



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**4th Session**

**2nd Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 5**

**Monday, March 12, 2007**

**Pages 157 – 221**

**Iqaluit**

**Speaker: The Honourable James Arreak, M.L.A.**

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, March 12, 2007**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. James, Arvaluk, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Honourable Patterk Netser, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable David Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. James Arreak)(interpretation): Good afternoon. I would like to ask Mr. Simailak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, and MLAs. (interpretation) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 014 – 2(4): Apprenticeship Training under the Nunavut Housing Trust Initiative**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Good afternoon to Mr. Picco, welcome back, and Mr. Kattuk, welcome back.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about exciting new training opportunities for labourers and the principal developers through the Housing Trust Initiative. Our Housing Delivery Strategy, which was tabled in the legislature last year, presents a plan to increase the number of skilled local tradespeople and labourers, and thereby provide jobs, build local economies and local capacities, and ensure that there are qualified professionals to build, repair, and maintain housing in Nunavut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, supporting the completion of training for 35 to 40 new journeymen is a key objective of the Housing Trust Initiative. To support this goal, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is introducing a two-phase construction schedule for Housing Trust projects, which provides a built-in break for training during the coldest winter and spring months. During this break, labourers can take pre-trades training and apprentices can take technical training. The two-phase construction schedule will begin in the fall of 2007.

(interpretation ends) We believe that these training opportunities, as well as the more reasonable hours of work and improved wages offered for the Nunavut Housing Trust projects will attract local workers and encourage continuing learning.

Mr. Speaker, the Housing Corporation will be focusing on the construction of its cost-efficient, energy-efficient five-plex design for the two years of Housing Trust delivery. The construction of one five-plex will provide jobs for approximately four apprentices and four labourers. Two or three more jobs will be available for every additional five-plex being built at the same time and some labourers and apprentices will be able to work on more than one project. All Nunavut communities will see a relatively dependable level of construction activity for the next three or four years, allowing apprentices to build up their hours and progress towards journey person certificates.

The Housing Corporation is actively promoting apprenticeship, trades training, and construction jobs through the Nunavut-wide poster campaign, ongoing meetings with local partners, trade show attendance, and community radio announcements. Local Housing Organizations and the Housing Corporation district staff are currently organizing application intake sessions for people interested in trades training and construction.

People interested in Housing Trust jobs and training need to fill out a Housing Trust application form to be considered for a position. The Housing Trust application form is available in English and Inuktitut and can be obtained from local housing organization offices.

I am looking forward to an exciting and challenging year as we work to implement and innovate construction and training components of the Housing Trust delivery strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

#### **Minister's Statement 015 – 2(4): Mentors for New Nurses**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are all proud of the Nunavummiut who are training to be registered nurses. To date, nine nurses have graduated with a Bachelors of Science and Nursing degree from the Dalhousie University program offered at the Nunavut Arctic College. A further four student nurses will graduate this year.

Nurses in our hospitals and community health centres need to be experienced, however. It would be unfair to both our graduates and to their clients to place them in positions without appropriate support. The Department of Health and Social Services put mentorships in place last fall for the five nurses who graduated in 2006 and one nurse in the class of 2005.



Mentorship involves not just a mentor but also a learning plan and regular evaluation. This means a new nurse not only has a full-time position but also one-on-one support for the first six months of their employment.

We have learned from this first round of mentorship. We can ensure the next group of graduates we hire, and we plan to hire all four of them, will have a good learning experience as nurses for the Department of Health and Social Services.

I also want to commend the commitment of our new nurses and their mentors. Not every nurse can be a mentor. To be a mentor a nurse needs to have experience, strong clinical and teaching skills, and a desire to share their knowledge and skills with new nurses.

The Government of Nunavut sees the employment of health care workers as the strongest possible foundation for Nunavut's health system. My department is prepared for the foreseeable future to offer graduates of the Nunavut nursing program a job in our health system.

We are now making contact with the potential graduates to discuss the jobs we can provide. Nurses, community health representatives, x-ray technicians, dental therapists, and mental health workers are just some of the professions Nunavummiut can train for in Nunavut.

We are working in partnership with Dalhousie University, Nunavut Arctic College, and other post-secondary educational institutions to make sure the training is relevant and the graduates are prepared for work in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Mr. Netser.

**Minister's Statement 016 – 2(4): Medium Resolution Satellite Imagery Project**

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the completion of an important partnership that will greatly benefit the people of Nunavut.

My department has been successful in partnering with the federal government, and the provinces and territories, for the acquisition of new medium resolution satellite imagery.

With an investment of \$80,000 we have been able to leverage an additional \$2.5 million to complete new digital satellite mapping. The resolution of the new satellite imagery is of a much better quality than was ever available before.

Once completed, this new satellite imagery will significantly upgrade and improve the accuracy of existing topographic maps of Nunavut. It will improve navigational aids that play an important role in search and rescue, and general safety on the land.

Boaters during the summer will be able to, before they leave, have an idea how the ice conditions are around Nunavut, and will improve our capabilities for habitat mapping, land use planning, environmental assessment, and park planning management.

Through these types of partnerships, we are able to take advantage of outside resources and expertise, and continue to build a high quality of geomatic resources for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Barnabas.

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

#### **Member's Statement 026 – 2(4): Canada Winter Games Medals in Dene Games**

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate a group of fine young athletes from Arctic Bay for their success at the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of these young athletes who brought home nine medals in the Dene Games.

>>Applause

Roxanne Kigutak and Mathew Akikulu both won several in the Finger Pull event. In the Snow Snake event, Marie Barnabas, my daughter, won two gold...

>>Applause

... Benita Ejangiaq won silver, and Joe Audlakiak won bronze. Tom Naqitarvik won gold in the Stick Pull event. In the teams event with team-mate Steve Oqallak, Team Nunavut brought home gold in Hand games, gold in the Male Pole Push event, and bronze in the Female Pole Push event.

Mr. Speaker, the Arctic Bay athletes trained very hard for these events under the coaching of Thomas Levi. In the darkness of the High Arctic winter, they spent hours outside with lights set up to train and prepare themselves for these events and their hard work paid off.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of these athletes. They continue to show us how hard work and determination can lead us to success.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. We are proud of them as well. Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

### **Member's Statement 027 – 2(3): Hunting Accident**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud that I am able to attend the meeting here, and I would like to say that it's been hard, but everything is fine in my home community.

But, I also hear something different that I have never experienced before, perhaps to do with climate change. I have been going out on the land hunting for quite a long time. There was something different that I experienced.

Last winter I went out seal hunting. At night, when I wanted to go back home, I found out that there was open water right in front of me, and the ice started breaking up right in front of me.

I would like to thank the people that came to pick me up by boat past the floe edge. During the same winter, I also experienced and have known the conditions of the ice when I go out hunting, but something unexpected happened: I fell into the water.

I was down in the water for about 10 minutes. Although the other individual who went out hunting with me was very afraid, he was able to save me, and that's why I am here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 028 – 2(4): Former Governor General's Official Parka**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although it may have slipped by unnoticed, a significant article appeared in a number of newspapers across Canada on February 16, 2007.

This was the date the official portrait of the former Governor General; Adrienne Clarkson was unveiled at Rideau Hall.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that many northerners may have seen this in the *Globe and Mail*, *Ottawa Citizen*, or *National Post*, and would have noticed an important aspect of this painting.

Specifically, the former Governor General's portrait shows her wearing a made in Nunavut parka. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the parka she is wearing was designed and made in my constituency of Taloyoak in the mid 70s. There is a photo I'll table later today.

The parka was designed and made by Arnaoyok Alookey of Taloyoak, and she now has the pleasure of knowing it will be a significant part of the portraits hanging in Rideau Hall for many years.

Arnaoyok indicated that the particular parkas were made using traditional sewing techniques and natural dyes, which is one of the reasons they are still so bright and colourful after many years of use.

Mr. Speaker, the individual that painted the portrait of the former Governor General went as far as having the parka shipped to her by Adrienne Clarkson so that she could make sure she was able to capture the colours and textures in such great detail.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, you'll be interested to know that this is the first portrait of a Governor General in a traditional parka, standing in snow since the tradition of painting Governor General's portraits began in 1867. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Mr. Curley.

**Member's Statement 029 – 2(4): Members' Participation in “Fatal Passage” Film Production**

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise today in order to inform the House and Nunavummiut about an important step forward in our collective understanding of Inuit and Arctic history.

Mr. Speaker, the third John Franklin Northwest Passage Expedition was one of our most tragic historical events. Numerous books and articles have been written on this subject. Some have been written from a scholarly perspective; others from a desire to simply entertain the reader.

To this day, the important question remains about the Northwest Passage expedition. Mr. Speaker, the renowned Canadian filmmaker, John Walker, is currently producing a docudrama based on the book, *Fatal Passage*, by noted author, Ken McGoogan. This book sets the historical record straight with respect to the role of Inuit in this chapter of the history.

Mr. Speaker, history tells us that when news of the fate of the Franklin expedition reached London from the discoveries and reports of Hudson's Bay physician and adventurer, Dr. John Rae, the Victorian society of the day did not want to accept the unpleasant truth about what happened to Franklin and his crew.

Dr. Rae trusted the accounts of the Inuit hunters and other aboriginal First Nations, with whom he worked closely. His own findings supported the conclusion that some members of the expedition resorted to the cannibalism of their own dead in a desperate attempt to save their lives. He faithfully reported these facts to London.

Mr. Speaker, Victorian society could not accept the simple fact that had Franklin trusted the Inuit, he might have survived, or one of them.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, a vicious campaign of lies and disinformation was initiated by Franklin's widow, Lady Jane Franklin. She was able to enlist the services of none other than Mr. Charles Dickens in this dark and dishonourable venture.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is asking consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** This author whose extraordinary talent for literature helped to create the myth that Inuit, whom he dismissed as savages, were responsible for atrocities.

Mr. Speaker, in January of this year, I had the privilege of being invited to London, England, at the invitation of the filmmakers in order to be interviewed on camera for the production, which aims to make clear the true role of Inuit in this part of history.

I believe that I may have been the first Inuk to set foot in the historic Admiralty House in the heart of London. When I was there, I formally met with Gerald Dickens, the great-great grandson of Charles Dickens. Mr. Dickens personally apologized to me and all Inuit for the untruths that were told about us. I was proud to have been able to accept this apology.

Mr. Speaker, the film production of 'The Fatal Passage' will be broadcast on History Television and the BBC. I ask members to join me in applauding the correction of the historical record. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**A Member:** Hear, hear.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 030 – 2(4): Names of Hockey Players in Arviat**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the residents of Sanikiluaq for helping their MLA.

Mr. Speaker, I would briefly like to point out something about the children who were playing hockey in Baker Lake. I would like to say the names; a lot of them are named after our elders, so I want them to be recognized.

They won gold, even though they weren't in Alaska or the Yukon, I was especially proud of them. So I would like to recognize Wade Suluraayuk, Joe Curley, Martha Pingusaq, Ides Anne Pingusaq, Johnny Qaviuq Jr., Jimmy Tattuinee-Ishalook, Johnny Amardjuak, Keisha Karetak, Mathew Curley, and he's named after an elder, Juralak, Manuel Okotak, Kunuk Gavin, Kyle Mikeeuneak, and the coaches, Gavin and Alex Ishalook, and Suzanne Karetak.

