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**Friday, December 1, 2006**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

#### **Hon. Peter Kilabuk**

(Pangnirtung)

*Chair, Management and Services Board*

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**  
(Nattilik)  
*Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for the Status of Women Council*

#### **Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

*Striking Committee; Management and Services Board; Regular Members' Caucus*

#### **Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

*Striking Committee; Management and Services Board*

#### **Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**

(South Baffin)

*Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

#### **Joe Allen Evyagotailak**

(Kugluktuk)

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

#### **Hon. Ed. Picco**

(Iqaluit East)

*Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Energy; Minister responsible for Multiculturalism, Homelessness and Immigration; Management and Services Board*

#### **David Alagalak**

(Arviat)

#### **Peter Kattuk**

(Hudson Bay)

#### **James Arreak**

(Uqqurmiut)

*Deputy Speaker; Chair of the Committee of the Whole*

#### **Steve Mapsalak**

(Akulliq)

*Co-Chair, Full Caucus; Regular Members' Caucus*

#### **Hon. David Simailak**

(Baker Lake)

*Minister of Finance; Chair of the Financial Management Board*

#### **James Arvaluk**

(Tununiq)

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

(Nanulik)

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

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

(Amittuq)

*Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Human Resources*

#### **Levi Barnabas**

(Quttiktuq)

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

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

(Iqaluit West)

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

#### **Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

*Striking Committee; Management and Services Board*

**Hon. Levinia Brown**  
(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services*

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Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

**Box 1200**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0**

**Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266**

**Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)**

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Friday, December 1, 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, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Honourable Patterk Netser, 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 Mr. Alagalak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Ministers, Members and visitors, welcome. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 146 – 2(3): Minister Okalik Absent from the House**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise members that the Honourable Paul Okalik will be absent from the House today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Minister's Statement 147 – 2(3): Consultations on Language Legislation**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavummiut have long awaited new language legislation that would better reflect our territory's unique linguistic reality.

The new language legislation will not only maintain the rights for French and English languages, but recognize the utmost importance of the Inuit language as the defining characteristics of the history and people of Nunavut.

I am pleased to report that the drafting stage of the legislation is progressing for the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is now conducting consultations with a number of territorial language stakeholders, as well as with Nunavut communities.

These consultations will ensure that the proposed language legislation will respond to the best interests of Nunavummiut. The department is planning to begin consultation with Qikiqtaaluk and Kivalliq communities before Christmas. The consultations with the Kitikmeot region and the remaining communities will be completed in the New Year.

Mr. Speaker it is my intention to introduce the house upon completion of the public consultations two pieces of made in Nunavut Language legislation called the *Inuit Language Protection Act* and the *Official Languages Act*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Minister's Statement 148 – 2(3): Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council  
Appointments**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to everyone. Mr. Speaker in my capacity as the Minister responsible for the Status of Women, I am pleased to announce the appointment of three members to the Qullit Status of Women's Council.

Arnaoyok Alookee of Taloyoak has been reappointed while Leonie Duffy of Coral Harbour and Donna Olsen-Hakongaq of Cambridge Bay are new appointments to Qullit. They will all serve a two-year term. I would also like to thank the outgoing members Rhoda Ungalaq and Annie Napayok, for their dedication and for the important contributions they made during their terms.

Mr. Speaker, they are joining President Kathy Hanson of Iqaluit and members Celine Ningark of Kugaaruk, Meeka Mearns of Pangnirtung, Catherine Pilakapsi of Rankin Inlet, Christine Erkidluk of Sanikiluaq and Anne Isnor of Cambridge Bay.

Together, these women reflect the geographic and cultural diversity of Nunavut. Qullit's mandate is to work for equality of all women in Nunavut through advocacy, research, public education, assistance to women's groups and advice to government.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the good work Qullit undertakes on behalf of Nunavummiut and I ask the Members of this House to join me in extending best wishes to the newest members of Qullit as they work to improve the lives of Nunavummiut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Mr. Netser.

**Minister's Statement 149 – 2(3): United Nations Climate Change Meetings**

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Two officials from my department have recently returned from a successful trip to the United Nations Council of Parties, or COP 12, a conference on climate change in Nairobi, Kenya.

Considering the potential impact of climate change on the Arctic, it is important for the Government of Nunavut to have a voice at these international meetings.

While my officials were kept busy during their time at the conference on many tasks, I am pleased with their efforts in making sure that the federal minister for the environment included the impacts of climate change on the arctic in her address to the conference. My staff were also involved in climate change adaptation talks, getting the opportunity to explain what needs to be done in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, initial adaptation negotiations were concluded during this COP 12 and an agreement was reached on a five-year global adaptation program. The Government of Nunavut provided input and direction to our federal negotiating team. Now we need to work with the federal government to support the development of a Canadian adaptation plan.

As one of the side events to COP 12, the internationally distributed 2007 Rio Calendar, which highlights the impacts of climate change, was unveiled. I am happy to report that Elisapee Ishulutaq, an elder from Pangnirtung is featured in the calendar. Along with her picture, Elisapee talks about the changes she has seen in our environment over the years.

I am proud that the Government of Nunavut is a sponsor of this calendar which will help make the world aware of what challenges we face in the arctic in the years to come. Copies of this calendar will arrive in Nunavut by mid-December, and you can be assured that all of you will receive a copy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 150 – 2(3): Tabling of Approaching *Ikummatiit***

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning. I am pleased to tell members about Approaching *Ikummatiit*: the Government of Nunavut Energy Strategy. Developing a Nunavut Energy Strategy will help Nunavummiut reduce their total

dependence on fossil fuels for all their energy needs. Later today I will be tabling the document: *Approaching Ikummatiit*.

The need to do things differently is particularly underlined by high and volatile world oil prices. Our addiction to fossil fuels is at too high a cost to us and at too high a cost to our environment.

*Approaching Ikummatiit* translates to different forms of energy and our territory needs to turn to fresh forms of energy. Examples include hydro electricity, solar power, and/or wind power to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. These alternatives are explored in the document.

The Energy Strategy has four key components:

1. Public education and outreach
2. The creation of an affordable energy fund
3. The use of renewable and other energy
4. The fundamental restructuring of our energy usage for increased efficiency.

In *Pinasuaqtavut*, 2004-09 the government commits to conserve and reduce the use of energy and find alternatives to diesel fuel for electricity generation. We believe that the implementation of *Ikummatiit* will enable us to achieve that goal. An important objective of the Strategy is the encouragement of conservation and enhanced management to increase management efficiency, reduce greenhouse gases, and control our costs.

Departments and agencies will work in partnership with the Government's Energy Secretariat to prepare an implementation and carry out plans for the *Ikummatiit* initiative.

With this strategy we are taking a significant step forward to taking control of energy issues here in Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 151 – 2(3): Fetal Fibronectin Test in Nunavut**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to announce the successful completion of a two-year pilot project using a new test for premature labour.

Babies who are born prematurely and who are very small can become very sick and often need to be sent to southern hospitals for specialized care. These premature births are

emotionally traumatic for parents, and care givers, can make the babies very sick and often result in emergency medivacs.

Caregivers do everything possible to avoid having these tiny babies born in the health centres and hospitals in Nunavut in order to ensure the expertise is available to assist the mother and to provide expert care for the premature infant.

A new test, known as the Fetal Fibronectin test, allows caregivers to determine accurately whether an expectant mother is likely to have her baby in the next seven days, or so. This test, which has been fully approved for use in Canada, was introduced to the Baffin for review in July 2004 and has been used over 75 times by nurses and doctors since then.

A review of its use by Dr. Sandy MacDonald, the Medical Director for the Department of Health and Social Services, has shown that the test saved approximately 45 emergency medivacs of expectant mothers who might have been in labour.

In addition to helping expectant mothers and their babies, it has also saved the department over \$400,000 in medivacs in the last two years. All of the expectant mothers went on to deliver healthy babies after the test and were able to stay close to their families.

In light of the success of this pilot project, the department has purchased additional testing equipment and is installing it in most health centres throughout Nunavut during the next two months.

The use of this test has improved the quality of healthcare delivered to these tiny Nunavummiut. It has also saved a significant number of expectant mothers from emergency medivacs and has helped the department become more efficient with our limited resources.

I would like to thank Dr. MacDonald for his work in this important area of care.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Ministers' Statements. Thank you. Orders of the Day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evygotailak.

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

#### **Member's Statement 344 – 2(3): Kugluktuk Warms up to Christmas**

**Mr. Evygotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Peter Kattuk will be absent today.

On my Member's Statement, Mr. Speaker, as Christmas time approaches, I rise today to share with you some of the activities organized by the Kugluktuk Christmas Committee and its volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, this committee has been very busy over the years, some of its previous achievements since 2003 include:

- Preparing over 100 food hampers each year for homes;
- Collecting presents and prizes; and
- Organizing events.

In 2004, the committee hosted the New Year's Eve live entertainment. At this event they had our Elvis impersonator performing. This was much enjoyed by all.

Mr. Speaker, this year, the Kugluktuk committee and volunteers held their fourth annual Christmas radio telecom fundraiser and raised a total of \$14,591.87. After five years of live entertainment, prayers, laughter, and songs, the funds raised during those telecoms are used for toy drives for children under 12 at Santa's Party, prizes for game night for all age groups, New Year's Eve entertainment, and most importantly, for the food hampers.

