had many sons. I grew up with their family and also *Tiriganiaq*, is the name of my father-in-law.

One of my grandchildren's names is *Tiriganiaq*, so there are three *Tiriganiaqs* now. So I would like to welcome you *Tiriganiaq*, because it is a great name.

Also, the one sitting beside him, Luis Manzo from Rankin Inlet. Welcome. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Legislature. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to welcome the students to the Gallery. I believe they have an opportunity to see what happens in the House as opposed to when they see it on TV.

At this time I would like to welcome to the Gallery two distinguished gentlemen. First in the Gallery is the President of Nunavut Arctic College, Mac Clendenning, and most members know Mr. Clendenning.

Next to Mac is probably one of the most famous marine biologists, the person involved in the Marine Institute, internationally recognized scientist and having him here working with the college brings great accolades to the college, Mr. Gerald Anderson. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. We acknowledge each and every one of the people who are in here, and even to the people who we didn't mention. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 389 – 2(3): Implementation of Medical Client Travel Policy

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

For some time my colleagues and I have been raising concerns about the implementation of the department's medical client policy, travel policy. At one point a commitment was made to carry out a public information campaign on what the policy covered. Since then the minister has indicated the medical client travel policy was being reviewed.

Can the minister provide an update on the current status of the medical client travel policy, and when members will receive a copy of the review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the member is correct, I had made a commitment to do an information session related to the client travel policy, and I had made that commitment over the summer months. During the summer, I was also asked by

this House to review whether, in fact, we can include seniors in the policy with the age of 55 or 60 for an automatic escort.

I have had to come back to the department to review that direction from this House in addition to developing the client travel policy so that delayed our completing the plan as is. We have a draft in place which I still have to go forward to cabinet and Financial Management Board approval and we have done some research around the review that I was asked to do. That information has to go to Financial Management Board before I am able to go forward in developing the revised client travel policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once this policy is completed on medical travel, when the new version of medical client travel policy is finished, will the minister commit to undertaking a public information campaign to ensure that Nunavummiut are aware of their rights and responsibilities under the policy? Will the minister commit to have a public information campaign? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will share the information with all the members as well as Nunavummiut and do a promotion on it. We have had to do a lot of research just to consult with our stakeholders and our staff throughout the regions in developing this. It has been a slow process and we are trying to move forward on it.

I was hoping that it would be done before session and for a number of reasons there was a delay. We do have a draft and, again, once it's done I will provide that but please keep in mind the current policy as it is right now is there in place and that is still being used. What we're looking at is trying to further clarify that policy so people are better informed as to what that guideline and policy means. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister know how soon this will be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can only say within the next few months. I've said that this summer as well, and we've had to go back and review further recommendations from members. So as soon as the information is done, I will share it with the members and communicate that revised policy.

I said earlier, I still have to go back to Cabinet, as well as Financial Management Board on that file. So once we've done our review on it, it will go forward, and once a decision has been made on that policy, I will share it with the members as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past, the minister and her officials have discussed the establishment of a client service coordinator position, whose duties would include addressing these kinds of issues. Has this position been established, and if so, has it been filled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if the position is filled at the moment, but perhaps an explanation in terms of how the policy's implemented: at the community level when a nurse decides a person has to travel, that person makes that decision to send the patient out of the community at which time, the regional travel coordinator makes the travel arrangements for this person and for the escort as well.

We have an appeals coordinator that's located in Arviat for any decision around escorts where a person can appeal a decision of the nurse in charge at the community level.

So we have those positions in place. In terms of the position that you are referring to, I don't know if, at this point in time, that position has been filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 390 – 2(3): Satellite Campus for Cultural School in Kugluktuk

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Two days ago I tabled a letter from the Mayor of Kugluktuk. The mayor expressed the community's strong wish to see the third satellite campus of the Piqqusilirivik School be established in Kugluktuk. This would benefit and preserve the endangered and distinct culture and language in the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is this: will he ask his department to consider establishing the third satellite campus in Kugluktuk to serve the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After reading the letter...there is a working group that is reviewing all of the Inuktitut programming that will be in the Clyde River satellite campus, as well as in Igloolik and Baker Lake.

The working group consists of our department, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Department of Education. They are reviewing all of the programs. Perhaps our report would come out in January stating what kind of Inuktitut programs would be taught for the Kitikmeot. We're also going to hold a meeting in Cambridge Bay on December 5 with an invitation to Kugaaruk on how we can best address the Kitikmeot concerns.

I can state now that the three satellite campuses, we don't have any plans to make additional satellite campuses until we receive the report. After we receive the report we will make a decision what we are going to do with the Inuktitut programming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And also thank you, Mr. Minister. Can the minister tell me today how exactly Piqqusilirivik will include programs to preserve and enhance the Inuinnaqtut language and our distinct culture? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have considered all of those. There's going to be a language policy that is being drafted right now. They're asking the public to find out from them what it will consist of in that Inuktitut language and who will be the instructors. That's what we're planning right now and we have considered it.

I also said that the people that are in the committee to deal with the Cultural School will be writing down all the language instruction books in Inuktitut, as well as Inuinnaqtut. When that information comes about then I'll be giving the information to the members. Thank you.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again, minister. If the committee is discussing to put up a satellite campus in Kugluktuk, can the minister commit to ensure that Piqqusilirivik will include language and cultural instructors who speak Inuinnaqtut and are from the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to let you know that there would be a school in Kugluktuk, but like I said, the committee that is looking into the cultural school to what kinds of stuff they're going to be doing in Clyde River and they're looking at things that will be done in the Kitikmeot region. I am awaiting the reply from the committee that will have to go through the Executive Committee first before it is brought into the House.

I feel that the committee will be looking into everything and we will be including the people who speak Inuinnaqtut, but I'm not saying that there's going to be a school in Kugluktuk. Thank you.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again, minister. If this committee had completed their report, can the minister ensure the committee send their report also to the Mayor of Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, to that. I can say yes to send it to the Mayor, but after it's been reviewed by the Executive Committee.

But for the people of Kitikmeot, I would like to say that Kitikmeot people will be included because we wrote a letter to the youth council and the elders' council to ask them for their opinion on what they would like to see. I have not heard from them up to today.

So after it's been brought to the executive council, that report, then we will be able to send it out to the mayor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 391 – 2(3): Allocation of Police Services in the Territory

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, the community of Arctic Bay has been very pleased with the service of the two RCMP officers in the community. However, the hamlet has expressed some concerns about night time problems such as vandalism and joyriding.

Last year, during the review of the 2006-07 main estimates, this house approved over \$21 million under the Territorial Policing Agreement for the provision of RCMP services. Can the minister clarify for this House how his department works with the RCMP in allocation of policing services and resources to each community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that under the agreement, each and every community has at least two officers regardless of size so that's one requirement that we follow for safety reasons and depending, if there are larger communities that require additional officers that's another criteria that we use with the RCMP.

So right now we have a pretty good complement of officers, but as I said in the past they're looking for more Inuit officers in the RCMP and I look forward to working with the RCMP making sure that we get more officers and do a recruitment drive to recruit more Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Hamlet of Arctic Bay has requested night time patrols in the community to reduce the amount of night time activity. Can the minister clarify for this House how additional services such as night time patrols are taken into consideration during the negotiation of the territorial policing contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the police are available 24/7 depending on emergencies, and that they're always available in the event of urgent situations.

I will pass this request on to see what they can do in the given community but I think we also have to take initiative as citizens when we realize that there's violence being committed it's also a civic duty to report those situations, so I urge that residents everywhere in Nunavut do the same, and do their part in assisting the RCMP in reducing crime throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They always have to phone Iqaluit when there's crime being committed in the communities, and they are unilingual. (interpretation ends) Will the Minister of Justice commit to speaking to his counterparts in the RCMP presenting a case in support of establishing night time patrols in Arctic Bay, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I know that the telephone system for the RCMP is a concern to all the members and I would urge the members to go and see the telephone system that we use at the RCMP here in Iqaluit. I would also like to say that the mayors were here and they went and took a look at the telephone system and they were a lot more comfortable.

We are always looking for Inuktitut-speaking operators to man those RCMP telephones. I would like to get some assistance from the members if they can help me to find people to man those RCMP telephones.

(interpretation ends) On the issue of making sure that there are no night time patrols, I'll make sure that's communicated to the local detachment, but there are also initiatives in place that citizens can do; something that my colleague for Iqaluit East has impressed upon his electorate to set up a neighbourhood watch, so that's something that can be examined as well.

They're not just trying to find ways to make the police work more, but also taking the initiative to reduce crime in their neighbourhoods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 392 – 2(3): KBDC Process to Resolve Legal Issues

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Economic Development. I am sure the minister is well aware now, the document that I tabled yesterday that was obtained through an access to information request.

In that document, I'm sure that the minister is aware of now that this is a case that has been going on for about seven years and it ended in the personal bankruptcy of the individuals involved. His predecessor and he have indicated here in the House that other alternatives are usually tried to be found in order to resolve issues like that before legal action is taken on individuals.

I'm just wondering if the minister could inform us or me if he is aware of why different alternatives, I understand early in 1999 there were initiatives or offers to resolve which would have resolved the situation, if he is aware of why they were not accepted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) These were done by KBDC, but I'm not really sure what the letter consists of. So I will get my staff to get some information from KBDC as to what the progress they had made. My staff is working with KBDC to find out exactly what was happening at that time about that case.

