



**Nunavut Canada**

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**Thursday, March 29, 2007**

**Pages 1217 – 1294**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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*Chair, Management and Services Board*

**Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

*Striking Committee*

**Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

*Striking Committee*

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(Nattilik)

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**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**

(South Baffin)

*Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

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**Peter Kattuk**

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(Nanulik)

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

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**James Arvaluk**

(Tunnuniq)

**Levi Barnabas**

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(Iqaluit West)

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

**Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

*Striking Committee*

**Hon. Levinia Brown**

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Thursday, March 29, 2007**

**Members Present:**

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

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon. Thank you. Ministers, Members, and the visitors, welcome. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education and Energy, Minister Picco.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 050 – 2(4): Minister Okalik Absent from the House**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House that the Honourable Paul Okalik will be absent from the Chambers today. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Netser.

**Minister's Statement 051 – 2(4): End of Life Vehicles (ELV) and Scrap Metal**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a statement on end-of-life vehicles and scrap metal.

Mr. Speaker, one of the objectives under *Pinasuaqtavut* (interpretation ends) is to explore the repatriation of end-of-life vehicles. The Government of Nunavut Departments of Environment, Community and Government Services, and Economic Development and Transportation are cooperating together to complete this objective.

We have completed the necessary background studies and are now preparing to seek private involvement in proceeding with removing end-of-life vehicles from Nunavut's communities.



This is a complex initiative involving several government departments, communities, and the private sector, and I will be working closely with my colleagues, Minister Simailak and Minister Brown to make it a reality.

Several communities have already completed inventories of the old vehicles and scrap metals they have, and these communities will be done first as pilot projects to give us a more accurate picture of the cost and the logistics.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to vehicles we are working with NRCAN, or Natural Resources Canada, to develop a scrap metal action plan to identify feasible methods of repatriating scrap metal that has accumulated in several of our Nunavut communities.

My staff has just accompanied Natural Resources Canada to two of our Kivalliq communities where they met with the mayors and the municipal staff. The reception and the support from these communities was very positive and we will be working closely with them to quantify the scrap metal stock piles in all of our Kivalliq communities and to develop an action plan for collecting and removing scrap metals in the short and long term.

Removing these piles of scrap metals will be expensive, and we will be seeking additional federal support for this initiative and to expand it to all of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to collaborate with all partners within Nunavut and the federal government to further the important goal of removing scrap metal and old vehicles from our Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Hon. Ed. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to return to Item 2, if we haven't passed Ministers' Statements. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Item 2. We have passed that item already, however if you wish to request the permission of the floor, I'll allow you to seek permission. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the indulgence of the House to ask unanimous consent to return to Item 2 on our agenda. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. The minister is asking for unanimous consent to return to Item 2. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed Mr. Picco.

**Minister's Statement 052 – 2(4): Nunavut Courses Meet University Entrance Requirements**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past several months, the Curriculum and School Services Division has been contacting universities across Canada to have them review the new Nunavut-developed secondary school courses. The courses are Aulajaaqtut 10, 11, and 12, and Inuktitut 10, 11, and 12.

I'm very pleased to announce that 20 universities have approved both courses as meeting the entrance admission requirements. In nearly all cases Inuktitut, 10, 11, 12, will satisfy a language requirement and Aulajaaqtut 10, 11, 12, will satisfy Humanities/Social Sciences requirements. We are still awaiting the results of faculty reviews from 16 more universities.

Mr. Speaker, the universities who have already approved the courses as well as those where approval is pending are very positive about these courses. For example, the Associate Vice President of Academic Studies at the University of Ottawa stated, "thank you for sending these documents related to the newly developed Nunavut secondary school courses. I must commend the people who have developed them for the highly relevant initiative. We'll be examining the courses in detail, and we'll get back to you as soon as the work is completed."

Mr. Speaker, the universities that have given approval to our courses are: Simon Fraser University, University of Calgary, Saskatchewan, Brandon, Manitoba, Carleton, Guelph University, McMaster University, University of Toronto, Windsor, Sir Wilfred Laurier University, York, McGill University, St. Mary's, St. Francis Xavier, Dalhousie, Memorial University, and the University of New Brunswick.

Students applying to universities must meet the overall requirements for the program they are applying for and that can vary from university to university.

Mr. Speaker, the recognition by universities across Canada, validates the academic quality of courses developed in Nunavut, for Nunavut students. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 053 – 2(4): Funding for Nunavut Association of Municipalities Insurance Exchange (NAMIX)**

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce the government's ongoing commitment to ensuring that Nunavut's municipalities have adequate insurance coverage for their municipal infrastructure, staff, and operations.