Mr. Speaker, there was also a penny challenge where pennies were collected, and this year, the penny piggy bank weighed an astonishing 90 pounds.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in acknowledging the generous work the committee and its volunteers have done to make Christmas more enjoyable for all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. (interpretation) Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

### **Member's Statement 345 – 2(3): Seal and Animal Protesters**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes northerners, especially those who are living off the land are misunderstood by animal rights groups like Paul McCartney's protest on anti-sealing last spring. However, I've learned that counter-misunderstanding was sometimes equally puzzling.

When the news came at twelve o'clock, I was driving my boys from school. In the interview the CBC asked a protestor, "What's your favourite animal?" she said, "A seal." "Why a seal?" The protestor replied, "Because I love seal pups' eyes." My son, who was seven at the time, apparently was listening; I didn't know he was listening. He said, "Me, too. Yummy."

>> *Laughter*

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation) Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Ms. Brown.

**Member's Statement 346 – 2(3): Community Announcements**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I have two announcements to make, but first of all, I would like to state that the communities are now watching the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and I would like to thank the people who broadcast our proceedings.

I say hello to all the people in Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet, I say hello to you. I will be seeing you not too long from now. Also, Gjoa Haven, if my nephew or niece is watching, Nellie Kusugak, I thank you very much; she made what I'm wearing today. So I thank you for making that for me.

And also, I have to thank Levi Barnabas because when I was in Arctic Bay, they were very receptive.

Last October 8 we had a newcomer: my daughter gave birth to a son who was nine pounds. She named him after my father; his name is Uqaqti Daniel Lodi. I just wanted to announce that.

Secondly, I have my youngest daughter who used to work here at the Legislative Assembly. I want Nancy and everyone to hear... a lot of people asked me if my daughter had already given birth; she had given birth last month on November 23. Qiliqti Margaret Brown gave birth to a son, and her son weighed eight pounds, nine ounces.

And also, the first time I named my first grandchild, I believe that I am now an elder because I have named one of my grandchildren. I was asked by an elder in Arviat and she's Inukpaujaq and she's related to us. She asked me if I could name an individual who was born in our side of the family when it was a boy.

So I named my grandson Inukpaujaq. Inukpaujaq is very well respected and that individual has many countless relatives. Her son is sitting here, David Alagalak, and also, she has many relatives in Iqaluit, Coral Harbour, and they have relatives all over the place. His name is Daniel Lodi Inukpaujaq.

I'm very proud to announce the two grandsons.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Brown. (interpretation) I would like to acknowledge you. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

**Member's Statement 347 – 2(3): Christmas Wishes**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome everyone to the Gallery.

In the month of December, in view that it's a celebration month and we look forward to the new year; we are grateful that we have made it this far. Christmas celebrations are very well expected by the people and also by Nunavummiut. It seems like the non-natives don't look forward to Christmas because they're used to it.

In view of that, the regular Inuit people, who are less fortunate than us, they are quite concerned about Christmas. Even though we don't want to talk about bad things, I know that they have the tendency to think about the positive things.

Some of these individuals go through difficult times in the month of Christmas, even during New Year's and New Year's Eve. Even though, we don't want to expect negative things to occur around those holidays, it's impossible sometimes. Even those less fortunate than us would like to purchase Christmas gifts, but they can't afford it. I don't know what will happen to these people in our homes.

Even though it's like that, we wish you well during the month of Christmas and I know that you won't be concerned with negative things. I know that your whole family will be happy and you will hear that you have work to do. In spite of that, it's a celebration month.

There are other individuals who look forward to a new year and I feel for those people because sometimes those individuals have nothing good to look forward to. I would like to state to all of Nunavut parents in the homes, your wives and your children, please consider your whole family during the Christmas season because your whole family has been expecting to have a good celebration. There are some individuals who have been expecting to have a better year. Please do provide them a good year because your children have a good future too and they have to be good role models.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Very well said. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Member's Statement 348 – 2(3): Nunavut Youth Parliament**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank and congratulate Jacqueline Omilgoetok-Lafrance for her participation in the Youth Parliament held here in Iqaluit last month.

I have watched this young lady grow up in Cambridge Bay. She is a very thoughtful, concerned, kind, and generous young lady. I was very proud that she decided that she wanted to be an MLA for a week and represent her constituents to the best of her abilities and be their voice in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Nearly 50 percent of Nunavut's population is under the age of 22. This is a unique characteristic of our jurisdiction in relation to other provinces and territories in Canada. As elected legislators, we make important decisions every day that have an impact on the future of our youth and our territory, and yet it seems that the youth do not always have a voice.

It is through initiatives such as the Nunavut Youth Parliament, Regional Inuit Association Youth Committees, and the Community Youth Organizations that our youth can make important statements to politicians at every level about serious issues such as addressing drug and alcohol abuse, suicides, teen smoking, funding for youth centres, education, sport and recreation, strengthening language and culture and other matters of importance to them.

I would like the House to join me in congratulating all the participants in the Nunavut Youth Parliament, as well as Nunavut youth everywhere for working hard to improve conditions for themselves, their families, and their communities so that Nunavut becomes a better place to live.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 349 – 2(3): Congratulate Jordin Tootoo**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know today is Friday and it is usually a light day, but I would like to take this opportunity to make a statement congratulating someone that I'm very proud of, and I think a lot of Nunavummiut are very proud of, that's my cousin, Jordin Tootoo. He scored his first goal last night. We thought he had it a couple of weeks ago, but he had it taken away from him.

They won over St. Louis last night. I think it is the fact that he exemplifies what hard work and determination and teamwork can do. He has proven that but you believe in, if you want something bad enough anything is possible.

I'd like to congratulate him on his goal last night and also congratulate the team on the teamwork; I think they're leading their division. The teams like Chicago, and the other four teams that have the lowest amount of points in the National Hockey League; they

should look to teams like that as examples and maybe they can end up getting more points as well.

I like to ask all members to join me in congratulating Jordin on his first goal last night, and hopefully, we see more in the games ahead.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Netser.

### **Member's Statement 350 – 2(3): Congratulate Sister-In-Law**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I would like to extend my appreciation for my sister-in-law who is in the Gallery. If it wasn't for her, my wife and I would not be together. It's the Inuit way of life to counsel when we experience difficult times with our spouses. Usually the elders would support us.

I would like to extend my appreciation to my sister-in-law because she really assisted us for me and my wife, for my older brother, and my mother, and her. If it wasn't for them I would not be standing here and I know that for sure.

And I would like to congratulate her for being appointed to the Status of Women's Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Members' Statements. Member for Baffin South, Mr. Akesuk.

### **Member's Statement 351 – 2(3): Opening of Youth Centre**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to Cape Dorset and Kimmirut. When I did a phone-in show; it was very successful.

Last August we worked in Cape Dorset and we worked on the youth centre and we opened it in Cape Dorset. And I know that facility is going to be very beneficial to the community because it took a long time to work on that.

So I would like thank our Commissioner Anne Mikijuk Hanson and many of her relatives were there and I would like to extend my appreciation to her and also to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Mr. Tapardjuk also took part in the opening ceremony also the staff of Municipality of Cape Dorset.



I would like to thank Fred Schell for their great hospitality and the whole community. I would like to thank the whole community for their kind hospitality when we opened the youth centre.

I think it took about two years or more to open it and to construct it, but we were very proud to have opened it and I know that the youth facility will be beneficial to our youth in Cape Dorset because they work very hard, the whole community worked very hard to get that facility, so I would like to extend my appreciation to the people who worked hard to get the facility going and to open it last August.

Minister Tapardjuk, Commissioner Anne Mikijuk Hanson, and also the community of Cape Dorset, I would like to thank you very much for doing this.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 352 – 2(3): Members of the Legislative Assembly Soccer Team**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since today is Friday, this past week we have been working on very heavy and serious things, so we have to make it a lighter day on Fridays.

Tomorrow the Hurricane MLAs will play soccer. We'll play soccer tomorrow and we are going to try our best. I will be playing, Keith Peterson, Joe Allen Evyagotailak, Olayuk Akasuk, Paul Okalik, Peter Kattuk.

We will be playing soccer because we are getting a bit older and we usually sit all day and I think our joints are kind of...and Ed Picco has bad joints, too, that's why he can't play with us.

We will be playing against the 17 & Under Girls Soccer Team from Inukshuk High School. We will be fundraising for their activities in spring time so I invite all Iqalumiut to come and watch. It might get a bit embarrassing if they beat us since they are a lot younger than us.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 353 – 2(3): Community Announcements**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would be fantastic if we had the Jordin Tootoo-like abilities on our soccer team playing tomorrow. I do have some problems with my limbs, but Mr. Speaker, on one leg I could do probably better than other members could with two. And I hope to prove that tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker this weekend, and some of the members have mentioned, will be very busy here in Iqaluit and I just wanted to update the Members in the House and our listening public.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock, the Anglican Church will be hosting a Christmas Craft Sale fundraiser and all proceeds from the craft sale will be going to the construction of our new cathedral.

Last week, I want to thank our members for attending our turkey supper. We raised over \$8,600 at the turkey supper for the new church.

>> *Applause*

As Mr. Barnabas has just mentioned, the Under 17 Girls Soccer Team has challenged the MLAs and others to participate at one o'clock tomorrow at the high school, again, another fundraiser and I thank the members who are participating.

