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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Cambridge Bay)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and Ministers. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Aglukkaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 036 – 2(4): Home and Community Care Worker Appreciation Day

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Home and community care services are of growing importance to Nunavummiut. This type of service helps families care for loved ones at home. This year, for the first time, we recognize the valuable contribution made by our homecare workers.

Today, March 21, 2007, is home and community care workers appreciation day in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, home and community care services vary by community but can include personal care, home support, nursing, respite care, equipment loans, case management, and client assessment.

Several training initiatives have been implemented over the past year to continually improve professional skills. Kivalliq Home Care Workers used telehealth last fall to take a 16-hour long palliative care course. The Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association developed the course which offered an opportunity to learn new skills, share ideas, and to form a supportive network.

Baffin Home Care Workers in the Baffin participated in a four-day long conference called *Rekindle the Spirit*.

A total of 47 participated at two separate conferences. The conference not only allowed staff to share best practices and network; it also offered workshops so that they could recertify their CPR and first aid skills.

Health and Social Services rehabilitation staff offered training as well in safe transfer of clients and equipment care.

Kitikmeot Home Care Workers participated in a 'Great Kids' workshop last year in Cambridge Bay to learn about ways to help parents develop nurturing and empathetic relationships with their children. A similar workshop was also held in Hall Beach. Some 15 home care nurses from all over Nunavut participated in Health Assessment Workshops in Iqaluit in February to enhance their clinical knowledge in this area - the first time this has been done in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Members of this House to join me in thanking the home and community care workers of Nunavut for making it possible for families to care for loved ones at home.

This is important for the well being of Nunavummiut and supports the government's goal of building self-reliant and healthy communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 037 – 2(4): Housing Trust Teamwork

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Good afternoon, my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an exciting new example of teamwork that the Housing Trust initiative is encouraging in Nunavut.

The Housing Trust Delivery Strategy, which was approved by Cabinet and tabled in the legislature last year, outlined the government's plan to support Nunavummiut by building homes. It describes how we will work together to construct approximately 725 new houses, as well as encourage the growth of a skilled home-grown labour force and the development of local businesses.

Last summer and fall, the Nunavut Housing Corporation staff visited each community and met with hamlet councils and staff, Local Housing Organizations, local businesses, and other interested people to discuss the trust initiative and gather feedback.

Based on this information, the delivery strategy was developed through interdepartmental cooperation between Nunavut Housing Corporation, Nunavut Arctic College, and the

Departments of Education, Economic Development and Transportation, Community and Government Services, and Finance. Objectives were developed to guide our effort to keep us focused on our four key *Pinasuaqtavut* goals, including continuing learning and self-reliance.

Ongoing interdepartmental coordination for the Housing Trust initiative is maintained through the Deputies Steering Committee, through the Senior Officials Working Group, and three regional working groups. The regional groups will play a key role in the implementation of the strategy. In the coming months I will provide a one-window access point for resolving local issues and discussing community feedback on new approaches.

Mr. Speaker, we are also encouraging the establishment of community-level working groups to provide input into local plans for business development, apprenticeship, construction labour-delivery and other activities. The Community Working Group established in Pond Inlet is one of the first and we look forward to the start-up of many more.

Mr. Speaker, the Housing Trust Delivery Strategy demonstrates a strong effort to integrate community-specific labour delivery methods with ongoing training initiative for labourers and apprentices, and targeted capacity building for local business.

I'm looking forward to an exciting and challenging year as we work together to implement the innovative construction and training component of the Housing Trust Delivery Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. (interpretation) Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

Minister's Statement 038 – 2(4): Skills Canada Nunavut

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to be able to update my colleagues on the activities taking place with Skills Canada Nunavut. This is the second year of operation for this very busy not-for-profit organization.

The Skills Canada goal is the same across the country: helping young Canadians realize the enormous career opportunities available by developing their skills in trades and technology fields.

Over 1,000 students in 17 communities, along with many educators, have participated in organized team-building events, such as the cardboard boat race, the cardboard toboggan races, and skilled trades' obstacle courses.

This year, many new skills clubs have been started in our schools. Skills clubs are extracurricular clubs where a volunteer from the community spends time with students to pass on trade/technology skills to our students.

Skills clubs offer a hands-on approach to teaching students about different skilled trades and technologies, such as graphic design, webpage development, office software applications, and TV and video production. Clubs in carpentry, cooking, hairdressing, and women's apparel design have also started up. Communities in every part of Nunavut are represented.

Skills Canada Nunavut, through sponsorship by the federal government, the Workers' Compensation Board, our very own Qulliq Energy Corporation, Kativik Diamond Mine, and the Government of Nunavut's Department of Education provides financial support, project ideas and materials to get the clubs started.

Students who win gold medals at the territorial competition, at the Second Annual Territorial Skills Competition here in Iqaluit on March 29, at the Inuksuk High School have a chance to represent Team Nunavut at the Canadian Skills Competition.

This year's national competition will be held in June in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Apprentices will also have the opportunity to compete for a place on Team Nunavut.

Please join with me in wishing all of those involved with Skills Canada Nunavut including the volunteers, sponsors, and teachers our thanks and ongoing success to our students and apprentices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 070 – 2(4): Update on the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update the House on the status of the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project. As members know, I have spoken often about the vast potential that this important Kitikmeot project has for the economies of Nunavut and Canada.

The Kitikmeot Corporation and other members of the BIPAR Technical Committee briefly met in Vancouver and Toronto to discuss whether to proceed with the project, and, if so, how they could finance the \$3 million required to complete the additional studies and reports for the various regulatory agencies and governments.

This is in addition to the \$6 million that has already been spent on the project over the last decade.

Mr. Speaker, last year the Tibbett to Contwoyto Winter Road that supplies all the diamond mines in the Northwest Territories and Tahera Diamond Mine in Nunavut closed early due to unseasonably warm weather.

The early closure had a negative impact on all mines and, in particular, proved to be nearly disastrous for Tahera, when they only received 60 percent of their annual fuel supply. We felt the impact in the Kitikmeot.

It is no secret that Nunavut requires strategic infrastructure to support our emerging mining industry. While there are other economic sectors that Nunavut will develop, there are none in the foreseeable future that can generate the employment, training, and contracting opportunities for our economy that will come from successful mining projects. Nunavut must break our continued dependence on the federal government for 90 percent of our revenues.

With this in mind, I was relieved when the BIPAR Committee made a decision to proceed with their worthy project on behalf of Nunavut. The members of the committee are currently undertaking to update many of their reports, including their economic modeling report. The last time this report was updated it projected over 15,000 person-years of employment – a significant contribution to the gross domestic product of Nunavut and the nation as a whole.

Many members of the BIPAR Committee and some of their supporters are contributing time and finances to move this project forward because they believe in it. Now, more than ever, they require the unwavering commitment, leadership and financial support from the Government of Nunavut to take the project to the next level and gain support in Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the federal government announced that they were giving the Nunavut government \$25 million each year over the next several years for infrastructure projects. With a current price tag of \$300 million, we hope that some of these infrastructure funds will be allocated to BIPAR. The returns on investment will be significant, and will pay dividends that will benefit our territory for years to come.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Member's Statement 071 – 2(4): Pre-Trades Training for Kugluktuk High School Students

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate a group of Kugluktuk High School students who are in the Pre-Trades and Engineering Program that has been piloted by the Kugluktuk High School.

Mr. Speaker, this program combines traditional academics and practical trades-oriented courses. On the one hand, those students receive Inuinnaqtun language instruction, and on the other hand, they prepare for a pre-trades examination.

At the same time they take 80 credits of academic courses and 40 credits of optional trades courses.

21 Kugluktuk High School students in grades 10 and 11 are currently in this program. To date the program has seen an increase in attendance, an average of 33 out of a possible 40 high school credits, and the completion of some important work-related courses such as Emergency First Aid, Workplace Safety and Workplace Health Management Information Systems.

Students in the program also have the opportunity to take field trips to learn about employment opportunities that are open to trades people in the north. A group of grade 10 students in the program recently travelled to visit the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. This year those students are: Jonathon Agligoetek, Beverly Anablak, also my daughter Tracy Evyagotailak, Robin Harvey, Mahik Havioyak, Barbara Kapakatoak, Angela Kuliktana and Manok Taipana.

Each of these young men and women is taking an important step in realizing not only their own dreams but Nunavut's dreams as well.

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

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating those young students and wishing them success as they work toward completing this program. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 072 – 2(4): Recognition of Long-Term Service Award
Recipients in Sanikiluaq**

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to thank my daughter who is taking care of two of her younger brothers. Mom is at the hospital. I thank them and I love them all.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a number of my constituents in Sanikiluaq who recently received Long-Term Service Awards. I would also like to thank Minister Tapardjuk for being with us in Sanikiluaq for the ceremony.

A number of my constituents deserve to be recognized for their many years of hard work and dedication to the community. These constituents work at our health centre and Nuiyak School.

The recipients of the five-year award were: Annie Emikotailuk, Winnie Oqaituk, Dinah Kittosuk, Dinah Kavik, Tim Hoyt, Mary Kavik and Julia Grant. Dora Fraser and Lucy Uppik received 10-year awards. Lisi Kavik is a 15-year recipient. John Jamieson is a 20-year recipient.

Mr. Speaker, special recognition should go to Johnny Meeko Jr. and Caroline Iqaluk. They have both served for 30 years.

I ask all members to join me in congratulating Sanikiluaq's hard-working Government of Nunavut staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. We congratulate them. Item 3. Members' Statements. There are no more. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Question 087 – 2(4): Status of Devolution Negotiations/Government of Canada
Federal Budget**

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier, whom I welcome back from his recent trip to Ottawa for the unveiling of the federal budget.

Mr. Speaker, the federal budget document states that the Government of Canada will, and I quote, "move ahead with negotiations to devolve onshore natural resource management responsibilities and resource revenues to the territories."

The Premier has been publicly firm on the issue of wanting to include internal waters in devolution talks. I'm just wondering if he could update us if he has any further information of whether this is something that could still be on the table, or is it something that the federal government has refused to put on the table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, the representative for Minister Prentice will be reporting on his findings by the end of this month, and our position remains the same: that resource royalties should be treated, along with devolution responsibilities, should be treated like any other part of the country. Nunavut will retain control over our natural resources inshore and in the internal waters of Canada.

So that will continue to remain the same and we await the findings of the representative for Minister Prentice and hope that we can make progress in the near future.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think hold our breath and hopefully the federal government will treat us the same as they do everywhere else in the country. We deserve no less.

Another thing that was identified in the budget address the other day was that the Government of Northwest Territory borrowing limit was raised from \$300 million to \$500 million.

I would just like to ask the minister, given that, was he disappointed that our borrowing limit hasn't been raised knowing that we're getting close to that limit right now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We have raised this matter with the federal government in the past. Unlike the Government of the Northwest Territories, our borrowing limit requires an amendment to the *Nunavut Act*. So that's something that we hope to address when the next set of maybe changes to the *Nunavut Act* take place so that would be a little easier for us to increase our limit in the future when we need it.

I'm hoping that we can avoid that and try and work with what we have because once you borrow, you have to repay that money and it collects interest. So we've borrowed quite a bit already and we're hopeful that we can maintain our line and hopefully we won't have to borrow so much in the future. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can agree with the Premier and hopefully we won't have to but I guess in the event down the road, if we do have the opportunity to generate our own source revenue, there may be a requirement for us to move on some infrastructure needs and not for just to hopefully leave it open for that if necessary.

Again, the Premier also indicated that they would require an amendment to the *Nunavut Act* and initially, when they're looking at that, can he indicate if they are in any discussions at looking at making amendments to the *Nunavut Act*, and if so, what they are and what kind of timelines are they looking at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There are a number of amendments we would like to make in the *Nunavut Act*. There's the legislation dealing with game animals that prohibits in some ways our ability to regulate wildlife management. That has been an ongoing issue.

There is also the issue of having a fourth judge. I've raised this with the justice minister and we're hoping that once some changes are taking place that we can piggyback it with these other amendments that have been waiting for some time.

But I don't know when that will take place; it's the federal government's responsibility. We've been pushing in particular for the fourth judge for some time. So it is something that we are pressing on but I don't know when it will be able to be dealt with at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to encourage the minister to keep pushing for things that need to get changed.

I know that things are developed with the best intentions at the time, but as you move on, things don't always happen as they are planned, and through this process hopefully we will be able to identify things that can change in that to be able to help us out in what we need to do to do our jobs here in Nunavut.

My final question, the minister had indicated that they are waiting until the final report until the end of the month from Minister Prentice on devolution talks. Is the Premier stating then that once that is done, that the formal talks on devolution will start after that report is received by Minister Prentice? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand, the representative has to report to the Minister of Indian Affairs, and once that is done, then the Federal Minister Prentice has to present options for a mandate to negotiate with Nunavut.

So once that is concluded then I believe there are discussions and negotiations can commence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 088 – 2(4): Akitsiraq-Type Programs for Nunavut Professionals

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very, very pleased to hear the Finance Minister say yesterday that he and his cabinet colleagues are examining, and I am quoting from page 12 of the unedited *Hansard* here, an “Akitsiraq-type program for accountants”.

I am aware that my colleagues in the Standing Committee on Government Operations suggested this approach in their report of last year.

Given that the Minister of Finance agrees in principle to the concept of an Akitsiraq-type program to produce professionals in Nunavut, for Nunavut, can the Minister clarify for this House how he envisions implementing this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I take it that question is directed to the Minister responsible for Finance. Please state the minister you are asking at the appropriate time. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After \$23 million is identified, we will look into this. It may be a similar program, but we will definitely have to do more work on this to see if it would be feasible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the same minister.

>>*Laughter*

As you know, I recently posed a written question to get some specific details of the overall costs of the Akitsiraq Law School Program. Can the minister provide some clarification on the anticipated costs of his proposed Akitsiraq-for-accountants program? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Again, I take it that is for the Minister of Finance again, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, we are just starting to look at that idea. We haven't even started to look at numbers yet. We are just now starting to look at the possibility of an Akitsiraq Law School type of program for accountants.

So as I stated earlier, we are just now starting to look at it and we haven't looked at numbers yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two weeks ago, the Premier indicated that the Akitsiraq program was a one-time program. I am very glad that in the short time between then and now, the Government has reconsidered its position.

>>*Laughter*

Would the Minister of Finance agree that the significant investment in the program to produce Nunavut professionals, such as accountants, is a worthwhile investment?
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would not be looking into such programs if it was not worthwhile for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I count on the minister for support for Akitsiraq type programs for Nunavut's nurses or teachers? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation ends) I believe that the Premier will take that question. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) As I said, in my previous answers to the member, when we can find partners for such programs it would be just wonderful like we did with the Akitsiraq Program.

And, with my Minister of Finance's response, I believe that the federal government is coming forward with a partnership arrangement for financial managers. So that is something we were looking at and that is great. So, we will get our Finance people to work on looking at a partnership for accountants and if we can find partners for the other programs, that would be just ideal. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 089 – 2(4): Plans for Cambridge Bay Ambulance Services

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, in Cambridge Bay, the Cambridge Bay Fire Department is terminating their ambulance contract with the department of Health and Social Services at the end of October 31 of this year. That service has provided vital assistance to Cambridge Bay for the past six years. In an emergency, they transport patients to the Health Centre and to the airport for medevac flights.

The question for the minister: what contingency plans will the department of Health and Social Services have in place to provide the same level of ambulance services as of October 31, 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The staff are looking at what contingency plans we can develop. Currently, the ambulance services in Nunavut are provided by the fire departments. The Department of Health does not directly provide ambulance services in every community. So with that change in Cambridge Bay, the department in that community is meeting with the hamlet to see what we can do to try and address the gap. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for the answer.

The fire chief in Cambridge Bay has stated in the media that there are liability issues associated with providing an ambulance service in any community. In southern settings, most ambulances are fully equipped and they have emergency medical technicians who can treat or save the life of patients at their homes or at the accident site before transport to the hospital or health centre.