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut, and Community and Government Services, I am pleased to announce an additional \$1.5million in funding for the Nunavut Association of Municipalities Insurance Exchange known as NAMIX.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, NAMIX was formed in 2002 in collaboration with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and Community and Government Services in response to the inability of our Nunavut communities to obtain affordable insurance coverage.

Over the past five years the Government of Nunavut has contributed \$5 million to NAMIX which is an insurance exchange with all Nunavut's communities being the owners. In combination with the implementation of the Territorial Fire Strategy and Loss Control workshops, NAMIX has had great success at providing affordable insurance coverage for municipalities, while reducing the amount of losses in communities.

This new funding will assist in ensuring that NAMIX remains viable and continues to provide insurance coverage to municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Minister's Statement 054 – 2(4): Housing Classified Website**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Members, my colleagues. I rise today to speak about the exciting new feature that the Nunavut Housing Corporation have just added to their website to improve access to information about available housing options across Nunavut.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation is taking a leadership role and has created a new section of their website that is now up and running. This feature allows landlords of rental properties to register available apartment units or houses for rent or sellers of homes to register available houses for sale.

This new section opens up to a page which gives tenants and prospective buyers access to a network of one-stop information on housing that is currently available in communities across Nunavut.

The Housing Corporation classified feature opens onto a map of Nunavut.

Both buyers and sellers are able to click onto individual communities to either register their property for sale or rent, or to obtain the information they need. If you are a manager of rental property or want to sell your house you will be able to enter the details about your individual property so that it will be available to prospective renters or buyers.

Mr. Speaker, this new website feature is a great communication tool and will make it easier for people to find out what housing is available in any community in Nunavut. In

www.nunavuthousing.ca, the Nunavut Housing Corporation will continue to monitor, update, and expand this website to provide access to available housing options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education and Income Support, Minister Picco.

### **Minister's Statement 055 – 2(4): Nunavut Arctic College Receives Grant**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the objectives of this government as outlined in *Pinasuaqtavut* is to ensure that we build on strengths, respecting and highlighting the unique elements of our residents, communities, the environment, and our economy here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize today the work of the staff at Nunavut Arctic College and our Department of Education for their contribution in this area.

The college recently obtained a grant from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to develop and test culturally appropriate tools for Prior Learning Recognition and Portfolio Development. Prior learning recognition and portfolio development provide learners, and those seeking employment with tools for documenting their strengths, knowledge, and abilities. The Nunavut PLAR process will recognize that knowledge and skills are gained from life experiences and values indigenous knowledge as well as knowledge gained through school and other training experiences.

Mr. Speaker, the project is expected to lead to the use of PLAR across the territory and provides the means for Nunavummiut to get credit for the lessons and skills that they have learned outside the classroom.

The good news: the college will receive a three-year grant totaling \$3,806,497 from HRSDC to adapt PLAR and portfolio development curriculum materials for our Nunavut learners, and then test the usefulness of PLAR here in Nunavut. The college will be collaborating with the Department of Education, adult learners, elders, and potential employers to ensure that the tools developed meet the needs of the learner, the college, and the job market.

Mr. Speaker, we look forward to the introduction of a Nunavut program for accessing prior learning experience and expect that this project will contribute to the growing success of Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

### Item 3: Members' Statements

#### Member's Statement 107 – 2(4): 2007 Pangaggujjiniq Nunavut Quest Dog Team Race

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

I rise today to share with you some news about the *Pangaggujjiniq* Nunavut Quest Dog Team Race, which this year, will travel from Igloolik and Hall Beach to Repulse Bay.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, earlier this session I spoke about the important role dogs played in Inuit lifestyle and culture. I mentioned a number of events that focus on important tradition in an effort to revitalize the use of dog teams in the north.

I'm very pleased that the Nunavut Quest Race will go ahead this year. For a while, the organizers said it might have been cancelled due to the lack of participants. Instead, they moved the starting date to April 23, which will allow more participants to take part. So far, 17 participants have signed up to the race, which usually takes about seven days to complete.

One of the original Nunavut Quest Organizers Simon Qamaniq is taking part, at this very moment, in another important event: Global Warming 101 is a four-month expedition by dog team across Baffin Island to draw international attention to climate change issues, Arctic geography and wildlife, and of course, the importance of traditional northern activities such as travelling by dog team. Video and written accounts of this expedition are broadcast across the world mainly by internet.

The use of dog teams in the north is steadily regaining its status. After a loss of dogs many years ago the dog team is making a comeback that is being noticed across the world. This is happening, for the most part, because of the efforts of community volunteers, such as those organizing the Nunavut Quest.

Mr. Speaker, despite their best efforts dog team owners have faced and continue to face some major challenges. I urge the government to give serious consideration to establishing Nunavut-wide programs to make vaccines available to communities, and especially ...