My daughter is one of the players on the Under 17 Girls Soccer Team, and I have had some issues with injuries over the last week and a half, so if I'm not able to participate, my wife has generously offered to fill in in my stead. I would hope to be on the sidelines at least cheering Mr. Barnabas on. And I invite, again, the public in Iqaluit and the visiting public here in the community to take part in that tomorrow at one o'clock.

At two o'clock tomorrow afternoon, I will be attending another event, and that will be the official opening of the homeless shelter here in Iqaluit. Again, I would urge the members to try to attend.

The Commissioner for the Salvation Army, for the first time ever in Nunavut, will be present for the official opening, along with the world famous, internationally-known Salvation Army Brass Band. That will be at two o'clock at the homeless shelter.

Then tomorrow evening, First Air is hosting their annual President's Ball. I want to point out that the President's Ball is an annual event held here in Iqaluit on behalf and for First Air.

All funds raised at the President's Ball are donated to various charities across Nunavut, for example, the crisis line, the homeless shelter, and the Nunavut Literacy Council are some of the people who have received money from this event. Again, I would urge members to try to attend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the ladies for not letting them go first, but I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize some young people here in the Gallery as they have a bus waiting for them.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the students from the grade one, two, and three classes from the Ecole des Trois-Solaire that were here to decorate the Christmas tree. As we know there's one Christmas tree from each school that's decorated every year.

I would like to recognize all of them and my French is not the best, so excuse any mispronunciations of the names. In no particular order I would like to welcome: Nathan Bisson, Ayla Jacquard, Sophie Dubeau, Daniel Joseph-Johnson, Diane Garson, Esmé Roussel, Leevee Pallister-Beauregard, Tattaujaq Birrell, no stranger to Members of this House, also known as Tau is here, Xavier Palluq-Cloutier, Katia d'Argencourt, my son Cédric Bohemier, hiding under the chairs over there, Austin Caza, Hala Crowley, Alex McDermott, Danyan Cartier, and their teacher Molly McClure.

I would like to welcome them to the Gallery, and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Cindy Rennie, who coordinates this event on behalf of the Legislative Assembly and also the bus driver for her patience in waiting for the students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce and recognize in the Gallery the members of Qulliit Nunavut Status Council. When your name is called, please stand up.

Starting off, Kathy Hanson, who is the president of the council from Iqaluit, member Celine Ningark from Kugaaruk, Christine Erkidluk from Sanikiluaq, Catharine Pilakapsi from Rankin Inlet, Anne Isnor from Cambridge Bay, one of my constituents Arnaujuq Alookie from Taloyoak, Leonie Duffy from Coral Harbour, and Donna Olsen Hakongak from Cambridge Bay, and Meeka Mearns who can't be here today from Pangnirtung.

I would like to recognize the staff for the council: Stephanie Williams who is Acting Executive Director for the Council and Rhoda Adla who is the interim Executive Director.

And I also would like to recognize a long time northerner who's leaving this month and who has worked in many departments throughout Nunavut, that's Maureen Doherty who is also Senior Program specialist for women's initiatives within the Government of Nunavut.

The individuals are here until the third of December and will be meeting over the weekend as well. So welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the person was already recognized, but I don't get very many opportunities to recognize my constituents Celine Ningark. Their daughter is my Constituency Assistant. I'd like to welcome her to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Welcome. Mr. Netser

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know they were already recognized, but my constituent Leonie Duffy and Rankin Inlet resident Catherine Pilakapsi. (interpretation ends) Give a special welcome to this House to the lady who makes my liver quiver.

>>Laughter

The lady who gives pep to my steps and the lady who gives pride to my stride, my dear wife of 25 years, Mrs. Mona Nester. Mr. Speaker, we are only 18 years of age.

>>Laughter

>>Applause

**Speaker**: Welcome to the Gallery. Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague Mr. Mapsalak said, we don't get very many opportunities to recognize visitors in the Gallery from the Kitikmeot, so if you were recognized before it's an opportunity to recognize you again. I'd like to recognize the two ladies from Cambridge Bay Ann Isnor and Donna Olsen-Hakongak.

They do a lot of great work for the ladies in Cambridge Bay and I'm sure they'll make significant contributions to the women of Nunavut. Welcome to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Welcome, again, to the Gallery. If we excluded somebody, everybody welcome. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 399 – 2(3): Mandatory Leave Without Pay**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Human Resources. As all members and most of the public will recall, a number of years ago we had deficit reduction initiatives that were taking place, and one of those initiatives, prior to Nunavut being in place was dubbed “Donny Days.”

The public service took mandatory days without pay. That initiative was done again in Nunavut where employees were asked to take I think it was three days off without pay at the time. And the government of the day agreed that it didn't have to be at a certain fixed time of the year that it could be spread out at the employees' choice.

My question to the minister is: is there an initiative like that being undertaken right now to address some of the deficit that the government is facing?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Human Resources, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the information with me at this time, but I will get back to the member once I have that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The minister has taken the question as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

#### **Question 400 – 2(3): CLEY Response to Elder Abuse**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. The issue of elder abuse arose at the Kitikmeot AGM in October. In June, I questioned the minister about what his department is doing to assist vulnerable elders who are being abused.

He indicated at that time his department didn't know how big the problem is. My question for the minister: can the minister update the House on what his department has

done since June to determine how large the issue of elder abuse is in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I apologize. If I understood your question correctly, your question was if I know approximately how many elders are abused. I don't have the information in front of me, but I would like to take the question as notice at this time. I apologize. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson, your question has been taken as notice. Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

### **Question 401 – 2(3): Environment Support for Hunters' Lost Equipment**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Environment. A few days ago I asked the minister if there would be any support given to the hunters for the loss of their equipment during a hunting trip. And I believe his response was that he didn't have money to pay to compensate the hunters.

And one of his responses was that they would get compensated from the Disaster Funds. Where can the hunters get compensation for loss of equipment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Environment, Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to defence kills and also to equipment being damaged by polar bears, we don't have any money at all but we would like to hear about incidents of that type. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister look into this and get back to me once he gets the information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of the Environment, Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will find out what the member is asking about, but I want to stress to the House that we don't have any programs for hunters or trappers that have their hunting equipment damaged by polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seem to recall that there was a Disaster Compensation Fund. I believe we're talking about the same thing, or maybe I should be asking the minister if there are any funds available, or if it will be possible to be compensated by the Workers' Compensation Board.

I would like the minister to respond to that, please. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. We'll just proceed. I'll let the minister respond to that question. Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): In regard to the Workers' Compensation Board, if a hunter is injured, they are eligible to get compensated through our department.

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

#### **Question 402 – 2(3): Hamlet Call Out Fee**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We just heard on the news and I will direct my question to the Minister of Transportation. There's going to be a call out fee of \$50 for the High Arctic.

What is the Minister of Transportation going to do? For example, the hamlets will pay for the call out fee if the prices should go up. The hamlet will end up paying for it. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The employees have heard about this and we asked them to look into it and see if they can work with the communities, and also to talk with the air carriers that travel to the High Arctic. I heard about that when they were talking about it on CBC and I asked my staff to make sure that they work with the affected parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This information was not given to the communities. We just heard about it today and all of a sudden it's there. How did it come about that this call out fee was set up? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I don't know how it was set up by the Council of Resolute Bay. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The first ones who had the contract did not have a \$50 call out fee. Why is it that the second contractors, the hamlet, all of a sudden have to pay for this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly sure how it was set up or how it came about, but what I heard was that the pilots have a set number of hours that they can fly. I will make sure that our staff work directly with the hamlet councils and find out how this came about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think that we should be pointing fingers at anybody. The airlines come in late almost all the time due to weather or other circumstances. What is the minister going to do about this fee? The price will increase again for those communities that I represent and it's going to be an additional hardship. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will make sure that your concerns are looked into. Again, it's going to increase the airfares. We will make sure that all of the parties involved work together to make sure that something is done to rectify this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 403 – 2(3): Hospital Specialist Appointments**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I think it's every year that specialists come into Iqaluit to provide services. At that same time, the people from the outlying communities are flown in to Iqaluit to see the specialists.



At times, the patients who are supposed to come in don't make it due to the weather, and then since they can't come in, they're usually booked again to see the specialist at the following visit. What is your department going to do about this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health provides specialist services in two ways. One in that they come up to Iqaluit as an example, or the patients that require specialist services go down to Ottawa. So it's not just here, but they also go to the communities.

In cases where individuals are not able to fly due to weather to see their specialists, those individuals are rescheduled for the next visit, or if it's more urgent, we will fly that patient down to Ottawa to see the specialist. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. With the current situation, or possibly through misunderstanding, the patients who are supposed to see a specialist and who don't make it, sometimes have to go down for medical services, and then they end up getting more drastic treatment, either requiring surgery or something more urgent.

I would like to ask the minister if it's possible to send them at all times if it's a serious case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any citizen can go to the health facilities and seek treatment. In cases where we have to reschedule, we try and provide the earliest opportunity for the person to be seen by the specialist, whether it be through Iqaluit, or with a traveling physician, or down to Ottawa.

If there are ways to better improve communication with clients just on that process, I will commit to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. A lot of the people are not informed about what process they should follow when they have to go see a specialist, or if they miss an appointment. There's also cases where a person goes up to the nursing station and then they're told that they're perfectly fine.