A question for the minister: in Nunavut, what are the liabilities associated with providing an ambulance service where emergency medical technicians are not part of the operation and they do not have fully-equipped ambulances? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had mentioned earlier that we don't provide ambulance services right now. We partner with the fire department in every community and those fire departments are under the hamlets and not under the Department of Health.

We are trying to address the situation in Cambridge Bay and ways we can try and address the burden on the community to provide that service. As it is right now, in our communities, we do not have ambulance services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Of course, that puts Cambridge Bay in a bit of a bind if the Department of Health typically uses the fire departments and our Fire Department is saying they are not going to provide the service.

My question for the minister is: if in a typical Nunavut community setting where a patient is too sick or injured to walk to the health centre or requires urgent medical attention, how does or how will the Department of Health and Social Services respond to them if an ambulance service does not exist? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In most communities, if there is a need for a patient to be picked up at the community, the Department of Health has the transportation in the health centres to pick up sick patients to be transported to the communities.

We don't have ambulance services in every community and presently, the service is provided on a case-by-case basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In many southern settings where there is an ambulance service, if somebody calls 911, an ambulance will be at your house in three to five minutes and in most cases, less than 10 minutes. I don't think that is the case in Nunavut.

My question, Mr. Speaker: if a sick or injured person died because they couldn't be transferred to the health centre in an ambulance or other vehicle in a timely manner, in most cases life threatening, what liability is there for the Department of Health and Social Services in these situations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health provides ambulance services in the case of air ambulance services. We spend a lot of money on transporting our patients. In the north, the ambulance service is really our air ambulance service, from our communities to the nearest hospital.

In a case of a community where a person requires assistance to the health centre, we can provide that assistance to the health centre. In most cases where the individuals require hospital care, they need to be medivaced. That is our means of transporting and providing ambulance services to get the person to the nearest hospital to get the treatment necessary for emergency.

In those cases it is more than 10 minutes. It is sometimes one hour, two hours, three hours before they are at the hospital but that is the system we work under in our communities in Nunavut. Our communities are spread out throughout the territory. We have one hospital. To transport our patients, we use air ambulance to get them to the hospital.

In the community, again, if a person requires assistance in getting to the health centre, where there are no ambulance services through the hamlet, that assistance is available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 090 – 2(4): Status of Health Centre Funding

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. During my visits to my High Arctic constituencies, I met with the Municipality of Arctic Bay. The health centre that was planned in the five-year capital plan no longer exists.

I would like to ask the minister what the status is of the health centre planned for Arctic Bay. It has now disappeared. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to remind the members to please indicate which member you are directing questions to. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding to do the project brief was approved a year ago. The project brief development is still in the works. We hope to have that completed in the 2006-07 year.

In terms of the design and so on, that is still in the works. We have fallen a bit behind in trying to get that done to put our limited resources to the other projects that are in the works. The funding has been approved before in the prior years. I believe \$15,000 was

approved to start the whole project for the Arctic Bay Health Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for her response.

Perhaps you can inform the Hamlet of Arctic Bay on the completion of the plan. I know that the funding is available there but, could you inform them as to how much money will be spent because the existing health centre we have in Arctic Bay is running out of space. The nurses live upstairs; they live there 24 hours a day.

We don't know where the lot is going to be. We don't know where the site is going to be. Perhaps you can consult with and inform the Hamlet of Arctic Bay in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As part of the process of developing and designing a new health centre I will have the staff meet with the Hamlet Council of Arctic Bay to discuss where the project is and to consult with the community as well as the staff in Arctic Bay on the whole design of that health centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I know that the government is no longer responsible for staff housing, but in the smaller communities we have no choice but to have staff housing.

What is the minister going to do about this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A similar issue related to this as well at the Repulse Bay Health Centre was raised around designing a health centre that can include apartments.

During Committee of the Whole, I had committed to also reviewing that situation in those two communities where we have no staff housing. So, as part of the design, I committed to the member, as well as to this House, to look at that option in the design of this new health centre.

So that will continue to be part of the Arctic Bay as well as Repulse Bay review and project plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 091 – 2(4): Construction of Public Housing

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

Now, according to the season, the weather is starting to get nicer. As the weather warms up, the foundation of the land is starting to shift again. The Housing Corporation is responsible for public housing.

Can the minister look into the matter of the shifting of the foundations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will continue to look at all the public housing to make sure they can be used as long as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 092 – 2(4): Status of a New Community Hall in Arctic Bay

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to direct a question to the Minister of Community and Government Services. In regard to the community hall in Arctic Bay, the municipal council is confused about that community hall, likewise about the health centre.

The municipal council is confused about the plans of the community hall and how it will be set up. I would like to ask the minister responsible so that my constituency will understand what is happening. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I recognize the member's question about the community halls, how important they are in the communities. It makes the community strong.

To consider that question, in 1999 the hamlet submitted a written request to build a new community hall. The NCIAC and Community and Government Services have proposed a new community hall in Arctic Bay. That is a project to be funded under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Funding from Infrastructure Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Also, my question, will there be planning in place or if the community of Arctic Bay can raise so much funding and if the young people can be involved, would the government be able to match the funding for the community hall? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister for the Department of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We already have the money available in the capital funding and it has already been agreed to build the community hall in Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I realize that. I feel that it would be cheaper if we as the hamlet can provide some funding during the construction and design part. Can the minister let the hamlet know how much that project would cost, and how much of the funding that we can raise ourselves so we will know how much money we need to raise? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister for the Department of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The construction of the community hall is going to be \$3.6 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 093 – 2(4): Implementation Strategy for Suicide Prevention

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

The *Pinasuaqtavut* document on page six says that an objective of the Second Legislative Assembly of Nunavut will be to, and I will quote it, "...implement the Suicide Prevention Strategy with the focus on wellness."

And I know that a recent press release from the Premier's office indicated that they set up a position within the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to work on that. So I guess my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services is, does your department have an implementation strategy for that commitment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health participates in the interagency group that deals with the issue around suicide prevention in Nunavut.

The department, through its current services, provides some services related to that around mental health, as well as counselling services through social workers in the communities. But overall, we also work with the Embrace Life Council that was established through the department to address the issue around implementing the Suicide Prevention Strategy.

So the Department of Health is a member to that interagency and I believe that it's the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs that coordinates the development of that implementation strategy for the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that. I guess when you look at the Suicide Prevention Strategy and it's all dealing with mental health, maybe if I could just get a confirmation.

I've heard that the Department of Health and Social Services is involved, the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is involved and the Embrace Life Council is involved, mentioned in there. So I guess my question is: who is the lead department and who is looking after...is it the Department of Health, where mental health is under, that is leading the charge in that direction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I'm sorry. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We have been organizing interagency meetings. Suicide is an issue that goes beyond health, unfortunately. We have to coordinate other departments like Justice and Education, and working with young people, and Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

So we have other agencies that are involved because we wanted to make sure that we have a real impact by working together. So Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has been very active in making sure that all of the departments are working together. So we will continue to do that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They can decide who wants to answer this question, as I thought it would fall under Health and mental health.

What I'm hearing then is the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is leading the charge on that to develop a strategy as part of an interdepartmental group on that. What kind of timeframes are they looking at of having a strategy set up in place? I know it was part of the mandate of this Second Assembly as an objective to achieve and we have a year-and-a-half or so to go in it. So is this a comprehensive strategy that's something we're going to have prior to the finish of the Second Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, the group has had meetings and they're working on a strategy, and we plan to table that in the spring session of this current Assembly. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another line of questioning here, following the same lines, I guess. Again, I am not sure who wants to answer it. I am just wondering if any assessment has been made on the adequacy of mental health care services in the communities when looking at this overall problem that we are trying to tackle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been a number of attempts through various good projects. There was a pilot project done as well, a while back through McGill University, and so we are continuing to do work, and we have to have an impact. We will try any means to try and reduce the number of suicides in our territory.

As I said, we plan to have a strategy in place by the spring session. So we will continue to work on this as something has to be done and will be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 094 – 2(4): Update on the Ed Horne Case

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice. In November of last year, I wrote a letter to the minister in regard to the Ed Horne case. A number of new victims have come forward. Can the minister tell me today when he will respond to my letter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this matter is before the courts, it is quite difficult to deal with this matter by way of correspondence, but I will continue to keep the member updated on where we are on the situation.

It would be nice to bring closure to all victims in this case. And if we can conclude it, it would be great, but when we find additional victims five years later, it makes it very difficult to deal with it. So if there are more victims on the situation, please come forward before this matter is closed so that we do not have to reopen it all over again.

If the member can assist us in that way, I would appreciate it very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk; Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know that the Premier cannot talk about any matter before the court but there are victims in the community who are very much concerned and are not really appreciating what the government has done. The government decided to go to court. Can the Minister explain clearly why the government decided to go to court? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we are going through right now is called the discovery process, where the victims are examined under oath, by way of discovery and to see how their case is. And from there, the parties, the Government of Nunavut is not the only party; the Government of the Northwest Territories is the lead on this matter. We'll then decide what the next steps are to proceed with.

So it is something that is ongoing and I know that it is very difficult for the victims and hope that the discoveries will be concluded soon so that we can reassess where we are with this case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier but can he tell me what the timeline will be when the case will be done by the courts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot provide a definitive answer to my colleague, unfortunately, at this stage. Once the discoveries are concluded and the parties will then, hopefully, look at ways of ... if we can find a way to resolve this quickly, then we will.

Like I said we are not the only party so it is not our decision to make, but hopefully, the matter will be resolved. As to when it will be finalized I cannot answer at this time but I'll endeavour to look into this matter further and hopefully, we can come up with a resolution for all parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I should ask a question on the cooperation that the territories that are arguing, or taking off this case. Are they working on it cooperatively? Are they cooperating? Are they talking today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As it was set out in the division of assets and liabilities before Nunavut was created, the Northwest Territories is primarily responsible for all liabilities that were created before Nunavut was created. So they are the lead in any defence that is submitted.

But we will continue to work with the Government of the Northwest Territories and see what we can do. As I said the Northwest Territories is the lead counsel on this case as per the division of assets and liabilities but we will be there to cooperate and do what we can for this case in particular. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 095 – 2(4): Funding for an Air Terminal Building in Qikiqtarjuaq

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

The air terminal building in Qikiqtarjuaq was mentioned on the radio just recently. Is the building of the air terminal set to be built this year?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been asking for money from the federal government to upgrade the air terminal buildings in Nunavut. I can't tell you at this time when we're going to be able to build a new air terminal building in Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for his response.

At this time when they were talking about the air terminal building on the radio they stated that the terminal building could be built for \$100,000 but I don't believe that it's going to be approved by that community; if they're just going to upgrade the building.

Is it possible to include this as a line item in this year's budget so we can build a new one?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Our staff is currently working on this issue, and I could look into the information and update the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was \$25 million made available by the federal government for infrastructure projects, and at that time the minister stated that some of this money would be used for the building of this airport terminal building. Is it possible to commit some money so that Qikiqtarjuaq can get a new building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you. As I've stated yesterday, this \$25 million has been earmarked by the federal government. At this time I cannot commit to anything as we haven't seen this money yet. We have not seen the technical information, and with that information we will make a decision as to what projects will get underway with this money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister. In the ... (interpretation ends) ... this funding will help territories build and

upgrade their infrastructure, including that required to facilitate economic and resource development. (interpretation) So with that, I think it's possible to use some of this money to build that building. Would we be using part of this \$25 million, or would we use another pot of money? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, we have to make a decision as to how this money is going to be used, and once we have the technical information we will then decide where it's going to go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 096 – 2(4): Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, last week the minister tabled the Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy. On page 35, Policy Statement 3-2, it refers to sustainable development. It states, "...will leverage the investment of private infrastructure required to support ... assist in building infrastructure that will have permanent benefits for Nunavut."

My question for the minister: how will the policy statement be used to lever infrastructure funds from the various levels of government to support the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of projects that we have to do in Nunavut and they're going to be economically beneficial to our territory.

We will have to do a lot of projects. For example, Meadowbank outside of Baker Lake, they were building a road at that time and Baker Lake is going to benefit and so is the rest of Nunavut.

We will have to boost our economy and build projects in regard to the development of the mines and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. There appears to be some uncertainty in certain government circles in the Government of Nunavut about who the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road proponent is. This mystifies me because I have known the proponent for 10 years and in fact I worked for them for quite a long time. I was on the board of directors. If the government doesn't know who the proponent is, I can tell them who the proponent is.

Can the minister tell the House if he and his department are clear who the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road proponent is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that we can have a meeting with the proponent. I think it is the Kitikmeot Corporation. If I am wrong, then the member can correct me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is the correct. I thank the minister for that correct answer.

>>*Applause*

The minister mentioned a lot of important infrastructure projects in Nunavut, which we know there are many of them that we talk about and it would be beneficial to Nunavummiut. It would be difficult to prioritize them.

I wonder if the minister can tell the House if his department has any economic modeling software that they can use to assist them to project the economic impact of major infrastructure and major resource projects in Nunavut, such as the Meadowbank or the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, some of our staff have said so. We do want to see projects started. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. The former minister of Economic Development and Transportation committed to me that the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project would be front and centre at the forthcoming Nunavut Mining Symposium. I think it is being held here in Iqaluit next month.

In fact, he told me he would write to some or maybe all of the stakeholders and invite them to a meeting, while here, to discuss the project. Can the minister tell me what his department has done to date to profile the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project at the Nunavut Mining Symposium next month here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The mining symposium is going to be held here in Iqaluit. I will have to ask them to get the response because they are solely responsible for that symposium that is going to be held here.

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

Question 097 – 2(4): Alternative Energy

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Energy. Yesterday, when the federal government was announcing their budget speech, they talked about the environment and the preservation...(interpretation ends)...and that they are looking for hydro, wind, and solar heat. As well, has he looked into nuclear as has been suggested? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad Mr. Tootoo finally recognizes a good question when he hears one.

The member is correct; there have been such efforts in the past to look at all types of alternative energy opportunities for Nunavut. Right now, as I said in this House before, we are addicted to diesel and we are trying to move away from diesel. Right now, 100 percent of our energy is generated by diesel.

We are looking at opportunities with hydro; we are trying to look at opportunities that may be there with wind. We have not followed up on any of the earlier suggestions that were made in the past on nuclear energy, as such for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) In regard to that matter, nuclear energy, we know that we cannot use it up here. But in regard to that, in Canada, New Brunswick and Ontario are using nuclear energy. Is it also not possible to use that also up here?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member is correct, New Brunswick and Ontario in Canada and several states, as well as some countries mostly in Europe, use nuclear fuel as a source of having electricity generated.

In Nunavut, because of some of the issues and the economies of scale, it would be very difficult in having that type of opportunity here. There have been, in the past, political concerns with nuclear. However, in many cases those have been mitigated and negated with new technologies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister look into the possibility of using nuclear energy and I think that the Nunavummiut are more educated and know that nuclear energy can be used forever. Is it possible for the minister to look again at nuclear energy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the most famous exports of Canada has been the Candu nuclear reactor and I believe there have been some considerations at what we call the slowpoke nuclear reactor. That is something that Mr. Tootoo is very familiar with.

No, we haven't really looked into moving forward with slowpoke nuclear reactors or any type of nuclear reactor. That is not to say that it couldn't work because again, due to the economies of scale, we believe that there are better opportunities with hydro, which is a renewable resource and it doesn't have the stigma attached to it that nuclear has. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister checked with the federal government to see if they can fund hydro or wind energy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently wrote the federal minister responsible, about an opportunity to partner with the government of Nunavut on some of the work we have been doing with hydro. We also have the Premier to thank, on Monday,

during the federal budget debate, the Premier signed off on an agreement on the Ecotrust money, which will help us lead the country, I believe, in some areas of energy. We are hoping to do a statement in the next couple of days in the House, a couple of good announcements on that. So we are following up with the federal government.

We have received a little over \$5 million on energy related matters to look at green energy sources and to look at residual heat projects and so on.