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas, your time is up. If you would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude your statement, you can do so.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues. (interpretation ends) I urge the government to give serious consideration to establishing Nunavut-wide programs to make vaccines available to communities and especially dog teams to prevent illnesses such as distemper and parvo-virus. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be tabling documents that describes this years' *Pangaggujjiniq* Nunavut Quest and everything that is contributed to make it a success.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the participants and their dogs a safe and successful race to Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I have no other names on my list for Members' Statements. Member for Rankin North, Mr. Curley.

#### **Member's Statement 108 – 2(4): More Funding for Nunavut**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Iqaluit, those who welcome us when we are here, and the people that we meet in the restaurants and other public places.

I would like to thank very much the people of Iqaluit and I think today is going to be our last day for this winter session and I am sure that for the new fiscal year, which starts on April 1, the government will start implementing the programs and services that are identified in the departmental reviews we did.

With that, Mr. Speaker, the government doesn't have as much money as they did before. For example, the fuel price is extremely expensive for private homeowners and also for the hunters. I could also say that we have a shortage of teachers in all the schools, and there are an increasing number of students attending schools.

We are well aware that we have a severe shortage of nurses in Nunavut and including physicians and health care professionals or workers. We also see in Nunavut that some of the hospitals that were built are not utilizing their beds because they don't have 24 hour care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I could also say that some essential workers within the government departments do not have staff housing, especially the nurses and the medical professionals. I would like to urge the members to remember that even with this fiscal restraint the ministers will have to work extremely hard.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. The member is seeking unanimous consent to finish his statement? There being none. You may proceed, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. As I was stating earlier, even with fiscal restraints, I would like to tell the people of Nunavut, and the ministers are hoping, that the ministers will have to work extremely hard to make sure that there are less challenges.

I can even say that some people out there are probably saying that I am only looking at the negative aspect of it, but I think that if the ministers are more visible to the people of Nunavut and visiting the communities and talking to the people, I think that things will go a lot smoother.

You are going to have to work extremely hard and make sure that the monies are used prudently during the, I don't think that you should be going on holidays to Ottawa, I think the people out there elected you because of your ability and there's going to be elections again in about three months. Ministers, I urge you to work collectively and as hard as you can, and we are going to be behind you all the way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 109 – 2(4): Upcoming Federal Election**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today on what we anticipate to be our last sitting before we leave to recess. Like my colleagues, I'm looking forward to returning home to my family, my community, and my constituents.

A CBC News report said Iqaluit resident Kirt Ejesiak will represent the Liberal Party of Canada in the upcoming federal election. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Kirt on the nomination. Being a former Deputy Mayor of Iqaluit, I'm confident that his background in the trenches of municipal government will provide him with a good understanding in the real needs of our territory and residents.

Ottawa is aflame with rumours about the date of the next Federal Election. The fact that the parties are nominating their candidates, now tells us that a general election is not too far off.

I want to take a moment to give a Kitikmeot perspective on the next campaign. When the campaign gets going it's going to be important for Nunavut's candidates from all major parties to take the time to travel across the territory to listen closely to the concerns of our local leaders and residents.

As we often say in the Kitikmeot, Nunavut does not finish when you reach the end of Iqaluit's Road to Nowhere.

>>*Laughter*

The Kitikmeot will be the engine of Nunavut's future in economic development and prosperity. I would like the Federal Member of Parliament to also have a good understanding of the natural resource sector of our economy; he or she must take the time to learn the issues in the different regions; he or she will need to represent all of Nunavut.

When candidates knock on my door and ask for my vote, I'll be challenging them to show vision. I will be asking them to be prepared to stand up and push for such issues as a firm set of commitments to nation-building projects, such as the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project, the Kivalliq-Manitoba Road, and the Iqaluit Deep Water Port. I would expect them to work towards fulfilling federal promises like the establishment of the Canadian Forces Training Centre in Cambridge Bay. I want to hear them say that they will commit to achieving an increase in the value of the Northern Residents Tax Deduction. I want them to promise that they will represent our hunters in voting against the Gun Registry.

Campaigning for public office takes courage, commitment, and conviction. I salute all the men and women who will be running in Nunavut and look forward to electing a strong voice for our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 110 – 2(4): Skills Canada Competition**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a couple of my colleagues have indicated, this is probably going to be our last sitting day until it warms up, so I would like to wish all members a safe trip home, and hopefully the weather cooperates tomorrow; a little problem with that this sitting.

I would like to just acknowledge an event that's going on here in Iqaluit today and that's the Skills Canada Competition. I had the privilege of attending one of the competitions this morning. It was a public speaking competition and I watched some of these young students that had to do a five-minute speech on different topics.