Every individual has a right to a second opinion, and I think that the people out there should be informed about that, too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a question, but I did hear him suggesting that we do better communication to our clients and patients on what services are available, I have committed to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, minister. Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

#### **Question 404 – 2(3): Agriculture Ministerial Conference**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. There are conferences that go on down south to meet with the ministers and the ministers from the Nunavut Government are involved in those conferences. It helps the people of Nunavut when the ministers go down for a meeting.

I think it was in June or May that the APF had a conference to deal with...and they had a meeting down south about farming, or agriculture and the ministers from the Nunavut Government are involved in that conference with the other ministers down south.

In November they also had a chance to have a meeting with the ministers in the seven provinces; I would like to ask the minister if he was involved in that conference down south with the other ministers. Thank you.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I did not attend the conference in November because I was in one of my constituent communities but what we are doing with the Agriculture Ministers is that we received some funding for the operations of the meat plants here in Nunavut, to be able to process meat in those meat plants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to let you know that I am not Mr. Arreak. I think there's money, over \$1 million that is given to, given by the federal government. I think the ministers have heard that, how much money, how much funding did you get provided by the federal government, in what amounts?

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal ministers provide some funding in various amounts each year, but I understand what the Nunavut

Government gets and I will try to get the information as to how much money that we were provided with for agricultural purposes. I know they spend a lot of money by providing those funds, but I can't really say what amounts at this time.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to be heard and seen by the federal government as being partners in the government, such as fish and meat plants have to be provided with funding.

I know that there is going to be a conference with the minister again down south this winter and it's good that the federal government is thinking about the Nunavut Government for a change. Can the Nunavut Government put in a proposal to get some funding for that?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have written them with a proposal and we wanted to be able to get some funding for three years in the amount of \$900,000 for the Nunavut Government to be used for meat and fish plants. That's the amount of money that we'll be receiving from the federal government in a three-year period, but we will be requesting the federal government again for more dollars to run our meat and fish plants.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's good to hear. I just wanted to ask the minister again when that conference will be held because Inuit people have to hear about what's happening when the ministers go down to have a meeting with their counterparts.

Is there going to be any information for the people of Nunavut? Have you given any information to the people of Nunavut about that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand the member correctly, we would very much like to inform the public out there in regard to the meetings that we attend with our counterparts down south. I will look into this further to see that the people of Nunavut are being informed about the meetings that we have with our counterparts.

We would like to be able to give them more information, but I will get back to the member about giving information to the public out there about those kinds of meetings

that we attend as Nunavut Government ministers with our counterparts down south.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 405 – 2(3): Sealift Fatality and Equipment Loss**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services.

In my questioning to the minister yesterday in regard to sealift services, the minister had indicated that there was an incident here where there was a fatality when a piece of heavy equipment fell into the water just outside here where the boats anchor. Is she aware if that heavy equipment is still sitting at the bottom of the bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that question from the member. Yes, due to the equipment being in the water, the Department of Environment has been consulted.

The member is right; there is a piece of equipment under those 90 feet, and Transport Canada has been advised that the equipment is 90 feet. I am advised that there is no environmental danger at this point; the fuel spill would have been evaporated within 24 hours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess to ask the question that you know this happened. The minister indicated last month or earlier this month that there was no notification to anyone about the report and I would think that organizations maybe like the Hunters and Trappers Association or someone would have been notified that there was a piece of heavy equipment filled with diesel fuel, hydraulic oil, engine oil that went into the water here and is still there.

I am wondering if the minister has an idea why there was no public notice no notification in regard to this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the member for Iqaluit Centre. I am sure that the people are looking after that piece of equipment and know what they are doing.

**Speaker:** Sorry, Minister Brown. We appear to have problems with the hearing piece. Please proceed, Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking the question and I feel the same way that he does. I am pretty sure that the people who were looking after that equipment, or know about the equipment know what they were doing and tried to do their best to try and retrieve that piece of equipment.

As to the people why they were not informed about the incident, my staff is listening to us right now. They are probably looking for ways to make the public know about what happened about the incident about the heavy equipment sinking. The members, the Cabinet Members, were informed about that though. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I guess I would like to follow up by asking the minister if she would be prepared to provide a formal report on that incident and other incidents that happened during this year's sealift. I understand she said yesterday that there was an issue in Pond Inlet where the ship had to be towed all the way back down south for repairs.

My colleagues from Sanikiluaq indicated there was another sinking or an abandonment of a barge in Nunavut waters, and also the fact that some materials have been frozen or iced in in Baker Lake that were destined for other communities.

On those types of incidents, and also if their department have received any concerns, or displeasures, or whatever you want to call it that were raised to them on behalf of other Government of Nunavut agencies or other departments that utilize the government's contract to sealift. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not heard any concerns from any other government departments. To address his concerns, I will ask for a report as to the incidents that happened. It's unfortunate that incidents like this happen because this is not the first time and we don't wish any harm on anyone.

We don't predict whether there's going to be anything wrong. The ships that have contracts with the government are trying to do their best in a harsh environment like Nunavut. I will request my department to do some investigations and write them all down, and give that out as information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Question 406 – 2(3): Federal Cuts to Nunavut Literacy Programs**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, in September of this year, the federal government announced devastating cuts to a number of programs in order to achieve a \$1 billion savings in their budget. And over \$17 million was cut from the budget of Human Resources and Skills Development for the Adult Learning and Leadership Skills Program.

My question for the minister: can the minister clarify for the House exactly how these cuts have affected or will affect the literacy funding in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the cuts were announced by the federal government, I was in the meeting of the Canadian Ministers' Council for Education in the south.

The chair of the meeting Ms. Burke...we put out a communiqué immediately saying how devastating these cuts may be. At that time, we weren't aware of what the total amounts would be and how they were broken down by jurisdiction.

In Nunavut, there's a lot of ...in the cuts announced by the federal government, which included the Status of Women's Council, literacy funding, labour market development agreements, skills training programs under HRDC, the cuts on literacy alone were about \$100,000 to Nunavut. Under the different labour market development agreements, there were several hundred thousand dollars more cut from our budget.

In total Mr. Speaker, we're looking at, in Nunavut, a loss of between \$3 and \$4 million of extra funding in a wide variety of different programs and services that the federal government was supporting in the territory. 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 update. I am pleased to note that he has done some lobbying.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Literacy Council contributes significantly to improving literacy levels in Nunavut. I'm very concerned about their future ability to continue their fine work in Nunavut; over the years, they have made tremendous contributions to our territory.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House if he has lobbied his federal counterparts, I guess Minister Findlay, to restore this funding and whether he believes the federal government will reverse their decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have written to Minister Findlay on the literacy cuts, as well as the Canadian Council of Ministers of Education have also sent a letter to the minister.

It would seem from the federal government that they would like to concentrate their funding toward the K to 12 educational school system. As we know, the federal government has been suggesting that their area of responsibility, with the Berger Report as an example, is not in the K to 12 education system.

Indeed, they suggest, of course, that the education is a territorial or provincial responsibility. So therein lies the kind of paradox of the cuts in the support for these types of programs.

We're continuing our efforts with our federal partner to try to explain and justify some of the reasons we think that in Nunavut, for example, we're unique and these types of cuts need to be reviewed. However, at the present time, there has not been any type of sign from the federal government, whether it's for ourselves here in Nunavut, or indeed on the national level for the Canadian Council of Ministers of Education, that the federal governments are rethinking their program cuts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. I was watching the CPAC channel the other day when the President of the Treasury Board of Canada, John Baird, appeared before a federal standing committee. There was a terrible display of arrogance towards the Literacy Councils and Status of Women funding, and other important programs for Nunavut and Canada. It worries me whether they will reverse their decision.

My question for the minister is: can the minister tell the House that his department has a backup plan to ensure that the Nunavut Literacy Council stays in business in the event that the federal government does not reverse their decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the program cuts in total on literacy in Nunavut were about \$378,000; about \$256,000 of that for the Literacy Council and \$122,000 for Nunavut Arctic College.

I am in the process right now of reviewing our budget to see where I can step in and support the Nunavut Literacy Council. Ms. Crockatt, who is the Executive Director, Kim Crockatt, and her group have done yeoman service for literacy over the last several years, as the members know. One of the highlights is the Peter Gzowski Golf Tournament for Literacy.

We're continuing, with the Premier, to push the federal government to try to acknowledge the unique factors that we have to deal with in Nunavut. I am trying to review our budget to see where we can step in to help relieve some of these cuts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. The minister mentioned the Peter Gzowski Golf Tournament; the minister and I had the good fortune to participate as team mates in that tournament. Contrary to popular belief, he is a tremendous golfer. He made a significant contribution to literacy.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Literacy Council staff have already taken a voluntary pay cut, I understand, to avert this disaster to make up for the \$250,000 hit that they took, and there may be some layoffs coming in the future. The minister indicated that he is reviewing the budget; I know that funding is going to be tight.

Can I get a commitment from the minister that he will direct his officials to take a serious look at ensuring that they find additional funding for the Nunavut Literacy Council in their 2007-08 Main Estimates in the event that the federal government does not reverse their decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I agree he is a good golfer, but also known for very deep divots. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't understand about these debits, I never use my debit card at any time playing golf; I don't understand his point.

Ken Dryden did play golf with me in 1990 and I kind of hit him a couple times with the ball and I apologized to Mr. Dryden for that and Rick Mercer, I apologized to him for hitting him, and I apologized to Mr. Peterson for hitting him with the ball. And Mr. Akasuk, I played golf with him at the Toonik Tyme tournament. Mr. Speaker, Friday is a light day and we try to have some levity on Friday.