Specifically on the hydro reheat project, we have a request into our federal partner and that is something that we're trying to move forward with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 098 – 2 (4): Student Assessment Testing

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaking about slowpoke, I'm going to ask my question to the Minister responsible for Education.

I know that a number of years ago I brought up an issue with regard to assessment testing in our schools. At the time I believe the minister was not in support of that. And as my colleague pointed out with the sudden change in direction, the government, in this case with the criteria and testing statement that the minister did last week, they were a little slower at making that change.

I would like to ask the minister if he could indicate why when a while back when I was asking about it when the district education authority here wanted to implement that, the department was against it, and now they've come out in support of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Education, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. When you look at the issue that he raised several years ago, and now when we move forward it is a bit slow on the uptake, in the poke session, I could see where he's coming from.

So I would suggest if he would review my statement that I made, I talked about criterion testing. Criterion testing is when you have a standard in place from the curriculum that we have. We test against that standard.

So, as an example, when you get to grade three in the math test, for example; can you add, subtract, multiply, and divide a whole number, can you identify a fraction, and so on, that criterion standard would be in place.

A standardized test that the member was talking about, I believe, was the national standardized test where you're testing a group of students against another group of students nationally in other jurisdictions.

What we're doing is a criterion standard test with our curriculum in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have the Minister's Statement in front of me, and my understanding at that time was the district education authority here in Iqaluit wanted to use the Alberta standardized testing, which is the curriculum that we use in our schools here in Nunavut.

So, anyway, I won't get into poking fun on that with the minister.

In his statement he indicated that their criterion test for grades three, six, and nine math, as well as well as grades four, and seven language arts are in the works. He goes on to indicate that the grade three math criterion test is now complete and it's going to be implemented this April.

Can he give us an update as to when he expects these other levels for math and the language arts in four and seven will be ready to implement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Mr. Speaker, part of the fundamental shift we've put on education since 2004 that has been recommended and actually seen and highlighted by Mr. Berger in his landmark study included putting new positions in for student assessment for the first time in Nunavut.

Those positions are located, as the member knows, in the community of Pangnirtung. One position was filled in January, and another position was filled in April. Those positions continue to work on those assessment tests.

We would hope to be in a position to roll out the next tests this fall which would be the fall of 2007, and again in the spring of 2008. First you have to design the test, you have to trial the test, and then you deliver the test.

So there is a lot of work that goes into developing the criterion standard testing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to let the minister know that he always says, "...as the member was aware." I wasn't aware that those positions were there in Pangnirtung.

He indicated that they are developing these. Can he indicate which ones, and when. The math one is pretty straight forward - math is math - but I would think that the language arts ones for grades four and seven would be a little bit more difficult to develop.

So if he can maybe specifically state what their targets are for the grade four and seven language arts tests to be developed and implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation) Minister of Education, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to apologize to the member, when I member, I actually meant you as being the member in Pang.

The member is correct, there's a long phase in program with the criterion standard tests, as I said earlier. We wanted to get the grade three one rolled out and that's what we're doing. The language arts and the other one, as I said, will begin this fall, in September 2007.

It is my understanding for grade three; they should be ready then by the spring, the following spring, which would be the winter and spring of 2008, and then continuing after that point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know which member he's talking to when he's responding to a question. That's why I got confused.

One of the ideas behind developing testing like this in our school system is not so much to test the student, but to test the system and identify where there are, or could be, potential problems in the system.

The minister indicated the Berger Report, and the numbers of 75 to 80 percent dropout rate would indicate that there are some serious problems with our education system.

I am just wondering if there are other plans, besides these tests, to take a look at the system itself, and ways to try and address some of the serious concerns that have been identified in them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the serious question. In 2004, again over the last couple of years, since this government has been in place, we've begun a lot of different ways of looking at the education system, itself. First, as the member knows, we've actually rebased the school funding formula to try to bring down each and every school's PTR to one to 20, which is one teacher for 20 students in the classroom.

We have introduced the criterion standard that the member has spoken about. We've put new positions in our schools, over 100 new positions since 2004. We've also put in place new positions for counselling services and so on to look at some of the issues that our students are facing.

When we say that we have a success rate of a little over 25 percent that means that students that enter kindergarten; who have completed grade 12 is about 25 percent. What we do know is when students attend school, 60, 70, 80 percent of the time they are successful.

What we need to do is have a better partnership between parents and teachers and students to get them out of bed in the morning and get them into the classroom. It seems when they get to grade eight, grade nine, and grade ten; that seems to be falling off.

Right now, one of the things we're doing is comparing schools in Nunavut to see for example, where school attendance is maybe 80 or 90 percent; what is working at that school, and compare it to a school where the attendance hasn't been so good.

So those are part of some of the things that we have been doing over the last two years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Question Period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 048 – 2(4): Medical Travel Escorts – Letter from Minister of Health and Social Services to Standing Committee on Health and Education

Mr. Barnabas: As co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Health and Education, I wish to table the letter dated March 20, 2007 from the Minister of Health and Social Services concerning the cost of medical travel and escorts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Picco.

Tabled Document 049 – 2(4): Discussion Paper for Ikummatiit – An Energy Strategy for Nunavut March 2007

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to table the following document which was long awaited by the Assembly. Hopefully in our spring session we will have to opportunity to debate it.

I am very pleased to table the discussion paper for Ikummatiit: An Energy Strategy for Nunavut March 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Can we have that document brought forward to the Clerk's table please? Please raise the documents so the pages know which minister to attend and bring to the Clerk's table please. Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister Akesuk.

Tabled Document 050 – 2(4): Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2004-05 Annual Report – Framing a Housing Solution

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the following document: Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2004-05 Annual Report - Framing a Housing Solution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Please provide the Tabled Documents to the officer's table. Thank you. Item 13. Minister responsible for the Department of Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Tabled Document 051 – 2(4): Ministerial Meeting Report – F/P/T Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management January 2007 from Department of CG&S

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I am tabling copies of the FPT Ministerial Report on the 2007 meeting of ministers responsible for emergency management that was held on January 9 and 10 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

It should be noted that the work to continue from this meeting includes the development of an emergency management framework for Canada and a strategy for emergency training in Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Please bring the Tabled Document to the Clerk's table. Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Aglukkaq.

Tabled Document 052 – 2(4): Electoral Boundaries Commission Report – Kitikmeot Mayors and Senior Administrative Officers Teleconference March 19, 2007

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table copies of meeting minutes I received from the mayors of Gjoa Haven, Cambridge Bay, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Taloyoak, as well as the KIA president and vice-president, and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. first vice-president in response to the notice that was released in the House relating to the Boundaries Commission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Please bring the Tabled Document. Thank you. Tabling of Documents.

Tabled Document 053 – 2(4): Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Election to Participate in the Supplementary Allowances Plan – James Arvaluk

Pursuant to Section 7(A) and 25(B) of the *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act*, I wish to table the name of the new member of the Second Assembly that has made an election to participate in the Supplementary Allowances Plan. Member for Tununiq, James Arvaluk. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Minister Picco.

Item 16: Motions

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues. I would like to take this opportunity to ask for unanimous consent to deal with my Motion 004 – 2(4) on the extended hours today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The minister is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his Motion 004 – 2(4) on extended hours today. Are there any nays? There are none. Please proceed, Mr. Minister.

Motion 004 – 2(4): Extended Hours and Days

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues and thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting days and hours as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House during the Fourth Session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. The motion is in order. Question is being called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 1, 2, and 3 with Mr. Evyagotailak in the Chair. And in accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 4 – 2(4), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:07 and Committee resumed at 15:35*

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

Chairman (Mr. Evyagotailak): 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. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 1 and the review of the main estimates for Health and Social Services, followed by the Department of Environment and Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Are we in agreement we continue with the main estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2007-08 – Consideration in Committee – Health and Social Services

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Aglukkaq, do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please escort the witnesses into the Chambers.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Dave Richardson, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations; and Shirley Alder, the Executive Director for Finance. Thank you.

Chairman: Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. I'm sorry.

Members of this committee, we are falling behind schedule as we proceed with departmental main estimates. I would again mention that once a member has spoken that I have discretion as Chair under Rule 77(1) to allow you to continue. I plan to use this discretion so that we can achieve sufficient progress in our budget deliberations. Once

again, members, I am going to impose Rule 77(2), which allows me the discretion to recognize a member more than one time.

H-5. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$21,682,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman: Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department's business plan indicates that Community Health Committees of Council will take on greater responsibilities in promoting wellness and self-reliance. What has the department specifically done to date to assist the Committees of Council in reaching these objectives? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Madame Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I regret the member wasn't here yesterday when we talked about that.

In summary, what I provided to the House yesterday was the Department of Health is working towards establishing and revisiting the terms of reference of the Health Committees in every community. We sent the terms of reference to the President of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to seek their advice in defining further the role of each Health Committee.

Currently there's a Health Committee in every community in Nunavut. Each Health Committee is different in terms of their roles in communities and what we're trying to do is strengthen that.

At the same time, I tabled in the House the Health Integration Report, which puts out recommendations in developing a Community Wellness Plan for every municipality and developing stronger roles of Health Committees. Some of the Health Committees operate under the hamlet function, others under the health centres.

So the role of the next year in dealing with the Public Health Strategy that we are moving forward on in developing prevention strategies, we will also be looking at strengthening the roles of each health committee as defined in the Health Integration Report.

At the same time I announced that we have two pilot projects underway with Clyde River as well as Cambridge Bay in trying to address base funding of these health committees, wellness centres in each community. Not so much the committee, but the wellness centres and look forward to trying to address some of the challenges faced by wellness groups in each community when they are accessing federal funds through their

Department of Health. So that's a summary as to where we are at in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to thank the minister. I would like to welcome you, minister and your officials. Today I tabled a document on escort policy expenditures. Baffin and Kitikmeot are identified, but in Qikiqtaaluk we have expended \$20 million. I'm sorry, we have expended \$16 million, and in Keewatin they have expended \$20 million and Kitikmeot they expended \$10 million. Why, although the Baffin region has the majority of population in Nunavut, the base funding is smaller than the Keewatin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The medical travel budget in my main estimates is based on the number of people that have traveled. It is not necessarily divided up by communities; it's on a basis that we have one budget.

What we have reported here is the usage of the medical travel for the fiscal year of 2005-06. That's how it was broken down in that fiscal year in response to the question that was raised through standing committee on the number of travels by region, and the number of escorts that traveled by region. So it's on the basis of cost incurred to provide travel assistance to people in the north, broken down by region as requested by the standing committee.

In total we processed over 33,000 airline tickets in that fiscal year and that's how it's broken down in that document that the member tabled this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm trying to get clarification. It doesn't seem like the Keewatin can expend \$20 million, when the Baffin region can expend \$16 million; that's a \$4 million difference. Why is it more expensive, what's the reasoning for the gap? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The travel aid, perhaps the difference between the other two regions is that many individuals up island travel to Iqaluit, which may be less cost in transporting patients or the less travel cost for airline tickets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister clarify, like for example, Sanikiluaq is included in one of those regions, then we understood yesterday from my colleague, when Mr. Kattuk went to the hospital, he had to travel through Montreal, Winnipeg, and up to Churchill. And, if there were no services provided in Churchill, he would have to go back to Winnipeg. How can you justify that when you expend that amount of money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't speak to the individual patient travel; I can speak to the program itself. In response to the member's concern, if he can give me the details of that, the name of the patient and the situation and so on, I can respond to it. But generally speaking, we provide airline tickets for people to get treatment outside of our territory.

The information the member tabled is a breakdown of how we used the funding in 2005-06. As it relates to a particular person's travel, I would much prefer to deal with that type of detail with the information of the name of the person and so on, because they are case-by-case and relate to a person, instead of a program outline. So if the member is willing, if he can provide that to me I can respond to the issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. We're on page H-5. Members, please, if you have questions on medical travel, wait until we get to H-13. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Yes, I would like to ask the minister questions on that again. And thank you for the information, Mr. Chairman.

I have another question under H-5. The committees that have representatives in the community, will they be receiving more money in 2007-08, or will their funding be cut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are no plans to reduce the current funding that we provide to our Health Committees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What specific activities and accomplishments have the Committees of Council been involved with during the past year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The functions of each Community Health Committee vary by community. In the case of Clyde River, they have been very

active through the society in delivering programs on the land for suicide prevention, or counselling, or mental health services.

Cambridge Bay is another example where they've been very active and have identified community needs and directed those needs to the wellness centre, or provide advice to the health centre. So every community's committee functions and what they've done is different, and each committee, for the most part, work under the hamlet, so their activities vary.

The information that I have sent to the President of Nunavut Association of Municipalities is to further define the roles of Health Committees and building a broader link to the government in developing initiatives that contribute to community wellness. We talked about 'Healthy Communities,' what does that mean? A big role of the Health Committees is to, I believe, identifying what some of those community based initiatives should be.

This coming year, under the Health Integration Report, and the Public Health Strategy that is under way, we are looking at developing community wellness initiatives around keeping people healthy.

Those will be activities that I hope to be able to bring forward to the House and report back on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): The money that is in place for the community health representatives, have you looked at the kinds of funding for them and what kinds of other programs will you be initiating for them? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current funding for health committees will remain the same in this fiscal year.

Once we go forward with the review of the Health Integration Report, which put very specific recommendations on some committees, then that will be part of that review process. But for this fiscal year, we're looking at maintaining the budget as presented. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): That's it for now.

Chairman: Questions on Directorate. Health and Social Services. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Directorate there is a policy in place where today I directed questions to the Minister of Finance.

In the last question, the Premier stated that if they can get the assistance of the federal government, and when they know they will be receiving assistance from the federal government for auditors training, and if they can also get assistance from the federal government with regards to nursing courses, that they would be able to provide that, just like the Akitsiraq Law School.

I would like to ask the minister: have you asked for support from the federal government, and if so, have you had any success in the federal government wanting to assist you in the training of nurses in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way I understand how the law program was delivered and developed in Nunavut is that each individual participant in that program was sponsored by an employer, whether it be the RCMP, the federal government, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated or Inuit organizations, or the Government of Nunavut.

They were sponsored by those organizations and paid by those organizations, and I think that is what the Premier meant in terms of partnership in sponsoring students, as a follow up to the Minister of Finance's comments.

Similar to that in the delivery of financial training, I believe what the minister had said was looking at partnerships similar to the sponsorship identified through the law program. In health, we are the employer and we are the only employer that provides services and/or employs nurses.

So, in Nunavut, if we're looking at sponsorships for nurses, it's a bit more of a challenge because we are the sole service provider in that sector. So that is where the difference in those two programs lies around sponsorship issues. I hope that clarifies that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand how Akitsiraq Law School and the professional accounting course would be run and who would be sponsors, but I just wanted to find out if you have requested funding from the federal government. NTI has to look after the Inuit of Nunavut, the beneficiaries.

Because there is funding available from NTI for harvesters assistance under the Harvest Program, why can't the department of Health try to be the lead department to talk with NTI, saying that Inuit of Nunavut have to have hospitals and can't you talk to Indian Affairs. Under the *Nunavut Act*, it is your responsibility that we have shortage of nurses,

can you provide some money in order for us to train them. Have you held any discussions like that as a Health Department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I have provided some of the answers to that through question period. I am working with the Minister of Education, who currently delivers the nursing program in the north through the Department of Education.

I had committed yesterday, to providing further information as to what kind of financial support we provide the nursing students when they are in the program, during summer break, and the support that we are looking at in terms of hiring, orienting or mentorship when they graduate.

We also provide \$326,000 in scholarships for the nursing program, so I committed to providing that information to the member. Currently, the program, the nursing program in Nunavut is GN sponsored, solely by the GN. We've had some discussions with the federal government on other training initiatives, such as mental health training, that was sponsored by the federal government funding we received, as an example.