One young guy was talking about being a plumber and how important it was because the bottom line for him was that amount he gets paid an hour was the attractive thing for wanting to be a plumber. But I think it's not only getting up there and speaking at that young age and watching that, I think it gives me hope that I'm going to see young people move on, whether it's in a trade or in any category of work that they do well.



I know there were other events going on up at the high school, and I wish all of them the best of luck and congratulate them on taking the courage to compete in such an event. I would like to ask all members to join me in congratulating them. The winners who are yet to be determined, and all of them for participating. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Aglukkaq.

### **Member's Statement 111 – 2(4): Community Activities**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very quickly, I know we want to get through our last day today. I would like to wish all the members safe travel home following this session. I believe there is a blizzard warning tomorrow so we may sit again tomorrow. I want to say happy Easter to everyone and safe travels home.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would just like to highlight a couple of important events coming up in my constituencies. In Gjoa Haven we will be hosting the Nattilik Cup Hockey Tournament on the weekend of April 12 to 15. I will be there for this exciting event.

Taloyoak will be hosting the first "Pat Lyall Memorial Hockey Tournament" the weekend of March 31 to April 1.

Also, Mr. Speaker, Taloyoak is planning for a Drum Dance Festival – April 23 to 27. A number of communities have been invited to participate including Gjoa Haven, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, and there has also been interest from Rankin Inlet and Repulse Bay.

(interpretation ends) As well for the new candidate for the Liberal Party, my congratulations go out to him as well. At the same time they're picking a season where it's spring to campaign where as unlike us we were campaigning door to door in February at minus 60. So hopefully, he'll get out to and get to as many of the doors in Nunavut to hear first hand the diversity of our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 112 – 2(4): 58th Anniversary to Mr. And Mrs. Ittinuar**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to make a statement. The members, my colleagues will be going home. I wish you a safe trip back

home. And I would also like to thank the family members of the MLAs for being very patient. And Easter is upon us so have a good Easter break.

I would also like to mention before the month is over, Mr. Curley and I and our constituents, would like to think of the elders Mr. and Mrs. Ittinuar will have their 58th anniversary this month, so before this month is over I wanted to wish them a happy anniversary because everyone knows them and they're very nice people. I've known these people since I was young. And I know my colleague from Coral Harbour knows these individuals. When I was a small child, I knew them.

When I got married in Lynn Lake, Manitoba, in 1965, they took care of us. But we had elders chaperoning us because we weren't free to go everywhere so, I would like to thank them for guiding us. This is going to be their 58th anniversary. They asked me why we got married in Lynn Lake, it was due to decentralization. Back in the 1950s and 60s my husband was sent over there to work.

At least we went to work and had a great future, so I would like to thank them and I would like to have a 58th anniversary, too, myself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

### **Member's Statement 113 – 2(4): Constituency Concerns**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased. We are very homesick and are glad that we'll be going home. And I would like to thank our elders, who we have been meeting in the restaurants. We always welcome their hospitality. It was very warm. It's especially very nice, when you are here in town, when the host community residents have great hospitality.

We see many people whom we haven't seen for long time. When we see them, it gets very exciting.

I would like to say that we reviewed the main estimates for approximately this whole month for the fiscal year 2007-08. Even though we reviewed the budget, it seems like we repeat things over and over. Because Mining Development is occurring all over, we need to have a proper working system because we need to do more on mining training for working in the mines. Looking at Baker Lake, there are not enough Inuit people working there so we need to see more Inuit in the work place because that was our vision, to have Inuit in the work place.

If we don't make ourselves available we won't see that occurring. In the Keewatin region back in the 1970s, we started expecting benefits from the food mail program, and other communities other than Rankin Inlet did not benefit from this food mail program. Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit and Yellowknife benefit from the food mail program but other communities

outside Rankin Inlet and larger centres, could not. The Manitoba-Kivalliq Road is the most important issue and I am urging the government to work harder on that so that it can resolve some of the other issues.

I'm asking unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. There were lots of issues but one that has not been developed, and has been staying idle for so long, is the fisheries budget.

This budget line item is only for the Baffin region but we need a budget line item for fisheries in the Keewatin region, we need all those programs to make sure the freight costs are cheaper and for that reason, the government needs, or we need to work harder, as the ministers, communities and the members we need to support each other and to grasp it, and we need to work together on the marketing aspect.

So even though the session's not on, we will be working closely, we will be working closely together so you, I can make you laugh, I can make you sad, so I'll do that anytime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

#### **Member's Statement 114 – 2(4): Iqaluit Hospitality**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to express my gratitude since today is going to be the last day of the session. It's very difficult for me to find out what kind of broadcasting, or what language will be aired on TV, so I would like to thank everyone for watching.