I would like to recognize these hockey players and they really enjoyed them in the Keewatin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Members' Statements. Ms. Brown.

**Member's Statement 031 – 2(4): Congratulations to Inuit Games Participants**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very happy that Peter is here, and during our session, one member from Rankin Inlet was not here, so everybody's here now welcoming our colleague Mr. Picco. I'm happy they are back; you're very strong.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a young lady from a small community of Whale Cove who has won not one, not two, but three medals for Inuit Games in Whitehorse, Yukon. Malaya Inuapik, who is just 17 years old, won the medals in the following categories:

- Silver for Women's Two-Foot High Kick
- Bronze for Women's Arm Pull
- Bronze for One-Foot High Kick

I also wish to acknowledge Malaya's coach and chaperone, who is a popular teacher in Whale Cove, Christa. Please join me to congratulate Malaya Inuapik. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 032 – 2(4): Congratulations to Canada Games Medal Winners**

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Young athletes from Chesterfield Inlet dominated the Inuit Games events, which were held as a demonstration sport at the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse.

Blair Tautu, who is 22 years of age, won the gold for the Women's Alaskan High Kick and the Women's Two-Foot High Kick, and silver for the Women's Arm Pull and One-Foot High Kick.

Rebecca Sammurtok, who's 19 from Chesterfield Inlet, won gold for the Women's Kneel Jump and bronze for the Women's Two-Foot High Kick.

James Qajaarjuaq-Tautu, who's age 20 from Chesterfield Inlet as well, won gold for the Men's Alaskan High Kick, gold for Men's Kneel Jump, and silver for the Men's Two-Foot High Kick.

(interpretation) We are very proud of the people from Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Member's Statement 033 – 2(4): Canada Games Medal Winner**

**Mr. Mapsalak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate a resident of Repulse Bay who was at the games, Joshua Bruce. He won a gold medal in Two Foot High Kick. He won gold and one silver for One Foot High Kick.

I am very proud of him because he is very capable and he has been at many games and has won many medals when he participates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Mr. Okalik.

**Member's Statement 034 – 2(4): Canada Winter Games Ceremony**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): I would like to welcome you while you are sitting at the Speaker's Chair.

I just want to mention that I went to the Canada Winter Games ceremonies and the Northwest Territories Premier and I made a bet at the beginning of the Inuit Games. I also told people that we used to have to represent Northwest Territories, so I asked the Northwest Territories Premier to use a Nunavut uniform if they lost. There were going to be three games on that particular day, so I made a bet with him and he agreed.

It was going to either I wear the Northwest Territories uniform or he wears the Nunavut uniform. So when we beat Northwest Territories, the next morning he showed up wearing the Nunavut uniform.

The Northwest Territories Premier was displaying the Nunavut uniform very nicely. The ladies who were doing the demonstration were very proud. They won gold, silver, and bronze. I was very proud of them because Nunavummiut are very capable and I was very proud of them when I was watching them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

>>*Applause*

### **Member's Statement 035 – 2(4): Thank the People of Iqaluit and Individuals**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Iqaluit, the House, the Members, and the public and the staff here at the Legislative Assembly who sent me cards and good wishes, get-well baskets, and said prayers for me during my recent surgery.

I also want to make note and appreciate the many calls from Mr. Barnabas checking up on me and several calls, of course, by the Premier as well as the Premier's very nice gift basket, I think was about 30 pounds. It gave one of the nurses a hard time bringing it to my bed. Thank you, Mr. Premier.

The hospital referral staff here in Iqaluit and the special aid clinic was also very professional and expedient. I want to take this opportunity to thank them. The past several months waiting for surgery have at times been very difficult and stressful.

I would like to thank the Legislative staff, and my ministerial staff: Laurie-Anne White and Susie Baines, for bearing with me; the senior staff I work with for their patience and their support. At times they didn't think I was as lucid as I usually am and now with my recent surgery and having lost a little bit of Ed during that surgery, I do not appreciate these half-wit jokes that are going around. If they can cease and desist, I would appreciate that.

That was a bit of a joke there, but no...

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to also thank a person that you know very well: my wife's mother, my *Sakik* in Clyde River. I want to thank the people of Clyde and Hall Beach, who had prayers said for me, and in Coral Harbour. I want to thank my wife Oopah, who was my



dedicated nurse, for ably assisting me, trained by three very good caregivers; Wally, Dora, and Paka, who were a great comfort to me and helped with my recovery.

Mr. Speaker, our healthcare staff work very hard, and at times are overlooked. I wanted to especially acknowledge their work and dedication.

And I want to say Mr. Speaker, spending a couple of days in hospital and having surgery, it really gives you a different perspective on life, your job and career. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Minister Picco. We are very happy that you are back with us. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There are none. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Mapsalak.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 031 – 2(4): Streamlining Regulatory Processes in Nunavut

**Mr. Mapsalak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, a number of concerns have been brought to my attention with respect to the length of time it takes for regulatory approvals to be granted by such bodies as the Nunavut Impact Review Board. Delays are having a negative impact on the development of our mining sector. I understand that the Government of Nunavut recently made a new appointment to Nunavut Impact Review Board. Can the minister confirm for me today who the Government of Nunavut appointed to Nunavut Impact Review Board, and indicate if this appointment will address the issue I raised? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance and also for Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We now have a new member for Nunavut Impact Review Board from the Government of Nunavut. He is from Qamanittuaq. The other position is still vacant, although there were two vacancies.

We still have not completed the appointment stage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): The minister was in Toronto last week to unveil the Government of Nunavut's new Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy. Can he tell the

House today how this strategy will address the need to streamline the regulatory process in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I apologise, I didn't respond to your entire question because I didn't hear your entire question.

Yes, what I unveiled last week in Toronto, the new Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy is going to help in Nunavut. We have four main focuses for a Mining Economic Strategy, and the impact on the communities that it would benefit with infrastructure.

So those are our focus areas that we believe that it's going to benefit. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister update the House today on what his department is doing with respect to the GN's overall efforts to reach a devolution and resources royalty-sharing agreement with the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although our Premier stated or updated the Members in the House, within the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, we are in support of EIA on devolution. We mainly are in support of mining and oil exploration. So EIA is more responsible for the devolution part of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. Some time ago, the minister announced a strategy to reduce "barriers to business" in Nunavut. This plan involved consulting businesses to identify ways to reduce red tape and other hurdles to job creation and economic growth. Can the minister tell us today what barriers to business the government has actually been able to eliminate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The "barriers to business" project is still being dealt with as we speak. We have already set up plans on how you can start your own businesses. Yes, you can obtain that information no matter where you are within Nunavut. We've also identified business orientation programs and we are now changing the license process and also the payment for permits.

The Department of Finance has already said that after all the paperwork has been done, we've asked that the payments be made easier. We've also got documents that state how you can apply.

The last report on "barriers to business" isn't completed yet but it's now in the review stage. It will be given to the Cabinet once it's completed and after that, we will be able to table it to the public in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 032 – 2(4): Recentralization of GN Positions**

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

Mr. Speaker, last week in his Minister's Statement, the minister announced that certain financial management positions in the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and Health and Social Services would be moved to the Department of Finance.

I think we can all see the logic in moving the Health and Social Services positions. The rationale for the EIA move was a lot less clear given that these positions are already located just down the road here in Iqaluit.

I would just like to ask the minister if he could clarify for us today, why that decisions, other than they said, "Well, you can have him. We don't want him." Basically you volunteered to pass it over. If you could give a better explanation or actually clarify why that decision was made for those positions with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs agreed that their four positions would be moved to the department in hopes of enhancing the four positions so that they could work with people who are within the finance area and so that they could be taught more on finances. So that's how the decision was made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations on sitting up there today, although we wish Mr. Speaker a speedy recovery.

Mr. Speaker, in her report to the Legislative Assembly the Auditor General identified “bottlenecks” in our decentralized financial management system that are causing problems. The GN itself has identified problems in decentralized communities involving such factors as bandwidth problems. Can the minister indicate, again here, why last week’s announcements was made at looking at local finance positions and not decentralized finance positions where all indications the government itself and the Auditor General have pointed out that that’s where the problem lies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we moved the positions to our department but at the time when we had problems with the computer bandwidth program so that is when they set it up, and we also set it up to train the individuals and also put them back to the Department of Finance.

We did not lose any positions, even though they moved the positions to the Department of Finance, so that’s why we tried it that way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess what I am saying is that the Auditor General and the government also has indicated that a lot of the problems with the weak financial management is a result of the decentralized model of how finance and the financial positions are decentralized throughout the decentralized communities.

I guess my question for the minister is, what are they looking at to deal with that part of the problem which they themselves have indicated is where part of the problem lies, and not with just positions that are dealing with finances already here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The request came from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Department of Health and Social Services and we tried that here in Iqaluit, but we are still reconsidering the other issues within the government. If we were to move individuals moving from one of the communities to Iqaluit, we would have to come up with a different, bring out a different employee available, make employment available in the communities so that’s what would occur.

So this is still under consideration and we are still discussing whether we are to move them to Iqaluit or elsewhere; so at this time the Department of Finance, if we are to make changes without considering them right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To me, I guess it seems like the government is looking like we are trying to address this problem, but we are not really addressing it. The problem is decentralized financial functions, not centralized financial functions which are already here in Iqaluit. So I would urge the minister to have a serious look at that and I look forward to him, as he said, coming up with a plan on how to deal with that.

My final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the minister, the announcement that he made last week indicated on April 1, those functions are moving to the Department of Finance, around three weeks from now.

Can the minister outline specifically what plans and what kind of a transition plan do they have in place to facilitate that move? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The individuals that are moving with their position, my deputy minister is in discussion and making their plans on transition and how the responsibilities would move. They are dealing with day-to-day issues. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

#### **Question 033 – 2(4): Offices of HTOs**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Today my question is for the Minister of Economic Development. (interpretation ends) There are 25 Hunters and Trappers Organizations in Nunavut. These organizations work with various organizations such as the Government of Nunavut, the federal government, and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

I understand the Department of Environment provides core operating funding for these organizations. Can the minister tell me if the department can provide any capital funding to construct or renovate the offices of the HTOs through each community harvester's assistance programs or through other programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Our department does not have any funds in terms of capital funding for renovations to HTOs in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas:** Does the minister know who initially funded and built the existing HTO offices in Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding that we get for the wildlife offices is in the process of going through the standing committees and our submission to have them built. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know if the situation is the same for community freezers. Does the Department of Environment provide any funding to HTOs for community freezers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** I believe that lies within the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) NTI recently established a Wildlife Secretariat in Rankin Inlet to support RWOs and HTOs. Can the minister update the House today on how his department is working with the secretariat to coordinate programs for HTOs and harvesters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Mr. Speaker, I believe the Government of Nunavut put the wildlife secretariat there but we work with the secretariat to provide funds to the HTOs and the RWOs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Peterson.