I will commit to letting the member know as soon as my staff have done their work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, according with this file, as I said, it has been a long arduous, painful experience for the individuals involved; the end result could potentially put a family of five out on the street.

Mr. Speaker, again last March I asked the minister if, at some point, they look at whether the legal fees that they're spending on pursuing a case is something that's taken into consideration.

My question to the minister, and he had indicated that KBDC was the only group involved in here and my question to him is: is he aware that Nunavut Business Credit Corporation spent over \$112,000 in legal fees on this case in which I think the final outcome, was they were on hook for \$5,500 that was being paid down. Also, is he aware that the KDBC spent close to a quarter of a million dollars in legal fees to push these individuals into bankruptcy for a \$90,000 debt? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the figure for the money that has been spent up to date because at this time it is still being worked on by our staff and he indicated that and there is still quite of work to do. Once I get more information, because my staff is presently working on this, I will let the member know once I get all the figures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again last March I questioned the Minister responsible about if they were informed if legal action was going to be taken and he indicated that these organizations use the lawyers from the Department of Justice. I was wondering if he was notified if and when legal action was taken in this case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, probably a lot of clients have gotten loans, but at this time I am not too sure. Like I stated earlier once I get all the information, because it is still being worked on, I will let the member know to see what has happened. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I am a little puzzled. I know that I formally informed the minister responsible a number of months ago about this particular case and the fact that there is still no information there; that is a little concerning. But my final supplementary is: when was the minister first aware of this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that was done after I talked to the member because I have to work with KDBC. Once we get all this information, then we'll be able to...like when I first found out about it, it was the time that I talked with him this year. Not too many months ago, that was the first time I heard about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Oral Questions. Member for Tununiq, Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 393 – 2(3): Delegation to Aboriginal Health Summit

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Earlier today I spoke in recognition of efforts made by the Inuit delegation at the Aboriginal Health Summit held earlier this week in Vancouver.

The delegation was led by ITK President Mary Simon and included representatives from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Health and Social Services, Nunatsiavut Health and Social Services and an Inuvialuit health advisor.

Can the minister indicate to this House whether there were also representatives from the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut's Department of Health and Social Services in this important summit and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two individuals from the Department of Executive went down to the summit and I had asked someone from my department to also attend that conference.

I'm not aware whether that person went or not, so I don't know if there was an actual person present at that conference, but I did direct the deputy to send a person from Health and Social Services to the summit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mary Simon and other Inuit leaders are calling for the creation of the Inuit Health Directorate within Health Canada. Yesterday the minister spoke of the Health Integration Initiative, which has the goal of improving the health status of Inuit in Nunavut.

Can the minister confirm whether this Initiative will involve other Inuit populations across Canada? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in October, when Mary Simon was first elected to her new job, I had the opportunity to meet with Mary Simon to discuss some of the common interests and initiatives that we're working on for Inuit of Canada. In Nunavut, 85 percent of the population is Inuit.

So I did meet with Mary and had planned to go to the Health Summit in Vancouver with her, but session was sitting, so I was not able to go with her to the conference. We discussed many issues around common concerns, particularly around initiatives to develop programs in the communities in Keeping People Healthy, which is part of this report that I tabled yesterday.

So we are trying to work together with the Inuit Organizations. One of the other things that we discussed as well was related to *Pauktuutit*. *Pauktuutit* represent the Inuit women of Canada. The concern that I had shared with Mary Simon at the time was that *Pauktuutit* was distancing itself from ITK, and leaning towards representing Inuit women of Canada separate from ITK, which is a concern to me, because again, we represent Inuit women of Nunavut in my job as well.

Those are the kinds of things that we talked about, but at the same time I have also offered to ITK to have them involved in working with the Department of Health and Social Services, Government of Nunavut in developing the Public Health Strategy for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify for this House what initiatives that she's talking about are on the way to address the issue of wait times, as they affect the health services for Nunavummiut? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. My apologies to you. That was your second supplementary. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The wait times that were identified through the First Ministers Conference are in the five areas related to cancer treatment, or knee surgery, and so on. I had spoken many times in this House the wait times that we

work with around those areas are, the jurisdictions that provide the services; their wait times are our wait times. The treatments that they receive are not offered in our territory.

We have to work with the other provinces in trying to address the wait times around the five categories identified. For example, Kitikmeot patients travel to Yellowknife and Edmonton for their surgeries; Kivalliq travels to Winnipeg for their surgeries; and Iqalumiut travel to Ottawa. So we have to work with those jurisdictions collectively to address the wait times because their wait times become our wait times in our initiative.

So we are working closely with them. At the same time, as we look at trying to move forward in providing more healthcare services in Nunavut we hope to be able to provide those services in our territory, but we are a long way from that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister update this House on what initiatives are under way to ensure that Nunavut's arctic communities are prepared for a pandemic and will not be seen as the weakest link in national crisis. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I have covered four subjects in this one line of questions today from pandemic, to wait times, to ITK and so on. The information, in terms of the pandemic planning, we have been working with the health centres in putting our plans together, how we would respond in the case of a pandemic in our communities and each community was required to put a plan in place in terms of how we would respond.

We have also stockpiled medication to provide at the time there is a pandemic, but the planning for that is much broader than just Department of Health. We need to work with, as an example Community and Government Services to look at what we would do in the case of trying to contain the illness. We would have to shut down airports, close down schools, perhaps offices, and so on. So the plan was also to be integrated into an emergency response plan for Nunavut.

In the case of Department of Health we worked with our health centres to develop the plan and from what I understand each community had a plan in place as to what we would do in the area of health care to respond to, should there be a pandemic in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 394 – 2(3): Upgrading for Post Secondary Studies

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Almost a year ago the minister told the House that Nunavut's Grade 12 graduates were on the rise. Graduation levels, we thought that was an important achievement. However, I am aware that in a number of cases across Nunavut, Grade 12 students have to go back for upgrading to get courses to enter post-secondary institutions.

My question for the minister is: can the minister tell us why so many of our so-called Grade 12 students require upgrading before they can be considered for post-secondary studies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through our education system in Nunavut we do give an opportunity to actually bring back up their mark and they can actually challenge different programs and correct it. So for example, if a student was doing English 1, they have an opportunity also to be able to challenge the English 2 exam. If the student would like to, has graduated and has an opportunity, and is of age, below the age of 21 and would like to bring their mark up, then we welcome them back into school to do that. According to our latest statistics, in a little over ten years, as an example, in 1999, seven years, we had 128 graduates and in 2005-06 we had 173, and 181.

So, that is good, it's good news, but it is no different than some other jurisdictions where students can go back and upgrade their marks, whether that's in summer school, or a night program, or indeed through the K-12 school system. 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. We had a lot of grade 12 students, ages 17 to 18 who are taking grade 12 courses who fully expect to graduate and not have to go back for upgrading, yet when they write their exams, they're finding out that they're not qualified for diplomas.

This is after they write their exams, after spending a year of studying, so my question for the minister: can the minister clarify for the House what a Nunavut grade 12 graduation diploma is, and specifically what a student has to accomplish in order to earn one? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is quite aware of the grade 12 diploma which you receive in Nunavut. In Nunavut, if a student academically passes grade 12 and receives a passing grade, they will receive a high school diploma. Through a combination of marks from their high school and if they write the Alberta exam then they pass academically. At the same time some students might not challenge the Alberta exam and still pass grade 12 based on their current school marks that they have done to that nine month period in high school.

The grade 12 high school diploma is recognized in the territory and if the student has challenged the Alberta exam then that grade 12 diploma is recognized across Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad the minister mentioned the Alberta exams. Last year, the Killiniq High School in Cambridge Bay switched from a semester programming to a non semester program and this resulted in making life difficult for mainly the grade 12 students who were planning to challenge the Alberta departmental exams. Most had to write six to seven departmentals in a two-week period. These are extremely difficult exams to write. Imagine doing it all in two weeks.

My question for the minister: can the minister explain to the House how his department oversees the administration of the Alberta departmental exams before, during, and after they are written? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Alberta exam and again it's the Alberta exam from the Government of Alberta. It is used not only in Nunavut of course it is used in the Northwest Territories and Alberta as part of the Western Protocol which includes the Western Provinces and the three Territories.

We work on similar curriculum and that is why when our students write and challenge the Alberta exam and pass it is recognized nationally. At the same time, the member mentioned concerns with the semestered and non-semestered school system.

In Nunavut we have 13 high schools that follow the non-semestered system and we have 12 that use the semester system. And there are pros and cons to both systems. For example, some of the benefits of a non-semestered system including the achievement and academic retention levels seem to be higher, but if you look at the non-semestered, then teachers prefer to use that system because there are fewer students in the classroom.

The process before and after, I don't know if there is time in the House, the process is the Alberta exam is delivered to the individual school and the school gives the exam which is called invigilation and from that it is sent back to Alberta to be marked.

Once marked the scores are given back to the school to the education system. And a combination of that mark and the student marks are combined for a passing grade or a failing grade depending on the student. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. If I need to remind you the Question Period where responses are also given are one hour set each day. Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like to thank the minister for that answer. The Killiniq High School in Cambridge Bay failed the grade 12 students and failed to support them after the exams, the Alberta departmental exams. When the marks came back, many of the parents couldn't contact the principal to discuss options to upgrade the marks, or re-write, or challenge those marks. I hope the minister is looking into that.