But I had committed to the member to reviewing the matter with the minister of Education who delivers the nursing program in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that the short answer is no. I have not spoken to the federal government or NTI to seek partnership to help better finance the nursing program? If that is the answer, can she then take the leadership role and start talking to other potential partners, to improve the nurses' training program so that the success of the nurses' program can be improved, with less dropouts by having better living conditions for nursing trainees. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I committed to providing that information to the member, once we have done the review, I will report to the member on that.

Again, I have to work with the minister of Education responsible for delivery of the nursing program. I think that we have done a lot of improvements internally, as the main employer in the field for nurses in Nunavut. We made the commitment to hire the nurses upon graduation, we have developed the mentorship program; we have the scholarship program in place at the GN. Yes, if we can get more assistance from NTI or the federal government, it would be of great assistance to us.

But I have to work with the minister of Education in that review, so I will commit to providing that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question is will all these commitments be done before the next school year. For example, by fall, can she report to us by the spring session? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try and have that information to the member by the spring session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I don't have any more names on my list. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$21,682,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo, I will allow you one ten-minute question.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that mean if I only have one question I can take ten minutes to ask? A few questions, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that I have here is in this Directorate deals with health insurance programs.

I am just wondering if the minister could inform us as to what the current status of negotiations with Non-Insured Health Benefits, especially in the areas of transportation and accommodation for medical clients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Richardson: Thank you. We are preparing for negotiations with the federal government on these topics. We have regular management meetings to initiate it and so we are the midst of preparing for that set of negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know over a period of time now one of the things that have been discussed is when we're looking at boarding homes, and the expansion and requirement for expansion of boarding homes, that was all in negotiations that were ongoing with the federal government because they're the ones that pay for it, and now I hear that they haven't even started the negotiations yet.

I am just wondering if I can get a clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

A Member: Point of Order.

Chairman: Point of Order. Mr. Premier.

Point of Order

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that we're in the Directorate and now we're getting into the Health Insurance Program, which is under H-11, so could we deal with it on H-11. I think we're trying to cover everything and it's holding up a lot of other topics that could be discussed when we get to them, so that is my Point of Order. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know where my good friend from Iqaluit West is coming from on that but under the Directorate and business plan for the Department of Health and Social Services, there is a section there for Health Insurance Programs and Vital Statistics, so that's why I am asking that question there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo, your question is on page 11 and I would ask you to ask that question when we get to page 11.

Any further questions to Directorate on page H-5? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask for further clarification on that. There is Health Insurance Programs under Directorate and that's why I am asking that question there. If you look at H-12 of their business plan it falls under Directorate, there is \$1.2 million there for health insurance programs and it talks about the fact that the management of the administration of the Nunavut Health Insurance Program, Non-Insured Health Benefits, and Extended Health Benefits. It's under Directorate.

Chairman: Committee, please check out the Business Plan on page H-12. Health Insurance Program. Vital Statistics. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Rather than just going back and forth debating that, I would prefer if we would deal with the main estimates, otherwise if we're not going to be approving main estimates on the page-by-page and now we're going to do the same for the business plan, I think that's a bit confusing.

The area related to health insurance, as indicated by the Premier, relates directly to the medical travel, the Non-Insured Health Benefits funding we receive from the federal government; it's right in that category. So if the member is willing just to hold off on that question until we get there that would be more useful.

The information under the business plan relates to the Vital Statistics Office as well, which is the issuance of birth certificates and so on, which is beyond the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We will take a five-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 16:08 and resumed at 16:20

Chairman: Let's get back to this committee meeting. Mr. Tootoo I would like to ask you a question; is your question on administration to the program, or Health Insurance Program? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought I made it very clear that under Directorate, the Health Insurance Program/Vital Statistics is responsible for the management and administration of the Nunavut Health Insurance Program, non-insured health benefits and extended health benefits.

I would assume if they're responsible for the administration and management of those programs it's through that area that they're doing the negotiations on those programs itself, not the actual program delivery. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Premier, you have no point of order to the administration. Mr. Tootoo's question is on administration. The business plan supports the main estimates. The Minister of Finance's tabled both at the first reading of Bill 1. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was; the minister's officials said they are preparing for negotiations on that and it was my understanding that we've been told for at least two or three years now that these negotiations are under way.

So I was just asking for clarification on what is it? Have we been negotiating for the last couple of years or are we just getting ready to negotiate as he had indicated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The areas where we have been negotiating related to boarding homes was with the situation in the Ottawa boarding home that was in negotiations with Health Canada in trying to move forward in addressing the boarding home situation in Ottawa.

Overall, the department has been preparing to deal with Health Canada on a number of things covered under health insurance related to the boarding homes, the Dental Programs, the Vision Program, the Medical Travel Program; that budget is identified under health insurance, and the department has been preparing to deal with that piece separately from the situation with the Ottawa boarding home discussions that have had in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If memory serves me correctly, and I stand to be corrected, I know that argument of we're in negotiations right now has come into play with questions in regard to the Lena Pederson Boarding Home in Yellowknife, and also with the boarding home here in Iqaluit, they're looking at expansions and that.

So, I'm just wondering if those negotiations have been under way, where are they at? When can we expect some results to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have had no negotiations with the Yellowknife boarding home, and Iqaluit boarding home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I need to clarify it a little clearer. I said the argument when questions were asked in regard to expanding the boarding home here and dealing with problems and concerns raised about the Lena Pederson Boarding Home in Yellowknife, the argument that the government gave us is because those fees are paid by non-insured health benefits, they have been in negotiation with the federal government on those fees.

That's what I'm trying to find out, where things are at, and when can we expect some results on that. I never said anything about negotiating with those two bodies, those two boarding homes separately. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I hope that clarifies it.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The negotiations that we have had with Health Canada was around the Ottawa boarding home, in terms of agreeing to a rate to deal with the challenges that we are addressing in Ottawa to move forward in expanding the services. It has nothing to do with Yellowknife and/or here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister, I'm sure will correct me if I'm wrong but I seem to recall, I don't know if it was this minister or the previous minister saying they were trying, they can't deal with that separately, they were trying to come up with a comprehensive plan dealing with all of those places, it would affect all of those places before coming up with something.

So, again, I'm a little confused. Now we are hearing it is just specifically to that one when we've been told in the past that it's all interlinked and they were trying to broaden it to make it all encompassing in the past. Maybe I can get some clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To clarify, two things are happening. The negotiations that we did have related to Ottawa boarding home, the other piece that we are dealing with, in order to move forward on the boarding homes for expansions or whatnot, Health Canada has asked us to put a package together for all the current facilities that we have operating and to deal with the issue of boarding homes and rates collectively.

Health Canada is aware that we will need additional boarding homes in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay and have asked us to put forward the situations or needs of each facility that we currently operate and that was aside from what we were dealing with in Ottawa, just because of the urgency of that situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then if it is a totally separate thing, then the minister should be able to give us an idea how those negotiations went with Ottawa in relation specifically to the boarding home in Ottawa that a lot of people have raised and members have raised concerns about in fact. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working very closely with Nunasi on that situation and there is progress in moving forward with dealing with the Ottawa situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can we get some little bit more detailed than that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working with Nunasi again and we are moving forward in constructing a new facility in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When does the minister plan on doing an announcement on that and when does the facility plan on being opened. So I guess as far as the status of those negotiations, they were completed and they were successful because we are getting a new boarding home, is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The situation in terms of timeline, I would have to get that information from the service provider which is Nunasi Corporation in terms of timeline, construction, and so on.

I can get that information to the member. In terms of moving forward and being successful, yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's nice to hear that. I'm sure a lot of people that are going to be travelling down for medical to Ottawa will be looking forward to staying.

So maybe I can just ask the minister when that decision was made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: The issue around agreeing to a rate was some time in December. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that was the closing of the negotiations if there was an agreement on a rate.

Can the minister indicate when the decision was made to let the service provider know that they can go ahead and build a new facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was the response; in December. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When was the minister planning on informing everyone else about that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were still dealing with the situation of acquiring the land with Nunasi. Nunasi is working very hard to try and get the land.

So, once that was settled, we wanted to go do that announcement. They are still working to try and find suitable property in Ottawa and once we know that, we were looking at doing the announcement.

But, right now we do not have the land acquired in Ottawa to start, as far as I know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward, and I'm sure all patients look forward to them getting the land and having a new facility that is more suitable for them to be in.

My next question deals with something that the department's previous business plan had put a considerable amount of emphasis on, and that is the Care Closer to Home Strategy. However, this year's business plan makes hardly any reference to that at all.

So I would just like to ask the minister what happened to the Care Closer to Home Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of Care Closer to Home, there are some initiatives that we have moved forward on from the Care Closer to Home such as the Continuing Care Facility, and so on.

In terms of moving forward on all the recommendations in the Care Closer to Home, I think members know in this House that the budget before us is status quo. We cannot afford to provide every service in the north as outlined in the Care Closer to Home.

In areas where we can, we have moved forward in some of those, such as the Continuing Care, training of our staff, or potential staff through the college programs and so on. So, that plan is still there, it's just that we cannot move forward on all the recommendations.

The other piece I mentioned, discussed yesterday was around the opening of the hospitals and the issues around the challenges of getting the houses to open those facilities and the boarding home situation.

Again, those are all of the pieces around the whole concept of Care Closer to Home that we have been trying to move forward on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on dealing with something that came up at the regional hospital here in the past and it's something that we still face and I believe that this is the area to establish and maintain professional standards. My question is dealing with the accreditation at the Baffin Regional Hospital. I know you asked for in January and we provided an extra \$2.3 million to address some of the problems with the accreditation of the hospital there.

I'm just wondering if the minister could give us the status as to where things are at with that when you said at the time it was going to be 18 months before we get accreditation back. It has been just about 18 months now, so I'm just wondering if I could get a status report on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To update to the members around the accreditation, we had set a timeline to try and address the recommendations outlined in the Accreditation Report. When the report was released, we responded by also allocating additional incremental funding to enhance the gaps in the positions and services that were required. Of the 26 positions that were created as part of the overall accreditation recommendations, more than half of those positions have been filled in the hospital.

Since that time, the Canadian Accreditation Organization changed those standards. They came up with a different set of standards throughout Canada around hospitals and so on and asked us, because we were right in the middle of trying to address their first recommendations, but while we were in the middle of addressing those recommendations, the accreditation company changed their standards, which meant that we had to go back and say, 'What changes did you apply?' and address those changes.

So in light of that change from the accreditation company, they asked us if we would be willing participants to be a pilot in implementing those new standards that they created. So we agreed to that, and at the same time we agreed to broaden the standards, not just with the facility here but to expand those standards to the upcoming two new facilities and for Nunavut. So that is where we are at and we continue to work with the accreditation organization on those recommendations.

The other piece that we're dealing with in dealing with just the hospital here is that we don't have enough space for all those positions, so we are trying to enhance the capacity, or the recommendations outlined in the report but we need the space to put those individuals in the hospital.

So part of addressing those other, less than half there, new positions will be phased into the opening of the new hospital where we have the space to place the new employees that are to address the issues outlined in the Accreditation Report in the hospital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my next question is: when can we expect to have our accreditation? We were told last January that we would have it in 18 months. 18 months is just about gone, so I would like to just ask the minister when we can expect to have the hospital accredited again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 18 months was identified as a target we would work towards when the Accreditation Report was released. Since that time, the accreditation organization changed their standards. So we have to go back and evaluate their original recommendations and what they changed since then.

So it will be more than 18 months and we are working with the accreditation organization to address those. Again, the original target was based on the original report, and because they have changed those standards, we've had to go back and say, 'Where did you change your standards' and what do we need to change in our plan and so on, and what impact do those standards have on your original recommendations.

So that's the challenge we are tasked with, plus we are expanding developing standards, not just for the hospital but throughout the territory and our facilities. So that's where we're at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo. Question on Directorate. Go ahead.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I know that's where you are at, you said it a few times, but I missed the bottom line. When? Is it another 18 months; is it another five years; is it another six months? When can we expect to have that nice sign swearing that the hospital is accredited back up at the hospital? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 18 months was the target that we set ourselves to try and address that. The Accreditation Organization has asked us to pilot with them for a year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I guess it is a year from now that we are going to be looking at bringing him back in for a resurvey to see if we meet accreditation standards? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be the plan, we have to work with Accreditation Organization that introduced new standards and work with them, so we are hoping, they had said one year, so we are working with them for that target. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know there was a, at the time there was a big emergency and a rush to, I believe there was a supplementary appropriation brought forward for that \$2 million plus \$300,000 of funding to find within. Given that the minister indicated they have only hired half of the people necessary to what they had outlined there, I was just wondering when they plan on having the rest of that covered off and what have they done with that money in the meantime. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. More than half of those positions have been filled through direct appointments, indeterminate, or casually. We are trying to recruit for the rest of the positions for the hospital, the challenge we have is we have no space to put them in the hospital, so in order to move forward and expanding the hospital we hope to place those positions as we move towards the hospital.

Right now the challenge is: where do we put them in the hospital to address the accreditations recommendations for the hospital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering then why the department and the minister felt it necessary to ask for the full \$2.3 million at the time to cover the costs of filling those 26 positions. Did they not know at the time that they didn't have the space to put all those positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan was to try and address all the positions we needed for the hospital, and we put the request forward at that time to address the recommendations in the accreditation report. The challenge arrived when we discovered that there was not enough space in the hospital to provide all the services which were identified in that report and that's the way we are right now and based on the information we received at that time that was what we had gone forward with to address the report's recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to confirm that the minister indicated that they didn't realize at the time they asked for all that money that they didn't have a

place to put those people; that they never found that out until after. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To some extent that would be correct. We need to space some of those positions out. Some of the other things that have also happened in the hospital is not just the hiring of people to address the recommendations in the Accreditation Report, but part was also to do further training of the current staff that are there to address some of the recommendations in the Accreditation Report. So some parallel initiatives were undertaken to address the Accreditation Report.

At the same time the time, Mr. Chairman, the challenge also came when the accreditation company changed their standards, which we had to go back and evaluate. Do we have the right positions, as per the original recommendations, and so on? So we needed to go back on some of those changes that were applied by the accreditation company and to make sure that the positions that they originally identified at first were in fact the positions that we're going to need in meeting their new standards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister commit to, once they figure out what they have to do to get their accreditation back, to provide that information to the Members of this Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be glad to provide that information to the members, and perhaps, even with some representatives of the accreditation company because at the same time Nunavut is participating in developing new standards for Canada.

I am proud of our participation in that initiative with the accreditation company and working towards establishing standards and participating and being a pilot project with their assistance that will be useful to other jurisdictions in Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Questions on Directorate, page H-5. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and her officials back to the House today. I just wanted to begin with yesterday I asked a couple of questions and the minister indicated that she would have her staff work on getting the answers to provide that information.

I'd like to ask the minister if her staff have prepared that information and I can get it today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple of clarifications from the member: Is he asking for the information related to the qualifications of doctors in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson, can you clear up the matter.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 50 of the *Hansard* from yesterday I asked for a rough breakdown between the indeterminate nurses and the agency nurses that are in the various health centres and hospitals across Nunavut. The minister didn't have that information. She said that, "I'll get my staff to collect that data."

Then I asked the minister, "Can the minister provide an idea of what it costs to support one indeterminate nurse versus what it costs to hire one agency nurse?" Again, she said that she'll get the information for me. That's the information that I requested yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While I look for that here I am going to also have the assistant deputy minister respond to the other information that he requested in the House yesterday related to the qualifications of our doctors, so I'll look for my notes in regard to other two. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Richardson.

Mr. Richardson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For a physician to practice in Nunavut they need to get a license from our licensing office; through the Professional Practice Unit. The standards for the licensing in Nunavut are similar to other parts of the country.

The director of that unit has a committee that reviews the credentials of physicians to grant a license. There are two types of physicians in practice; there are the specialist positions and the general practitioners.

General practitioners have a wide range of practices where they provide general services to patients as we have in our communities. We do have specialists working in the hospital, and providing consultations both in the hospital and outside of the territory on our behalf, as we refer patients to them.