Don't hesitate to correct us when we are wrong. Also, my grandchild, in my community of Clyde River who watches the proceedings on TV, my grandchild started worrying about my hair because the majority of the members are going bald. So I would like to thank each and every one of you, especially the Iqalungmiut for your hospitality.

I would like to urge in the new fiscal year of 2007-08, the people who will be applying for funds and for grants, don't give up when you apply. When you are referred to someone else, please don't give up. We don't give up with the ministers when the ministers refer us to another department. We continue to ask questions, so don't hesitate to ask questions because a lot of good ideas come from our constituency members for employment opportunities and others. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 115 – 2(4): Thanks to Nancy Karetak-Lindell**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to also congratulate my constituent, Mr. Kirt Ejesiak, for his election as the Liberal candidate in the next federal election.

Whoever wins the next election will have huge *Kamiik* to fill. Nancy Karetak-Lindell has been an effective, hard working, and dedicated representative for all Nunavummiut. As elected representatives we all realized the stress and pressure of the job, and the stress and pressure, especially on our families.

Nancy has taken it all in stride, and has done it with professionalism and modesty. During her tenure, she invited and they accepted. She invited several Prime Ministers, Mr. Chrétien, Mr. Martin, and more senior ministers that I can remember seeing ever, in elected life since 1995, come visit Nunavut, and that means something.

The role of MP is to advocate on behalf of Nunavut. As a backbench MP, Nancy was effective. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nancy for her hard work and representation for all of Nunavummiut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

**Member's Statement 116 – 2(4): Incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since today is the last day of our session, I believe I will be seeing my family members tomorrow but we have been told if we are patient, and if you don't run away from something everything will come to pass. Likewise, the session lasted long. If you're not lazy, if you don't run away from your responsibilities they will come to pass and that's what we have been told and I urge everyone to do that during this session.

I have a better idea during this session of the Government of Nunavut. I believe the government should focus more and incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* more because in the past Inuit did not have the equipment we have today but were very capable without all the equipment today like, for example, health.

Without the aid of the nurses and the doctors, without the aid of the hospitals and nursing stations, Inuit had treated their own people. But today, the Government of Nunavut would

like to infuse and incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. I believe that the Department of Health and Social Services should recognize and incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* within their system and that is what I have heard and I believe that should happen to Income Support.

Inuit have survived by supporting each other and helping each other. That's how I am able to survive, because my ancestors, my parents, my grandparent had supported each other and survived together so that's how I am able to be here. When we talk about income support, I believe that the Government of Nunavut could infuse *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, the ability to support each other.

So I believe the Government of Nunavut, if they had that kind of legislation, they would be able to go forward. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kattuk is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Kattuk

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I'm saying is that, when we're talking about income support, and how we'd like to support each other, the Nunavut government should focus on helping each other and cooperation. And Inuit, when it comes to the environment, they survived in the environment without having any modern day equipment.

They were sustained by wildlife by utilizing the animals for everything from skin down to the bone. We've been protecting our environment, because of the wildlife and the fact we live off of it. What I'm saying is that the Nunavut government should incorporate and infuse *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* so that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* could be used permanently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Members' Statements. If there's none. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister for Environment, Mr. Netser.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to Oral Question 116 – 2(4): Mercury Build-up in the Food Chain**

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to provide a response to an Oral Question posed to me on March 26 of this month by the Member from Quttiktuq. The member asked about current environmental contaminant monitoring practices for the arctic food chain. The member was correct when stating that heavy metals tend to accumulate in polar bears since they are at the top of the arctic food chain.

Contaminant monitoring in polar bears and other species has been ongoing since the 1970s and is still continuing today. We work cooperatively with the Canadian Wildlife Services to collect samples and to monitor any changes on a regular basis. The most recent sampling from harvested polar bears is occurring this spring in Nunavut.

Contaminant levels in polar bear tissues are declining for most kinds of contaminants, but new contaminants are always being discovered. Contaminant levels tend to be highest in the fat, but levels of heavy metals are not high enough to cause a health hazard to the bears or the hunters that harvest them. I love polar bear meat, by the way.

I trust this answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Committee of the Whole the other day I mentioned that the Arctic College Board of Governors would be meeting this weekend in Iqaluit. I know several of the board members are here and they are constituents of many of the MLAs so I'm not going to introduce them individually, and let the MLAs introduce their own constituents.

I would take this opportunity to introduce one person on the board of governors who's my constituent, a long time northern resident, father and a grandfather, well known for his exploits on the land as well as on the water, former Armed Forces and Naval Senior Executive Officer in the 50s during the Cold War against our friends, the Russians. Here he is, the one, the only, Mr. Frank Pearce. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize here, he is well known here, he is the mayor in Gjoa Haven, Uriash Puqiqnaq. I would like to welcome him.