My question for the minister: can the minister clarify how high schools in Nunavut determine where to provide semester programming or non-semester programming? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I think we should look at it as a glass half full and half empty. I just want to say very quickly and I know that we are limited for time.

Let's look at some statistics. The fact is Mr. Speaker that 36 percent of students in the richest province in Canada, Ontario, are not at a grade six level in reading or math. It was in the Globe and Mail. In Nunavut's case we're in the middle group and we're working in English as a second language.

The options to go for non-semester or a semester are a decision made locally with the DEA and with the school, itself, the principal and the staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 395 – 2(3): Sinking of Boat Near Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our members' statements I raised an issue that I would like to bring up again. In Sanikiluaq we were concerned about the environment. There are a lot of islands down there around the Sanikiluaq area and the James Bay area.

I think that there was a boat that sank outside of Sanikiluaq. I'd like to ask the minister if he looked into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is the responsibility of the federal government, so my department wasn't informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister going to look into this issue and see if the federal government has done anything about it, and will he inform the people of Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can. I would like to ask him if the Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations know of it, because they are our link in regard to the environment, the wildlife, and so on. I'll urge the Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations to inform my department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Could the minister look into this issue and inform me, or the House about his findings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Question 396 – 2(3): Medical Devices Provided Through Department of Health

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. (interpretation ends) In my members' statement I spoke about the difficulties faced by my constituents in getting supplies for hearing aids.

Can the minister clarify for this House and for the public what kinds of medical devices are provided to Nunavut health clients through the government health programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question of what kind of devices that we provide, I don't know the exact models and kinds of devices that we provide for audiology, but I can ask my staff to provide me that type of information because I am just not aware of the models, and so on. I can speak to the services that we do provide for audiology services in the Keewatin.

In the last year in the Kivalliq alone, 424 residents received the service. The service is provided by a Manitoba organization. They come up north every year to provide this service. As compared to the other regions where individuals are seen in the Kivalliq for that service, but in terms of again, going back to the individual's question, what kind of devices are provided, I have to get back to the member on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the people of Nunavut should know what is available out there and what kind of devices or medical assistance is available out there, not for a hair transplant. There are hearing-aids; there are glasses, and medical supplies that are made available to the people. How long or how many years do you have to wait before you can get a replacement, say for glasses for example, or hearing-aids? We would like to have that information so the people out there will know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's been a lot of effort in the last few years to try and open, and provide services for rehabilitation services in Nunavut around audiology and the other is physiotherapy, occupational therapy in each language and so on, for the entire territory.

Last November we opened a facility, the first of its kind, in Nunavut, here in Iqaluit, to provide some of these services. We're also looking at developing a Community Therapy Assistant Program through Nunavut Arctic College to train Nunavummiut to provide some of these services to the health centres. So again, it's an initiative that we are undertaking where we're not just looking at the treatment, but also trying to build a capacity within Nunavut to provide that service throughout.

And I agree with the member, we can do better in communicating what information we have available and how often people can receive a new hearing-aid as an example, or eye-vision care. And as part of the Medical Travel Policy that I will commit to providing that, because a lot of that information is covered through the Non-Insured Health Benefit Program, that is covered by the federal government. I will commit to providing that information to this House along with the Client Travel Policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to be asking for a hair transplant, but when are you going to be able to make those documents available? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the information on the Non-Insured Health Benefits in front of me, and it's available in English through the web pages. I can have that translated and shared, as soon as the translation is completed, to the members of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 397 – 2(3): Impact of Federal Clean Air Act

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Energy. On October 19, 2006, Bill C-30, Canada's *Clean Air Act*, received first reading in the House of Commons. Given Nunavut's dependence on diesel fuel to produce electricity, can the minister tell me what impact this legislation may have on our territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Education and Energy, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The *Clean Air Act* that was introduced in the House of Commons has led to some derision on behalf and for the new government in Ottawa because it seems to be moving away from the Kyoto Protocol.

I want to remind the House that it was I and Minister Akesuk as the first jurisdiction in Canada that ratified the Kyoto Accord for on behalf and for the Provinces and Territories several years ago, with Minister Anderson. The impact on Nunavut will depend on several factors which include the continual amounts of gasses, greenhouse gasses, and so on that are put in place, as well as the timelines that have been allowed.

At the present time, the timeline is several years into the future, and that's part of the derision that has been brought forward by the *Clean Air Act* introduced in the House of Commons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Going up to 2020 then we would be able to, can the minister tell me, what concrete steps the Qulliq Energy Corporation has taken towards the production of energy using means other than diesel-fuelled generators? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister responsible for Energy, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've been very aggressive in the last year and a half, through the Qulliq Energy Corporation to look at other alternatives including hydro electric opportunities and potential.

I am hoping to be in a position in the next few days in the House to be able to table in the House an Energy Strategy from the Energy Secretariat on the direction that this government is moving in. So we have been looking at alternatives, including hydro. We are still reviewing some of the opportunities under reheat.

I can add very quickly that under the reheating program, in Rankin Inlet and in Iqaluit, we will be eliminating almost 6,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions when these systems come into line in the next several weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell me when the first non-diesel generated electricity will be available for purchase by Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's an excellent question because a non-diesel generator would have...right now, all the generators that we have, have to run by either gas and/or diesel. That includes portable diesel generators that you would use in a camp or indeed, the larger generator.

What I suggest to you is that within the next ten years, as we move forward with the hydro potential, we would have a renewable energy source of hydro within ten years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Last week, the Minister of Health gave us a tour of the new Baffin hospital and that new hospital is heated from the generator here at the power plant with the waste heat, and that was very good to see.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister tell me if the federal government has undertaken consultation with the provincial and territorial governments on this Act? If so, what position has the Government of Nunavut taken? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very quickly, in the preamble to his question, the member raised the re-heat at the hospital.

Again, I want to reiterate that when that system is up and running in December, that's going to displace, that system and the Rankin Inlet system alone will displace 6,000 tonnes of greenhouse gasses in Nunavut.

On the *Clean Air Act* that was passed in the House of Commons, no, officially through the Energy Office of the Energy Secretariat, we have not been consulted on that Act. I did have a meeting with the Minister responsible for the Environment and Minister Lunn in Saskatchewan this past spring and we did not raise it at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 398 – 2(3): Update on Administration of Sealift Services

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague, Mr. Kattuk, for raising an issue on sealift questions and incidents and things like that, that prompted me to ask some questions, as well. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services.

I know that the sealift season is finished, hopefully, all over the place except for things that didn't get to where they were going. I am just wondering if the minister could provide us with an update on the administration of the sealift services this year. I understand that there were new contracts in place. Did they go well? Were there any incidents throughout the season that were brought to her attention? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last season for shipping, usually the summer is very short for the ships to travel up here, but last summer most of the communities were pleased. Most of the municipalities were pleased. The Department of Community and Government Services did not hear too many disappointments with the contracted ships. NTCL had gone from Churchill and everybody else was quite pleased about it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's good to hear, but according to the radio this morning though I don't think Coral Harbour, or Sanikiluaq are too pleased. There's still stuff of theirs sitting in Baker Lake.

My supplementary question is with the service providers that provide those services for the government, are they obligated to inform the department or the minister of any incidents that have occurred during that season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been a lot of ships that have been sailing to 25, or 26 communities. Out of those there have been some incidences. One incident that I know of that I have information on is that NTCL had a few barges that are iced in Baker Lake, the member is right. The freight has not been delivered yet to Coral Harbour. NTCL is working with the customers to resolve this issue. Once I have that information I can update the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to just ask the minister if she's aware of any incidents that took place here in Iqaluit during this sealift season, and what they were, if there were any. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the member could identify to me which community he is talking about so I could respond to his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. I would ask Mr. Tootoo to clarify his question to the minister responsible. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry if I didn't make it clear for the minister. I had asked her if she was aware of any incidents that happened specifically here in Iqaluit, and what they were with the sealift provider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think he is talking about Iqaluit. The people who unload the ships I was informed on what they were doing and it seems to have been smooth when they were unloading, but I am not really sure of the specifics that he is talking about and there has been four ships that came to unload here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I just want to find out; someone mentioned to me that there was a fatality and piece of heavy equipment that went into the water. I am wondering if that was in fact the case and if the minister was aware of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Responsible for Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That question was nice of you and thank you to the member. Yes, at approximately 2:21 a.m. on November 26, 2006 an accident occurred during a routine loading operation of the NNSI ship Anna Desgagnes. A 42 year old Quebec resident died after the front end loader that he was driving fell off the barge. The individual was not wearing a survival suit. Iqaluit RCMP notified Worker's Compensation Board, Transport Canada, and the Nunavut Office of the Chief Coroner. The Office of the Chief Coroner notified next of kin.

Now, the incident investigation is being conducted by Transport Canada and the Nunavut Office of the Chief Coroner and an autopsy will be conducted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Just to let you know that the Question Period is now over. Orders of the Day. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Item 9: Replies to Opening Address

Reply to Opening Address 004 – 2(3):

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a Reply to the Opening Address. What I'm about to talk about is about my knowledge and it is not going to be very long.

I know about the land in the north. It has been many years now since Nunavut was created. We all know the tent rings and the archaeological sites where the Inuit in the past used to live and how the Inuit used to live. We see those archaeological sightings all the time.