#### **Question 034 – 2(4): Transfer of 4 Positions to Department of Finance**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Last week the minister announced that there would be a consolidation of health functions within the Department of Finance. He didn't mention a loss of jobs or anything, and then the Minister of Health reported that no jobs would be lost.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House if any jobs would be lost for any reasons as a result of any consolidation of health services finance functions under the Department of Finance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you. The people who are working for Health and Social Services will be moving to the Department of Finance and there will be no loss of jobs during this transfer. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that statement. Would the minister care to go on the record and make a commitment to health that no current employees will lose their jobs as a result of consolidation of finance functions, health clerks, or finance functions in the Department of Finance in the regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Finance, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you. At this time we are looking at this issue, and there will be no loss of jobs at all. We're looking at the Baffin Region, and it looks like it's going to be in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I'm sure that reassures employees in the regions who are a little concerned right now about their jobs.

There may be some of the affected employees that do not want to transfer from the Department of Health and Social Services to the Department of Finance. My question for the minister: will the affected employees be given an opportunity to transfer to other jobs within their current Department of Health and Social Services, rather than transfer to the Department of Finance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those job transfers, we have had a meeting with each of the individuals and I have not heard of anyone who doesn't want to be transferred to the Department of Finance.

But, if there is a case, we will work with this individual and see what will work best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

When the minister announced consolidation of functions, I'm sure he had some figures in mind of what it would cost to complete that transfer, and then what the cost savings would be.

My question for the minister: can the minister provide the House an indication of the cost savings to the Government of Nunavut that will be generated as a result of consolidation of Health and Social Services finance functions under the Department of Finance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't say at this time how much it will cost, but I think it's going to be beneficial to the individuals because they will have other finance people that they can work with.

I think it's going to benefit the government and all the departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 035 – 2(4): Apprenticeship Training**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

First of all, I would like to thank you Mr. Speaker, and I would also like to touch upon the issues he brought up in regard to carpentry training. It seems like we've been hearing this for a while and it seems like there's two main organizations that do construction work. When we're talking about these trainees, whom are they going to be working with and whose houses are they going to be building? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is working together with the government departments to put together a training program for plumbers, carpenters, drywallers, and so on.

We're going to be working with different government departments, and we'll also be looking at electricians. We would like to increase the number of skilled local tradespeople. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister didn't respond to my question at all and I don't have very much time. My question was, maybe I'll say it in English. (interpretation ends) Which of those construction people are involved with the training, either private contractors, or the Housing Association, or the government agency? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I apologize to the member. (interpretation ends) We're going to be working very closely with whoever gets the contract on building any units in any community. Housing along with Arctic College are making sure that we have pre-trades people that will be training our apprentices. So they will be working closely with the contractors that have the contracts in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you're in an apprenticeship program and when you're working to get your papers, you're in an apprenticeship program for probably four or five years. It doesn't take less than that to get your papers and your red seal.

We are going to build houses for approximately two years. What's going to happen to those apprentices? Are they going to continue their education somewhere else? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. If this training program or initiative should go as planned, we are going to be looking at getting additional funds from the federal government. Even if the construction phase is over, we will try and get some additional money.

We would like to see more houses available up here and we will have to see if we can build additional houses after the two-year phase. The Nunavut Housing Corporation will look at other ways so that we can keep this training program going in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't know if these individuals are going to complete their training program. We're talking about 35 to 40

new journeymen, and we don't know if there will be enough jobs to place all these individuals.

Usually what happens is during the summer and fall construction season, housing is constructed, and then during the cold months, they start working on the inside. The construction season is not going to be very long.

What about the communities that don't have these training facilities? Where are you going to be sending the individuals out at those times? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we are going to do is if they cannot take their training in the communities, if they can be put together in a regional centre to go to school, to take more training, and we will be working with Nunavut Arctic College to find out how we are going to do this.

But this is the first year and we will find out what the following years will entail. We will try our best to make sure that those labourers and apprentices get good training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral Question. Mr. Curley.

#### **Question 036 – 2(4): Update on Qanguuluk Abduction in 1945**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

During the Second World War, there was an aircraft that came into a community of the Baffin Region. Qanguuluk and his wife and children were put on board this plane somewhere around 1945, and the only person that was left behind was a teenager at the time. She was probably around the age of 19, and her name was Ruth Siakuluk.

The reason she was left behind was because she was going to another community to get married. I wonder if the minister can answer the question I asked last year; what stage this is at.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2004, Mr. Curley asked a question on the abduction of those individuals in the Baffin region.

This has been an ongoing study that we have been doing. We have interviewed some RCMP members that were working up there at the time, and people interviewed and recorded as to what kinds of events that happened at the time of the abductions.

The written material that we have compiled together with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade have been corresponded with by my department to find out if they know anything about the abduction. Also we talked with the Ambassador on circumpolar affairs. We had written a letter to them. We interviewed the RCMPs at that time. There is now written material in that regard about the incident.

We have written to Foreign Affairs but we have not gotten any response from them as yet, but what we are planning to do is, and have written to the Premier as well in regard to this individual that was left behind, about the abduction from the Baffin community.

We'd like to be able to go up there and put a flag, or some kind of a sign to let people know this is where the abduction happened. We talked with Pond Inlet, Igloolik, and Hall Beach residents, as well as Kimmirut, and Cape Dorset. We have been compiling that information.

That's the way it's at right now in regard to the people that were abducted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. Ruth Siakuluk is now over eighty years old and she will appreciate the study that is being done by the department. That will be a closure for her. She also has children, herself, that are looking for their relatives.

I think we, as a government, could find out, because there must be a record of some kind and there was also a Catholic priest in that year who was a German citizen. I just wanted to find out whether there has been any spy stuff that has happened. Perhaps we can try to get some more information from the internet. I would like to encourage the minister to try and find out the incident, as much as possible. Will you be able to do that? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department had acquired some RCMP archives and we have looked into the National Archives in Ottawa and compiled the stories from the Archives. Some of them have to be translated and some of them have to be translated into English. That is where we're at this stage. As soon as these things have been compiled together, and have been completed, we will have to have a meeting, as a Cabinet. Perhaps we're planning on doing this type of thing in the coming summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister because the relatives of those individuals would like to be able to find out what had happened during that incident.

When I first became a Member of the Legislative Assembly, as well before I became a Member of the Legislative Assembly the relatives of that individual live in Rankin Inlet and as soon as I told them about the incident, they started to cry. That is why I would like to be able to help them locate their relatives.

For the record there were some Russian people that came here and there was an individual from Igloodik that went to Russia because this person that was abducted had a scar. Would you be able to interview those people as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If they're not in the interview papers that we compiled, we will do some interviews because Qangualik and their family had an adopted daughter. That's the person that had the scar. We will interview the people that presumably saw the person with the scar. As a Cabinet, we will have to have a meeting and compile and translate the documents that were done. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. I understand the document he's talking about. I'm sure if all the information is done, then those people will have to have a healing process. Will the minister keep us updated about the information on that incident?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have someone that is working within our department on the incident of the abductions. To date, there's an individual in my department that is dealing solely on that incident that happened years ago. I will keep the members updated.

This summer we are planning to do an extensive investigation on the incident that happened in the Baffin region for their relatives' sakes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 037 – 2(4): Update on Medical Travel Contract**

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

I have dealt with this particular issue before in regard to the aircraft being too small and without washroom facilities. They also have only one pilot flying the aircraft for medical travel.

My constituents would like to be able to hear if this has been resolved yet or not because we are concerned that the plane is too small and some patients that are supposed to be going home are not able to board the plane because it's too full. They fly for a certain number of hours, which is a long time, perhaps about three hours. It's very hard on the patients when they are going home.

I just wanted to find out from the minister what stage that is at right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister of Health and Social Services, Honourable Leona Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last time the member raised the question, I had mentioned that the contract in place with the company is still in place, I believe it expires within this year, at which time we will go forward with the terms that we're looking at for the service.

As it is right now, the Beech craft that is used is an eight to nine-passenger aircraft. They provide a potty in the back of the aircraft; that's the best they can do at this point in time.

The other thing that also happened is that the Keewatin Air had a public meeting in Sanikiluaq to talk about their services and from what I understand many people participated and I received a letter from the mayor stating that they were satisfied with the services being provided by Keewatin Air.

So we are trying to be proactive in providing the charter service to Winnipeg from Sanikiluaq for passengers, but at this point in time the contract is in place.

When we go for an RFP I will be looking at perhaps a larger aircraft that addresses the concerns. Whether that is feasible will remain...I mean we won't know that until we go through that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. (*no interpretation*)...or the contract is not expired yet, but I would like to say, would the minister be able to consider the concerns of Sanikiluaq people when the next contract is issued to a different aircraft, or a larger aircraft to be able to have washroom facilities in the aircraft because this is a great concern.

I cannot pilot a plane and if something happens to the pilot, then the passengers don't know how to operate an aircraft, so there should be a co-pilot.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. That was your first supplementary question. Minister for Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the complaints that have been raised related to that airline, we did remove some seats to install a portable toilet in the aircraft separated from the passenger area. So that was the interim measure that was taken to try and address that concern.

The contract is in place until 2008, so when we go forward with the RFP or tender process we will include those, like I stated in the past, to see what we can come up with. It is not a scheduled airline service but rather charter services that we organize for patients from Sanikiluaq to Winnipeg. So we will look into that and I have committed to looking into that in response to his earlier questions but the contract is still in place as it is right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Member for Sanikiluaq, your second supplementary.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies. Thank you, Minister. Yes, I understand the contract will be put out again in 2008, but what we hear often is that there is a portable toilet. It's like one of those toilets that you use when you go out hunting in a tent.

You can't really call it a toilet because I saw it and I was sitting at the last seat and it was right behind me and was put under a seat. You can't call it a toilet. I know that some people don't want to do their business in front of people. There is room for improvement. So, even before the contract is up, this is an urgent matter, and this should be considered seriously because we Inuit are in great discomfort when we are sick, and they have to try and make us comfortable.

So, I am urging the minister even before the contract is up, this is an urgent matter, and this has to be looked at because the flights take a long time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are trying to address the member's concerns. The aircraft that is used for the Keewatin area is for medevacs and charter services, and it's not a scheduled aircraft.

So, we are trying to address some of those issues and to come up with a temporary solution, a portable toilet was installed. I didn't say a washroom. A portable toilet was installed to try and address that.

For preparation of passengers before travel, they are notified that there is no toilet. We are trying to address this. It is not a scheduled aircraft. It's a chartered medical evacuation and scheduled chartered service to Winnipeg.

We are trying to address that. To go out with a request for proposals right now to change the airline, we can look into that. But I have mentioned that we will do a request for proposals and tender calls to try and address perhaps getting a bigger aircraft with the company to do the medical travel and medevacs. In the interim, the temporary solution is in place. I recognize your concerns and we are trying to address that. At the same time, I know the airline takes your concerns very seriously as well as the concerns of Sanikiluaq.

They did have a public meeting about those concerns, and generally speaking, from what I gather through the correspondence I shared with you from the mayor, or SAO, that they were satisfied with the service of Keewatin Air.