The qualifications then differ from the specialists to the general practitioner. The specialist requires a credential which is achieved with education following their license as a general practitioner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Richardson for that answer.

Maybe I'll continue to ask Mr. Richardson questions on that area. I had a highlight here. On page H-12 of the business plan, there is section or a division called Professional Practice which I think Mr. Richardson has already clarified.

They maintain professional standards, best practice, and clinical procedures. He explained the credentials for doctors and general practitioners. Could Mr. Richardson expand on who checks the credentials for nurses and other professionals such as psychiatrists, sociologists, and the other types of folks who might be providing treatment and professional services to Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Richardson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Professional Practice Unit does the licensing for many of the professional categories in the territory.

For nurses, the licensing is handled through the joint Northwest Territories, Nunavut Nursing Association. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Richardson for that information.

Just to clarify, who checks the credentials for psychiatrists or people in Nunavut who may be calling themselves psychiatrists? I'm assuming if they are going to call themselves psychiatrists, they have to have a designation.

Who checks their credentials? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Richardson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A psychiatrist is a physician, so credentials for a physician would be checked through our Professional Practice Unit and the committee that awards the license to practice in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Richardson. I'll move up on that page. I wanted to get an update on the Telehealth Program. A couple of years ago when we first embarked on the Telehealth Project, we received a commitment from the former minister that we would receive yearly updates on how telehealth was being implemented, and then the cost savings that would be generated by having telehealth in Nunavut.

So my question for the minister: is the department monitoring the savings to Nunavut from the implementation of telehealth? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Richardson. Sorry. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Telehealth has been implemented throughout Nunavut and it provides very good services in assisting the health centres in clinical assessments and so on.

The Telehealth has also been used to provide professional development of our staff in each health centre, conferencing and so on. In terms of tracking some savings, yes, there is some tracking of some of the savings or cost avoidance, if you want to use that word as a result of having those systems in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I note that there is an approximately \$200,000 decrease in the budget for Telehealth this year. Can you provide an explanation for why your costs are going down? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The costs have gone down because the systems are now in place in the communities, the purchase of the equipment and so on. So that would be the reduction in that category. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I guess we never complain about costs going down, we always complain about costs going up.

I would like to see costs go down on some of the other areas here as well. How many PYs do you have in the Information Technology and Telehealth division? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Mr. Chairman, there are only nine members.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson, and thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. About six ITs and six in the area of Telehealth, that's the best estimate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Can you clarify a thought on my mind in that area, the Human Resources Division; this is an area that always confuses me. We have a Department of Human Resources that's responsible for hiring most Government of Nunavut employees, and then we have a Department of Human Resources, quite a large department based on the budget located right within the Department of Health and Social Services.

Could you clarify, minister, what is the role of your Human Resources Division versus what the role of the Government of Nunavut's larger Department of Human Resources? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The role of the internal human resources division for health in terms of the recruitment piece is directly linked to nursing positions. Other areas that they provide assistance is in the area of developing the recruitment strategy for nurses as well as the physicians.

Another area that they oversee in health is to provide assistance to the field in each of the regions in HR advice and support. The other piece around that is to assist in the filling of vacant nursing positions throughout the territory.

So the division not only provides administrative support in the whole functions of HR but really around the recruitment and retention of our nurses in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson

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

Can the minister clarify that the Government of Nunavut's Department of Human Resources is responsible for recruiting and hiring and supporting all other health department employees in the Department of Health and the internal Human Resources Department is primarily concerned with just health specialists, such as nurses. Is that my understanding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

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

One last question for the minister on this section, on page H-13 of the business plan; on the priorities for 2007-08, there is a priority to develop ongoing training for staff; specifically nurses and social workers; based on core competencies.

This is one of the issues in my riding. In Cambridge Bay, we're supposed to have four social workers and we always seem to be down to one or two. I asked a written question to the minister about that.

I am wondering if the minister could explain what her department is doing to, not only train social workers, but to recruit social workers and retain social workers, not only in my riding but all ridings in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll start off with part of the answer to that and transfer over to Mr. Richardson.

One of the things that in terms of training we provide that training, part of it anyway, through Nunavut Arctic College, and the program is offered in Cambridge Bay. That program is to train social workers for Nunavut.

The other training that we've started this past year, and we hope to have the graduates, I believe there are about 10 graduates related to the mental health workers, which work alongside with social workers in the communities.

So that's a piece around the training that is offered in Nunavut for that field and I'll get Mr. Richardson to elaborate a bit more on what we do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Richardson.

Mr. Richardson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are doing a number of things. Social work is one of the difficult to fill positions. We have done training to create staff within Nunavut. Last year we standardized the job descriptions so that all of the staff would be classified in a common way so that it would help us with the selection and distribution of our staff, with respect also to identifying the competencies required for each level of social work; whether it's an entry level position, a supervisor, or manager.

The competencies; we have a committee of social workers identifying those and we have funding for social work instructors in each of our regions; who will be available to support the ongoing education of our social workers. We believe when that is operational it will contribute significantly to the retention of social workers in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Richardson, and I'd like to thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Arvaluk since you didn't finish your minutes I will give you one question to the minister.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure what your ruling is on this one. Maybe I could make a quick comment so that my question will be clear. I was asking questions before but I don't see it in the estimates. In the directorate, the decisions are made to accept directives from the Cabinet to relocate positions.

For example, the hospital worker, transportation from the Iqaluit hospital, being transferred to Pangnirtung; this is a frontline worker. It's the same with doctors, nurses, and bus drivers, etcetera. They are needed here in the hospital for the whole of Baffin.

I don't think it would work very well if a doctor was transferred to Pangnirtung to practice in Iqaluit, or a nurse, cook, or bus driver that is practicing in Iqaluit. Also, a letter was sent to Mr. Alagalak on medical travel and escorts from the minister about the client service coordinator.

Would she review that decision and then move the client service coordinator from Pangnirtung if need be, and then put the transportation person back into this hospital? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The positions that provide travel coordination are at the hospital. They were not moved. In Pangnirtung, we created the position in Pangnirtung to provide that service for people that require travel for other services and not going to the hospital.

The hospital travel staff provides travel coordination planning for patients in the hospital to Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk, I had mentioned earlier when I opened the meeting, and I will mention it again that once a member has spoken, that I have discretion as Chair under Rule 77(2) to allow you to continue. I plan to use this discretion so that we can achieve significant progress in our budget deliberations.

That's what I mentioned earlier, and I would like to get back to page H-5. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$21,682,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sorry. Mr. Peterson. Minister, yesterday Mr. Peterson asked a question on agency nurses versus regular nurses. That was one question. The second question was cost to support one nurse. Can you please answer the member's questions from yesterday? Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently within the Department of Health there are 182 nurses in Nunavut and the vacancy rates for those positions vary on a given day.

So right now, we're looking at about 50 to 60 vacant positions of nurses. In those cases what we try and do is fill those positions first with casual nurses, and if all else fails we resort to agency nurses to provide the service so we're able to fill the vacancies. The cost of agency nurses is nearly two times the cost of an employee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Does that answer your question? No. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That almost answers my question. What are your costs for a regular nurse? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The levels of pay for nurses vary by positions as classified through job evaluations. What it costs on a daily basis, I would have to get that information to the member but on an annual basis per staff approximately \$110,000 annually. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Does that answer your question? Thank you. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$21,682,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page H-8. Healthy Children, Families, and Communities. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I apologize. Thank you. I apologize, we had a blizzard quite close to the lake close by here and we got stuck down there. I think that's the way it used to go a long time ago.

I do have some questions and I do apologize for not being here. If you would permit me and I know that it doesn't refer to this page. My question, first of all: are we going to keep in budget with the Keewatin hospital? It's going to be very brief.

Chairman: I would like to ask the committee if you want to go back to H-5 to Directorate. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): The hospital has been in operation for about two years and it has beds, a treatment centre, and so on. Are we going to be in budget for this year, or are we going to be within our budget, or are we going to be over?

This health centre has been in operation for the past two years and the health professionals work extremely hard. Some of them are gone and we do not have a full complement of staff but my question to the minister is, is this health centre going to stay open now or is it not going to be used and are we going to be occupying those beds that have been made available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome back to the member. Generally speaking, yesterday we spoke of some of the challenges in opening the facilities, particularly around housing for our staff. In terms of the budget line item for the Rankin Inlet health centre that's on page H-13, so we didn't pass that subject. But having said that, Mr. Chairman, the challenge that we are facing in moving forward in all the positions for each of those centres is around housing, around the fact that we need to build the boarding homes in the regions to provide expanded level of services.

At the same time the challenge that we are facing in recruiting for physicians where there are national shortages. Some of those items we spoke to yesterday was to identify that staffing is one area, but providing the service as a result of those positions being filled requires housing, boarding homes, and so on.

We are looking at trying to move forward in that. The challenge we have is, as I had indicated, at the same time the budgets required for all the centres, we are challenged with some of those but we will continue to move forward. We have had some progress in acquiring housing in Rankin Inlet for some of the positions and we will be moving forward in filling those positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Just before I get back to you, Mr. Curley, earlier when we started this Committee of the Whole meeting, I had mentioned to the members of the committee, we are falling behind our schedule, as we proceed with departmental main estimates. I will again mention that once a member has spoken, that I have discretion as Chair under the Rule 77(2) to allow you to continue. I plan to use this discretion so that we can achieve significant progress in our budget deliberation.

Once again members, I am going to impose Rule 77(2) which allows me discretion to recognize a member more than the one time or not. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before my time starts ticking, can I ask you a question with respect to overall procedure in the House, if there is unanimous or by vote that we wish to continue with that that we can override you? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. This was mentioned on our regular members' caucus this morning. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: I would support before we start ticking, that it is not withstanding the Rules because the Rules clearly provide for members to ask for unanimous, or by motion, to extend a member or deliberation of the committee. I would like to ask you as Chairman to check that and report back to us at the appropriate time, because I believe we could be seen as gagging a member from a constitutional right. I'm not necessarily going that far but I just want to be clear that my role as a member is not gagged nor ended so that we take advantage of the Rules provided for us to extend certain discussions, as you granted me earlier. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Curley, it is my discretion as the Chair under Rule 77(2) to allow you to continue. I am giving you 10 minutes to ask your questions to the minister. Go ahead.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the minister for her response and I believe that I will have to read up on it.

In regard to the Keewatin Health Centre, it was closed for a while, and I understand exactly what she said. You said that there is a shortage of staff due to a housing shortage. I think there is enough staff housing in Rankin Inlet to get a full complement of staff.

Some of the occupants are leaving. I would ask you to look into to it and see if there is a shortage of staff housing. The health centre was opened two years ago, and to date, even when someone is very ill and has to be medivaced, they can't occupy those beds, even if they've had a heart attack, or they require an IV.

Those individuals should be able to occupy those beds. Why is it that we are not using those beds when that facility was extremely expensive to build in the first place?

Chairman: Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current challenge we have, and I mentioned some of the internal challenges, but overall as a government, I think the Minister of Finance has made it very clear that we are in a very difficult situation in trying to address all the needs of Nunavummiut financially.

What we have tried to do is move forward in phasing some of the services in those three centres around Cambridge Bay, here, as well as Rankin Inlet. That is one of the challenges.

The other one we face that is a big issue here is that we have difficulty filling positions as is, especially around nurses and doctors in Nunavut. There is a national shortage in Canada in both those fields.

To move forward in providing enhanced services in all the centres, we need the people there. We are trying to enhance the incentives for doctors as an example to do further recruiting, as well as trying to address the issue with nursing.

We are trying to move forward in expanding the services in the communities. The issue around housing, we just received a decision from Housing to allocate a number of units for Rankin Inlet. We were short houses for health care professionals in Rankin Inlet, not only in Rankin Inlet, but Cambridge Bay as well as here, but as we move forward, we also need to address enhancing services for providing boarding home services to patients.

So, those have to be worked on as we go forward in trying to enhance services not just in Rankin Inlet, but Cambridge Bay as well as here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the territorial and the federal restraints on spending but the federal government agreed to build the hospitals in most of the regions, including Baffin, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot, and also provide a number of initiatives to build facilities for boarding homes and so on, which they have done throughout southern Canada.

In Kivalliq, you know; you took part in the opening. It is still not clear whether or not the Kivalliq Health Centre will be available for patients that severely must be hospitalized, and if that were to happen, when will that happen?

When will these beds be available for seniors that are completely very sick who do not have a 24-hour care at home to be able to taken in to the hospital in the middle of night as an elder once did with a heart problem, but she was sent home, and the taxis had shut down so she started walking home, the nurses let her out, middle of the night, winter time this winter, then she had to come back, and she's one of the very prominent ladies in town.

The thing is that somehow she was able to get to back in the hospital, if she couldn't get inside and be cared for overnight at least before. She was eventually medivaced later when she called an ambulance, she couldn't reach anybody with the number provided that's supposed to be 24-hour care number, and that is not acceptable to the family, nor acceptable to me, I hope it is not acceptable to you.

When will that facility be turned and be able to receive patients that need care at Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since the opening of the Kivalliq Health Centre there are enhancements to the level of services being provided from that particular health centre. There have been some changes around ultrasound, x-ray, the

laboratory, the specialist medical clinics, the birthing room now in full operation as examples. We are not at the 24/7 hospital type arrangement at this point in time.

We are working towards that. I don't have a specific date of when that might be available, but what I have tried to outline in the House and to the member is the challenges that we face in meeting that objective: the shortage of doctors, the shortage of nurses. So we are trying to move forward in that and enhancing those services and not just Rankin but as well as Cambridge Bay and here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I read an article not long ago that said that, and I believe the minister alluded to the federal government constraint on spending and all that kind of stuff. I read an article that specifically said that the federal government has issued a directive saying that this particular hospital will no longer care for the palliative care requirements of the elderly in that particular town and the only thing that they would accept now is the community basis for treatment of regular population of the community. Why is that so minister?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know what the article is, the federal government article and if the member can please clarify what community that is, palliative care is provided right now in the hospitals that we use services for. In the worst case scenario that's where we get the services, but if the member can be more clear what community he is referring to where that announcement was made and when that announcement was made.

I have had many discussions with my colleague, the federal Health Minister on the challenges that we face in providing health care services to Nunavut. He is aware of the challenges that we face, particularly around recruitment. The challenges that we face in providing care in all our communities and the travelling fees.

There is some progress that we work towards trying to address; hopefully I will be able to make some announcements in the near future. The federal government is aware of some of the challenges that we face just in recruitment and the services in the north. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: I alluded to an article; I'm not sure if it was specifically a federal government article, but it was an article by an individual that wrote a certain document.

I think the story is still the same that because of federal government restraints, whether it is funding or what's funded, or territorial funding, we can't do a thing. I believe the message is still the same: "Not now." Our question and the patients' question is: "But

when will that happen?"

We had an individual not long ago, two weeks ago that was severely, severely beaten by a local gang in Rankin Inlet. They phoned the RCMP here; the RCMP locally couldn't answer it. So they ended up taking the young man home.

The 18 year old man, because they couldn't find the police, he barely made it to the phone; his face was kicked, beaten with a bat, and his head was almost the size of a football. In my view, a person like that should have been medivaced, or put into the hospital but by six o'clock in the morning the local hospital started answering calls, and finally they took him there.

But it's that kind of thing that requires treatment and they're not getting it. He was sent home and couldn't even swallow food. I went to see that individual and I was embarrassed to see that person who needed intravenous because he couldn't swallow, whether it is liquid or not, was sent home. Why is that done, Madame Minister?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I have to be very careful in discussing individual patients' conditions in the House. Individual medical cases are confidential to the person and, in my view, should not be discussed in the political arena.

I would ask the members to share with me, confidentially, that individual's name and when it happened, and I will be happy to follow-up as to what happened in that instance, if that is the case I will follow-up. I don't know what happened in that case and I cannot answer that in the House, I'm not aware of the situation, and I'm not a doctor or a nurse to be able to answer those specifics of why that was the case.