>>Applause

Welcome to the Gallery and I thank you for being a strong supporter of mine.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there's another group of individuals that are here with us today from the Canadian Stroke Network, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Alberta, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, Canadian Stroke Strategy Group, Canadian Heart Health Strategy for Foothills and Hospitals, and I'm just going to introduce them briefly.

And, as I introduce them if they can stand up, I believe two or three of them just left for another meeting.

Ms. Carmen Connolly.

>> *Applause*

Donna Hastings.

>> *Applause*

Diane Krecsy.

>> *Applause*

Ms. Debra Lynkowski.

>> *Applause*

And, Dr. Kevin Willis.

>> *Applause*

The other individuals that were here that had to go to another meeting are Mr. Robert Smith and Dr. Tim Watson. Thank you and welcome to the Gallery.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my constituent. On behalf of me and Tagak, I would like to welcome an individual. There's someone from Rankin Inlet South I would like to introduce. First of all, Rianna Satiana. Also beside Rianna, Mike Shouldice. He's a very good boss. He was my boss before. And, over here, Jose Kusugak, everybody knows Jose Kusugak because I knew his parents and I grew up with Jose, his brothers and his sisters in Chesterfield Inlet, and I'm very proud of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those have been introduced before but I would like to congratulate and welcome to the Gallery because Levi Barnabas knows them because he used to be a Constituency Assistant for Lootie Palluq.

I feel that I'm very proud of the Nunavut Arctic College Board of Governors and I would like to say that they just got a new chairperson. I would like to congratulate Jose Kusugak and I nominated him to be on the Board of Governors for the Arctic College recently, and I'm very proud of him. He had a famous question to me before and I will never forget that and I would like to share it with the members.

When I was President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami he told me that I am going to be involved with working very hard for the Inuit people of Canada. When Jose Kusugak agreed to be my assistant, he asked me a question because we're going to be working very hard for the Inuit of Canada, and he asked me, "What is Land Claims?" but I think he knows what it means now.

I also appointed Mike Shouldice to Arviat, as well as myself and David Alagalak. I would like to welcome them to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member from Repulse Bay is not here.

I would like to welcome Ilisuusie Alakannuark from Repulse Bay, and this person has been recognized already in the House but I would like to recognize the individual. This thing is not known by *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, so when I was really mixed up, because he taught me what to wear, I would like to welcome Uriash Puqiqnaq to the House. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. If there are no more. Item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 150 – 2(4): Fulfillment of Federal Promises on Arctic Sovereignty

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think this is very important and I will be reading it in English. Mr. Speaker this is a question to the Deputy Premier.



(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, yesterday a committee of unelected and unaccountable senators released a report which makes an outrageous claim that little or no threat to Canadian sovereignty and security exists in our northern waters.

However, we know that experts are saying that the prospect of global warming and opening of Northwest Passage will in fact create new security challenge to Canada's Arctic. This is not the time for our government, the Nunavut Government to be silent.

Will the Deputy Premier commit to this House that she and her cabinet colleagues will clearly and convincingly convey our concerns to Ottawa on this issue? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Curley. Deputy Premier, Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also feel this is a very important question, and I don't want to make any mistakes. It's a very controversial issue and it has not been given to me as one of my responsibilities, so I would like the House Leader to answer.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising the issue. Just going back to a little over a year ago, just before the last federal election, Minister O'Connor, the Minister of National Defence, brought forward a campaign platform where Arctic sovereignty issues were raised. They talked about building a port in Nunavut as well as putting in an Armed Forces base.

We endorsed that plan. We thought that the federal government finally recognized issues around sovereignty in the Arctic, in Nunavut in particular. I know the Prime Minister had conversations with the Premier about that. I also had an opportunity to meet with the Minister of Defence and talk a little bit about some of the issues that he had raised during that campaign platform.

The member is also correct when he says that an unelected senate is making recommendations although they have the power within the political system in Canada, we would hope that the federal government would continue and move forward expeditiously on their plans to look at Arctic sovereignty more seriously and do the right thing by making sure that the Canadian Government has the equipment to do that job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is also for the Deputy Premier. (interpretation ends)

In a speech delivered in December 2, 2005 Stephen Harper made several commitments, including the acquisition of three new heavy naval icebreakers and the construction of deep water port in Nunavut. Establishment of deep water port in Nunavut would create a major boost to our economy.

I also would like to remind members that there is such thing as Stand Up for Canada document, and press release, “Harper stand ups for sovereignty” you can read all about it in that press release.