But, in terms of the bigger aircraft, and toilets, we'll put that into the RFP process this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The public meetings that she keeps referring to, I apologize, I couldn't be there because I had to go somewhere else; it was at the same time as the graduation ceremony and I couldn't be at two places at the same time. So I attended the graduation ceremonies.

When I met with the hamlet council just last week, this is one of the issues that kept coming up. It is the number one priority in the community. When I met with the Hamlet Council, they kept complaining that the aircraft is way too small, and there are no washroom facilities. And, that is still a concern from the hamlet council.

I just wanted to give her that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. That was not a question, but if you wish to respond, Minister Aglukkaq?

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will follow up again with the Council of Sanikiluaq and perhaps provide a timeline for the member. I will also table tomorrow a letter I received that went to the airline from the mayor and council in regard to the public meeting consultation with Sanikiluaq in regard to the Keewatin Air service.

So for the members' information, I will table that in the House and provide some information, and we will look into the whole issue of looking at the size of the aircraft that's used to provide chartered medical services and medevacs out of Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 038 – 2(4): GN Requirements for Scheduled Flights**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very similar to what the Honourable Member for Sanikiluaq just said, (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it's not only Kivalliq Air that is flying Beechcraft for medical purposes; we also have Beechcraft and King Airs on Baffin Island. These aircraft are designed for short hauls; that's why they have no toilets but we use them in Nunavut for long hauls from Iqaluit to Grise Fiord for example.

If there's medical travel from Grise Fiord to Ottawa, then there are issues; how long a flight is that? It's a question Nunavut-wide of using small aircraft for both schedules and charters. A flight from Iqaluit to Igloolik to Pond Inlet to Grise Fiord is on a King Air with no washroom and it's always full.

I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Health if she will reveal what's the requirement of the government to serve their people when they are required to fly right now in these kinds of aircraft. Would that not be in their call for request for proposal, some conditions such as washrooms, two pilots, and other requirements for safety purposes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of what overall government requirements are for washrooms on aircraft, I will have to speak to the Transportation Minister on that.

Are you asking me whether it's a requirement for health or overall government requirements on any charters or medevac services that we provide in the types of aircraft required for emergency medical evacuations, or scheduled flights, or Government of Nunavut's charters with small aircraft carriers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I'm asking the wrong minister on this one. I would like the government; I don't care whether it goes to the Minister of Health, Transportation, or the Premier, it doesn't matter to me. Ask the Nunavut Government; maybe ask the federal counterparts what is a short-term haul; is it one hour, two hours,



one-and-a-half hours, or is it the usual four hours, is that short-term haul without a washroom, with a single pilot? What's the requirement of the federal government; wouldn't that be the same standard that applies to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. When you're asking questions please direct them to the same minister. Minister Aglukkaq, do you wish to respond? Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Broadly speaking, I don't know what the conditions are from Transport Canada on different kinds of aircrafts, or transportation requirements and terms of reference are for this government, but I can speak to the Department of Health on what we asked for in our medical contracts; medevac services.

From what I understand for any trip that's more than two hours generally speaking we try and provide washrooms on the aircraft. That's not always possible. So I can speak to that but I don't know the answer to what the Transport Canada regulations are, and whether they're safe or not; one pilot or two pilots, I don't know the answer to that.

I can speak to my colleagues in the departments and the department responsible for putting out the RFP, or tenders for charters and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not new; I've gone through this before. The right hand doesn't speak to what the left hand is doing. This government is only one government. They are supposed to know what each and every one of those departments are doing. The Department of Health is supposed to know. At least talk to the Minister of Transportation of what the standard criteria are? What the requirements are? And the federal government is at the centre.

As regular members our hands are tied because once I start asking questions to a particular minister I should just stick with that particular minister, rather than getting an answer from the minister who knows most about it.

I'll ask the minister then has she reviewed, or at least find out from the Minister of Transportation, from this government and from the federal government what the requirements are for shipping patients, or returning dying patients and carrying them in those types of backgrounds that the Member from Sanikiluaq was alluding to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think my colleagues also heard that question so I can also follow up with them just on that.

Just getting back to what we provide in terms of services for medical travel; in most cases the services that we provide are after hours of scheduled aircraft, and in most cases those aircraft are King Airs, or Citations, or what not. They're different aircraft that we use for after hours; after scheduled flights, and that's the only option we have in the north to get sick patients out of the communities to the nearest centre for treatment.

In cases where we do RFPs; Sanikiluaq as an example, in that particular case that charter service to Winnipeg, as well as medevacs to Winnipeg; that contract for that is similar to the other ones, but that's one where they have the portable toilets. In all the other incidences we don't. So I can look into that.

In terms of the regular scheduled flights, I can't speak to that. There are scheduled flights with Kenn Borek, and different communities in King Air craft and stuff, I cannot speak to that, but I can speak to what we do provide in the Department of Health in evacuating sick patients from the communities to the nearest centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that she can't respond to my question, and I understand that, but Sanikiluaq residents' representatives have been asking these questions for the past three years, asking the same question. Can the minister tell me if you'll be able to respond to those questions prior to the new contract coming up in 2008? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the concerns in the past, temporary interim measures were taken to install a portable toilet on that aircraft. What I have committed to providing to the member is when the contract is expired within this year, to do the RFP to come back and report back as to what we can look for.

To do an RFP to address that particular concern will be a bigger aircraft. What type of aircraft, I don't know. But, those specifications, we can go forward and check to see what is available out there in addressing the member's concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Question Period is now over. (interpretation ends) We'll move on with Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Netser.

#### **Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

**Tabled Document 024 – 2(4): U.S. Accused of Silencing Experts on Polar Bears – sfgate.com Article March 9, 2007**

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document from the San Francisco Chronicle dated March 9, 2007, entitled; *US Accused of Challenging Experts on Polar Bears; Climate Change Scientists Were Told Not to Speak Officially at this Conference.*

And the reason for tabling this document, Mr. Speaker, is to demonstrate that there are many agendas at work within the reasoning behind listing our polar bears as endangered species, and most of it has nothing to do with Nunavut and the health of polar bears.

Mr. Speaker, there are dissensions within the group that is going to list our polar bears on the threatened species list. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Tabled Document 025 – 2(4): Governor General Addrienne Clarkson Wearing Taloyoak Parka – Photo of Official Protrait by Mary Pratt**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per my member's statement earlier, I would like to table photos of the former Governor General in a parka, taken from the Globe and Mail and the Ottawa Citizen. As stated earlier, Arnaoyok Alookey of Taloyoak made the parka in the 1970s. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Please bring the documents up to the table officers please. Mr. Alagalak.

**Tabled Document 026 – 2(4): Nunavut Manitoba Road Selection of Preferred NU-MB Route**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table this document. It doesn't say route. I want you to be aware of the Manitoba/Nunavut route selection.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please bring the documents up. Tabling of Documents. There are no more. Item 15. Notice of Motions. Item 16. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

**Item 18: First Reading of Bills**

**Bill 02 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #3, 2006-07 – First Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik, that Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #3, 2006-07*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

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

**Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act #3, 2006-07 – First Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable for Iqaluit East, that Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #3, 2006-07*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The Motion's in order. All those in favor. Opposed. The Motion is carried.

First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

**Item 19: Second Reading of Bills****Bill 02 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #3, 2006-07 – Second Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik, that Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #3, 2006-07*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the Bill. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 2 has had second reading and accordingly it is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

**Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act #3, 2006-07 – Second Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #3, 2006-07*, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of bill. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 3 has had second reading and accordingly the bill is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration of Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 1, Bill 2, and Bill 3 with Mr. Barnabas in the Chair. Before we proceed we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:14 and Committee resumed at 15:40*

### **Item 20: 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: Bill 1, Bill 2, and Bill 3. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 1 and the main estimates for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, followed by the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

### **Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2007-08 – Consideration in Committee – Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs**

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. We're on page B-5. EIA. Mr. Premier, do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Yes.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could escort the witnesses to the witness table.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. (interpretation ends) For the record, Mr. Minister, could you please introduce your witnesses?

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the witness table, on my right I have John Walsh, and on my left, for Intergovernmental Affairs Deputy Minister David Omilgoetok. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. We were on page B-10. At this time the floor is now open for any questions. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials back today.

I have a question that's related to your business plan on page B-19. I believe it falls under that page of the main estimates. It states in your priorities for 2007-08, "Work with Canada, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon to develop a northern vision." Could you perhaps expand on what that schedule means in respect to the northern vision and how it would benefit Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) In the previous government, I know in the strategy that was put together, we had set aside \$40 million but we have put it to good use.

The new government has talked about creating a northern vision for their government. So we want to partner with our sister territories and see what we can develop together. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. When you're working with your northern counterparts, the Premiers for the other two territories, as part of the northern vision, will that encompass finding some economic development funds to help with developing our economy in the north? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, that comes piecemeal with any arrangements. So that will definitely form part of the vision that we'll be pursuing but I can't promise that we'll get it. It's an arrangement that we'll have to work out with the federal government. Our sister territories have been very supportive in all our efforts. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. In support of the development of a northern vision, do you see consultations with Members of the Legislative Assembly and members of the public? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our goal was to get a northern vision, so if we can get our federal partners to buy into the vision, then we'll start working on it, but in the meantime, we're just in very preliminary discussions.

So, we haven't gotten past first base yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I believe under this page as well, the Government of Nunavut office in Ottawa is by Intergovernmental Relations, could you tell us how many positions are currently in that office in Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are currently four PYs working in my department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I see in the description on page B-17 of the business plan that the intergovernmental relations office is involved in devolution negotiations.

Could you expand a bit on the role representing the Government of Nunavut to facilitate devolution negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently there is one PY working out of Ottawa, coordinating with finance on maintaining contact with the federal government, and coordinating our activities out of the office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. It also mentions that they also work on other corporate issues as assigned. Can you give us an idea of what other corporate issues you might assign in the course of a year to help the Government of Nunavut in Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there has been a lot of work so far on devolution, so, including them doing other work like doing strategy work for the polar bear on an intergovernmental basis, and other files that come on a pressing basis.

It's something that we make sure that that office there is always kept busy and used to maximize the benefit for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister tell us if he believes that we're getting good value from those four PYs in Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we didn't, they wouldn't be there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his answer. Can the minister indicate if he's aware if the other two territorial governments have an office to perform the same functions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that they do have offices there, but I don't run their government, so I can't respond to the issue of what they do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I wasn't asking if he knew what they did, I was just inquiring if they have offices in Ottawa.

Mr. Chairman, there is an office... Energy Secretariat, I believe falls under this page. Page B-17. There is a description there, increased funding for \$35,000 from \$202,000 in the next fiscal year.

Could the minister explain what that increase will go for, what role will they play? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This year we wanted to make sure that the need for the office is there and it was identified that it was required, so there is one PY and half time as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are on page B-17. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On B-10, as my colleague pointed out the Energy Secretariat is under that section and I recall the Minister of Energy in December tabled a document, prepared by the Energy Secretariat titled, 'Approaching *Ikummatiit*: Developing a Nunavut Energy Strategy.' In that strategy it indicates, "*Ikummatiit* asks



that we step back and again review the idea of a single company; that a single company should manage Nunavut's power operations and Petroleum Products Division." It goes on to say that the GN will need to work its way towards a well-staffed and effective Department of Energy, Minerals, Oil, and Gas.