Again, each patient's condition is on a patient-by-patient basis and I would ask members to respect the confidentiality of individuals' medical conditions and raise those issues with me confidentially on the side and I will be happy to follow-up to see what happened in that instance.

It concerns me as to what you're saying and that's a concern. If the patient required treatment, then the treatment should have been provided, but I can't say yes, or no, or why because I don't know the specifics of that particular person's health condition and what had happened, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley, we are dealing with main estimates for 2007-08. Ask your questions on Directorate, please. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, the Directorate is responsible for restraint spending, putting patients into the hospital, I don't think it's a local decision. I alluded to the information that I read once that the authorities have instructed the local doctor not to receive any patients and care for them at this hospital, unless it's a very urgent and emergency basis.

Madame, you wanted to know exactly where that came from. I'll tell you. It's exactly the same as what's happening today. This was 73 years ago, written by Dr. Livingston, who was based in Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet. Why is that situation still happening today? No care for patients when the facility is there. When are we going to start using that local hospital so that we don't just waste infrastructure sitting there wasting time when the patients really need care? We have the facilities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't respond to an article written 73 years ago. I can respond to the services that are provided in the health centres. There is service being provided in the health centres in every community. We spend \$40 million transporting patients when they need care that we cannot provide in our communities by region.

We are trying to expand the services in Rankin Inlet and we have done so in some areas, but we're not there yet. As we move forward in addressing some of the challenges, I addressed earlier, around housing, around the boarding homes, around the challenge of finding doctors that can work in Nunavut, and nurses, then we can phase in some of those programs.

We are competing in Canada where we have a national shortage. To answer the question when is very difficult when there are no people to fill those jobs, not just in Nunavut, but in Canada.

As it is right now, we provide services where it's available in our communities, and if it's not available in our communities we send them to the nearest facility that provides that care; whether that is Ottawa, Iqaluit, Winnipeg, Churchill, Yellowknife, or Edmonton.

So we are working towards trying to enhance services, and will continue to do so. It won't happen overnight but the facility is being used and we have enhanced some of the services in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley, we are dealing with the Directorate 2007-08. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, for reminding me. The Directorate says it provides leadership and direction for the department, including health services and health workers.

I'd like to ask the minister exactly when she will come up with the implementation plan to start using this \$25 million facility on 24-hour care basis. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize that we want to open all facilities and the challenge we have as a government is financial resources. I think the Minister of Finance has spoken very clearly to the House about the challenges that we face and the Department of Health is a part of that. As resources become available we hope to be advancing to be able to open all the facilities.

When exactly the dates; I don't have that, but I want to say to the House that we recognize that and are trying to move forward with the limited resources that we have to work with within the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I'd like to thank the minister for some of the statements that she made to the House, not only for the people of Rankin Inlet, but for Kivallirmiut with the health centre in Rankin Inlet is supposed to be used for. I think they are asking for your leadership. The Minister of Finance may say this but you have an obligation to implement the healthcare needs of Nunavut.

So I was asking will you be tabling a strategy of exactly when the healthcare officials, including housing, or incentives to lure people to come to the north and to open up the facilities for people in the Kivalliq. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be prepared to discuss that. I think we discussed those types of initiatives in various means. The supp bill will speak to the issue around physicians that we're discussing. You know our package was not competitive in Canada to recruit physicians.

To some extent that will support the initiatives that we're trying to undertake in enhancing services in those facilities throughout Nunavut without coming up with a strategic plan for Rankin Inlet, but rather as a government we are trying to deal with physicians, as an example.

The other area that we're working very hard is to train our own nurses to fill some of those jobs, and so on. I can provide an update to the member around Rankin Inlet and implementation plan, or plan to try and enhance the services for Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. At this time, Mr. Curley, I would like to take a 20-minute break, and we'll be back. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 17:40 and resumed at 18:06

Chairman: I would like to get back to our meeting. I have used my discretion. If a member wishes to ask additional questions on this matter in order for the members to

continue asking questions on this matter, in accordance with Rule 18(1), the member requests unanimous consent. Are there any nays? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, I never asked for unanimous consent.

Chairman: Thank you. We will carry on. Page H-8. Health and Social Services. Healthy Children, Families, and Communities. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$42,969,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one quick question here. There is an increase for around \$1 million for contract services. I just wanted to ask what that is for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That increase was to address the increases to residential fare and group home rates that provide services to Nunavummiut, and in most cases that is out of jurisdiction services. There was an increase that we had to address. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would it be correct then that we're paying \$16,152,000 for people in group homes outside of the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that would be both out of territory and in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that include both adults and children's group homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be correct.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the minister have a breakdown of how much is in territory, and how much is out of territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not at this time. I can provide that information to the member. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: As soon as I have it and hopefully before the session ends. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo. Healthy Children, Families, and Communities. Mr. Peterson, go ahead.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's only 6:00 and it feels like it's 9:00.

On page H-14 of the Business Plan, under Dental Services, I would like to ask the minister; how many dental contracts does the Department of Health have across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information on the number of dental contracts we have in Nunavut. Again, I can provide that information to the member. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to that information.

In Cambridge Bay we have a dental contract. I understand there was a problem with it in December that necessitated termination of one dentist which caused some difficulties for some of my constituents.

How do you monitor the dental contracts in Nunavut to ensure that they are delivering the dental services that they are contracted to provide in a caring and compassionate manner? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have the Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. Mr. Richardson.

Mr. Richardson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The territory has a dental service specialist who is responsible for working with our staff in the field to monitor the quality of dental services. We also work with the federal government, dental consultants to monitor our services as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Assistant Deputy Minister for that information.

When there are difficulties with a particular dentist, what procedures do you follow to ensure that dentist corrects their service or is terminated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Richardson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We receive complaints from patients about the services provided to them.

We have staff in each community who coordinate the provision of the dental services. The staff advise the contractor who may be subcontracting the work by another dentist and in consultation with that person and with our specialist, we determine the appropriate response to the complaint. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Richardson for that answer.

In this particular case the dentist was terminated but there was a lag time in the period between when the dentist was terminated and their next scheduled time in Cambridge Bay, which delayed patients from receiving their dental care that they were scheduled to receive.

How do you overcome those lag periods when there is a delay in providing the scheduled dental service to a community or a region? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Richardson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a number of options to deal with patients in between visits by our dentists.

We periodically experience difficulties with the clinics due to weather and other conditions that prevent the availability of the dentist. We will, for dental service problems that need immediate intervention, we can arrange for those patients to be seen in another community. Our community health nurses make every effort they can to deal with the situation. We schedule the dentist to fill those gaps as quickly as we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Richardson for that answer.

On page H-15 in the business plan, under social services, it focuses on five main areas and one of the areas is adoption services. In my riding in Cambridge Bay there have been several constituents that have come to me with problems related to adoption services. Their primary concern is that it's taking too long to process an adoption, a custom adoption in particular. It's dragging on in some cases well over two years. The adoptive mothers have already taken the child and they're trying to complete the paperwork, and they are running into difficulties in processing the paperwork for the child.

I'd like to ask the minister, or the assistant deputy minister, if this has been a problem that has been identified in the Department of Health and what corrective measures they're taking, or implementing to speed up the process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Richardson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The process for completing the documentation in Nunavut is through our Vital Statistics Department in Rankin Inlet. Issues that we are aware of within Nunavut, we will address directly through that division.

We do experience problems with registrations that occur outside of the territory and sometimes they are administrative problems and sometimes there's difficulty in completing the transaction due to failure to pay for the service outside of the territory. Where possible, we'll assist people to expedite this documentation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Richardson for that answer.

It just doesn't seem right that mothers should have to come to their Members of the Legislative Assembly to get help to process the adoption of their babies. I am wondering if the department can, at an early point, begin to work with the mothers who adopt the babies, so that they know what steps to follow throughout the process, and have some follow-up with them to ensure that the process is flowing smoothly and that they don't

have to worry that the paperwork has gone missing to the point where they have to call their Members of the Legislative Assembly after a year or two.

I am wondering if the minister, or the assistant deputy minister, could comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madame Minister, go ahead.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the things that we have in place to try and assist individuals with their adoption is that we have currently in every community a Custom Adoptions Commissioner; that individual is appointed to provide assistance to individuals in a community that are planning to adopt a child through the custom process, and should be there to provide guidance. That is who the department appoints to assist individuals in the community.

I suppose we can provide more information in terms of process to clients. Since 1999 in Nunavut we've processed over 1,700 applications for custom adoptions, for private adoptions, for private out of territory adoption, as well as international.

So there's a huge volume of adoptions we process but we do try and provide information to individuals in a community through the Custom Adoptions Commissioners in each community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I'm aware that there are Custom Adoption Commissioners in every community, or most communities in Nunavut.

But, in some instances, even the Custom Adoption Commissioners aren't aware of the delays or the snags in the paperwork and it becomes apparent when you have to send paperwork to Rankin Inlet. If a baby was born in the Northwest Territories, for example, you have to get the birth certificate from Inuvik.

So there are all these hoops and hurdles that adoptive mothers and commissioners, as well, have to go through. There should be a way to track the paperwork to ensure that they move through the system at an orderly process. Step one, fill in the application, and two months later, you know, it's step two, step three, step four. The applications or paperwork could take two years or longer. I think that's an unreasonably long time and it has caused a lot of ...concern I'm sure with some ladies and mothers in my community.

And I would like the minister and her officials to look into that if they have to provide more training to the Adoption Commissioners; have a workshop somewhere to show them how to process paperwork, show them how to do some follow-up, and work their way through the red tape; deal with Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, and Inuvik, and wherever, that

would certainly be a big help for me, and I'm sure with a lot of my colleagues on this side.

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

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know in the regions and staff, they try and provide that. Certainly, we can always improve that. We'll direct the staff to provide more information in the communities on the procedures of the step-by-step to follow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer, commitment, I guess, it's a commitment of sorts. On the same page under Residential Care, "provide the residential care for challenged adults and children within Nunavut or outside of Nunavut. The services are provided in long-term care facilities." How many long-term care facilities do we have in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have that information in my capital estimates over there, I can pick that up. But, from what I understand, I think we have about 12 facilities, off the top of my head, that we have in Nunavut for both adults and children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Do you have the numbers available for the totals for challenged adults or children within Nunavut and outside Nunavut, what is the total numbers of persons who are in residential care in both Nunavut and in the south, I suppose? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have the breakdown for Nunavut and I would have to get the information for the out-of-territory, but I believe we have about close to 200 out-of-territory that are receiving care. At a glance, I would say about another 100 in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

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

Minister, in that particular item there, residential care, there is an increase of approximately over \$2.1 million. Could you explain what accounts for the increase in that line item? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The increase related to residential care, particularly outside the territory care, the rates have increased in various jurisdictions in Canada that provides the services to the approximately 200 clients that live outside the territory.

That increase relates to some of that. One of the mental health facilities that we had also operated under contract was transferred back to the Government of Nunavut about two years ago, so that might be part of that increase as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

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

I suppose we do have to look after our disadvantaged citizens whether they are in Nunavut or outside of Nunavut. Unfortunately the costs don't go down in those areas when southern facilities are increasing their costs.

On the same page under Women's Initiatives, could the minister tell us how many women's shelters there are in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I answer that, the member had asked the number of facilities in Nunavut; there are eight and two that are in the capital estimates for the Continuing Care, and right now we have approximately 70 people in care in the territory.

In terms of answering the member's question, there are four. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that follow up information and the answer to the women's shelters.

I know we've talked about this quite often throughout the years about violence against women. There are 25 communities in Nunavut, but there are only four shelters.

So if a lady is sheltered with her children and there are only four facilities in four communities, where would the women and children in a community that don't have women's shelters go to to seek shelter from abuse? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify for the record, the number that I provided earlier in terms 70, that was also including the capacity of the women's shelters.

What I'm going to do is list down all the facilities and the capacity of each and provide that for the record so that it is correct information. But, in terms of providing services to victims of violence, we ship the women and the family to the nearest centre where that service is provided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

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

I would like to ask the minister; if in sending women and their children to shelters, does that include sending them to other jurisdictions outside of the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be correct. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I know in Cambridge Bay we have a women's shelter; it's a three bedroom house, but it normally can only take in six or seven people at a time, maximum.

So if a facility is full, then that poses difficulty in sending people to that facility. I wonder if the minister can give us an indication of how many women and children in Nunavut sought help in the last fiscal year to her department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This past year I have to get the latest update on those statistics to the end of the fiscal year. I do know in the case I had mentioned before in the previous years that over 1,200 women have used this one facility that's in Iqaluit in one fiscal year.

I can gather those statistics to see if there is a decrease in the numbers of usage in this past fiscal year since the last time I had reported in the House women that have used the facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. That would certainly be good information to have on the public record. On the same page there is a description of persons with disabilities. We met with disabled groups in I think it was December or late November, about how we can help them.

I am wondering; I see we haven't given them an increase over last year. Can the minister explain why \$90,000 remains the same as last year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$90,000 in there is a contribution to NTI to support the PYs that are there to provide assistance to the advocacy group. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. Just down at the bottom of the page a priority for 2006-07 was "discuss with the Department of Justice the transfer back of community correctional services currently delivered by social service workers. The status, the Department of Justice had deferred this initiative."

I have raised this a few times over the years with social workers doing community justice type work and putting additional stress and strain on social workers. Can you explain to us why the Department of Justice deferred that initiative? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can respond from the health perspective, perhaps the Minister of Justice can respond to the other challenges they face and I think, for the record, from our perspective we are trying to address the workload of our social workers that provide probation services. Because of limited staffing our communities through an MOU back in, I believe 1999, we took on the responsibility of probation services in the communities where there are no probation officers through Justice.

That initiative with my department and the Minister of Justice's operations, we are trying to address some of those issues and my staff are working with the Department of Justice to try and address that gap. As it is right now we have had it deferred because we do not have the resources to transfer that responsibility to Justice in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I don't have any more names on my list. Healthy Children, Families, and Communities. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short question to that line of questioning. Social Services are known that sometimes we have a social worker that has never lived in Nunavut and they don't come from the Inuit communities, how would it be, they can't understand the language or they can't understand the culture of the Inuit people and he is supposed to be the person advising the individual that if you live a certain way, it would be better for you. The reason is because we have social workers that don't live in the communities, or who don't speak the language.

I think parole officers that deal with ex-inmates, they work for the Government of Nunavut and they make very good money. Because they can't understand the culture or the language of Inuit, the religious groups usually take over and they don't get paid.

Perhaps it could be done that the social workers should be Inuit and coming from communities, and mature, because they deal with Inuit. It doesn't matter whether they can speak English or not.

I wonder if the department could see their policy. These kinds of papers that we get from the university does not have any relevance whatsoever to the people in Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Members, please put your hand up when the chair is going through these branch summaries. If you have any questions, please put your hand up right up right away so that we don't go back and forth. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department does try to recruit Inuit for various positions in the community through the process established through the Department of Human Resources; we try and follow that.

As well, we are looking at ways to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* more, for instance, the Child Welfare Legislation, to try and Nunavutize it, update it, and to address some of the suggestions made by the members.

As it is right now, with the current legislation in place, the social workers' main focus as per the legislation adopted by the House in the five areas are provided and I tried and explain that. It's on H-15.

But, the social workers in most communities... (*no interpretation*)...(interpretation) policies have to be updated today, and looking at the *Child Welfare Act*, we have to follow those rules. Also, we use information from *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, and we are also looking to recruit staff in that area.

Also, a lot of Inuit in the small communities go see whoever they trust in the community. They go see elders, and then we can take part in that. Also, your question in that area, we have to utilize our Inuit in helping our own people.

We have to use the churches, if they want to use ministers as well. We are working with *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Committees in that area. And also, the other one is the Health Integration Initiative in the communities, how can we help in that area as well? We are trying to go forward on that area. And also, the Community Health Committees in the communities, we can use those as well. How can they assist us to give us direction for better lifestyles for the communities? And the Community Health Committees are well used because they know the communities.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for responding to my question. I'm not sure what we call it in Inuktitut but those who are compassionate, I think they're the only ones who work for the churches and do volunteer work, and looking at *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, the social workers can be friendly and be more receptive to the people if they use *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*.