However, Mr. Peterson has raised a very serious concern in the House and that is the issue of literacy. We know that the literacy rates in Nunavut are some of the lowest in Canada. The good work that's been done by the Nunavut Literacy Council is at the community level; at the grassroots level.



At the same time we have to be cognizant of the fact that we are in a deficit reduction program mode in the government and there isn't a lot of money to go around. What I can commit to the House and to the member in all fairness is again to review the budget to see if there is an opportunity to help alleviate some of the concerns about the cuts that the federal government has made.

It is important to note, when the federal government supports a program in Nunavut and makes an arbitrary cut, it is very difficult for this government or any of our colleagues in other Provincial and Territorial governments to step back in and fund the program. That is what we saw in health care cuts and that is where we are seeing now with these types of program cuts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 407 – 2(3): Medical Travel Problems**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

I know that she tabled a report since the transfer of the transportation office for the patients. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we don't know how many medivacs there are and how many escorts they require in our constituency.

When you have more than one community in your constituency, you can not keep up with the patients leaving for medical purposes. For that reason unilingual patients are experiencing problems with that. When you are escorting an individual, whether it be your grandchild or child, if you don't call the transportation office, then they will not arrange for your airline ticket today.

Last week I just found out, too, that in my riding, an individual coming from my riding was stuck at the boarding home here in Iqaluit for five days with her grandchild. How much extra did this cost for the government for those patients having to wait to go to home and staying at the boarding home and the boarding home is filled to its capacity when this occurs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health in this government spends approximately \$40 million on travel alone and that is how much we spend transporting people before they even receive medical treatment. It is a very high amount, but it is a necessity for us in providing services to our patients that require care outside their community.

You will see in the supplementary bills that we are in deficit in medical travel of \$3.7 million in addition to the funding that we spent internally just on medical travel and medivacs.

In terms of the member's concerns related to the individual, I can look into why the five days and I need the person's name, and each case differs. I don't know why, it could be because there are no flights to that community such as Grise Fiord; I believe they get one flight a week. I don't know about Resolute Bay, but I need to research each and every one of those because every situation is different. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First Air was already identified, that is the only airline that is provided up here and they identified that they will be providing four times per week when the weather is good.

The patients that are staying at the boarding home, the doctor is completed with them and they are ready to go home, but the patient boarding home is still filled to capacity. Once the Qikiqtaaluk hospital is completed, just looking at the size of the patient boarding home, if it is not going to be enlarged, then there will be more patients having to wait for their trip home.

What kind of plans does the minister have to improve the patient transportation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue around boarding homes and patients staying in boarding homes, in the New Year, we will be doing a request for proposals for construction of a new boarding home in Iqaluit.

>> *Applause*

We will also be doing a request for proposals for the one in Rankin Inlet for the construction as well. Later, for the one in Cambridge Bay, we will be doing a request for proposals for operations of the facility as the facility is already there.

So we are looking to address the issue around the boarding home situation in Iqaluit and we are moving forward in that. I'll keep the member updated as to where we are at with the request for proposals process, but the plan is to issue that request for proposals after Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 408 – 2(3): Baffin Medivac Contract**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, the minister just mentioned they are going to be issuing some requests for proposals, but I would like to ask...I'm certain there was a request for proposals issued last year. It closed in December 2005 for the medivac contract for the Baffin region. I'm just wondering if the minister can indicate what progress has been made on that file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Health, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand of that file, the requests for proposals were reviewed. There was a decision made; one of the companies that put forth a proposal appealed the decision through Nunavummi Nangminiqatunik Ikajuuti (NNI). NNI has reviewed the file with some recommendations and I understand those recommendations are being reviewed presently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to apologize; I was supposed to state: Minister of Health and Social Services. Your first supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to apologize, too, on it; earlier I was supposed to say hello to a constituent of mine I know who's watching me on TV: it's Jutani Davidee. I just want to say hi to him, I forgot earlier.

Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that those proposals had been reviewed and that they're looking at other proposals coming out. I wonder if she could explain the rationale or why they chose to go with the request for proposal, or what's the purpose of going for a request for proposal for the medivac contract; was it to look at who could provide the best service? Why not just put it out to tender instead of going to a request for proposal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you. It could have been a tender; it could have been a proposal. I'm not sure which process was followed. I do know it was a public advertisement where the companies can put forth their proposals and so on.

In my first response to his question I mentioned that there was an appeal and the NNI Committee was set and put forth some recommendations. That's where it's at right now; we're not entertaining any new proposals at this point in time, but I could stand to be corrected whether it was a proposal process or a tender process, and I'm not sure on that as to how they proceeded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the benefit of the minister, it was a request for proposals that was put out, it closed in December 2005. My understanding of the process is that you get a proposal; and the reason for going with a proposal instead of a tender is you can look at the best proposal, not necessarily the best price, but you can look at what the best proposal is.

I guess my question to the minister is: when reviewing the proposals for the medivac contract for Baffin, what kind of weight is given to things like the time taken to get a patient from whatever community they are in to a critical care centre? Is that something that's looked at and how much of a factor is that in reviewing the proposals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you. The areas he mentioned those would be obviously considerations in any request for proposals process with that type of service. There are probably other criteria in that request for proposal: response equipment and the types of aircraft and so on. Cost is also a factor, and in terms of the percentage or weight for that question, I don't have that level of details on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess, given the fact the minister stated that there was an appeal under way, the government did make a decision and award that contract to somebody. I know it has been the practice in the past that the medivac contract has been approved or brought to the cabinet for approval.

I'd like to ask the minister if she can indicate when that was brought forward to, whether it is Finance Management Board or her cabinet colleagues for approval prior to the award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you. I mentioned earlier there was an appeal, the NNI Committee is reviewing the file, and that recommendation from that review or appeal has not gone to Financial Management Board or the cabinet at this point in time. Thank you.

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

**Question 409 – 2(3): Impact on Funding Cuts**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Qullit Status of Women. Violence and domestic violence in Nunavut is a serious issue and seems to be rising despite the excellent work that the Qullit Status of Women organization does to educate the public about this issue.

A question for the minister, can the minister tell the House what impact the recent federal cuts would have on this organization? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for the Status of Women's Council Minister, Aglukkaq,

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. The recent announcement from the federal government for cuts to the Status of Women will have an impact. We had a federal, provincial, territorial ministers meeting in Saint John in October to discuss the federal government's position on it and they have assured us that the cuts will not have an impact.

The Status of Women's Canada provides a lot of support to Status of Women's Council groups across Canada around research on equity issues or poverty or violence against women as an example. So they have provided a lot of support.

The recent report that was released by Stats Canada on the violence against aboriginal women, First Nations as well as Inuit is one example of the work where we collaborated with the Status of Women Canada, to raise the issue and awareness around the Status of Women in Canada around violence as an example. So those are the kind of work they were involved in that brought a picture of where we're at in Canada around women's issues.

So we had concerns that that will be lost in the cuts. And yesterday, they announced further restructuring, so, again, that announcement was not shared with provinces or territories before it was made. So we're having to go back again to the Federal Minister on Status of Women, who seems to be working to dissolve her own organization; at this point to get the rationale again behind their recent announcement. 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. Mr. Speaker, I have been reading a lot of reports in the last couple weeks about domestic violence across Nunavut and across Canada and it's a not great picture, and it amazes me and surprises me and saddens me that the federal minister, and federal government would cut funds to valuable organizations like the Status of Women's Council.

I wonder if the minister could tell the House if she's had discussions privately with her federal counterpart to clarify why in Nunavut, where the magnitude of incidents of domestic violence is five to ten times higher than the provinces, that it's getting less

funding rather than more funding as a result of the federal budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned earlier that we had Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers meetings in New Brunswick, that is the time when we sat down with the ministers to release the violence against women statistics and at that time we all had an opportunity as Provinces and Territories to discuss with her the state of the violence around women in Canada.

Based on that report, what concerned me even further was the federal government made an announcement through the Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister, who will be here this weekend; he made an announcement to support First Nations women and allocated \$6 million for shelter assistance and excluded Inuit.

**Some Members:** Shame! Shame!

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** So from that I know, our Premier has raised it and so have the other provinces. The three territories had worked really hard the last four years to include Inuit to the Stats Canada Report to be recognized.

All our hard work seemed to have just been ignored. So again, this is another issue that we are trying to raise with the federal government. It does have an impact on our services in that we still need to address the current state of our own territory around violence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister tell the House if, similar to the questions I asked the Minister of Education, if her department will be reviewing their 2007-08 main estimates with a view to finding additional funding for the Status of Women's Council to carry out their critical programs in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be meeting with the Qullit Status of Women's Council this afternoon to discuss some of these concerns as well as the recent announcement of the federal government.

At the same time the work of the Status of Women's Council, the Premier will be releasing that report next week, around the first ever symposium we've held in Nunavut to address violence against women and children. In that there will be a number of

recommendations made from the symposium participants where over 100 men and women participated to address violence.

Arising from that report will be a number of initiatives that we will, as government, need to address and it will be more than just health, because housing is a part of it, education is part of it, and so on.

So we will be looking at those recommendations coming from the symposium, as well as the Status of Women's Council, and to try and move forward.