We have been here for a long time in Nunavut but we were told not too long ago by the government that we have to negotiate our land because it has been our land and federal government's land for a long time. When we were told that the older people were really shocked because they know they own the land because they have been living on the land for a long time and they said that to the federal government it's not their land because the Inuit have looked after it for a long time. We were still told by the federal government that we have to negotiate to get our land back.

And during the negotiations of our Land Claims we did away with various rights that we had as Inuit such as different things that we had to let go of. Some of our rights were taken away such as the right to the land and the right to the sea.

In my community what the people think now are they don't really have the rights any more. Our environment and our land is what we looked after for many years. And we looked after the wildlife because those are the things that we use and we used to know or we still have the knowledge of the weather and different seasons and how best to make best use of the different seasons.

But when the government started coming up north we were administered by strangers from down south. We all know there were a lot of children that went to school in different communities because, of course, we were administered by the government and we had to leave our family in order to go to school in another community. And our parents were having a hard time. I could use myself as an example. I could not see my brothers and sisters and I could not help my father to go out hunting because I was not there.

My father was told if I didn't go to school in another community that my child benefits would be cut so my father did not want that to happen so he had no choice but to say yes for me to go to school outside my community. That was part of the way the administrators administered the Inuit people in the communities and we were told to move to assimilated communities from our camp. The government also said that we have to go into a larger community and we could not live in our outpost camp anymore.

They told us that we will not have to pay for anything in the community and then they said we would pay only \$32 and that's it. That is all we have to pay. If you go to a community we would have to pay the \$32 a month. When we did finally move to a community, we were quite able when we lived in our outpost camp, but we were told to move to a community and told we didn't have to pay for anything except for \$32 a month.

At that time I know that when we got our Land Claims settled that the Inuit expected to have what they had years ago, but that is not the case today. Their expectations have not been met. Those are the types of things that we are living with in today's world.

We don't really like what's happening to us. We also heard that Quebec wants to be recognized as a nation. We were the first people here in the north, why can't they recognize this, too? There were southerners that were coming into our community and from Europe when we were living here, but Quebec wants recognition as a nation from the government. Up to today nobody has asked us or said anything to us about recognizing us as a nation.

We have been mistreated by the government. Also a long time ago when we told the government that, they did away with our dog teams, but now whoever did away with our

dog teams are saying that they didn't do such a thing. We were told to tie up our dogs and now we hear that those people are denying that they didn't do away with dog teams.

There's a lot of problems that we know of that have not been resolved with the government. There were a lot of problems when they killed off our dogs and now we have to use these machinery and vehicles that use gasoline which is going to be a concern to us because of greenhouse gases.

These are the things that I would like to talk about. I am proud to say that having said all those things I know where the Inuit people are today because we have our own Legislature and we can speak freely about our concerns. We don't have to work as hard and we can say anything to the government now.

Although we want to have more rights I am also proud that the Inuit people know where they're at. It's unfortunate that the government has mistreated us in the past and some of the Inuit people have been hurt very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item. 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Peterson.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Committee Report 005 – 2(3): Status of the Audit of the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour today of presenting a brief report by the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability on the status of the audit of the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (WCB).

As all members are aware, the Workers' Compensation Board is shared between Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. In our Legislative Assembly, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability has oversight responsibility for the Workers' Compensation Board.

In March 2005, a motion was passed in the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories calling for the Auditor General of Canada to undertake a performance audit of the Workers' Compensation Board. This motion was unanimously supported by the regular members of that House. As you will recall, Mr. Speaker, our standing committee formally expressed its support of this initiative.

At that time, the standing committee recognized that a number of the issues that are of concern to our counterparts in the Northwest Territories may be specific to operations in that jurisdiction. However, members were of the view that the audit was likely to result in information that would be of use to the governments and legislatures of both jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, you tabled the Auditor General's Report on this matter on June 14, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories held three days of public hearings on the Auditor General's Report in June of this year.

As the co-chair of our standing committee, I was pleased to have been invited by our counterparts in the Northwest Territories to officially be in attendance at these hearings to represent our Assembly. I would like to express our satisfaction at the collegial fashion in which our two committees have worked together on this issue, and note for the public record my appreciation to our hosts.

Mr. Speaker, the three days of hearings were highly productive. The Auditor General of Canada took the time to personally appear before the standing committee to report her findings. A significant number of key witnesses appeared before the Standing Committee. These included members of the Workers' Compensation Board's Governance Council, senior Workers' Compensation Board officials, the Chair of the Appeals Tribunal, the Workers' Advisor and the Northwest Territories Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board.

Over the course of the hearings, committee members posed important questions and made a number of useful suggestions for improvements to the board's operations and accountabilities.

On October 26, 2006, the standing committee presented its Report to the Northwest Territories Assembly. The report presents a total of nine formal recommendations on a wide range of important issues. These include the following:

- The need to expedite the resolution of long-outstanding claims and improve the timelines for the hearing of appeals;
- The need for the Workers' Compensation Board to develop an action plan to address the recommendations of the Auditor General in her audit;
- The importance of locating the offices of the Workers' Compensation Board Appeals Tribunal and the Workers' Compensation Board administration in separate locations;
- The importance of bringing forward amendments to the legislation to clarify the Workers' Compensation Board mandate in relation to its duty to assist injured workers;
- The need for the Workers' Advisor and the Deputy Workers' Advisor to have adequate resources to assist injured workers in managing their cases; and

- The need for the responsible Ministers to work with the Governance Council in developing options for addressing the issue of conflicting medical opinions.

At the appropriate time, I will be tabling the transcripts from the public hearings and the Northwest Territories Standing Committee's Report for the information of our House. I encourage our Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board to carefully review the findings and recommendations in the report, which I believe he will find to be of value.

I would note for the record that our standing committee is in support of the recommendations contained in the report. I will also note for the record that the formal government's response to the committee's report is due to be tabled within 120 days. This is a document which I anticipate will be scrutinized with care by members in both Houses.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the recent appointment of Mr. Attima Hadlari as a deputy workers' advisor for Nunavut. Mr. Hadlari is no stranger to the members of this House, and we wish him well in his duties.

>> *Applause*

During my discussions with our Northwest Territories counterparts, we agreed that it is important for the governments in both jurisdictions to table the annual report of the Workers' Advisor in our respective jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, it is anticipated that significant amendments to the *Workers' Compensation Act* will come forward in both legislatures in 2007. These amendments will be referred to this Standing Committee for scrutiny. I anticipate that the relevant standing committees of both legislatures will work together, to the appropriate extent, in reviewing this proposed legislation.

I move that the report of the standing committee be received by the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Do members agree that the report of the Standing Committee be received by this House?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 191 – 2(3): Letter from Hamlet of Arctic Bay to Chief Superintendent RCMP**

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today a copy of the letter from the Hamlet of Arctic Bay to Chief Superintendent of the RCMP requesting night time patrols in the community. I sincerely hope that the Minister of Justice will at least support the request in the next round of contract negotiations with the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Can we have the document brought forward to the Clerk's table please? Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 192 – 2(3): Transcript of Public Meeting on Auditor General's Report on the WCB of the NWT and Nunavut

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my report, I wish to table today a package of documents related to the recent public hearings on the report of the Auditor General on the Workers' Compensation Board in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Can we have that document brought forward to the Clerk's table please? That sure may be heavy, it's well taken. Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Tabling of Documents. Minister Aglukkaq.

Tabled Document 193 – 2(3): Inuit Wellness Programs in Nunavut 2004-05

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table a report that was done by Health Canada and the Government of Nunavut: Inuit Wellness Programs in Nunavut for 2004-05. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Tabled Document 194 – 2(3): Executive Summary of Second Review of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement 1998-2005

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is quite heavy. I wish to table the following bulky documents. Executive Summary, believe it, ...

>>*Laughter*

...of the second review of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement 1999-2005, imagine if this were a full report.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. All the documents appear to be heavy today. Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister Simailak.

Tabled Document 195 – 2(3): Crown Agency Council Activities Report November 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following document: the Crown Agency Council's Activity Report for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Akesuk.

Tabled Document 196 – 2(3): Ministerial Meeting Report Agriculture F/P/T June 2006, from ED&T

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document; Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministerial Report, June 26, 27. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Minister Picco.

Tabled Document 197 – 2(3): Nunavut Arctic College 2005 Graduate Survey

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Nunavut Arctic College Graduate Survey.

Tabled Document 198 – 2(3): Annual Report of the Information & Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut 2005-06

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. That appears to be the first light document of the day. Thank you, Minister. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Pursuant to Section 68 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, I wish to table the 2005-06 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut.

Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 28 – Deficit Reduction Act – Second Reading

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik, that Bill 28, *Deficit Reduction Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill increases the taxable price per cigarette and per gram of cigarette tobacco and the Payroll Tax rate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. To the principle of the Bill. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to have the opportunity to speak today to the principle of the bill, which is being presented to the public as legislation to address the Government of Nunavut's deficit position.

Mr. Speaker, since the time that Nunavut came into existence on April 1, 1999, our fiscal situation has gone through a number of ups and downs. Indeed, I don't think it would be unfair to compare it to a roller coaster ride, or navigating a kayak in choppy waters.

Mr. Speaker, I sat in my place in this House and heard a number of finance ministers deliver budget speeches and fiscal updates. In some years the message was good; revenues were up, and the government had resources to make important and welcome investments in programs and services. At other times, we were told that the time to tighten our belts was upon us; spending was getting out of control and forecasted revenues had not materialized.