The establishment of a deep water port would not only provide a major boost to our economy. So the question to the premier, what is the Nunavut Government doing to work with Ottawa to make this plan a reality. And I might add, Danes are not shy about protecting their Arctic Waters. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Hon. Levinia Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the Premier talks to me about those kinds of issues and that there have to be negotiations between the federal and Nunavut Governments.

We are working very to protect the waters of Nunavut and I know it’s going to continue and as well as working very hard together to work on the deep water port and we would not like to lose any money because this would benefit the people of Nunavut and we are working very hard and I will continue to work very hard on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The editorial in the Globe and Mail clearly stated that the Senate Committee, and I quote, “missed the point on the issue of Arctic sovereignty.” Not only that, Nunavummiut are also saying that Senate Committee is wrong.

In regard to the Northwest Passage; we don’t know who is snooping around under the Arctic waters at this time. So will the minister ensure that she and her cabinet colleagues will continue to vocally lobby Ottawa to fulfill its promises to the North? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Deputy Premier Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It’s very important that a lot of people are concerned about the issue of Arctic Sovereignty. I’m sure that there are submarines and other vessels snooping around and I’m sure that we’re going to have to protect our waters.

We will commit to making sure that we will continue to lobby the federal government and also make it a priority. It's only after you've been talking about it for months or years that something comes out as a reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said earlier that there appears to be silence on what this new government in Ottawa had committed to the north earlier. This is no time to remain silent and I urge the minister to loudly express our disappointment with the Senate Committee's recommendations.

Will you do that and inform the public that the Nunavut Government is transparently disappointed in what they recommended because Arctic sovereignty I believe is essential and the federal government must quickly implement their promises. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for bringing this issue up. I will commit to this and I agree that we've being too silent on this issue.

Again, with the Senators I totally disagree with the recommendations that they've come up with. Since my colleagues are here and listening I'm sure they're going to be supporting us and they're not going to be silent about it either. We will work collectively, and I would like to assure you that I will keep working on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

### **Question 151 – 2(4): Insurance Support to Outfitters**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. (interpretation ends)

For many Nunavummiut, the outfitting business is an important source of seasonal income, especially for those communities where there is little or no wage employment.

Can the minister clarify for this House, and for the listening public, what kind of support his department provides to outfitters and other tourism operators? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to outfitters we can give them support financially if they apply for it. And we also give them support

through the Tourism Association. Nunavut Tourism is responsible for the outfitters and the tourism industry.

They usually get their services provided through that association. We also have the economic development officers and also the regional offices that can give support to the outfitters anytime it is requested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister.

To date the outfitters are required to have insurance and because of the high price of the insurance, the businesses and the outfitters cannot afford to pay the high cost.

(interpretation ends) Insurance is necessary to outfitters in order to provide security for their clients and to protect themselves for the future. What specific support is available to outfitters to meet their insurance needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to outfitters and tourism, it is usually a seasonal job and they only work during the spring and summer. The insurance rate is extremely high and for the information of the member, we are looking at how we can make an improvement on this issue in Nunavut.

The Nunavut Tourism Association is also working and looking at other suggestions. We realize that the insurance rates are extremely high for these outfitters and the tourism sector, but the government is currently looking at how they can give further support to the outfitters and to the tourism sector on this issue.

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

**Mr. Barnabas**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Providing contact information and appropriate paperwork to outfitters is one step in the right direction; however the high cost of insurance is a very high barrier. Nunavut Tourism receives more than \$2 million from the government every year.

Is any of the money available to outfitters who provide important tourism services as a subsidy for their insurance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Tourism Association, if you are asking me about whether there is any money from Nunavut Tourism I am not aware if there is any. I will have to look into it and I do know that there have to be some adjustments made in regard to insurance and the tourism industry.

I know exactly where you're coming from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I would also like to thank the minister. (interpretation ends) Will the minister commit to reviewing this issue and making insurance information available to outfitters and others in the Nunavut tourism industry? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will work closely with the Nunavut Tourism Association to see what we can do about the insurance rates and look at suggestions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 152 – 2(4): Housing for Health Professionals**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The Health Department requires as many as 20 houses for health professionals in Cambridge Bay. They can't hire any nurses or doctors for up to 20 of those health professionals at the health centre over there.

Last summer, Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued a request for proposals in July. The timing of that request for proposals was totally wrong. It showed a lack of commitment on the part of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, annoying many people in the community.