The main estimates process, in terms of the current funding we provide to our Status of Women's Council for operations, will remain the same. We are not changing that. What will change are the initiatives and programs from government to address violence in Nunavut as a result of many of the recommendations arriving from the symposium conference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Question Period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Tootoo.

### **Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills**

#### **Committee Report on Bills 010 – 2(3): Bill 08 Statistics Act**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability has reviewed Bill 8, the *Statistics Act*, and wishes to report that the Bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. In accordance to Rule 68(6), Bill 8 will be placed on the order paper for Monday December the 4. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Mapsalak.

#### **Committee Report on Bills 011 – 2(3): Bill 16 Family Abuse Intervention Act**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* has reviewed Bill 16, the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, and wishes to report that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. In accordance to Rule 68 (6), Bill 16 will be placed on the order paper for Monday, December 4.

Item 12. Reports of Committee on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Netser.

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents****Tabled Document 199 – 2(3): Ministerial Meeting Report – Canadian Parks Council  
October 2006 – Department of Environment**

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following information item: Ministerial Meeting Report of the Canadian Parks Council Meeting. It was held on October 11, 2006 in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 200 – 2(3): Sales Transfer of AT&T Enterprises Assets – Letter to  
Brian Zawadski**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table today further documentation in relation to the matter that I have been raising with the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. This document is two pieces of correspondence from 1999 concerning the assets of AT&T Enterprises. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Please bring the tabled document to the Clerk's table. Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Tabled Document 201 – 2(3): Qullit Nunavut Status of Women's Council Annual  
Report 2005-06**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the Qullit's Annual Report for 2005-06 as required by the Nunavut Status of Women's Council Legislation. In this report they also highlight some of their priorities, as well as some of the initiatives they have undertaken and I encourage members to read the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 202 – 2(3): KBDC Loan – Internal Memo**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to again table further documentation in relation to a matter that I have been raising with the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

This document is from Nunavut Business Credit Corporation memorandum from January 2003 and a portion of it states and I'll quote it "what counts is there maybe an opportunity here to allow KBDC to make serious progress in selling the PTY directly and thereby reducing the outstanding portion of the outstanding commitment." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

**Tabled Document 203 – 2(3): KBDC Loan – Email from NBCC to the Deputy Minister of ED&T**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I wish to table further documentation in relation to the matter I have been raising with the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. This document is an email dated January 31, 2002 from a Nunavut Business Credit Corporation official to a senior government official, and also note that the minister's office was cc'd on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 204 – 2(3): Ministerial Meeting Report – FPT Energy and Mines Conference in Whitehorse, Yukon August 27 to 29, 2006 from ED&T**

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document. The FPT Energy and Mines Conference in Whitehorse, Yukon August 27 to 29, 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akasuk. Provide the tabled document to the Clerk's table. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Netser.

**Tabled Document 205 – 2(3): Ministerial Meeting Report – Ministers Responsible for Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut October 10, 2006**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following item. Intergovernmental Ministers responsible for Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Meeting on October 10, 2006 in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Provide the tabled document, please. Item 13. Minister Picco.

**Tabled Document 206 – 2(3): Nunavut Arctic College Management Response to the External Review Status of the Recommendations from October 2006**

**Tabled Document 207– 2(3): Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report 2005-06**

**Tabled Document 208 – 2(3): Energy for Our Future: Approaching Ikummatiit: Developing a Nunavut Energy Strategy, December 2006**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table three documents. I wish to table the following document first: Nunavut Arctic College Management Response to the External Review Status of the Recommendations from October 2006. As well I wish to table the following the document Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report 2005-06.

I'd like to also table at this time Energy for Our Future; Approaching *Ikummatiit*: Developing a Nunavut Energy Strategy, December 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

**Tabled Document 209 – 2(3): KBDC Loan – Letter to ED&T**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table further documentation in relation with the matter I have been raising with the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. This document is a note dated March 31, 2003 from a resident here in Iqaluit to the office of the minister on the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Provide the tabled document, please. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

**Tabled Document 210 – 2(3): KBDC Loan – Letter to KBDC from Browning Crocker Inc. dated August 15, 2006**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, further documentation I'd like to table in relation to the matter I've been raising with the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. This document is correspondence dated August 15, 2006 from Browning Crocker Inc. to KBDC. On there it indicates an amount a claim of \$196,704.76. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Tabling of Documents. Do you have any more, Mr. Tootoo?

**Tabled Document 211 – 2(3): KBDC Loan Email to Terry Rogers from Browning Crocker Inc., September 13, 2006**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I'd like to table further documentation into the matter with the Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation. These documents are an email exchange with an official of Browning Crocker Inc. In there it notes that NBCC's total cost is \$112,912.49. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Can we have that document brought forward, please. Thank you. Tabling of Documents. I do have one today.

**Tabled Document 212 – 2(3): Youth Parliament 2006 – Hansard, Bill 01, and DVD**

Members, I am extremely pleased and proud to table today a number of items from our first Nunavut Youth Parliament. These items include the video record of the day's proceedings, and a copy of the special *Hansard* from the day, which includes the Formal Motion made by the students and a copy of the bill which was considered by the youth parliamentarians.

And colleagues, you will note that the motion urges this House to give careful consideration to the issues and concerns raised by participants during the Youth Parliament.

I ask all members to join me in applauding the students who successfully took part in our Youth Parliament. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. (interpretation) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Peterson.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions****Motion 22 – 2(3): Extended Adjournment – Notice**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, December 4, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until March 6, 2007.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Could the member please provide the Notice of Motion to the Clerk's table. Thank you. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Peterson.

**Item 16: Motions**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Peterson, please proceed.

**Motion 22 – 2(3): Extended Adjournment**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until March 6, 2007.

Further, at any time prior to March 6, 2007, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and the Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 23, 24, 25, and 26 with Mr. Barnabas in the Chair.

Before we proceed with Committee of the Whole, we will take a break for lunch and report back at one o'clock.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 11:59 and Committee resumed at 13:00*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Barnabas): 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 Department of Health and Social Services, followed by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Does the committee agree that we continue with the Capital Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you, Committee. The minister made her opening comments yesterday and now I ask the Chair of the Standing Committee of Health and Education if he has opening comments. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Health and Education, I am pleased to make some opening comments on the 2007-08 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services.

The Department of Health and Social Services' proposed capital budget for 2007-08 is significantly less than it has been in previous years due to the completion or near completion of the three regional health facilities. Members appreciated their tour of the new Qikiqtani General Hospital in Iqaluit last week and look forward to the official opening next spring.

The committee was interested to note that the department's proposed capital budget for 2007-08 includes extensive renovations to the Baffin Regional Hospital as the services will continue to be provided at this institution as it becomes an extension of the Qikiqtani Regional Hospital.

For some time, members have questioned the status of the leasing or ownership of this third regional health facility. The fiscal update revealed that the government has decided to take on final ownership of the Qikiqtani Regional Hospital as it has done for the other two regional health facilities. Members are pleased with this final decision.

Committee members are aware that although the new Kitikmeot and Kivalliq health centres are open, full services are not yet offered due to a lack of staff in at least one of these facilities.

The committee continues to have concerns that staffing problems may also occur with the opening of the Qikiqtani facility in March of 2007 and would appreciate an update from the minister on what specific plans are in place to address this issue.

The training of Nunavummiut to work in the health care field will be critical to the success of these significant investments in Nunavut's health infrastructure. Members will be paying close attention to this issue when they scrutinize the department's business plans and main estimates when they come forward in the new year.

As more Nunavummiut will be traveling to the regional centres to receive health services, the committee was concerned to note that there have been no new developments with respect to boarding arrangements, especially in Iqaluit, where the current boarding home is already frequently full to capacity. Members have been given to understand that the lack of progress in this area is partly due to ongoing negotiations with Health Canada with respect to Non-Insured Health Benefits.

The committee urges the minister and her officials to move forward in developing a consolidated plan to present to Health Canada with respect to boarding home

arrangements both within and outside of Nunavut. It is important that the lack of accommodation for patients not become an obstacle to providing as many health services as possible closer to home.

Committee members note that progress towards establishing community-based continuing care facilities in Igloolik and Gjoa Haven is ongoing, despite some delays. Members are concerned, however, that there has been little to no progress in establishing the third and fourth such continuing care facilities in Nunavut.

As members will recall, at our 2004 Full Caucus retreat in Arviat, we made a commitment to opening four such facilities before the end of our term of office.

To date, the committee has not been briefed on what locations are being considered for these next two facilities, although members are aware that proposals have been put forward from different communities.

Members were disappointed to see that the proposed 2007-08 capital budget for Health and Social Services does not include any community health centre projects. In fact, according to the 2008-12 five-year capital plan, urgent capital projects for replacement health centres in Arctic Bay, Taloyoak and Repulse Bay have all been deferred for another two years.

For this department, along with a number of other departments, the practice of transferring significant funds from one project to another raises concerns.

Members continue to encourage the department to undertake capital planning efforts in consultation with communities to ensure that planning takes into account issues such as local transportation needs, population growth and other factors as identified by local health committees of council.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I am confident that individual members will also have comments and questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. At this time I would like to ask Ms. Aglukkaq if she would like to bring her officials to the witness table.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be inviting two of my staff to the witness table. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the officials to the witness table?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Welcome, Madame Minister. For the record, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services Ron Browne. To my left is the Manager of Capital Projects for the department Rosemary Brown. For the record, no relation.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to introduce a person in the audience this afternoon is Dave Richardson, who is the Assistant Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services and he heads the Health and Social Services headquarters operations in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. (interpretation ends) 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 the members that whenever possible, you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Madame Minister, Browne 1, Browne 2, welcome to the Committee of the Whole and I am glad Minister Brown is not the Health Minister anymore, otherwise a lot of Nunavummiut would be getting confused with Minister Brown as the Minister and so on. Welcome.