Over the years, I've become somewhat of a sceptic when it comes to the fiscal news of the day. Indeed, as the members know, this feeling is not confined to Nunavut as recent years have seen wildly inaccurate surplus projections come out of Ottawa.

I believe that that's the reason why federal MPs are looking at creating a parliamentary budget officer to help legislators get an objective and a clear picture of the nation's finances. That's a good idea.

Mr. Speaker, although the bill is brief, it will have a real impact on our constituents. I wish to address this in my remarks.

I would note that in some respects, it strikes me that this has been rushed in at the last minute. We have not yet seen the details of the government's plan on the spending side of the equation, but I look forward to some intense scrutiny of these early next year when we review the budget.

Mr. Speaker, the bill contains two measures: substantial increase to the Tobacco Tax, and a 100 percent increase in the Payroll Tax.

On the matter of the Tobacco Tax, I support this initiative, but also, a cautionary note that it is important that the government carefully monitor its actual impacts on both revenues and actual tobacco sales. It is important that the government's tax measures in this area not result in the unintended consequence of creating black markets.

It is also important that the government report to the House and the public on whether the amount of tobacco that is purchased in Nunavut actually goes up or down in the coming years especially in light of the government's argument that the tax increase will help reduce demand for tobacco.

I believe that the government does have the means to track this information. As a matter of fact, we were told just yesterday in this House that a different government program has cut smoking rates by 12 percent.

The government also needs to account for its impact in meeting the stated goal of the Bill, which is to reduce our deficit.

Mr. Speaker, I would add one additional comment in the area of consumption taxes. As you will recall, I discussed in a Member's Statement earlier this sitting the importance of addressing another addiction in Nunavut: our addiction to unhealthy junk foods. I believe that the government may wish to examine what options it has in this area, given the equally significant costs to our health care system to treat diabetes, dental disease and other related conditions.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 28 doubles the rate of the Payroll Tax. This change will come into place in a few short weeks. As members know, this tax was introduced by the Government of the Northwest Territories in 1993 during the dark days of transfer payment cuts to the provinces and territories and inherited by us upon division in 1999.

To this day, I do not believe that the government has ever undertaken a comprehensive analysis on the extent to which the tax has been effective in achieving its original stated purpose of capturing revenues from non-residents who work here, but choose to live elsewhere.

It would be my hope, Mr. Speaker, that the government will look at this bill as the proper occasion to undertake a rigorous analysis of this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Minister of Finance and I had a genuinely useful exchange of views earlier in this sitting on the Payroll Tax. As members will recall, when this measure was announced, I was concerned that the public have a clear picture as to who would actually be impacted by the tax changes.

Mr. Speaker, when working families are calculating their household budgets, they need hard facts and figures - not soft words and spin. That's why I pursued questions in this House to nail down the details of who would be impacted by the Payroll Tax changes.

I was pleased that the minister shared my concern that Nunavut residents and taxpayers in the two lowest tax brackets not suffer any net increase in their tax burden as a result of these changes. In my view, using our tax brackets as a yardstick was a clear and sensible approach to this issue.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my remarks, I have no opposition to the principle that those who can afford to pay should do so. I am a firm believer in the importance of sharing burdens to meet common goals.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I believe that I have remarked that those of us in this Chamber should be expected to shoulder this burden. Working families are being asked to bear a heavy load these days. Although I know that the three territories have been lobbying Ottawa on the issue, the federal Northern Residents Deduction on our Income Tax forms has not been increased in many years.

Recent increases in the price of fuel have had a ripple effect on our residents. They're paying more to heat and light their homes. They'll be paying more for their groceries as companies pass on their own utility increases to their consumers. They'll pay more to fill up their skidoos to go hunting and their trucks to go to work. Many of them, including front-line teachers and health care providers, are now having to pay double-digit increases in rent for their staff housing units.

Mr. Speaker, they can't avoid these costs. These aren't luxury items. That's why I have focused my efforts on ensuring that people in the two lowest tax brackets are protected, and that's where my focus will be when this bill is scrutinized before our standing committee.

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned working families. In many cases, children are being raised in single-income households. There are many, many examples of this, and I believe that it's fair to describe such people as the working poor. These people can afford this the least.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe that the government should take a close look in the coming year at how well the payroll tax is actually achieving its intended purpose.

As the minister indicated in his replies to me we need to examine whether it is obtaining revenues from such people as southern-based consultants and contractors and lawyers who work on contract for the Government of Nunavut and then catch the Friday evening flight back to Ottawa, or elsewhere in the south.

I will be supporting the motion for second reading, but I believe that it is clear where I stand. Before I can support the bill at third reading, I will be seeking a firm and unambiguous confirmation of what I heard as the minister's commitment that our residents in the lowest tax brackets will be protected.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 28 has had second reading and accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee.

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

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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 second time. This Bill will increase the cost of living deductions for Nunavummiut starting in the 2007 taxation year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the Bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 29 has had second reading, and accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 23, Bill 24, Bill 25, and Bill 26 with Mr. Arreak in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:47 and Committee resumed at 16:15*

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. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 26 and the Capital Estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, followed by the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Are we in agreement to continue with the Capital Estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. 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.

I suggest to members that wherever possible, you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates.

Do members have any general comments? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think anyone in this room will disagree with me when I say that housing is probably one of the more critical functions that are provided by the government. It affects everybody everywhere because as far as I know, everyone lives in a house, or an apartment, or some type of structural accommodations.

I know last year there was, I believe, it was 70-some units that were delivered under this new federal funding. They're looking at over 100, I think, this coming year.

I also know that one of the biggest costs related to housing and the construction of housing is the transportation cost. Roughly in town here, you could spend \$200,000 before you even drive a nail, just on the land, the freight, and the piles, as piles are expensive.

I will be looking to ask general questions before we get into some of the initiatives that the corporation may be looking at to try and reduce some of the non housing-specific costs, but things like freight costs, crating, getting materials, and things like that.

I would be interested in hearing any initiatives that the corporation has taken in that area, especially given the large supply of delivery that they're looking at for the coming year.

We don't want to end up with things frozen in the ice in the wrong community. Like we heard on the news this morning there are materials for projects in Sanikiluaq and Coral Harbour that are on ice in Baker Lake. I will be looking to ask the minister how they plan on moving forward on those projects when things are stuck somewhere else and what arrangements are being made to make sure that those projects from last year will continue and what they can do to ensure us that we will not run into the same problems in the future, especially in the coming year, like I said, especially with a large delivery being planned.

So with that that will be it for just my general opening comments and I will ask some general questions as we move along. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome you and I believe I would like to welcome Abraham Tagalik also. I would like to make a few general comments in regard to the houses that are built up here and the increasing numbers.

This summer I think that it is going to be much cheaper because we were able to order our materials from Churchill as the point of entry. When you build your own house it is a lot cheaper and when the government builds houses it is extremely expensive. Not just for the materials, but also for the labour itself.

And I know that they are doing a good job constructing the houses and the Housing Corporation staff make sure that they are doing a good job, but I think that we have to think of other ideas and enforcing the contract that has been signed between the two parties.

There are a lot of people that are on the waiting list for housing and at times there is a mad dash to make sure they get a house, in my community anyway, and I am sure that is the same case in the other communities. There are people who complain they are on the waiting list for a long time.

I think that there should be better planning done by the corporation so that there is steady work instead of having a large amount of work to do in one year and less the next. I think that we have to recognize the workers and honouring the contract.

(interpretation ends) I think this hasn't been sufficient ensure adherence to what that agreement was. I think we should be looking a little more carefully at what the date was to finish some of these houses in Nunavut because some of them have carried on for least six to eight months, even a year more than they are supposed to be finished.

I think there has been a lot of disappointment from communities blaming the Housing Association for not pressing a little bit harder to get these houses finished.

(interpretation) I do know that the Housing Corporation staff work extremely hard to make sure that houses are completed and to make sure that they have ordered enough supplies so that they can complete their projects.

I have seen on more than one occasion companies breaching the contract. Thank you, Minister Akesuk, and Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We always look for solutions and how we can save money when we're building a house so we're using less money. There's more and more Nunavummiut who are looking at owning their homes. Most of the employees are looking at how they can build their own houses, for example, using the Access Program. Those houses are being built by contractors, which is really expensive.

There was a HAP House Program where the government bought the material and the homeowner would build his house. Sometimes it takes two years to build your own house. The HAP Program was excellent because the government only paid for the materials and nothing else. A lot of people became homeowners through that program so we would like to urge the government and see if they can bring that program back.

If you're building public housing the local housing authorities end up using a lot of money for operations and maintenance. Here in Iqaluit, especially, there are a lot of people from outside of Nunavut who'll own homes and take on the contracts that could be taken by the local businesses.

With the HAP House Program, if you lived in that house for ten years you could sell it without a penalty. So I think we should look at that program. Look at the pros and cons of it. For example if an elder wanted to sell his house the government could set up a revolving fund so that they can pay for a portion of that house. There's a fuel tax rebate that was introduced by the government. If an elder wants to sell the house I think the government should get half of it back because, of course they ordered the materials.

I think the government is going to be losing more money if they don't look at other solutions. We're going to be getting some money from the federal government to build more housing. So I think we should look at other ideas and see where we can save and where can increase the number of private homeowners.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We are on general comments. I have no more names on my list.

(interpretation ends) We will now proceed with the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page L-6. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Grants and Contributions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to disappoint the minister, or his officials. I had indicated in my general comments that I have some questions on some specific areas.