My first question to the minister is I know in the past the Legislative Assembly did not approve the \$500,000 request of funding to transfer PPD responsibilities to the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

I am just wondering as a result of that comment in the report that the Minister of Energy tabled, is that something that this government could, as it states, again look at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to look at overall operations of energy. It runs 20 percent of our budget today. I am open to any way that we can improve our condition. Whatever we put together at the end of the day, will have to be approved by the House. So I'm sure that we're all interested in what the outcome will be but I want to remain open and work along with everyone because today it is not working very well, and we have to find a way to make it work better.

So whether it be coordinating through one office or not, I am quite open to it, but before we get there I can't respond to the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the part in there it worries me is that we step back and again review. As far as I am aware there was a comprehensive review, we probably paid a consultant that didn't contribute to the Payroll Tax a whole lot of money to prepare that review and look at the amalgamation of Petroleum Products Division and the Power Corporation.

What I'm asking is do we need, or are we looking at again spending money to hire a consultant, or someone to come up with a review, that's something that has already been done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Perhaps, I can bury my head under the sand and pretend everything's going well but I wanted to see ways on how we can improve what is happening today. I want to remain open to any options that may be presented to us, whether it is trying to find ways to save money, or trying to improve the services that we're doing today. So I can't respond to a question that may not come up. We have to look at all options and I will remain open. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think a lot of people out there might say that's exactly what this government has been doing for a while; is sticking their head in the snow and pretending everything is fine.

I'm not saying 'ignore that,' I mean that work was done already, and saying that we're going to waste more money in getting it looked at again, as that option that's already been...you know a proposal, or a review, or whatever you want to call it, a consultant's report, a study has already been done looking at that. I just want to make sure that we don't waste our scarce resources on, again, looking at something that has already been looked at. That's all I'm getting at and hopefully that clears it up for the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** I didn't hear a question. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Touchy topic, I guess. Mr. Chairman, maybe I can make it really clear for the minister is his government, his department, again hire a consultant, or pay someone to do a report at looking at the amalgamation of Petroleum Products Division and the Power Corporation, which we already paid a lot of money for someone to do. Hopefully, that clarifies it for the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Currently, the two organizations are talking to each other and seeing what the best ways of looking at delivering the services that they are delivering today, and how we can improve our services, reduce our costs, and improve the situation for our constituents. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my next question is: wasn't that already outlined in the last report that was done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) We owe it to our constituents to find the best way of delivering these basic services that we depend upon, and that's what we're doing. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I couldn't agree with the minister more than that but what I'm saying is, I mean that report, that study was already done, there were recommendations in there. Are they looking at that report, or pretend now it's something that's just collecting dust on a shelf somewhere, and we're going to talk to each other starting all over again and see if there's a better way to do it?

My understanding at the time was that that's what report was meant to do. Are they starting over again, or are they going to take the good work that has been done already and move forward with it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I can't understand the member. On the one hand he says 'Get rid of the recommendations,' and at the same time, to rely on the same work that was put together. So what we're trying to do, or what was directed to the organization to do is find a way to improve the service that we're offering today. So if the member has better suggestions, I'm all ears. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I could ask the minister if he can clarify his comments as the member is saying 'Get rid of the recommendations,' I don't understand where I've said that before.

So maybe if he can clarify that. I'm saying that work was done already and this government was moving forward to that. The only reason that that \$500,000 was deleted out of the budget was because they weren't ready. They had no plans. I think he said it here in the House that they weren't ready; they weren't going to do it for another year.

So, what I'm saying, and the Members of the House said at that time that: if you're not ready, what do you need the money for?

If they're ready now, and that's what they're looking at, acting on those recommendations, what I'm saying is that's fine. But, I want to make sure that we're not going to be hiring someone else to do the same thing that's been done already. Basically that is the bottom line. With the limited resources that we have, we don't need to do another study.

That study has been done already. So, are they re-looking at that option of amalgamating those services? Yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To be abundantly clear, there is no consultant being hired to do this work. The two bodies are talking to each other and trying to find the best way of running the services that they provide to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's nice when we get an abundance of information.

The next question I have on there, as I mentioned earlier, where it says; "...in the longer term, the Government of Nunavut will need to work it's way towards a well staffed and effective Department of Energy, Minerals, Oil, and Gas."

Is that something that they're looking at, is creating another department as outlined in that report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are negotiating hopefully in the near future with Ottawa on devolution, and once we assume those responsibilities, there will have to be a ministry assigned. So, that's probably what it is referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate as to an idea or a timeframe when we'll be looking at another government department, will that be like another... I don't know if they've gotten that far. Is it going to be another one on top of the existing department, or are things going to be reshuffled around, and just renamed to have that department in there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot answer that right now because we don't have any responsibility for oil and gas or minerals at this time. Once we assume those responsibilities, then we'll have to deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. We're on page B-10. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,155,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the business plan, on B-14, at the top. There are five bullets. On the fifth bullet, on B-14, at the top is the first bullet.

I would like to ask a question on that. I talked about Pangnirtung being the place for medical travel, ticketing and all that. I understood that the government headquarters here in Iqaluit would be decentralized to smaller communities.

We were happy about that. It was not in headquarters here in Iqaluit. I wanted the medical travel coordinator to be decentralized to some other community but apparently it is over here in Iqaluit.

Say, for instance, if the liquor warehouse person was to go into Pangnirtung and the other one working in the warehouse were transferred to Pangnirtung that would disrupt the coordination. If that medical travel person is in Pangnirtung can the minister provide ongoing support and evaluation for decentralization? Does that mean that the people in headquarters are going to be decentralized or is that person working in the hospital to be decentralized to another community according to the policy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are things we have been dealing with to see whether they are up to date or whether the coordination is ongoing. We provide support for them but we heard from the minister that this process is succeeding. What we are doing is providing ongoing support and evaluation for decentralization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the last question that I'll be asking. To me, it is running very good because when I went up to the hospital here in Iqaluit I was given the fax number and the telephone numbers for the coordination of medical travel in Pangnirtung, but if my grandmother came here it would not be properly run, because they don't know who she is. Because they know who I am it seems to be running very well but for any public it is not running very well.

What I am trying to ask is, people that are in the hospital, say for instance, the people that are running the liquor warehouse in Rankin, can they be decentralized? To leave the place where they were at, and then transferred to Pangnirtung. Say, for instance, that is the kind of stuff that I am trying to ask. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Yes, Mr. Arvaluk is trying to understand something so if you can respond to that question?

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we are trying to do is keep the staff and what I said before is we are providing ongoing support and evaluation of decentralization and we have to work with them, and we have to find out that the staff is working properly.

At the beginning we knew that it wasn't running properly before. As soon as something is decentralized, or something changes then things go wrong right away. What I am saying is we are evaluating it all the time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the minister. They can't be resolved right away; a problem can't be resolved right away and I don't think that the problem that Nunavummiut are encountering is going to be resolved right away. They have to have coordination from here to Pangnirtung because say it's after six o'clock; somebody has to literally answer the telephone. Only if we fix those problems then things would run smoothly.

For instance, if a person, everybody gets sick, but like if the person that is working as the coordinator gets sick then they can't make it to work. If the person working in Iqaluit is sick then they have to have a replacement. If the person working as the coordinator in Pangnirtung gets sick, and they can't make it to work, it's just an answering machine. That individual in the hospital is sick; I'm not talking about shuffling papers, but I'm talking about this individual that writes out the tickets. There has to be an ongoing person in that position here in Iqaluit. I'm just trying to tell the minister that.

My question is under Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. We heard that on Thursday, under the Northern Ministers Forum, the Indian and Northern Affairs program, it stated that Prime Minister Harper, when he visited the communities to the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon and Nunavut last year he stated that he just doesn't want to see the north, but he wanted to be able to see what's happening within the government. They wanted to strengthen Nunavut for them to have more financial resources and to make sure that all the old things that were a problem, to resolve those problems, and to find out how much money the Nunavut Government will be given from the federal government.

Does Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs negotiate with the federal government in regard to financial resources? Do you talk with the federal government about money that might be coming from them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not going to look at him. He might be smiling or not. The Assistant Deputy Minister was really talking about the fact that the Indian and Northern Affairs Minister couldn't come up and in the upcoming months, which are shortly, they said they were going to be 60 delegates from other countries.

How involved is the Nunavut Government and how much funding is provided by the federal government for this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The federal government is helping about, I believe there will be about 30 scientists in Nunavut and the government is urging Nunavummiut to be involved with the scientists and they are keeping us informed and we also give out licenses through our offices through the Nunavut Research Institute. So up to date we have been involved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The licenses you give out, you grant, do they have conditions where only if you have specific ... for example, the grade 12 high school students, if you involve high school students and we can approve your permit, is that how it works? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We are on Intergovernmental Affairs. After his response we will go back to B10. Thank you.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know the contents of the permits. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. We are on B10. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On to B10, Intergovernmental Affairs. I know the minister might not be aware but they usually have objectives or goals. There will be a large number of scientists up in the north because they know that they are polluting the north, and by people in the north, or from the south.

There are contaminants. The federal government and territorial government have both stated that they will use human investment and I believe, I don't think there is a directive given to the Institute insisting that a student be involved so that we can put exposure to the students so they can start thinking about maybe becoming scientists.

In this we are paying almost \$1 million to the staff of Intergovernmental Affairs. Can the minister tell me whether they produce policies as to what the Nunavut Government can do to the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I would like to recognize at this time Mr. Peterson. I'll get back to you. I'll let Mr. Minister respond to that.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know how to respond to this and we try and help in any way we can if it will benefit Nunavummiut. So I can't give him an answer at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We're on B-10. (interpretation ends) Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,155,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Go to B-11 (interpretation ends) and B-12. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$509,000. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In dealing with the status of trans-boundary and fishing issues, I know in December of last year the Premier attended the signing ceremony in Kuujuaq for the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement. I'm just wondering if he could indicate if the signing of this agreement has addressed the Government of Nunavut's concerns in relation to such issues as fisheries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's partly addressed where in the agreement it states that the people in Nunavut will always have a greater share than any allocations for Inuit of Nunavik. Like everything, it would have been great to address all of our concerns but at the same time, we did not want to hold-up an agreement for the Inuit of Nunavik to try and address our issues.

So our issues are ongoing but we were able to insert clauses in the agreement that our share will always be greater than our cousins to the south of us. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that I wouldn't want to hold that up either just for that but if the Premier is confident that we have a good deal in that then I'm sure it's a good deal for us.

Mr. Chairman, just another question I have with the signing of that agreement, with the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement, is there any requirement for Nunavut to pay them any money as a result of that agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** No. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. We're on B-11 and B-12. (interpretation ends) Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$509,000. Do you agree?



**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** We're on B-13. Devolution. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,045,000. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments he stated that we are prepared to begin negotiations with the federal government on devolution so that Nunavummiut can benefit from our abundant natural resources. Can the minister give us an update of the status of devolution negotiations with the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Yes, from what I understand Mr. Chairman, our chief negotiator has been in at least three bilateral meetings with the federal representatives. The federal representative, Mr. Mayer, was supposed to report on his discussions to the federal minister, and seek a mandate by the end of this month. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I met Mr. Mayer in Cambridge Bay in early January. He was over there on a fact finding mission.