We have heard a lot on health. I would like to say a few things from my community. There are always a lot of complaints on health, especially when nurses and a few of them that I had talked to you about, and you had responded. I'm glad that you had responded, Madame Minister, on the complaint that came up.

There's one thing that I sure would like to see is that dentists go to the communities, rather than sending them there every three months or so because it seems like some of our constituents, when they get a toothache, or if their filling had fallen off, and they will be in pain for about two to three months. That's not a good thing.

A lot of our constituents are always saying new things like, "The nurses want us to go through pain because they don't want to send us, especially when there's an emergency." I sure hope that things will get a lot better over the years because when you have a toothache, especially when you're not working, you can be in pain for about two to three months and that's not a good thing for individuals. I sure hope that things will be fixed up properly.

Due to some patients that need escorts, especially the elders who don't speak in English or understand they're the ones that always need escorts and they don't even need their tickets when they're leaving for that, they should have escorts.

For those who have cancer, when they're sent out alone to get treatment, they get worried about their kids, loved ones that are at home and they are also worried about the patient that is going out for chemotherapy. They should have escorts.

That's about it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Any other general comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking through your capital plan projects I see with interest, some capital projects for retrofitting and new health centers, especially three new regional hospitals, some near completion. What concerns me still is that we are lacking an aggressive nursing training program. The department and the government say, yes we are being really aggressive in trying to get these nurses trained in Nunavut in connection with the Universities in the south.

However, when the government did not say that they will have aggressive Akitsiraq Law School that is if they're aggressive by providing a very good incentive in the area of benefits, housing benefits, wages, and other very strong support, in fact my little sister's daughter will be graduating from Nunavut Bar pretty soon, which I am very proud of.

The way I would like to see is that because of the nursing shortage across the North America, and in Canada we will have to have better nursing programs that are geared for successful, happy, healthy students with their family during the course until graduation. I don't know what the relationship is because our Premier is a lawyer, which I am also very proud of, that he took the Law School in a similar situation in other words.

He said when I was going to school in Law School, I worked very hard, I suffered financially, I'm not going to make the Law School students in the similar circumstances that I was in, that's very understandable, I'm very proud of that too, but the health nurses students of Nunavut should be seen the same way, you can only push a human being, especially a young human being so far, then you can make that person eventually give up.

I would like to see a better design so that we'll have comfortable living conditions for our nursing students, because when you're getting those new health centres and three hospitals, you will need those personnel; extremely important.

Another point I would like to make, Mr. Chairman, is that we have experimented in Pond Inlet by having bone specialists come up to Pond to do examinations etcetera, and it was reported that this is a success, a lot cheaper than shipping individual patients from Pond Inlet, I think around 10 of them went to southern hospitals and bring them back again.



And a lot, and they don't have to leave their children and their families behind, and I would like to comment on the Health Department for doing that.

I think they would also try to expand for other specialist requirements in the community by importing a specialized doctor to do that in some other communities. I know Pond Inlet was a pilot project, but it was already successful before it even started, because it's nothing compared to having to be stuck in Ottawa or somewhere else to see a specialist. One by one that's requiring same doctor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Just to remind the members that we're on general comments for Capital Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services.

We're still under general comments in regard to the Capital Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services. Please watch the time. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, this time or that time.

I have a few general comments in relation to minister's opening comments and some comments made in response to questions during Question Period today. Dealing with the boarding home issue, the minister indicated that they're looking at an RFP for renovations or a new boarding home here in Iqaluit.

And in her opening comment, indicated that in Cambridge Bay, they're looking at tendering this fall, this coming fall, for renovations to the old residence here and I assume that's for use as a boarding home and in Rankin Inlet as well.

She precludes those comments in her comments of saying that no, nothing is identified in the capital budget they we are looking at for this year. Also, I noticed even in the five-year capital plan that there's nothing in there for the boarding home.

I'm just wondering, and I'll be looking to ask the minister where this funding is going to be coming from and when she expects to come forward and seek approval from this House to go forward with those projects.

One of the other questions, I'll be looking to ask the minister when we get to the appropriate H-6 on the capital budget that deals with the regional hospital here.

All members will recall they recently had a tour up there and I'll be looking to confirm with the minister on the completion dates and the schedules and things like that. I think all members are aware the contractor involved has had some difficulties meeting time lines in the past. I just want some assurances that we are not going to run into the same problem that was run into here at the middle school, or the airport in Gjoa Haven with the same contractor.

So these are my general comments for now and when we get to appropriate sections I'll be asking those questions to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to go page-by-page to deal with the departmental estimates starting with page H-6. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I indicated earlier, the minister notes in her opening comments about the arrangements being made for regional boarding homes in the three regions and I realize there's nothing identified in this year's capital budget, but also, there's nothing in the five-year capital plan in the back of this.

I would like to ask the minister if she can explain how she foresees this process progressing, especially in light, she indicated that they are going to be doing some work this coming fiscal year in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will start with the Cambridge Bay facility. The Cambridge Bay facility, as the member mentioned, is an old high school student residence. That facility is owned by the government and had been constructed sometime ago.

We have purchased some equipment to do some renovations in that facility, such as an elevator as an example, and that process will be dealt with, I think it is now in the spring in terms of request for proposals for that one. Because the building is already there, there is no capital plan in the books for that one.

The other two for Rankin Inlet, as members are aware that there is no boarding home there and the one here is very small. What we are doing with those two is that we are going forward with a request for proposals in January after Christmas, after this month to construct a boarding home in Rankin Inlet and possibly renovate and expand the one here or construct a new one. Those are things that will be in the request for proposals.

In terms of the costs that will be covered for those projects for Rankin Inlet and here, that will be covered through the Health Canada funding that we receive to operate the boarding homes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I thank the minister for that response. It is nice to be able to spend someone else's money for a change. She indicated that there is some work being done on the Cambridge Bay one and on the Rankin Inlet facility, what we call the Rankin file.

The facility here in Iqaluit is being covered by Non-Insured Health Benefits, Health Canada. She indicated that the project in Cambridge Bay, they are going to go ahead with that and I know even though it may be a government asset right now, capital projects for renovation and things like, that money still has to come from somewhere.

So I am wondering...it is not in this capital plan. It is not in the five-year capital plan. I am wondering where that money is going to come from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding for the Cambridge Bay facility to renovate the old student residence, that money was a carry-over from 2006. It was carried over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If this is a carry-over, I am wondering why it was carried over, was it because of the same contractor that was working on the hospital here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I am going to ask Rosemary to explain what happened there with the carry-overs for the Cambridge Bay facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Ms. Brown.

**Ms. Brown**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The design of the renovation of the Cambridge Bay boarding home is nearly complete. It was delayed. The design, which was won by a firm from Yellowknife, has had to undergo some changes due to some requirements of the Office of the Fire Marshal and the electrical inspector.

They wanted some changes because it was going from a student to mixed adult, children and some in wheelchairs. So the tender for the construction could not go out this spring in time for sealift.

The funds for the renovations of the boarding home are currently in the 2006-07 budget, the tender will go out say February, and then there will be a request for the government to move the remaining funds for construction from 2006-07 into 2007-08. So the funds are there. In terms of this plan, it shows as a prior year. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Madame Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is good to hear that the reasons for the delay aren't three letters. That will lead into my next question that I had indicated I'd ask on

this in dealing with the Regional Hospital here. We all had a tour up there not very long ago. I think all members would attest to saying that it is going to be a beautiful facility.

My first question to the minister in relation to that project is: have their original timelines for completion been changed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask the deputy minister to respond to that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Brown**: The original substantial completion date for the hospital was December of 2006 with agreement because of some changes wanted to be made by us, that has now been moved to February 28, 2007. That is on schedule for substantial completion.

Following that there needs to be a commissioning of the building, testing the systems to make sure that everything is working properly before patients are moved in. So it will more likely be around the summer of 2007 when patients would move into the new facility.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Browne. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Browne indicated that the date had changed. It looks like it's three months late now as a result of some things; ones that were changed by them. I was wondering if he could specifically identify what the other areas were and as well what that change that they requested was there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Brown.

**Ms. Brown**: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Hospitals have to have high humidity and it was noted that there was need for a special heater to be installed just inside the windows so that there would not be condensation around the windows, which could either cause infection or future damage to the building. So bringing those windows and making those changes was essentially a little bit of a redesign and labour issue.

There are normal things that happen during construction. Sometimes materials don't come on the first boat or the second boat. Given the complexity of the building, this building started construction in 2004. Other projects experience short delays.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Madame Browne. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Browne had indicated materials not arriving on time. I am just wondering if the department has looked into it. I know in the case that

was run into at the middle school where the contractor wasn't aware of the deadlines that they had to meet for shipping schedules.

I'm just wondering: what was the reason why...if they looked into and found out what the reasons were, why the materials didn't arrive on time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically this time it was not a problem of the contractor.