I know I had an opportunity to tour one of the loading facilities in Montreal, in Valleyfield, this summer, and the guy showed a very high pile of plywood. I said, "Look at all that good pile, it's going to get used to cover up that other good plywood for crating" and then he indicated that that was one of the shipping requirements for the Housing Corporation in their contract.

I'm just wondering, it's expensive...there's an indication that some dollars could be saved if they looked at containerizing some materials where they could, instead of crating it all.

I'm just wondering if the minister or his officials could give us any indication of whether they have taken any steps in that direction in looking at reducing the cost on that end of things for shipping and preparing of goods to be shipped up to the various communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the next fiscal year, we will be using the containers when we are delivering materials for units. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the other things that was pointed out is they also had, I think it's three or four people there with stencils and paint painting the crates that were...again, that was a requirement under the contract for the Housing Corporation.

The information that they are painting on, stencilling, is apparently the same information that's put on a sticker or something that's attached already to the crates. So I'm just wondering...and they say, "We have no problem doing that." But why are you doing it, because that's the same information and there's more information on the sticker like these ones right here on our thing telling us what language to listen to on what channel. We don't mind doing it, but it's an added cost.

So I'm just wondering if they have looked at that as well as a requirement, or looking at their contract documents or tender, or whatever it is that outlines, specifically, what's required under that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will look into that. We will look at how we could save costs and we will review it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akesuk. We're on page L-6. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that's important if we could find ways to save money. The government, as a whole, is looking at finding savings in some places and I think it's important that the more dollars we can have directly for housing, instead of other related costs, it would help us go further in our housing delivery dilemma that we're in up here.

Going specifically to L-6, I note that there is \$2.5 million there for new staff housing. I'm just wondering if we could get an indication from the minister or his officials where those staff housing units are going to be located. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. As I stated that in my opening remarks, for Repulse Bay, Kugaaruk, Kimmirut, and Resolute Bay, those communities are already listed that this \$2.5 million would be used for. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that going to be for the construction of new staff units or purchasing existing units. I want to get an explanation as to what is happening there. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are renovating older units in the up coming year for the three smaller communities because there are quite a few communities that have been requesting staff housing units. As I mentioned before, these units will be new for the communities that you have mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you. Are they going to build them and own them? Is the local housing association going to build for the Corporation? Is that how it is being handled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contactors, I am not sure who is going to own them, but the Government of Nunavut will own these units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other question that I have in there is a half million dollars for staff housing M&I retrofits. Are those on Government of Nunavut owned houses, or are those leased units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): The renovations retrofit Government of Nunavut units. Retrofit for Government of Nunavut units.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I have no more names on my list.

(interpretation ends) Nunavut Housing Corporation. Grants and Contributions. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome Mr. Minister and his officials to our session here today. I want to get an update from the minister. He has heard me the last couple of days talking about staff housing for the Health Facility in Cambridge Bay and as we heard from the Minister, Health and Social Services has a requirement for 20 to 25 houses for the staff, but I don't see anywhere in your Capital Estimates where you are planning to build any houses for Cambridge Bay to support the Health Facility.

Can I get an update as to what is happening here? Thank you, Mr. Minister.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The funding for capital, the resources for the government are very limited and we have very limited funding for staff housing. So we've been looking at how we can proceed with this. There are three regional hospitals that were recently constructed and they all need staff so we are working on this process up to now and I know we are looking at ways on how we can resolve the staff housing situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Can the minister give us a brief overview how the Nunavut Housing Corporation works together with other departments to support their housing needs when they are in a process of developing major projects or even to meet the current housing needs for employees; staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with all the departments closely. We have to construct many units for Nunavut staff housing units to make sure we house our staff properly, so we work closely with the government departments how we can deal with the staff housing units, so that they can be housed properly. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I realize what the minister, he says he works closely with the other departments, but can he give me an indication of the process that you have in place that allows you to work closely? I wonder, you say you have no money, the departments say they need housing; Human Resources can't staff the positions because there's no housing. How do you work together closely with the other government departments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are many units that we work on. We work with the other departments and our officials try to work with the officials from the other departments. In regard to staff housing, whether it's the Department of Health and Social Services or Department of Education, we have to constantly work closely with them on the staff housing units and the committee works on this. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Perhaps I could come at it a different way. As the minister's known for many, many years, the health facility in Cambridge Bay required 20 to 25 houses, but I see, you know that's a priority. We have a \$20 million facility that's 50 percent operational, and it doesn't look like it'll be operational, 100 percent operational, for years to come, unless there's housing provided for the hired doctors and nurses.

We see that you have provided for staff housing a new supply, 10 houses, in other communities; Repulse, Kugaaruk, Kimmirut, and Resolute. How did you determine that you needed new housing units in those communities as opposed to a community like Cambridge Bay or elsewhere where there's a large health facility that needs housing for the health professionals that they have to hire? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Scott, after I make a response, will respond. We've never constructed any units in the smaller communities for a long time. The teachers, and other staff who work for the government need staff

housing, and they lack staff housing in those communities I have mentioned. So with that in mind we decided to construct these units in those communities. I will allow Mr. Scott to further elaborate on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to the member's question, when the capital plans were being set for what we're looking at today, was started off back in the summertime. We looked at two initiatives going on. One was developing the capital plan and identifying where our staff housing crisis areas were and secondly we had a request for proposals out looking for additional staff housing units in the three centres where the hospital in Iqaluit and the two health centres were being built or being finished.

The anticipation was that the RFP would identify additional supply that we could lease from land-owners and from the private sector, and then the focus of new construction, the new capital dollars into primarily the non-decentralized communities where there is a high demand for staff housing. So that's essentially how it was decided that most of the new construction, the new units would go into smaller communities such as Repulse Bay.

We also have duplexes on the ground ready to be built in Chesterfield Inlet and Whale Cove as well for staff housing.

Also in response to part of Mr. Peterson's question on how we work with other departments. There is a requirement in the capital planning process that when departments put forward new infrastructure requests in that there is a requirement to identify the housing need that's created by the new infrastructure and incorporate that into the plan. This is a fairly new requirement. I think over the last year or so that all departments are working together on identifying the new demands for staff housing.

At the same time we have four allocation committees that meet on a weekly basis to discuss housing demands and allocate staff housing units, and accept applications for staff housing; there's one in Iqaluit, and one in Cape Dorset for the Baffin region; there is a committee in the Kivalliq, and in Cambridge Bay. That's made up of the core departments; there's Justice, Health, Education, Human Resources, and the Housing Corporation.

So that committee is our primary method of working with the departments that have the greatest demand for housing. That's essentially how we work together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Scott for that answer. As you can appreciate, when you have a \$20 million facility in a community and it can't be made a 100 percent operational, essentially, it boils down to; at least that's

what I'm being told that, they don't have housing. We have to look at ways to address the housing.

I am wondering, you mentioned a request for proposals for the three regional centres, to address housing for those facilities. Can you give us an overview of how you wrote the RFPs, and what was the intention? Was it a fishing expedition or were you sincere that you really wanted contractors, developers, or landlords of those communities to apply to Housing Corporation proposals, because you indicated in Cambridge Bay only one developer replied.

That must be telling you something; you must have sat down and talked about it. What happened in Cambridge Bay where people didn't come forward with proposals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's kind of a technical question, so I will get Mr. Scott to respond to the question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to Mr. Peterson's question we definitely certainly were sincere in the development of the RFP that went out last summer. It closed near the end of August. The intent was there were actually three parts that any developer could apply to. One is existing units that were on the ground, ready to be occupied; they could put in proposals for that.

They could put in proposals for units that could be brought in on the 2007 sealift, and built. We would have looked at those as future potential. Also we had an option there - a purchase option, as well.

We got a combination of the first and third component of that but as a result of the RFP we didn't one response, as part of that RFP for future development because it left an opening there for the Housing Corporation to provide the financial commitments the developer would need to bring in materials this coming summer and to build.

The developers were non-responsive in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Scott. That was in August and we are now in November. What have you done in the interim to address housing for the health centre in Cambridge Bay? I've been giving the Minister of Health a hard time in meetings in the House here. When is the facility going to be opened?

The reason why I ask these questions is because we can't continue to have a health facility remain at 50 percent capacity. The Government of Nunavut has a Closer to Home health strategy. Yet we continue to have to send people to Yellowknife and then to Edmonton from the Kitikmeot when in fact the intention was to have them come to Cambridge Bay to be treated, obviously not for the most serious medical emergencies, but certainly the ones that can be treated closer to home.

If we never get any housing we are never going to have that facility fully operational so we are going to be chasing around in circles for years to come unless we address the housing. I am trying to get a sense on how the Nunavut Housing Corporation is going to deal with the situation in Cambridge Bay. Can the minister respond please? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The three health facilities that were built in the Kivalliq region in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay, I know that we are going to work very hard to be able to staff them 100 percent. The staff housing that is available out there right now is not adequate and we would like to make that better. Because of the lack of funding of houses, we can not build all those facilities.