On page H-8, we know very well and sometimes it's a little scary to see social services when they finally smile at you and you can actually see their teeth. There's even times when somebody asks me if I still have teeth because, of course, I'm very young.

In regard to eating too much sugar or acid and pop, those lead to obesity and poor teeth. If we look at the junk food, they're made down south and they're no good for your health. I think we all know what the retail outlets do ... we see the healthy food and the Canada Food Guide. Is it possible for us to make a Nunavut Food Guide so that we can show what healthy food is, what's processed food, and what's not good for you? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The comments you just stated, we're trying to promote to use less pop and also trying to educate the community on what's bad food for your body. Also, we use dentists, and we're also using the posters as well.

We're trying to educate them in that area that pop is not good for you. So we are trying to promote better lifestyles and a healthier lifestyle by promoting what's good for you. We're trying to use the Public Health Strategy, as well, to promote what is good in having a healthier lifestyle.

I also commented that the other day on 'Drop the Pop' and that so because it doesn't help to have healthy teeth and stuff like that. We will always be like that and promote a healthy lifestyle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): My last question. Do you show those in the schools, or in the nursing centres? We have to focus on the younger children who are in the elementary schools. When you tell them something they tend to believe. We do try and get the information to the high schools, but we have to focus on the little children who are in elementary schools. If they're given the information by their teachers and by their parents and have the information visible out there, I think they'll get the message.

We didn't know what was good for you; that pop wasn't good for you. How do you make that information visible at the community level? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Various prevention initiatives that are undertaken in the communities are delivered through different means; through radio; through television ads; through posters; through contests. Drop the Pop is a contest that we had initiated and now adopted through other jurisdictions. That's one example of reaching the young people about prevention and healthy living and lifestyle.

Around dental care, we reach through the schools. We provide information to the daycare centres. At the same time we also have Well Men, Well Women, as well as the Elders Day Programs just to speak to people around proper diet, the impact of poor diet, diabetes, living with diabetes, and so on; the cause of smoking and cancer, so that it's all different levels.

Part of the roles of every health centre is to do promotion; whether it's through radio, or meeting with students, and that is carried out through the community health representatives in each community.

As we go forward in trying to enhance the services of wellness committees and I see them having a real role as well in promoting prevention, and keeping people healthy at the community level. We recognize that we have the health centres and services in place to treat people when they are sick but we need to put more resources and energy in keeping people healthy in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that same subject I wanted to make a comment and to supplement one of my colleague's questions, or comments that they brought.

I wanted to touch up on the dental program. I would like you to make a statement on the dental program and whether they're contracted, or not. What I hear is that in Rankin Inlet, for example, you try to make an appointment and they tell you that the visiting dentist will be coming in at a certain month.

At times it seems to be a hopeless situation. For example, some children have a toothache but they can't see a dentist because there is no one around, when there are services available out there. We had one of our grandchildren who had a loose tooth and he didn't want it pulled out. I don't know what they did but it eventually came out. He was in pain for a while.

I think it would be best if you make a statement so that you can give us the information by region what the dental services are.

We also use old products. Is it because we are trying to keep the costs low, or is that the best for your patients that require those products? Even the elders know that when they get dentures they know what kinds are easily broken and I think that we only get the old product. Is it because the government has to buy those or is it done strategically so that we can keep the costs down? If you would respond to those two questions, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently the Dental Program in Nunavut, the number of dental service days and the number of trips to each community are designated by Health Canada and are covered through Health Canada. There is a breakdown of the number of dates a service is provided to communities.

In terms of the products used, whether they are outdated or not, I don't know the answer to that question, but I can certainly provide that information. As well we provide ortho-services and specialist services in centres in our communities and oral surgery.

I guess the overall goal here is to keep people's teeth healthy. That's part of the initiative that we are trying to address in the prevention side and at the same time provide services in the communities where we can. Currently, though, we do have a contract with Health Canada on the number of days that they will cover for costs of dental, and this is one area that we had said we wanted to reopen the discussions with Health Canada.

In terms of products used, I don't know what the products used are as related to other products used out of the Nunavut territory to respond to that member and what particular product is in question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really understand. Are you following the Health Canada guidelines because I believe they are a delivery agent and I believe they are given to you? It would be helpful if after you get all the information, you make a statement.

As a minister, you have to be ahead of everything. You should have an idea what they use, what materials they use. Last year, during the winter, a person who makes the

dentures, who sells to the dentists all across Canada asked how he could be used. Since I am not a minister, I don't know if the dental services are tendered out.

So I just said that I didn't know and I probably would have known if I was a minister. I would recommend even if they cost more, then they should get the best quality. They don't have to be the most state-of-the-art or the highest price. You already spend a lot of money for the dentists to come up and even before the service is provided you are required to sign. I don't know where. It's probably for the billing. I asked that last year. I have to sign it, only after you complete the task, what you have to do.

I even said that it would probably cost more than the service provided to me. Is that the actual case, minister?

Chairman: Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The program we provide, the Dental Services Program is funded by Health Canada. The number of days set aside for every community is determined by Health Canada.

So, first of all, that addresses the issue around the number of days that the dentists are in the community. In some communities we have full-time staff in the community. In terms of the programs as to what will be covered for treatment, again, that is covered by Health Canada.

The Non-Insured Health Benefits Program covers our glasses, dentures, fillings, cleaning, all of that. That is covered through Health Canada. The number of days, in terms of service per community, again, is covered by Health Canada. They provide that service to us.

We recognize we need to do more in terms of more time in the community and have said that we need to negotiate with Health Canada, not only the issue around dental programs, but for eye glasses, for medical travel, for boarding homes, everything that is covered under the Health Canada Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. So we recognize that.

In terms of the specific equipment the person is talking about, I don't know what they are. I don't know. There is much equipment used by dentists. What they are, I can't respond to that because I don't know specifically what the member is referring to.

I suspect it might be related to dentures as an example. But I can get that information in terms of how we compare to other jurisdictions. In terms of who covers the cost of providing dental services to people, it is Health Canada as it is right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under dental promotion, exactly what.... because there is \$42 million, exactly what do they do?

Some of them are under non-insured health. I believe the minister has the authority over the Dental Program so we can get up-to-date services. All the products that are delivered to Inuit, even though they are paid for by the federal government, you don't contract the dentists, or the federal government doesn't bill you.

I want to know exactly how that is from you or from your officials. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: In terms of who pays the bill for the treatment, Health Canada does. Health Canada pays for every treatment provided within the communities.

I'll get Dave Richardson to answer how we administer the contracts as it relates to the people that do the service in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. Mr. Richardson.

Mr. Richardson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standards for the dental program covered under the Non-Insured Health Benefits are set by Health Canada.

We contract on their behalf with the dentists as providers for the services, and the products and the standards of services are defined under the Insurance Program for Health Canada. Service standards are set through Health Canada and we enter into the contracts based on those standards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Richardson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I wonder if the minister would have the authority to the federal government, even though there are guidelines, because they get not very good quality dentures. It's not very good for the patient. I know they are contracted and we can't really say how long it will be and you're not too sure what it is, even though they go through those standards.

I wonder if the department can review it because the federal government will not say to you or Nunavummiut, we're going to make improvements because it's not running smoothly. They won't say that. But I think as a government it would be better that you should review and make recommendations.

Those are the concerns that we hear. Maybe you should do a complete review ... (interpretation ends) ...what does the territorial government do with these dental services and programs, and what's the role of Government of Nunavut on all of these dental delivery services in Nunavut?

(interpretation) I will have another question later.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of reviewing, we are working on that review and we recognize we need to enhance the number of days that Health Canada covers for services in the communities. Not only that, we are dealing with the other jurisdictions, the two territories on the same issue as they have the same challenges in negotiating those types of issues and challenges in providing the service and the contract that we work under.

In terms of what services we provide by community for the dentists, there is specialist service that's also provided in the contracts that travel to the communities - the orthodontists, oral surgeons, and denturists.

The orthodontist provides the visits to every region every six weeks. An oral surgeon visits each region every four months, and the denturist visits the communities on a case appointment basis to the number of the patients referred. In most communities they visit twice a year. We provide the oral surgeries in areas where we can provide it in the hospitals in Yellowknife and in Churchill, as an example.

The areas in terms of prevention, many of the prevention programs that we're covering relate to keeping children informed of caring for teeth; advising young parents on how to care for their newborn children's developing teeth; counselling services; the tippy cup program for toddlers that are provided to the daycare centres as well as young mothers; there's screening for preschool aged children at daycare facilities, again, to teach young people to care for their teeth; the promotion prevention side; educational awareness programs through radio, through television, and through the newspapers throughout the territory.

So the prevention piece is there, as well as the treatment of individuals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Just quickly. We will be asking questions in regard to the review as to when it will be completed and we will want to be informed when you can table the information or report. But, in regard to social issues, there was a question posed and there was a response.

Why do we have so many individuals with social problems? And just to provide the same line of questioning because in the past, Inuit people had a lot of social problems and the traditional counselling ways I believe, were very beneficial because the elders would counsel individuals, or young people that were having problems, whether they are old or young people, when they have unresolved issues.

We are not doing that today, it seems like the government is responsible for social issues and it seems like that, according to what you will want to work, or in line with *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*. Why is it so difficult to at least have one community, to at least have one Inuktitut counsellor, who knows our culture? Why can't you hire an Inuit consultant? What is preventing you from hiring an Inuk consultant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq?

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To have an elder in every community to provide these services would require resources. We have Inuit employees in the communities that have Inuit knowledge as well, that are there, but not in all cases.

So there is some of that, but in terms of what we are required to provide for services through the social workers, those are defined through the legislation that we have to administer as it is right now. In terms of addressing how we can better incorporate *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, we can look at that, there are ways to I think address the gap that you are suggesting.

As it is right now, we don't have the resources to recruit elders to provide that service, but at the same time, through legislation we have to meet the requirements under legislation. In implementing or providing, for instance, the *Child Welfare Act* as an example, probation services through the courts. Those are the kinds of services currently provided by the social workers in the communities.

Not just the piece on counselling, but it is quite large in terms of the services provided at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Minister, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I can state that the government legislation is not very good and they can be amended, if need be. (interpretation ends) *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* is not blanket coverage for knowledge; I want it understood that we are talking about cultural knowledge as it relates to *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*.

(interpretation) *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* is segregated, like wildlife knowledge, so you can be provided with assistance because there are a lot of individuals who are hurting out there. We do not need to wait for why the government cannot get Inuit consultants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I will work with the minister responsible for CLEY to come up with suggestions on how we can address counselling and how we can incorporate *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* in the areas of social

work. I will also consult the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Committee on how we can move forward on that type of issue.

But I also want to say again, we have Inuit employees in the communities. They are there as well to bridge the gap, meeting the requirements under the legislation and bringing their Inuit knowledge to the job as well. So I don't want to exclude the knowledge of the Inuit employees that are currently working in the field, and at the same time we need to recognize that they also contribute and some of that is through promotions and initiatives at the community level.

I will speak to my colleague and consult the *Inuit Qaujimanituqangit Katimajit* and seek advice on some suggestions on how we can address that at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on H-8, which includes H-9 and H-10. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Healthy Children, Families, and Community. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$42,969,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Health and Social Services. Health Insurance Programs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$49,608,000. Did you want to speak? Please raise your hand high. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. This Transportation, \$8,800,000; I need some clarification first of all.

What is that going to be used for and where does that money go? That is my question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Travel and Transportation of the \$8,800,000 relates to accommodations, boarding homes, and medical travel co-payment and some ambulance fees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): If you can further clarify that sum, is some of it used for salaries? I wanted to get more detail. I wanted to hear the break-down because we use large sums of money for travel and transportation. Can you explain it further?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Salaries are under compensation and benefits. The \$8 million is directly related to expenditures under boarding homes,

medical travel, co-payments, accommodations, and ambulance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): For all the boarding homes in the three regions, is that where they get their funding from?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you. That would be correct.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I think the minister traveled to a meeting last year, I think it was Levinia when she was the minister. Annually the minister has to travel to monitor the boarding homes, or you send your senior officials because for the boarding home in Winnipeg we cannot keep up with the problems.

With regards to the lack of having escorts, I think the boarding home picks up the patients from the airport. Elders have had concerns in Winnipeg. They get concerned about whether they will be picked up at the airport or not because there was an individual, an 80 year old elder, who stated that he is so used to traveling that he got tired of waiting for the driver and he saw the vehicle parked waiting.

There are a lot of problems in regard to the boarding home issues. Although the officials say that the boarding homes are operating very well but I believe there is room for improvement in the Keewatin region. In the Baffin region we hear through the radio, at least they listen to the radio, but for the boarding home operations in the Keewatin, they are gambling places. That boarding home is used as a gambling place.

Although we're told that they're adults and they're free but the facility is not there but you probably have a strong elbow. You could probably elbow them a bit; elbow their contractors a bit, so the contractors should stop that. We hear that they gamble all night long with cards.

I was wondering if the minister could look into that and report back to us. Although I will be visiting the boarding home, I don't want the boarding home people to know when I will be visiting the community. If they expect me they will improve the boarding home situation. Could the minister respond to me? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have visited every boarding home and each boarding home is in different situations and faces some challenges. I went again

this year, starting February, to Yellowknife, as well as the one in Edmonton. I am further planning to visit the other ones.

The services provided by the boarding homes, we have developed the standards for the operators. Each operator is aware what services they are to provide to the patients that are in the boarding homes.

We have some challenges in some of the communities, or some of the areas where a boarding home is being provided because of capacity. The situation in Ottawa is one where it is most serious for us to address in that they are beyond capacity. We are moving forward in trying to address that immediate need to expand the facility in Ottawa to address the situation. In some areas we are doing very well. There are always areas where we can do better in providing service.

One of the things that we would do is develop the standards of the operators so that it's consistent in terms of what services are offered in Edmonton, Yellowknife, Winnipeg, Ottawa, and here.

So we are working towards that and I recognize his concerns and the concerns of his constituents and I hear similar issues from other members as well. We are trying to work towards some of those and address them. We'll continue to try and address each case. Some of them are on a case-by-case basis, as well, that we need to address. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: It is quite important that MLAs understand what the standards of the GN are. Could the minister please table those standards to us, or provide them to all the MLAs so that we will not be hopping at the minister for over and above the standards that she has. It would be helpful.

One of the questions: do the standards that you mentioned allow gambling in those facilities? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not allow gambling in the facilities and we don't encourage gambling in the facilities. If there is a concern, or complaint the member can raise I will follow that up. The service providers are not to allow gambling in our facilities. It's a place for people to get better; the boarding home that's boarding people that are sick.

So the environment that we try and promote is an area where it is comfortable for people to recover from their illness and gambling is not one of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the minister's frank answer to that but I could tell the minister that during the last few years in the Kivalliq boarding home in Winnipeg, the operators have permitted gambling. The minister is going to have to account for that problem because there are patients that are being completely disappointed, disgusted really, in seeing that kind of thing being permitted in those facilities.

I want to address one other thing. The drivers that are responsible for ensuring that the patients are picked up and delivered to the boarding home, are they actually responsible for picking up the patients inside the terminal instead of outside the terminal? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To address his earlier comments, I will contact the contractor for the Winnipeg boarding home and ask him to follow up on the concern the member has raised around gambling and I will have a response from him, and share that with the Members of the House.

The responsibilities of each boarding home is to provide a pick up at the airport and to transport the patient arriving from the airport to the boarding home as part of their contract services. At the same time their boarding homes provide transportation to and from the appointment of those individuals in various locations of the boarding homes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is in regard to the boarding home. Drivers seem to do whatever they want to do. Yesterday I was told, probably about two weeks ago, from a patient that went to Winnipeg, that maybe the driver did not like him. He just dropped him by the hotel. I don't know why we didn't get any answer about that whatsoever.