He indicated to myself and others that he wasn't actually the negotiator, but he was supposed to prepare a report on his discussions and findings up here with all the groups across Nunavut, and then report to Minister Prentice on whether to go forward with negotiations or otherwise.

Can the minister give us an indication of whether Mr. Mayer is going to be appointed as the official negotiator at the end of this month and that we will enter into official negotiations on devolution? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At present, when Minister Prentice announced the appointment of Mr. Mayer as the federal representative, at the same time he indicated that he would be the lead negotiator in our devolution discussions.

So I haven't heard otherwise. As to when these discussions and negotiations will take place, we'll have a better picture by the end of the month and I will report back on progress at the first opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

In December we were all a little surprised when the media reported that there was a dispute between the Government of Nunavut and Ottawa on including internal waters as part of devolution talks.

Can you perhaps expand on that issue a little for us today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From our preliminary discussion with our officials and the federal officials, it became clearer that the federal position was different from our position.

But, I must say Mr. Mayer has been very open to our suggestions. I do not know what the final outcome will be but I want to make our position very clear to the federal government that our position is that we have to be treated like any part of the country and that is internal waters rest with the provinces. And we want the same powers and benefits that flow to any part of this country and make it clear that with that position the federal government would have a much stronger case in asserting sovereignty in our waters.

That will continue to be our position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I believe in our opening statements that the standing committee supports the minister's and the government's position on that negotiating point, including inshore waters.

My question then would be: I know in your priorities here for 2007-08, on page B-19, you state to achieve substantial progress towards an agreement in principle on devolution, or to complete that agreement in principle by December 31, 2007, and a devolution final agreement by December 31, 2008.

Is there any possibility that if you don't get by this dispute over including inshore waters will that hold up the negotiation of an agreement in principle and ultimately a final agreement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) At this point I do not know where our position is with internal waters with the federal government. As I said, the federal representative will report his findings to his minister, and from there a mandate will developed.

For me to speculate at this point is premature and I will await the findings of the representative and hopefully our mandate will be strong so that we can resolve our differences fairly quickly and move forward and make real progress on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I certainly hope that the federal government agrees with the Government of Nunavut on that position.

Can the minister indicate when he would be in position to brief Members of the House on the progress of this devolution negotiation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I said before, I will have a better idea of where we are at the end of the month. So I will be quite open to my colleagues after we get an indication of where we stand with our discussions with the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. We are on page B-13, Devolution. Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,045,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the supplementary to Mr. Peterson's question in regard to devolution, although I know the Premier doesn't know, what about the many license fees, and taxes, and royalties that might be grandfathered by the federal government. Or the federal government could decide to keep those until a certain time. The federal government might want to set a time.

So my question is in regard to the Devolution Agreement: prior to the Devolution Agreement being signed would there be a formal motion to support that? I would be very worried if only the officials had signed the document. This House should make a motion and approve what they sign. I don't know what their terminology is for that and I'm not too sure what kind of terminology would be used.

So my question is: could we do it by way of motion prior to it being signed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is evident that we will have to work together. This government would have to approve that they cannot just allocate funding, we have to approve it also. So it is obvious that we will deal with that

again in the future once we know exactly how it is going to be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. We are on page B13. Devolution. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,045,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Now go back to page B-4. Executive and Intergovernmental Affair. I'm sorry, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This overall detail of expenditure of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, I just want to get a confirmation from the minister that prior to this, we're approving this O&M budget for next year; starting April 1. As a result of the Minister of Finance's announcement on Thursday that the Corporate Services Division, there are seven PYs and all the funding that goes with it, is going to be out of this.

So I am just wondering if we're going to be getting a revised main estimate and business plan from the department to reflect that change. I don't know when these were printed but already there's been an announcement that it's going to change. This isn't really what's going to happen as of April 1. The whole Corporate Services Division, it is my understanding that all the finance functions are going to go over to Finance. During our spring sitting will we see the revised Business Plans and Main Estimates that reflect that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There will be a supplementary in the spring session to address the changes; it's just a straight PY transfer over to Finance. So there'll be a supplementary appropriation and straight transfer of funds and the PYs over to Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know in the, if you look at it, on our old charts in Corporate Services, it consists of seven PYs. So the minister is saying that all those seven PYs, and the appropriation and funding for those positions is going to transfer over to the Department of Finance by way of supplementary appropriation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I didn't hear a question. I will allow you to answer the question, Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** There'll be four positions related to finances under that Division, out of the seven that will be transferred over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering if the minister could indicate which four positions are going. And out of the seven with all their finance stuff that the Corporate Services is, so I am just wondering why the other three are staying behind? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Well I'm sure we'll get to this in the spring session but to forego all these questions in the spring session, I'll answer it now. ATIPP Manager, office manager, and the receptionist will remain in our Division. The rest are finance related so they'll be moved over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. We are on page B-4. (interpretation ends) Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$11,306,000. Does the committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Are you agreed that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier, Mr. Walsh, and Mr. Omilgoitok for appearing before the committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can escort them from the witness table please.

We have the Department of Community and Government Services. I would like to ask Ms. Brown to if she can do her opening comments. Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Brown. I now would like to ask Minister Brown from the Department of Community and Government Services to make her opening remarks.

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2007-08 – Consideration in Committee – Community & Government Services**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel honoured to appear before you and my colleagues to participate in the annual review of the department's budget for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

Community and Government Services have a budget of \$146 million with staff in six decentralized offices and in Iqaluit.

We recognize that CGS programs, services, and funding directly impact the day-to-day activities of Nunavut communities and all other departments within the Nunavut Government.

We have placed emphasis on program funding on those areas where the need has been identified as the greatest.

The primary focus of this department is ensuring that hamlets continue to have access to adequate base funding and training opportunities. I am pleased to be able to say that, as a whole municipal performance is better than ever.

Before we begin reviewing the details of the 2007-08 main estimates, I would like to update you on some of the challenges facing Community and Government Services and discuss several major projects that the department has been working on over the course of this year.

In prior years, CGS has experienced some difficult financial situations where historic shortfalls in core program budgets such as utilities have caused CGS to limit other program delivery in order to live within the total annual budget envelope due to the rising costs.

(interpretation ends) This year we have addressed the forecast \$6 million shortfall in CGS Utility Budgets so this will maintain our programs and services we provide to our clients and partners.

Over the past four years, CGS has been successful in properly funding municipalities. We are now providing core funding 30 percent higher than the 2002 levels and to maintain this core funding we have been successful in offsetting the rising costs.

Hamlets will receive additional funding to assist in maintaining their base funding levels and sustaining existing programs and services to community residents.

We continue to be open-minded and willing to consider changes to the way we deliver programs, which increase efficiencies and enhance the quality of our programs to communities and government.

Two years ago communities told us they wanted more training opportunities delivered locally in hamlets and we responded by totally changing the way we delivered our training. Listening to communities has made our training more successful and improved our results. We now train over 700 municipal employees each year.

Last year, as a result of municipal meetings, the Department of Community and Government Services committed to work in partnership with Nunavut Housing

Corporation to examine changes to the way that government delivers the Water and Sewer Program.

Presently, the Water and Sewer Block Funding Program is being piloted in three Nunavut communities: Chesterfield Inlet, Kugaaruk, and Pangnirtung. In this pilot program we are attempting to reduce the barriers and obstacles hamlets face in providing water and sewage services while also creating an environment which encourages saving and efficiencies.

Government recognizes and accepts that the way we historically have purchased fuel products is largely outdated; world oil prices change frequently due to events beyond our control. We are developing more efficient and cost effective methods for buying fuel products. Community and Government Services and the Department of Finance were directed to work together to explore opportunities for improving the way we acquire petroleum products and are implementing improvements.

We are reviewing options in partnership with the Department of Finance that reduce the high risk connected with buying fuel. While we are considering our options, government is very aware that we must ensure we buy a quality fuel supply for our residents.

Community and Government Services sponsors internal training and development initiatives on an ongoing basis and participates in Human Resources sponsored initiatives which enhance opportunities to Inuit beneficiaries. Currently Community and Government Services are working with Nunavut Arctic College and Kakivak to provide training for 14 students for jobs in IT computer services. As you have noticed, there is some good news in our budget.

Community and Government Services have been able to address the utilities related forced growth on the needs of our hamlets. I am pleased to announce today that communities will receive some additional program dollars. \$2.5 million will go to communities for core funding associated with rising energy costs.

Community and Government Services continues to invest significant effort and resources to ensure that we continue to improve services to all government departments.

The department has focused significant resources on fire protection training and implementing the Fire Prevention Strategy. We have delivered more training than ever before for our volunteer fire departments. 342 fire fighters completed 29 courses over the past year.

The Fire Protection Strategy focuses on: asset protection, hamlet fire equipment, and training and development of municipal fire departments volunteers has increased.

Our efforts are making a difference, as the fire losses for the 2006-year were far lower than recent previous years. Hamlets, the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities formed the Nunavut Association of Municipalities

Insurance Exchange about four years ago. It is a unique success story that saves hamlets a lot of money every year.

The Nunavut Association of Municipalities Insurance Exchange provides affordable fire insurance coverage and other protection for municipalities assets.

Government and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities Insurance Exchange officials are working together to develop a sustainable solution that ensures the Nunavut Association of Municipalities Insurance Exchange's success directly benefits hamlets. We hope to have an announcement over the coming weeks.

Community and Government Services is faced with many challenges in the accomplishment of its mandate to serve departments and support social and economic opportunities in communities.

We recognize that some of the challenges are financial and solutions are sometimes limited because of scarce fiscal resources. Community and Government Services makes every effort to productively use and carefully manage the resources provided by this Assembly in meeting our mandate.

Positive leadership and direction, and a focus on service are all priorities of Community and Government Services. We are committed to working with our partners to find solutions that work.

Our focus on public service means we are here to assist our clients, partners in communities and government, and to find solutions that work.

CGS continues to:

- Support new and improved program delivery options,
- Live within our means,
- Support Training and Development,
- Uphold Community Empowerment,
- Address Environmental Issues.

This concludes my opening remarks and I am now ready to respond to the committee's questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Brown. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Yes, I do.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.



**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could escort the witnesses to the witness table.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. For the record, Madame Minister, could you please introduce your witnesses?

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right, Pam Hine, my deputy, and on my left is Mike Rafter who is the Director of Finance.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Welcome to the House. At this time I would like to ask the Deputy Chair for the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development if he has any opening comments. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide you with comments as the Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development. The committee has reviewed the 2007-08 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Community and Government Services and had the opportunity to meet with the minister and her officials in February.

Members noted the recently released list of federally funded community infrastructure projects. Members appreciate that this information was included as an appendix to the department's 2007-08 capital estimates. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of the members of the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee to prioritize projects for the federal funding. Members look forward to an update from the minister on the workings of the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee and note that additional federal funding will be required to bring Nunavut's infrastructure onto a par with other Canadian communities.