Whether they be teachers, or nurses, or doctors, we are trying our very best to accommodate them to have housing so those health facilities could run properly. I think we are going to have to sit down and find out how we can deal the shortage of staff housing in these communities whether they'd be for the nurses and the doctors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for a response. Perhaps if I could ask Mr. Scott this question because he touched on it in the RFP. What type of financing or other alternatives did you offer the developers? I know if a developer wants to get bank financing, they are probably looking at 10 years. The banks require a 10-year lease for the banks to even to think about it. Is that something that was offered to the RFP? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. President, Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple of things I guess in response: any proposals submitted by a developer if there is a requirement for the bank financing for that project to have at least 50 percent of the units having commitment on those. And if we made that commitment, then that would resolve one of the issues the developers have in getting financing.

So that was on, that would have been on the table. We were looking at making the commitments at the time. The second part of Mr. Peterson's question, I'm trying to

remember what it was and I'll let him repeat the question because it probably didn't satisfy him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Scott's starting to sound like one of our colleagues across the floor there, when they ask us to repeat, see if we remember what we asked. I wanted to know what other financing alternatives you offered in the RFP. There's the bank financing and the 50 percent commitment, what other alternatives were available to developers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other part of the question was what kinds of terms the leases were. In Cambridge Bay in particular, because it's the government's staff housing policy that we have, we will be getting out of staff housing in Cambridge Bay over the next nine years, the maximum term of any leases that were being offered were for nine years.

In Iqaluit it would be four years, nine years in Rankin Inlet. We didn't offer in the RFP any financial incentives or bonuses it was up to the proponents to make those proposals in their proposal response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Scott. Well, that brings me to my next question. There was one developer that did submit a proposal and he has been in touch with the Nunavut Housing Corporation for a couple years now. They have that three-plex in Cambridge Bay or triplex.

I'm not sure what the issue is there, but it has been vacant, they have approached the Government of Nunavut. I recall a couple years ago the Premier, myself, the Minister of Health had a tour of the facility and they have been trying to lease with the government, I think they may be trying to sell it to the government now. You mentioned that an RFP came out. All those years before the RFP, they were contacting you folks and then they respond to the RFP, it doesn't look very hopeful at this point, that the government is receptive to leasing or buying it so I'm trying to get a sense, you're looking for space, housing in Cambridge Bay.

The developer has some brand new housing. They responded to the RFP and yet you're saying you still don't have housing; you haven't bought it or leased it. Can I get an update on how that's been going? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're going to be working with QC to have an agreement between us and them in regard to housing and we will be talking with them and we will be negotiating with them with that particular house that you're talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Can the minister clarify, you said QC, I think I heard QC not, can he clarify what he meant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry about that, Mr. Peterson, if I said QC its KC. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for clarifying that, you know there are a lot of acronyms flowing around the House in the last couple of weeks. QC means one thing to me, there is a QC; it's in Iqaluit.

Can you give me an update then? You indicated the RFP wasn't very successful. You had one proponent who developed a reply; what are the next steps in addressing housing in Cambridge Bay for the health facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Maybe the government will have to look further if they will have to build more staff housing in Cambridge Bay. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. We're in the end of November; December starts tomorrow. Shipping season is coming up. Would it be your intention to perhaps review the RFP again and put it out in the papers and send it to the developers in Cambridge Bay to enable them to get a second chance to respond in time for the financing of barge season next summer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're going through our capital estimates for 2007-08. We would do our very best to recognize where we could improve delivering staff housing units in Cambridge Bay or anywhere in the territory.

Once we go through this capital estimates, I think that we will have find a way of how we could deal with trying to ship other buildings to the territory, and finding money to deliver those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was hoping to hear a bit more positive response from the minister. It sounds to me that if he doesn't get housing for the health centre next year, then the facility could be vacant for another fiscal year beyond 2007-08.

I'm not sure how the...perhaps Mr. Scott can explain this. If the developers respond to an RFP and you lease the facility or the buildings off them, you're not buying materials, it's a lease; a financial commitment. How would that fall under the capital planning process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we were to do that, we would have to come through a supplementary appropriation to come up with more money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Peterson, your time is up. I will go back to the list. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: We should go watch them racing.

>>*Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) The questions that I want to pose...I think we already know that when the HAP Housing Program was on, the government didn't spend as much. Yes, they might spend a large amount at first, but in the long run, for O&M and such, they don't spend that much. Has the government considered reintroducing the HAP Program, especially to the smaller communities where there's not a housing market, or even if they were sold, then half of it would go to the Revolving Fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We have changed the name to the Material Assistance Program and we requested 10 for Nunavut during the shipping season. The Housing Corporation buys the units and those who had been approved would build houses and the owner would have to own the unit for at least ten years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. They are now called MAP houses. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Then do I understand correctly that if they get approval from the bank then they would have to buy it from the government? Do they know exactly how much it is?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry that I didn't make myself clear, Mr. Arvaluk. The units, we would hand them to the approved applicant and that person would have to ask for a loan from the bank, then they wouldn't have to pay for the material. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if that individual wanted to build a unit because the Inuit are very capable and the HAP houses are one of the best built units, because they were built, maybe, in the span of two years.

If they wanted to build their unit personally, without going through the bank, are they allowed to build them themselves?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We haven't gone through that route, but we definitely can look into that if we want to improve it in the future but we don't have it like that at this time.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not planned that way. Once this is done they'll plan for another capital plan. Will this be included in the business plan?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we can definitely look into this, how we can make improvements for the future if we were to go through that route. This time, I'm not sure if it will be included in the business plans but we will try to keep that in mind. If it was successful with the HAP Program then we can definitely look into it further in the future if we're going to go through that route.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you. The communities can work together. I don't know if you can call it co-op housing, but a cooperation or an agreement where if there are two units that comes into the community a number of individuals will build the units.

Charlie and somebody, or Violet's house. If there are more units coming in then Louis Tapardjuk or Patterk's house can be constructed.

We definitely can work that way and those should be considered not in Iqaluit, but in the smaller communities. There is cooperation in the community amongst all the people, but it's just that it has to be approved by the bank; that's for the Iqaluit residents. But in the smaller communities there is a lot of willingness to help each other and to cooperate and we can definitely do that in the communities. When you're doing a business plan it should be included as to if it would be co-op housing or whatever. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is very clear and that was one of the concerns too from the communities; if there is a market for homeowners and we can definitely consider this as part of the business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Can the minister plan at the operations and maintenance session that during that session, to see what cost savings there were with Nunavut or Northwest Territories that was before the creation of Nunavut. I wonder if they can find out as to what cost-savings would be...like it costs \$200,000 even before the start of the construction in Iqaluit.

In the smaller communities, for the land, they pay something like \$650 a year, and if possible, I'm sure they can build them for cheaper. I wonder if this can also be included during the operations and maintenance session.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a fairly good idea how much it is to bring units up here and we can also check to see how much it was back then to bring a unit and we can definitely give that information to Mr. Arvaluk, to his concerns. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the main reasons, if the government buys it once then lease it gets very expensive. The house, they let the housing association pay and then the housing association, because they have a high number of people working for them, the rent is something like \$1,200 to \$1,800 a month at this time. I am sure it can be cheaper for the homeowner and the government without going through the local housing associations and the government wouldn't be affected through the subsidy.

We have to find ways to see if it would be cheaper for the government and the homeowners for those individuals who are lucky enough to obtain a unit like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions about the Northern Housing Trust. I understand that there are 725 units for Nunavut. I am not sure how you arrived at that figure, but could you give us an overview of how your allocations are made to the communities in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and answer it the same way as I answered the last time when he asked that question in Question Period. We are looking at the waiting list in the community and I guess the delivery of this program is suitable for our territory. We did try our very best to come up to treat each and every community equally to deliver the units to the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) We are on L-6. (interpretation ends) Grants and Contributions. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I understand that he did answer during Question Period, but it was my understanding in the past when we discussed housing allocations, there was a methodology that the Nunavut Housing Corporation uses, a desktop review, and they incorporated four different studies or reports to arrive at allocations per community.

The minister is telling me today again that it was based on the waiting list. That doesn't sound very scientific, if every community had 100 people on the waiting list and another had 50, then, I mean, it just doesn't sound like it's enough scrutiny there.

Perhaps the minister can expand on why they went from a fairly detailed methodology in the past couple of years now to just how long the waiting list is. Can he expand on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently looking at the allocation of houses; looking at the communities and their population in the community. We are currently reviewing our system and we tried to make it a little bit easier when we were setting it up. And we are not scientists but we try and use the simplest method when we were allocating our houses to Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think there are any scientists in the House; we are all politicians or as one of my associates would say we're performers.

But it seems to me that we should have a standardized process, a methodology that the Standing Committee, the Housing Corporation, the Local Housing Organizations, the Hamlet Councils, other people in Nunavut can understand year after year this is how the allocations will be made. Maybe you can consult with people from time to time so some fine tuning could be made.

But to simply use the waiting list and make it that simple, a community could tinker around with that somehow; instead of 50 people on the waiting list, they have 100. I know that a lot of people in Nunavut have quit applying for housing because they have been turned down too many times after three to four years. I don't think that they even appear on the waiting list.

So the waiting list, if you use that formula, then you probably understated the housing needs in some of the communities. That's common, Mr. Chairman.

I wanted to ask the minister about the comments in his opening statement. The Financial Management Board has recently approved the Delivery Strategy and it goes on further.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation requested funding to implement the Delivery Strategy. They will be requesting necessary funding from the FMB, or Financial Management Board. Can the minister clarify what exactly the Delivery Strategy is, and then what type of funding they require from the FMB? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize, instead of the waiting list, it's the total tenant units and the Nunavut Housing Delivery Strategy is completed, but they are not translated. They will have to be translated into Inuinnaqtun and French.