I just wanted to find out what kind of responsibilities they have. This individual that got dropped off does not speak English at all. I wonder why those drivers treat patients that way and the individual had not had any alcohol consumption whatsoever.

I realize you have a lot of employees, but this driver just dropped off the patient by the hotel. This was not acceptable. There were a lot of people that saw that happen. Perhaps the minister can talk to the manager or the drivers to be more sensible to the patients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I will follow up with the contractor for the Winnipeg boarding home to address that particular concern. It shouldn't be happening. The contract states that they are to pick up patients from the airport and bring them to the boarding home, or to the hotel where they are staying at. So I will follow up to see if that has occurred and again it would be helpful for a name so we can follow up directly with the individual as well as the contractor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will find out what the results are from that and I will tell you to whom it happened. I think something has to be done. Those individuals that have the contract for boarding homes, the manager, the drivers and all other staff should be given a cross-cultural education, as well as the manager.

Because I know that the doctors are taught the culture of Inuit, and that individual is not Inuk, so they're not really going to respect Inuit ways. There is an Inuk that has been working there for quite some time and the contractors like her. The daughter just cried because the non-Inuit contractors were making comments about their Inuit race.

An Inuk can go down to the boarding home to explain that they should not be making racist comments, or for somebody to give them a cross-cultural education constantly, not just once in a while, because if there were no Inuit, then those contractors would not be receiving any compensation.

It goes both ways. We would like to get help from the minister to make sure that there are no racists comments made to Inuit boarding at that boarding home. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will follow up with the staff on that complaint as well; again it's the same service provider.

And, in terms of evaluating the quality of service and standards, I certainly take all those concerns into consideration and speak to the contractor for the Winnipeg Boarding Home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): We know the contractor personally, but sometimes the boarding home in Winnipeg becomes really good when they know that there is going to be somebody visiting, or if I let them know that I'll be passing through. They welcome me when I go over there and they invite us to come and talk to them.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we wanted to get Inuit to meet with the Inuit employees but this is your responsibility as the minister and because we are political we might go a little bit too far. So, I would like to encourage you as the minister not to meet with the contractors but to meet with the Inuit employees or one of your officials can go and visit them to have a talk with them. That's the *Inuit Qaujimanituqangit* way. Thank you.

Chairman: To the comments, Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): I thank my colleague. When he mentioned *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, when I go to Ottawa for meetings, I usually visit the facility, and I meet with patients as well and ask them how the facility is.

Also, in Winnipeg, I usually Meet with the contractors as well as the patients on the side. I did the same thing in Yellowknife and Edmonton. It's better to see the facility itself with your own eyes, and then meet with all the people.

There are always improvements to be made. They use Inuit employees, and I usually meet with the Inuit employees as well. With your concerns, I meet up with Ottawa when the patients are not being well looked after in the facility, although the facility is nice. Also, the same thing in Yellowknife, when I go down to a meeting, when you go down to the cities, you should meet with the patients as well sometimes. Thank you.

Chairman: Thanks again, Mr. Curley. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a chance to visit the Larga Boarding Home yesterday and I would like to thank the minister because she understands the operation of the Larga Boarding Home in Ottawa.

The people that are staying in the Larga Boarding Home, especially the elders, to find out from them about the Inuit patients; there's a problem that has to be resolved in Larga Boarding Home, especially for the elders and the patients that just received surgery. The Baffin Larga Home is very small. The doorways to the rooms are very narrow. The main doors are okay, it's just the doors to the rooms that are very difficult for people that are elderly and for people who just received surgery. That has to be resolved. That's my comment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister, would you like to reply to his comment? Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand correctly, the member is making recommendations to add a ramp, is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: No, the ramp is already there. I'm talking about inside the building and I'm not talking about the outside doors; I'm talking about the bedroom doors. The patients, the elders, the patients that have surgery or bone surgeries are having difficulty opening these doors because they're metal doors. If the minister can address this, I would really appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will commit to speaking with the contractors to address that issue. The facility in Ottawa has really outgrown its use and we're trying to address that, but I will commit to following up to see what we can do to address the member's concern. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you. (interpretation) Perhaps it's not relevant to this page but my question is, there's some information lacking. They receive patients that are too many in numbers, I mean the Baffin Larga Home receives too many patients and that manager has to try to find a place for them to stay. They are also not accepting patients when there's no more room.

Could the minister provide another home where the patient can go? What I'm trying to say is from the travel agency from Pangnirtung, they have lots of computers that they can work with but there becomes a problem where there's too many patients coming in to the Larga Home and they have no room for them.

For that reason the manager has to go and look for a hotel for those individuals that are coming in, too many coming in. The travel agency, with all the technology, should be able to provide ... we're in the modern age so there should be a communication between the travel coordinator and the Larga Home.

I think the minister should be able to provide another home for patients to go when that place is too full. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We share the member's concern and have been working with the contractor to try and expand the new facility. We are moving forward in constructing a facility that will be able to meet the number of patient needs right now.

We have a 54-bed facility and on average we have 90 people in Ottawa. The contractor provides an incredible service to people traveling down to Ottawa. Currently, where there is overcrowding, we put them in a hotel. That's the current arrangement that we can work with until we construct a new facility. Hopefully, within the next year or two, we'll be able to address that.

The issue around better communication, we've been trying to deal with. We have a person developing the referral systems working with Ottawa. Boarding homes have to be an integral part of how we do business and how we deal with patients. Part of the whole patient management and case management includes that boarding home. It's not a hotel, it's a boarding home that's integral in how we provide the service. They need to know better information; what kind of care the person needs ahead of time, and so on.

So we are looking at developing IT system within the facilities for Ottawa Baffin Larga. Not just there but also the boarding homes here, and so on. We do recognize the overcrowding in Ottawa and we are trying to address that better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we were going to Montreal, the patients down there for medical reasons were allowed to go to museums. Today that is not the case because of the large responsibilities of the staff at Larga they don't have the time to take the patients to the museums and to go sightseeing and so on. The only place that they take them to is the stores.

I think it's very important to take the patients out to see the museums and to do some sightseeing. Is it possible for you, as the minister, to provide funding for the patients, who've been down there for a long time, could be taken out to the museums and not just take them to the stores? They usually go to the stores with their escorts.

I think it's very important to take them to other places of interest. The way the program was set up in Montreal was very good for the long-term patients. Is it possible to include that in the programs for the long-term patients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will see what we can do to address the member's recommendation. Currently that service is not provided under the contract. Health Canada does not cover those types of planning but I will see what we can do to try and address the member's concerns not just in Ottawa but also with the other areas. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you. That's it for now.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have some questions in relation to the contracts with the boarding home. They are not new questions. I've asked the minister

about it in the past, and I figure while we have the officials here; maybe we can get some answers. It deals with an incident that was outlined in an article that I tabled here in the House.

I guess as the minister indicated, there are always more patients being sent down to Ottawa and Larga. I guess, first off, I would just like to ask what arrangements are there in place when the boarding home is full for patients as far as for accommodation requirements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Patients are put in hotels. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a requirement that they be put in appropriate accommodations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you. I would think hotels are appropriate accommodations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that particular case that was outlined and I questioned the minister on earlier, I would just like to ask her if the department considers putting an escort along with her mother that's down for either a knee or a hip replacement, that's in a walker, on a second floor hotel room with only one bed in it, appropriate accommodations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, the hotel made the change. We didn't make the change. The hotel where the individuals were at had, apparently, prior bookings for that particular room and had made a change. We have looked into that through the hotel but it was the hotel that requested the change in that particular instance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regardless of whom you want to point the finger at on that, the contractor is responsible for providing appropriate accommodations. In that particular case, they were subcontracting the hotel. By sticking them in a hotel, we have an agreed upon rate, I believe, with the contractor, the boarding home.

So how is it that, through a subcontractor like that, a patient could be stuck into a room that in the event of a fire that they would be trapped there? That even happened when the patient went with an escort to go back to the hotel. The elevator was broken, and the individual asked for help from the staff to help get her elderly mother, in a walker and down for either a knee or a hip replacement, up the stairs, and they refused to help.

So how could that be considered appropriate accommodations, appropriate treatment, on behalf of the contractor, because the contractors are still liable or responsible for providing those services whether they do it themselves or they get someone else to do it. I would like to ask the minister, how can that be considered appropriate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I know, in that particular incident, the individual arrived on February 17. The room change was made the following day. This was explained to the escort the previous day. At that time it was not an issue. I am not making any excuses for housing and travel, or the hotel that the individuals are booked at.

The boarding home, I don't believe has a contract with the hotel, but provides that service and we cover the cost of that hotel room. The change was made and we have tried to address that and we contacted the staff in Ottawa and they contacted the hotel where these individuals were booked at and tried to address the issue with the hotel directly.

The hotel management will make decisions in managing their facilities and in that case that's what took place and the hotel staff were contacted by the manager of the Ottawa boarding home to try and address this situation and that's the information I have received related to that incident with that person. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess if you really get down to it and forget about who made the change for what, under the contract that's in place, is the contractor responsible to provide appropriate accommodations to the patients and escorts that are out on medical travel regardless of whether it's at the boarding home or at a hotel? Is it their responsibility to ensure appropriate accommodations are available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reservations would be made by the boarding home with the hotel, which is what took place. When they were booked in, from what I understand, the next day the hotel management asked them to move to a

different room because that previous room that they were in was booked already before their arrival.

The incident took place during one of the busiest times in Ottawa, during the Winterlude. All the hotels are booked up and I understand from the staff of the boarding home in Ottawa, they had a huge challenge of trying to book rooms for people traveling down to Ottawa for medical care during the Winterlude activities in Ottawa. I understand the hotel had made the change with this particular person because of those issues and it's at the discretion of the hotels to do that.

Is it acceptable to us? No. But what other alternatives did we have? There were no rooms in Ottawa and that's the biggest challenge. We have the overcrowding situation in the Ottawa boarding home; it's a huge issue for us. We are trying to move forward. The individuals in Ottawa do the best they can. They have a 54-bed facility and on average there are 90 patients in Ottawa that they try and coordinate hotel rooms and boarding home services, picking them up from hotels to hospitals and so on. They try their best under the circumstances.

In this particular case, that particular person's incident happened during the busiest time, and they tried their best to address the situation with the hotel. Again, it's at the hotel's discretion to make those changes.

Is it acceptable? No. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it isn't acceptable and making excuses, you can make all the excuses you want. But, it sounds like it is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure appropriate accommodations. What was provided there wasn't appropriate and that isn't acceptable. I believe that a letter of apology should be sent to these individuals for the way they were treated on this.

And, on top of it, when they complain about it because they don't feel like they're being treated fairly, that they're being abused, and I hear the same thing from my colleague from Rankin Inlet, and then other boarding homes where patients don't feel that they're being treated fairly.

If an individual stood up and said, "I don't think I'm being treated fairly" for the way she was being treated, and I don't blame her for getting upset; I would have too. The boarding home, after I inquired through correspondence with the minister, through the director of the hospital, get a hold of this individual and inform her that she is barred for 30 days from Larga.

So, what's the process? And then the article in the paper says they won't tolerate any abuse. I agree with that, but at what point should the patients and escorts tolerate abuse, and what mechanism do they have to deal with it?

The minister at the time said there are two sides to every story. There are two sides to every story. It seems like in this case it was inappropriate accommodations, and an individual spoke up about it. They were just accused of being abusive and barred and sent home, and that's it.

So what mechanisms are there in place when people that are on medical travel, whether they be the escort or the patient, feels that they're being abused, what mechanism is place for them to deal with it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The services provided by the boarding homes ... boarding homes all have zero-tolerance policies whether that is alcohol or where a staff feels that they are threatened by individuals. The policy that they have is that they make that call as service providers.

As contractors, they make the decisions based on what is happening in the environment to address the matter before them. Ultimately, at the end of the day, the service providers are there to provide a service to all the people that are staying in the boarding home, the patients and the escorts and so on.

If there is a person there that is disruptive, and/or abusive to those individuals, they will act accordingly. That is within their mandate and their authority. So, they make that call. I don't make that call. They have to make that call as service providers in dealing with that particular individual or situation at that time, and at that moment. I have to support that, and ultimately at the end of the day, they have to make the decision, first on their own.

There are issues around abuse, or what not, but also for the best interest of the patients as well as the other residents in the boarding home. So they make that call to investigate that and go from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that. That's not what I was asking the minister. They have a zero-tolerance but is that saying that the patients and escorts have to have all the tolerance if they feel they are being abused and mistreated? And my question was what mechanism is in place for them to be able to deal with that issue and bring it forward without being accused of being abusive? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The escorts' or the patients' mechanism is to contact the regional directors who provide that manage the contract. Or

they can go to their MLA, or they can go to the paper, or contact me, or ... there are different mechanisms in place.

If a person wants to file a complaint on the service provider, they are more than welcome to do so. We will investigate the situation and ensure that we treat both sides; review both sides of the situation and take it from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess having said that, what comfort can we give our constituents ... as you said earlier; you have to accept the word of the contractor ... that their concerns aren't even going to be listened to.

You're taking cases ... in point this one that I have corresponded to you on. This individual is sent home and not until after I wrote a letter on her behalf enquiring as to what happened, she gets a phone call saying that she's barred for 30 days after the letter was received.

When I asked questions about it ... this is the service provider, the contractor's rule, their word is golden, and that's it. So it doesn't really matter what this individual said and what her concerns were. You already said that was inappropriate and unacceptable accommodations. When you complain about it, 'You're being abusive. You go home.' What is being done about that? And what kind of mechanism could we put in place to make sure that our constituents don't continue to get mistreated when they're out on medical travel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think it's appropriate to imply that every patient is mistreated at the facilities. Sometimes we have problems with escorts and sometimes we have problems with patients. It's not all the time. We deal with each case on a case-by-case basis but unfortunately, I cannot tell the story, to protect the confidentiality of the patient and the escort, in the House.

The information was investigated and the service provider provided that information to us. The contractor is QC, Nunasi, Larga is also the contractor. It's in their interest as well to provide services to the beneficiaries that go to their facilities. You can give them calls and complain that way as well.

But I want to reassure the people here, that the people that go to the Larga, or our boarding homes, for the most part, are treated very well by the staff. Sometimes we have incidents and we have to address them, and in this particular case, I'm satisfied that the review was done and the communications took place between the escort and my staff to address the situation in Ottawa. I understand a conversation took place with the individual, as well as the director here to address and discuss the situation. We heard from the manager of the facility as well on the situation.

So the mechanisms are there to address the complaints and I think, through this process, we have been able to investigate the situation. Like I said, there are two sides to every story and I cannot discuss a personal file in the House because I have to protect the whole patient confidentiality issue of the clients we provide service to.

I want to reassure the member that we have looked into the situation and have tried to address it. It's unfortunate it happened, but for the most part, the service is provided by the staff, and I want to defend the staff of Ottawa Larga because they do good work under the circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the other question I have under the contract that is in place; is there a requirement for the contractor or the service provider, who ever is delivering the service on the ground there, as my colleague earlier mentioned, to pick people up at the airport, bring them to the boarding home, or the hotel? Is there a provision in the contract that they are required to transport patients and escorts to and from, whether it be the boarding home or the hotel to the hospital? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you. The boarding homes have set departure times and set pick up times from the boarding home to the various clinics and hospitals every day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are those schedules adhered to? Are they posted throughout the facility, and if there were only one individual going, would they say; no, we're not going because we have to wait until we get more than one person before we go?

Would that be something that is part of their rationale of not going at a certain time? Or are they required to go at those times whether they have anyone or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: As far as I know, in Ottawa, those individuals are required to go whether they have a patient or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just recognizing the clock, I would like to move to report progress.

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

I'm sorry. Thank you, Minister and your staff.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 20. (interpretation ends) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Is there a seconder? Mr. Kattuk is the seconder. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of a meeting of the Full Caucus tomorrow morning at nine o'clock at the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 22:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions

11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 3 – 2(4)
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 9
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 1
 - Bill 2
 - Bill 3
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until March 22 at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 20:07*