Members note that the department intends to review the *Lotteries Act*, *Consumer Protection Act*, and the *Conflict of Interest Act* in 2007-08. Members also note that amendments to the *Local Authorities Election Act* and the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* are forthcoming. Members look forward to scrutinizing these bills.

The standing committee believes that funding for hamlets should accurately reflect the responsibilities that are expected of them. Members support the department's efforts to improve the funding mechanism for the Water and Sewage Services Subsidy Program and look forward to the minister's update on the department's review of the pilot project that took place in three communities in 2006-07.

Members noted that one of the department's priorities for 2007-08 is to establish a granular program. Members also noted that funding for a Quarry Management Program was not continued from 2006-07 to 2007-08. In addition, regional granular programs do not receive funding in the 2007-08 capital estimates.

The standing committee is concerned that the establishment of a granular program is a departmental priority but it is not immediately clear how it will be funded.

Members note that hamlets continue to struggle to hire fully-qualified individuals for technical positions. Members are especially concerned that Municipal Land Officers do not receive adequate support but are expected to fulfill a role that is vital for both government and private sector infrastructure development. Members urge the minister to continue working with hamlets to provide relevant training, especially with respect to Municipal Land Officers.

Members note that there is no funding allocated for the Nunavut Association of Municipalities Insurance Exchange, or NAMIX, in 2007-08. Members recognize that the original intention was for the exchange to be self-sustaining after three years of start-up financial assistance. It is not clear what the current financial status of NAMIX is. Members look forward to receiving an update from the minister on the exchange and any adjustments that will be made to it.

Members note that on February 19, 2007, a Government of Nunavut news release announced \$1.5 million to assist hamlets in offsetting increased power and fuel costs.

Members note that one of the department's priorities in 2007-08 is to implement recommendations to enable compliance with the federal Tank Farm Storage Regulations. Members recognize that many tank farms have benefited from capital funding over the last eight years to increase capacity and comply with various codes. At the same time, communities have faced fuel shortages and required emergency airlifts to provide fuel before the arrival the annual fuel re-supply.

Members noted that the current five-year capital plan only includes one tank farm project that is commencing between 2007 and 2012. Members look forward to the tabling of the consultant's recommendations with respect to the federal Tank Farm Storage Regulations.

Members were disappointed to note that the new Department of Finance Bulk Refined Petroleum Products Risk Management Policy was not used for the 2006 purchase of petroleum products. Members recognize that the volatility of the cost of petroleum products on the world market is not within the minister's control. However, members are frustrated that the cost of fuel dropped significantly within weeks of the Government of Nunavut's bulk fuel purchase. Members note that regulations are being drafted to allow for the use of various financial instruments, including hedging, for the purchase of Nunavut's 2007 fuel supply. Members recognize that some risk is associated with these changes to the way fuel is purchased for Nunavummiut and encourage the government to track the effectiveness of the new policy and adjust its approach as necessary following the 2007 re-supply.

Members are concerned that the department's main estimates do not reflect the costs that will be incurred by the government to offset the deficit in the Petroleum Products

Stabilization Fund. Information in the 2007-08 main estimates concerning the Petroleum Products Division indicates that a deficit of \$14 million is being projected for the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund at the end of fiscal year 2007-08.

Members also noted that the November 1, 2006, increase in consumer fuel costs was set below the level necessary to achieve cost recovery. Members appreciate the minister's efforts to minimize negative impacts on consumers and recognize that a supplementary appropriation will offset the deficit in the Petroleum Products Stabilization Fund. However, given the fact that this expenditure can be forecast with certainty, members would wish to see the cost reflected in the government's main estimates.

Members note that the Government of Nunavut's Energy Management Program is administered by the Department of Community and Government Services and all three phases have been implemented. The standing committee believes that it is important that the department measure all costs and savings related to this program and report its findings to the House.

Members remain frustrated with respect to the energy portfolio and the overlapping responsibility for energy-related issues across Government of Nunavut departments. Members noted that a recently tabled document prepared by the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs' Energy Secretariat suggests revisiting the idea of creating a Crown Agency to purchase fuel for the territory. Members of this House have consistently expressed concerns with respect to this model. Members seriously question the efficiency of the Government of Nunavut's current structure to provide accountability to Nunavummiut with respect to Government of Nunavut policies and spending on energy-related issues.

Members note that the Government of Nunavut's 2005-06 Contracting and Procurement Report was not tabled in the House with the Lease Activity Report in December. Members look forward to the tabling of the Government of Nunavut's 2005-06 Contracting and Procurement Report during this sitting.

That concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. At this time we will take a five-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>Committee recessed at 17:01 and resumed at 17:12*

**Chairman:** Welcome back. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following. According to Rule 77(1), you have 10 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? General comments. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Madame Minister, and your officials. While we are discussing the main estimates of your department, whenever the minister has to appear before the Legislative Assembly, there would not be any hamlet services, such as sewage, water, and whatever the hamlet council or the hamlet deals with, but what I have been missing is the operation of the hamlets.

I think this should be looked at or reviewed before they have a problem because sometimes I feel that whenever they start having problems, such as financial and operational problems then the department goes in there and tries to solve the problem that they are having.

I feel that the Nunavut Government in a region has to work closely with the communities or the hamlets and to make sure that they are assisted in their operations, because they deal with roads, finances, and the services that are provided to the communities.

For the taxation-based communities, if they're looked after and have a good leader, then their operation is more effective.

Those are the types of things that I have wanted the hamlets to have available to them. Being a leader and being a very good, effective community is important. The employees of the hamlets have to be told that they have to follow the legislation and the regulations because if they don't have an effective hamlet then they tend to have hardships, such as finances, and other services that they have to provide to the communities.

I feel that the Community and Government Services should look after the hamlets. We just can't give that money to the hamlets and say, "Here, this is for you to run the community." I know that they have to get self-reliant but they have to be told by CGS people that they have to operate within the rules; to give them suggestions as to how they can operate better.

Also it's depressing too that some communities say that we want to do this, and even though the leaders say yes, sometimes they're told that the council is going to get so much money and they want to be able to get these kinds of capital things. However, they are told by CGS that they can't give them any money, after they tell them that they're going to get it. It is depressing for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short comment. I agree with Mr. Alagalak's comments, but just to add a little bit, because the hamlet councils are elected people; just the same as I'm elected; no less; no more. The people in the

communities elect them. Because they are elected they usually negotiate with the government employees and then they agree on something. And then when the government does their budget, like David said, their needs are not met because those hamlet councillors agree to do something but the government people say otherwise.

I know that there's not a whole lot of money but the Nunavut Government has to realize to tell the hamlet council, who are elected individuals, that this cannot be done because we're short of resources, not until much, much later. They have to tell them in advance.

The Infrastructure Advisory Committee, I don't want to make a mistake, but who are the members of that Infrastructure Advisory Committee?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. That was a general question. We're under general comments. If you can respond to Mr. Arvaluk's question, Madame Minister.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That committee has been running for just a short while, but we will find out whether they will be effective or not. There are 20 of them on that committee: two from the mayors, Elisapee Sheutiapik from Iqaluit, and from the Nunavut Association of Municipalities there are two, because the Nunavut Association of Municipalities elected individuals from the hamlets. There are two of them from Community and Government Services, one from Community and Government Services, and one from finance. There are 20 people all together on that committee.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Brown. General comments? Later on, you can ask questions. General comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand that there are four from the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, and two government departments? Like I said, advisory means, if I can sort of describe it: the elected hamlet council and the Members of the Legislative Assembly are elected people, if they could perhaps work with each other.

If maybe perhaps, we, the elected members of the Legislature can be consulted as to what they want to do, and let us know so we can talk to those elected individuals as well. Like, if the Minister of Finance says that we could also talk with those elected individuals and say that the government is saying that they're short of money, so these types of projects that you want have to be deferred for so many numbers of years.

Say, for instance, in Pond Inlet the arena and the complex were supposed to be built, but they have been taken out of the budget. Also, the Resolute Bay project has been moved to 2010, I think, and when they first hear that it's been deferred then it's not very good for them.

We always want to have an SAO who is competent at doing his job in the hamlets, and then we pay an SAO who may be from Toronto, a lot of money. He would then talk with the hamlet council, but then they seem to want to administer everything. They should be working with Community and Government Services staff in Iqaluit, to assist with authority. Community and Government Services should help with the hiring of SAOs. The people who would manage it would be the elected officials of the hamlet council.

Whether they are an assistant deputy minister, or capital planners, it should be left to the hamlet council. If the advisory council advises that it should be this way, then it should be left up to those people who are elected on the hamlet council because they were elected by the people in the communities.

My last point, Mr. Chairman, whether it's Operations and Maintenance or Capital, we'll have to see what services are most needed in the communities. What would be good so that our children can have a better future? Even though I keep saying that we need a recreational complex and an arena in Pond Inlet and I've been saying that all along, there was another suicide last night - a young person.

I think we should wake up so that the elected officials should identify more what the communities need. What we call regulatory requirements are very expensive and we're going to have to find some way where it would be cheaper because the money that we get from the federal government, or from license fees, or from taxation, or insurance, or what have you, they're limited.

As the Nunavut Government, we don't want to be in deficit. The federal government, who gives us funding, if they see that we're not spending the money wisely, might be kind of hesitant to give us more. I think it's about time that we wake up and use the funding we get to better plan for the future of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a brief comment. I fully agree with Mr. Alagalak and I'm in agreement with Mr. Arvaluk's comments.

Some communities are small communities. The Advisory Committee and the mayors have received letters from the minister. I saw what the advisory council put in. It seems like they're putting the smallest communities on the backburner. \$130 million was made available by the federal government to the minister but it's directed to the Advisory Committee. So I think the hamlets will each get \$26,000.

If the smaller communities want to build infrastructure, even if they try and raise money themselves, it would take them years to match the government contribution. If that's going to be the case, we were hopeful that we would get that arena in Resolute Bay in 2007 or 2008 but now it's clear; we have to approve what was in the capital estimates.

And after the Advisory Committee met, then it's 2010-11. And the minister is just approving what the advisory council is recommending? And the Hamlets have received correspondence and the funding that is given by the federal government is up to the discretion of the minister.

It was put to the minister for her discretion but now it's under the discretion of the advisory council. So for that reason, for those smaller communities we will always be behind. And we are behind in infrastructure anyways. The new arena, we have been working on this for over 11 years, and they keep deferring it, sometimes it gets out of the books, or paper.

Community and Government Services probably has to consider where the money will go but when the Members of the Legislative Assembly, when we have to approve the budget when they seem to be neglecting the smaller communities, it's not fair when we have to agree to approve to the estimates. Maybe if we start not agreeing, maybe that's the only way we'll get their attention.

I wanted to bring this up, the acquisition of \$120 million; it's not the advisory council's discretion how they will spend it and putting the smaller communities way behind infrastructure-wise. They'll eventually get those but they'll be far behind.

I am not in agreement with that and I wanted to make that comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another brief comment. We all know, first of all I will talk about the fuel prices, gasoline, petroleum products. After the price went up they especially had a big effect on the hunters. And I also talked to the minister, I believe, in November and a lot of times they don't go out that much.