There are many ships that come to Iqaluit during the summer, sometimes materials get, if the ship is full, it gets divided up and materials arrive on the next ship. We experience this in other communities.

In terms of Chesterfield Inlet, we had early, early, early ordered some new beds and a patient lift for the residents. We had ordered in July, but it really came on the last sealift in the end of September, which we were very surprised. We did not have a choice of that, it was the marshalling agent and how they filled up the ship.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also noted on our tour that I think for a project of that magnitude that there would be quite a few people working up there, and it seemed like there was hardly anybody there. There were only a few working and I think that...and that was one of the things I found at the middle school as well; you go through there when they are doing the work and there was hardly anyone there doing the work.

I'm just wondering if, again I'm being sceptical at believing what the contractor is saying that they're going to be done on time, given they have what would seem like sparse resources that are doing the work necessary to make sure that the project will be done on time.

So I'm just wondering if that was something that the minister would like to comment on or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is probably one of the largest projects that we've had in Nunavut to date, I know just in terms of the discussions, it started back in 1997-98 and we're almost there in terms of finishing off the capital project here.

The target dates that they have provided us, as the deputy mentioned is 2007. There's a group, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, Community and Government Services, and our office, as

well as Department of Finance has a working group that reviews this project regularly just to be on top of the magnitude of the project.

So I can only go on a basis of the information they have given me to date and that is they are looking at a February 2007 completion, and to do all the necessary testing of the equipment, and then the next phase would be to move the services from the old hospital in a staged way not to disrupt any services.

So as it is right now, the information we just shared is what we know today, and again, Rosemary works closely with the project managers, as well as Qikiqtaaluk Corporation officials and any change to that I will be able to share that with members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can appreciate what the minister is saying. I mean, in a way we here in the House are the in the same boat, you know, we get information from the government that says this is what's going to happen or the ministers get information from the departments that say this is going to happen and when; I guess, based on experience in this case, and I'm sure the Minister of Education will attest to that, where they were told all along, no problem, no problem, no problem, then all of a sudden: oops, big problem.

I hope we don't find ourselves in the same situation with this project and I would just encourage the minister and the minister responsible for Community and Government Services to be overly diligent, I guess. I mean, one could almost say we've been led down the garden path once by someone; we don't want to follow down that same path again. Because it's too...in one particular case there, I mean there are students who have lost two weeks of school as a result of that.

Given the track record here of the contractor, like I mentioned in the middle school, I believe even in Gjoa Haven, they're doing the airport there that I think it's up to two years behind schedule, that there would be a little bit of extra due diligence in this case to make sure that we aren't being led down the garden path again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe there was a question, but I share the member's concern and if there are any changes to the timing of this project, I will communicate that as soon as I know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. We're on Health and Social Services. Detail of Capital. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my last question relating to this particular project for now, bit of a disclaimer there.

Also, when we went through that facility and I'm not sure if it's the Health Minister that's responsible for that, or if she can find out from the appropriate minister, is what the Inuit employment requirements were for the contract on there and what they said they would have.

I know the day we toured through there, I counted three people; three Inuit on that project that we saw, and that's it. One of them was carrying out empty boxes; one of them was outside painting and putting something on the wood at below zero conditions. I wonder about that, if that's something that the minister is not aware of.

I wonder if she would be willing to check with the appropriate minister and either one of those ministers informing the members on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I didn't hear a question, but if you would like to respond, Madame Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there is a requirement for that in the contract with Community and Government Services. I can get the percentage from them.

I don't know what the current Inuit employment is with the hospital capital project with Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, but I can firmly commit to asking my colleague for that information and sharing it with the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. We're on page H-6. Health and Social Services. Detail of Capital. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a brief question. In the Chairman's opening comments, there were three hospitals that were delayed by two days. With the \$500,000 that was identified, is it for a minor project or a small capital?

And, looking at the Keewatin Replacement Health Centre for Repulse Bay 2006-07 \$305,000; has this fund already been expended for the hospital? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you ask the member to clarify as to what page he is referring? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. We were on page H-6. Mr. Mapsalak if you could elaborate further if you could explain further.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it was on page H-6. Nunavut various. I was asking under Nunavut various if that is included with that previous page for Repulse Bay which is mentioned on 2006. So my question is Repulse Bay is under Nunavut various. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. In order for everyone to be clear, which appendix or page are you talking about Mr. Mapsalak?

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Appendix 10.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just looking for that appendix 10. The \$305,000 Repulse Bay, if he's asking me if that's included in H-6, 500.

The amount that you see on H-6 under minor projects, these are for minor renovations of the facilities and/or the second line is purchases of small capital equipment, for example vehicles and so on.

Should we need to fix doors, ramps, or windows over the year, this is the fund that we would use to apply that, so it does not include the funding for the project to design and construct the Repulse Bay project. That project would not be considered a minor project; it will be a complete construction of a new facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you for giving a response to that, minister. I don't know if this is included in there, but if you can correct me: even though these are delayed in the three regions, if the health centres are replaced what will happen to the apartments that the nurses use in those communities. What will become of the old health centres once they are replaced? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the design of the new health centre for Repulse Bay, as well the one that we are working on for Arctic Bay, we have to decide whether that project will include apartments for the nurse practitioners that will be working in the health centre.

As it is right now those two facilities provide housing in the same structure. If we are looking at constructing a new health centre in Repulse Bay without apartments attached to it then we'd have to go back to Nunavut Housing Corporation and say we need staff housing to fill those jobs in the communities. Arctic Bay is in the same situation as well as Repulse Bay.



We're in the design stage right now. I've asked my staff to work with the Housing Corporation to ensure that housing is a factor in the development of these facilities, because in the smaller communities there is even less housing to provide these staffing.

So it is a challenge for us and we want to include a discussion with Housing, as well as Community and Government Services, whether we could include apartments in replacing the old health centres that currently have those. So it is ongoing in the design.

One of the other pieces we also have to look at is the programs being offered in each health centre. With additional programs requires additional space, or specialized space, as an example.

Rosemary here has been working to address the questions that you're asking because it is something that we have to consider to not disrupting the services at the health centres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question: what will become of the old health centres once they are no longer in use, or once they are replaced? What will become of those health centres, not just in my community, but other communities too once they are not being used? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we work to finalize the design of the health centres for Arctic Bay and Repulse Bay, whether we will continue to use the old facilities will depend on whether the housing is included in the new design, in the upstairs of those facilities, or inside are apartments for the nurses. If there is no housing, we would most likely need to continue to operate the old facilities.

The best case scenario is the apartments are included in the new health centres, then I believe the process that the government follows is to work with the property managers like Community and Government Services, and then they would do the process of whether it's surplus or tendering it out to the private sector, or the hamlet, and so on.

I believe that procedure would follow. Again, it would depend on whether there will be a need to continue to use the apartments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): We're on Health and Social Services. Detail of Capital Directorate. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very short question under H-6, Nunavut Various Minor Projects.

Last June during our spring session, I also raised this question. I thought it was going to be worked on this summer about the entranceway of the new hospital. The parking lot is used for parking and it's quite dangerous, it's scary for those patients who have a hard time walking.

I wonder if this has been considered to level the ground because once it gets slippery it gets very dangerous, especially when you're trying to walk. For those patients in wheelchairs, they can't go up even though there is a ramp. In order to get from the ramp to the road it is very slanted. What has come of this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recall the discussion that we had in regard to that and the update I received from Rosemary is that the request to address that concern has been made to Community and Government Services.

We haven't received the latest update as to where they are at with that project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even for those of us who don't have any problems with our legs, in Tuktoyaktuk, I climbed on a *pingo*. It was very difficult for me to climb, and there are a lot of residents who have no problems with their legs.

I don't think it would require that much money to fix it. So it would be good if it can be worked on in the spring or summertime. Can the minister press the Public Works to work on it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) Yes, I will push ... (NO INTERPRETATION: This is a translation by Innirvik) ... Public Works to work on that. I will talk with my staff in Rankin Inlet first to see where we are at with that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. We are on page H-6. Health and Social Services. Detail of Capital. Directorate. Tangible Assets. Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation resumes): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask a question, but I would like to move that we report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

(interpretation) Madame Minister, my apologies; you can go back to your seat. I would like to thank your officials. Maybe the Sergeant-at-Arms could escort them out. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 20. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent of the House to return on the Order Paper to item 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The minister is asking for consent to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed Minister Picco.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. It gives me great pleasure to welcome to the Gallery the Commissioner for the Salvation Army in Canada and in Bermuda, who is here for the opening of the homeless shelter, Commissioner Christine Macmillan.

With Christine in the Gallery is Lieutenant Caroline Scott, the director for the homeless shelter here in Iqaluit, and Caroline informs me that the brass band is ready to come. Hopefully they will be able to arrive from Edmonton this afternoon. I welcome them to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the Gallery. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, I don't often get a chance to welcome visitors to the Gallery from the Kitikmeot. From my riding I'd like to welcome Mr. Dave Richardson Assistant Deputy Minister of Health. He also works in the same office building in Cambridge Bay, so welcome Dave.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, and welcome to the Gallery. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Barnabas.

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

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

**Speaker:** There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder to the motion? Minister Aglukkaq. 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. I would like to remind all members that at three o'clock in the Chamber today will be the unveiling of a portrait of the late Jobie Nutarak.

Orders of the Day for December 4:

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 08
  - Bill 16
  - 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, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Monday, December 4, 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 14:02*