Once it's completed, I will table it and we're going to decide on how we're going to spend the \$200 million. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I think we might have a mechanism available to us to have that Delivery Strategy tabled through the Members of the Legislative Assembly, even if it's not translated, I think the Rules and Procedures Committee approved that.

In trying to answer the second part of it; I don't understand what the Delivery Strategy is, and then further, I don't understand what you mean by 'request necessary funding from

the Financial Management Board,' what is that all about? I know you got \$200 million under the Northern Housing Strategy. Do you require additional funds from the Government of Nunavut for the 725 houses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. We have a rule where we can table documents called, 'Backdoor Tabling.' We are still on page L-6. (interpretation ends) Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. With this \$200 million, we decide on how many houses we are going to build and as the O&M dollars fluctuate, we would like to get these approved and get the projects going.

We're going to do the best we can to make sure that all of these documents are completed as soon as possible so you can have copies. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I hope the minister is saying that he's giving us his commitment that he will give us a copy of the Delivery Strategy before we leave this sitting. Can the minister confirm that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Well, they are approved already; we didn't really want to table the document without it being translated into Inuktitut. We could probably do that this week. We will look into it and see if we can table it without it being translated.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister.

With respect to the 725 units that are going to be delivered in Nunavut communities over the next three years, can the minister give us an indication if the hamlets are willing and ready to be able to receive them? When I ask that question, I am referring to; will they have the necessary funds to build the paths, the roads, to install the telephones; the incremental costs of constructing a house in the Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: (interpretation): Thank you. We are working closely with CGS to make sure that the hamlets are prepared to receive those houses. So we're working closely together with Community and Government Services and the hamlet councils. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. The minister is probably aware that constructing 725 houses over the next three years is going to place a tremendous strain on available labour in the communities, in terms of tradespeople; electricians; carpenters; plumbers; and other necessary trades; and probably other developers.

Has the minister developed a plan to deal with that likely increased demand on our available trades and labour in each community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We are working closely with the other entities, and we are working closely with Nunavut Arctic College so that we can train people. In regard to the electricians, plumbers and so on, we will have the people so that these houses will be built. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I recall, last year, I think it was, or the year before, when we approved 15 houses for Kugaaruk, when the tenders went out and then the proposals were submitted, and they were well over budget, so the houses didn't get built in the year that we were expecting them to be built.

That's why I asked that question. We do have 725 houses. How realistic is it that all 725 will be built over the next three years and be available for occupancy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): We would like to see everything go according to plan. If we're going to be building additional houses, we have to make sure that we do this properly. If we want to access further funds from the federal government, we have to make sure that we use our money responsibly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. After these 725 units are built, what would be the housing need in Nunavut; the social and public housing need in Nunavut to accommodate all the people that require housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): It's evident that these units will be very beneficial to Nunavut when we construct them in the upcoming years. We definitely need additional units. According to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's and our department's strategy we require about 3,000 units and it will cost approximately \$1 billion.

So therefore we still need to construct many units in the future to meet the demand and also to have equal service as the rest of Canada. So we still require additional units, even if we finish this. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I'm assuming that federal lobbying, I guess we call it, is ongoing in Ottawa. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Nunavut Housing Corporation, and the Government of Nunavut continue to lobby strongly with the government that we require additional housing up here. Can you give us an update on how that's progressing in Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Up to now, since the Conservatives became government, I haven't had a chance to meet with Diane Finley. But I have written a couple of correspondence with them. And I have talked to Indian & Northern Affairs Minister, I believe it was in April on issues that we have from my department in housing.

So I think up to now, we are still talking to them, and of course, once we're done with the units that we want to build for the next three or four years, 725 units, we'll continue to pressure the federal government to come up with more money to at least go in the national average of homelessness in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. We're still on Page L-6, Nunavut Housing Corporation, Grants and Contributions. Total Headquarters Region. \$4,700,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page L-6. Qikiqtaaluk Region. This includes Page L-7, L-8, and part of L-10, L-9 I'm sorry. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$6,258,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. L-9, this includes L-10, Kivalliq Region. Total Kivalliq Region. \$2,930,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Agreed. L-11, this includes L-12. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Kitikmeot Region. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister. Two communities in the Kitikmeot, Umingmaktok and Bathurst Inlet have houses that they received from Northwest Territories Housing Corporation several years ago and your department has found funding internally, I guess, at the regional level over the last couple of years to help the folks fix their houses. I'm wondering if you could comment on whether there will be funds available in the upcoming fiscal year to assist the folks down there to upgrade or renovate their houses.

They need their houses levelled, they need the stoves repaired, windows repaired. I wonder if you could comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will do our best to come up with improving the units down in Bathurst Inlet and Bay Chimo. And if it would, as they are not recognized as communities, that's why we don't have them listed on the capital projects, but then again, we will work closely with the two outpost camps that we could help them out in renovating or renovating the units that are there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I wish he could call them outpost camps because they keep calling themselves communities, and at the recent KAGM, they clearly stated that again.

I did have a request last year from an individual down there who wanted to apply for a house, but I told her that she probably wouldn't be eligible. Certainly, I'll make sure that I will work with your district office, Mr. Crockatt, to see what could be done for next summer. So I appreciate those comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on page L-11. Kitikmeot Region. Total Kitikmeot Region. \$295,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Grants and Contribution. \$15,983,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to page...just a minute, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Just for further clarification for all of the totals, before we agree to that. The homeless people that you were referring to that we're going to be building 200 units so that those people who are on the waiting list can have a house...

When we talk about homeless people, does that include the family members who are staying with their family members? We cannot survive in the wintertime; we have to take on our family members into our homes, even though they're of age to get their own place. Sometimes these adult people who are living in your own home, are these individuals included when you count homeless people? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, we also include those individuals who are staying with their family members. We appreciate those family members who have taken on their family members. That is part of Inuit tradition and we also include those individuals living within the family unit. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you. How did you do a survey; how did you count them? Did the housing association do a survey on the number of homeless people that are living within their family members' houses? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The housing associations in the communities are responsible for listing the names of the people who are the tenants in one unit. So that's how we include those individuals. We do want to work closely with the local housing associations because they allocate units. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Going back to page L-4. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$15,983,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that Nunavut Housing Corporation is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Scott, Mr. Whitworth, and Mr. Tagalik. (interpretation) Do you have closing remarks, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank my officials and also the Members of the Legislature. Thank you for approving our capital estimates. I

know that we will work to endeavour to make sure we do everything properly and to make sure that we live up to the statements that were made. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We will continue to expect to get more units. We will move on. (interpretation ends) I would now like to ask Minister Aglukkaq for the Department of Health and Social Services to make her opening remarks. Minister Aglukkaq.

Bill 26 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2007-08 – Review in Committee – Health and Social Services

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the opportunity to present the Capital Estimates for 2007-08 for the Department of Health and Social Services.

Our Capital budget is very focused for 2007-08. We had to make some hard choices. We recognize the financial limitations the Government as a whole faces.

We are working hard to balance and weight the financial and the very real needs of Nunavummiut and our ability to meet them. The department is proposing a capital budget totalling \$9.419 million. This would include \$3.96 million for phase 2 of the Qikiqtani General hospital for the design and renovation of the current Baffin Regional Hospital, \$2.59 million towards the construction of the Igloolik continuing care centre and \$1.5 millions towards the construction of the Gjoa Haven continuing care centre.

The capital expenditures proposed for 2007-08 are considerably lower than past years, now that the construction of the major health centres is nearing an end. Using the five year plan the department will concentrate on the repair and maintenance of existing facilities until funds are available for renovations or replacements.

I would note that the decision by Full Caucus to give priority to the new continuing care facilities has put pressure on our plans to replacing health centres in Taloyoak, Repulse Bay and Arctic Bay. We are ensuring that work will be done on all of our older facilities to maintain their integrity.

The \$500,000 request for minor projects would be used for repairs such as boiler replacements, ventilation systems, improvements and replacements of obsolete communication technologies. The \$500,000 requested for small capital would be used to replace the medical and dental equipment and vehicles.

Our five year capital plan includes facility replacements in a few years time. The aging condition of a building determines the priority to be given for its upgrading or replacement. You will note that the capital budget does not identify the boarding homes we have talked about in the past. Operational funding arrangements for the boarding homes in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay need to be secured from Non-Insured Health Benefits programs of Health Canada.

In Cambridge Bay, Community and Government Services expects to be able to tender the construction contract this fall for renovating the old student residence. In Rankin Inlet we plan to conduct an RFP for contracted services that will include the facility and staff once the Non-Insured Health Benefits are resolved.

The Department of Health and Social Services is giving practical affects to the Pinasuaqtavut goal of healthy communities through the capital budget. We are ensuring modern facilities are in place to support the wide range of services we provide, such as home care, social services and public health. We are expanding residential care services for those who can no longer live safely at home for health reasons.

I look forward to your support for the 2007-08 capital estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services and I welcome questions from the Members of the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. We have to take a 5 minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:44 and resumed at 17:50*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. Mr. Alagalak. I'm sorry. I thought you had your hand up. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion at this time to report progress because we have some other things to do tonight.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All in favour of the motion raise your hand please. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Arreak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been discussing Bill 26 and I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Evyagotailak. Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. 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.

Orders of the Day for December 1:

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

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Friday, December 1, 2006 at ten o'clock in the morning.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:55*