If the price of gasoline goes up again it will put a big burden on the hunters again. And especially for the future generation who we encourage to keep on hunting and not to leave the Inuit culture because the price of fuel, or gasoline is so expensive they might lose that knowledge that we want to pass on to them within Nunavut. That's one of the concerns that I have.

Maybe because the gas and fuel is so expensive now, in the future they might lose the Inuit tradition of hunting because they won't be able to afford the gas.

Our fathers, or uncles taught us by letting us observe, and if the price of fuel keeps going up then the Inuit culture and hunting might be in jeopardy. I also agree with the other member's comments that in some communities, the infrastructure, and especially in my community, the three bay garage doors have to be made. And those are not a big deal to us.

Maybe we can look for funding elsewhere to use for three bay garage doors. In Sanikiluaq, they keep saying that our recreation complex is way too small, and when there are specially occasions like Christmas holidays when we have celebrations, it is way too small for our community.

Listening to the comments, I feel so small because when people are saying that our recreation complex is too small, we are told that the doors have to be fixed on the three bay garage. To us that shouldn't be a priority. I don't know how the advisory council works, but to me the prioritizing is wrong, and they don't seem to know what the Inuit in the communities want.

Maybe it's because they're not aware of the concerns of the people in the communities. I wanted to point that out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): General comments, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank him for reading his opening comments. I had to go to the airport, so I apologize and thank Mr. Peterson, and I thank you.

I, too, would like to make short opening comments. When you're setting up the budget for the communities, and I know that last January you reported on the review, and the municipalities have problems with their funding.

As the minister, I'm sure that this will be resolved, and we hope to see this issue resolved.

Secondly, with regard to the infrastructure funding, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities is involved, and they make decisions on the priorities. But it seems like even though they set up this advisory committee, there are still people who are not pleased.

Although we can't see what they are working on, we are in support. If we could at least see their plans, even a one-year plan within their five-year plan, it would be good to see that. But, it seems like we do our five-year plans very hastily. We work very hard to rush on it.

So I was thinking (interpretation ends) there has to be more decent planning, (interpretation) something to that effect, rather than having to keep up with the deadlines.

(interpretation ends) There's got to be a way to do it a little more carefully so you don't just have communities, the mayors, and the councils complaining to whoever can listen. So I think we've got to put some decencies, you have to put some kind of...at least ensure our communities are settled down. I think it's really quite important we do that, we strive for that at least.



Community and Government Services have many, many hardworking individuals now. They know pretty well exactly what's going on. We don't have a whole of newcomers now involved in those things. So I want to acknowledge that we have Mr. Shawn Maley, who's sitting over there from my constituency. He's probably a senior now in many of the levels in the government, including Nunavut Association of Municipalities, and so on. So people like those people, they know what they're doing.

One of the things that I want to comment on is, as a standing committee chairman of this group, including other departments, we see a lot of interdepartmental transfer of funds for projects here and there. You know they can go as high as hundreds of thousands of dollars from communities here, you don't think spend it we are sending up that far.

I really believe that this Assembly should put some control into how far you can move that extra \$200,000 that is not spent in this community or any members' constituency. Maybe we should put a restraining order that that money be spent in that community. I believe the hamlets would be very happy if we were to start putting some controls in.

I don't think it would be a negative thing; I think it would be a positive thing. For instance, if there's a certain amount of capital funds that are not being spent by the Member for High Arctic, will you agree to send it down to my constituency for unfinished projects? I doubt you would give permission. I believe so, too, the mayors would be quite happy.

So I believe that's something that we need to think about. I know it probably happens in many of the governments in Canada, or any other government. You know, that capital funds that are not going to be spent for this project should be spent on other projects, or roll it over into municipal council. So that's going to be my question to you as we get to the departmental considerations.

I'm saying that because we see those municipalities everywhere; they're just scraping for funds everywhere trying to make do. We can holler and shout here and there but we're not getting any message.

Your officials normally just pass a note down to the chairman of the standing committees and propose that your monies are not spent so we're now recommending they move, and it's contained. With the minister's signature she has already given approval on it without any consultations to Members of this House who have approved the total funding for that project.

Now, if they don't spend it, the minister just has to sign off on it. So I'm hoping that we will put some controls on these kinds of things, and if you have any advice on how you can restrain yourself, I would be very interested in hearing from you when we get to the details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Are there any more general comments? Thank you. I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the

page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page J-5. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$7,647,000. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister and deputy minister whether or not the kind of advice that is normally offered by Members of the Legislative Assembly during the consideration of your department, for instance, O&M, as well as capital estimates.

How important are they? Are they, more or less, put on the shelf, and say, "Look after you again by that time next year?" Is that the general rule? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, my colleague from Rankin Inlet North. They are very important to us, to our department, and we listen to the regular MLAs. We try and keep in line with what your recommendations are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** I also would like to ask the deputy minister whether or not the kind of advice that I offered to the government, whether it makes sense, because more or less, the deputy minister is probably the one that recommends, along with his regional officials, whether or not funds are not spent for project A, B, C, or D, how is that decision made when those certain funds are evident? Who gets to recommend that they be moved to Mr. Arvaluk's constituency, for instance, from my hometown? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer the member's first question, the advice that we receive from the regular members during the standing committee and the Committee of the Whole is very important. I've had a number of portfolios, and the information that I've taken from the members in all three portfolios have been extremely helpful for me to manage the department; to get to know and understand the departments a lot better.

There are times it may be difficult, or we may not be able to take into consideration because of our government policies. At that time we hope to meet with members and explain to them why we can't take the recommendations under consideration.

We like to have an ongoing working relationship with all the regular members, as we do with the communities, and the elected officials within the communities.

The second question, which was regarding the capital money and allocating the capital money, the re-assurance that I can give to the member is that it is a cash flow situation. If

there becomes a difficulty in a project that we need additional funding; we may move some money from one project to another, but it's not gone forever. That money will be replaced later on, when that other budget needs it. So it's not a movement from one community to another or one constituency to another; it's a cash flow aspect to help us manage the projects, given the timelines of the construction projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Hine. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister and deputy minister, the both of you.

I believe you understand pretty well how desperate sometimes the communities are when they lack certain amount of...their lists of projects is so, probably, incredible. In terms of not all that internal pride that some of them are not be used but they have a list of projects that are waiting for funding.

What would it take minister, or your deputy, to not transfer that money to some other region, for instance? Could you not try and ensure that the funds that were approved within that region should remain? If that were to be put into place what would it take to make that happen?

Would it be legislation, or would it be an order in council, or a cabinet decision, or would it be acceptable for just a deputy minister or the minister's signature to do so? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes it's not, it's always hard to make those kinds of decisions because sometimes the projects are moved from one to the other because a project award is legal. We have to use the controls and stuff that we have in place and I would like thank the member for his remarks because earlier on he made really good remarks. We all heard his remarks.

We do make every effort to honour those capital projects, and (interpretation) sometimes it becomes impossible when there are many proposals or requests from the communities. After the advisory committee was established it seems like we were getting closer to the communities and I think you have heard that the funding that we received from the federal government, this \$130 million will be used for five years.

We had also asked the communities, actually we had all asked all the 25 communities; please give me your 10 priorities. So they were reviewed, although after they reviewed it, the funding was inadequate. Then we had to have \$400 million, and that federal funding was inadequate and the people, I believe, worked very hard, and I believe they did proper work because they come from and represent the communities.

The system had changed after the Advisory Committee was established and they suggested that this Advisory Committee meet with the regular members, and I believe that regular members should be involved because you are elected. Personally, when I saw the list, along with my officials, we reviewed all the requests from the communities because it is the very first time when I looked at the priorities, they were all expensive and I had to approve all of them.

I believe that was the process as followed. I don't believe that there was another process that I could have followed. Therefore, what I did I felt that Nunavummiut in the communities would be happy, because each community received something. The smallest was \$200,000 in value. Some communities received huge capital projects, for example, Qikiqtarjuaq, Gjoa Haven they don't have a community hall and they will see one this coming winter.

Also, High Arctic, Resolute Bay received an arena because they don't have an arena, so we tried to look at the communities very carefully and I agree with you that all the communities require proper facilities, and I agree with the Member from Pond Inlet that these important facilities are useful in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. We are still on Page J-5, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand exactly where you are coming from. Possibly I think that we will have to come face to face with the federal government and we all know that they already gave money for farm aid and they already gave financial support to other entities.

There is the transportation infrastructure which is geared for Toronto and Montreal. They give them millions and millions of dollars.

We hear that we are being supported by the federal government. If you look at the federal government budget, there isn't going to be a little number but a little asterix to identify the amount that is going to Nunavut.

They're going to be talking about billions and billions of dollars, and Nunavut is going to get an insignificant amount. We know that the federal government keeps saying that they have to listen to the majority. But, we have to look into the future.

There is the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, and the majority of the minerals, and the environment, and everything is in the territories. We're going to be also responsible for the Northwest Passage. We will be responsible for the arctic islands.

But, in any case, I'm not here to talk about those, but I would like the government to know that if they look beyond the numbers, they have clout.

Under J-5, under Directorate, the budget was set for 2006-07, and there is a zero in there. The revised estimates, there is \$5,000 in there for grants and contributions. I don't know what happened in 2005-06, but the actual expenditures under that line item was \$15,000, and then all of a sudden it's zero again.

Under grants and contributions for 2007-08, it's again a zero on page J-5. For 2006-07, there is zero, and then \$5 million, and right underneath Contract Services, in the Main Estimates, 2006-07, \$98,000, 2006-07 revised estimates, \$2,348,000. And then, it's the \$98,000 for the 2007-08 main estimates.

Why are we not able to keep the numbers in the budget?

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you look at J-6, there is \$5 million, and then \$15 million. Those were used for petroleum products. We can't approve numbers right away because it has to go through you for the actual expenditure of \$15 million.

This \$5 million was used for petroleum products. Again, referring to the comments that were made earlier, we cannot make any commitments. Maybe if I speak English.

(interpretation ends) We cannot commit to continuing to lobby the federal government for additional infrastructure funds to meet Nunavut's needs, although we would like to have ongoing lobbying with them. We meet with them at least two times a year.

The last time we met, it was very favourable because they said they would ... this was for all the national, that they would have an ongoing commitment, but that commitment could change very easily because sometimes the government can change. We're working closely with them.

So I hope I answered some of the questions. I just wanted to clarify that \$5 million was the number Mr. Arvaluk was saying. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Madame Minister. I will recognize that you are on the floor, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation) Mr. Alagalak would like to propose a motion.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recognize the clock and since you're all older than me, and I am sure that you're more tired than I am. I would like to go home and report progress. I can still go for a number of hours, if that's the wish of the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. (interpretation ends) There is a motion on the floor, and it 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) I apologize. Madame Minister, you can go back to your table.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Barnabas.

### **Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and the main estimates and would like to report progress. As well Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Ms. Aglukkaq. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders for the Day for March 13:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents

15. Notice of Motions
16. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 1
  - Bill 2
  - Bill 3
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We will start again at 1:30 in the afternoon, on March 13.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:04*