My question for the minister, will the minister commit today to issue a request for proposals for the Health Department housing in Cambridge Bay by the end of April 2007 to give local developers an opportunity to submit bids in time for the upcoming sealift season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) The Nunavut Housing Corporation ... if you would like to, we're more than open to any suggestions. We are open to getting requests for proposals from companies out there to make sure that there's housing available. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the answer. I think the minister should make a commitment and take the lead, issue a request for proposals that would show the contractors and developers in the community and around the region that, okay, the Government of Nunavut is serious and they are looking for housing. I think you should take that first step and not make the developers come forward without that commitment.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister: will the minister commit today to making housing for health professionals in Cambridge Bay a priority for the Nunavut Housing Corporation in the upcoming 2008-09 Government of Nunavut priority setting exercise under the Capital Estimates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will work closely with the Department of Health and Social Services. The minister and I can have meetings, not only in the Kitikmeot area but in also the Keewatin and Baffin, to make sure that there's adequate housing for health professionals. We will work on it to make sure that it progresses smoothly and to make sure that there's adequate housing for the health professionals. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes I feel like I'm beating my head against the wall.

When I was Mayor of Cambridge Bay and the Government of Nunavut was planning the health facility, in my council we immediately recognized that there was going to be a need for housing health professionals. We talked to the former Minister of Health during that era and his officials, and they assured us that housing would be available for health officials and I've been asking for years as MLA and I don't seem to be getting the answer.

The minister just said we'd have more meetings. So I don't know what they talk about in these meetings, but there are no decisions or finalities to what they've discussed. My question for the minister, what current planning activities are underway in the Nunavut

Housing Corporation to address the critical housing shortage for health professionals in Cambridge Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've been dealing; we're negotiating with KC, one of the divisions, because we really want to work closely with them on the possible leasing of three units. We're not just ignoring any housing shortages for our health section and we're making sure that it's going to happen in the future.

Again, we will do our very best to come up with ideas on how we can eliminate any possibility of not having any staff housing for our nurses. Again, I don't think that we're ignoring it. We're doing our very best to come up with ideas on how we can work this out with the Department of Health. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Perhaps it might be helpful if the Nunavut Housing Corporation, when they issue an RFP, hopefully by the end of April 2007, they tell the developers what type of housing is required for health officials. Don't make the developers guess. If they require a certain type of housing, tell the developers which type of housing and then submit a proposal based on that.

And a question for the minister, and I'm sure that the staff has done all this research, can the minister tell me what research, based on the Nunavut Housing Corporation research, what type of housing is required to provide affordable accommodation for health professionals in Cambridge Bay. Do they require housing? Do they require multiplexes? Do they require condominiums? Just exactly what type of housing do they require? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked the minister myself, Minister Aglukkaq, and there is a shortage of doctors and nurses throughout Canada. And I do believe we have to come up with the best solution how we could get nurses and doctors to get to Nunavut. So we're going to do our very best to make sure which of the options we have opted for works for us.

Again, we'll probably need 20 units in Cambridge Bay to make sure that the positions are filled to run that hospital. So we're working really closely with the Department of HSS. We're trying our best to come up with ideas that are the most affordable to get nurses to our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 153 – 2(4): Status of the Kugluktuk Crisis Shelter**

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Last week, the minister indicated that there are currently, or shall I say, still, only four crisis shelters for women and children in Nunavut.

The issue of the violence against women and children remains a serious concern in many of Nunavut's 25 communities. Can the minister provide an update on how many of the recommendations from the report on the Violence Against Women Symposium have been implemented to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister of Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the member for his question. From the Violence Against Women Symposium recommendations, there are about 75 recommendations that came out of that forum that we held here a year ago in Iqaluit. The Premier spoke to that last week in that we are putting an implementation plan together to address the 75 recommendations. Those recommendations fall within different departments as well.

So the implementation plan, the interagency working group is addressing that and he has committed to providing that information to this House. Some of the things that we have done first of all is hold the symposium within our own territory. There is also a national forum around the issue of violence against women and children. The Minister of Justice, in the last sitting in November, introduced legislation on the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* so that is one big step that we have dealt with.

The other areas around shelter development, community involvement, those remain to be developed as programs and resources will have to be tied into that. Once the implementation plan is in place, of course, the next big challenge will be to fund each of those initiatives accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for your answers. Some of my constituents have expressed concerns about the lack of safe homes for women and children to go to, especially when workers from the mine come home bringing alcohol with them.



Last November, the minister indicated that her department had held discussions with Inuit organizations regarding Inuit Impact Benefits Agreements process and how to involve the mining communities in addressing those kinds of issues.

Can the minister update this House on the status of those discussions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The IIBA discussions, I did not have an IIBA discussion with the Inuit of the Kitikmeot or the territories. The Inuit Impact Benefits negotiations are between KIA and the mining sector.

The discussion, in terms of bringing forward my thoughts on the IIBA related to my discussions with the KIA group in that, in negotiating IIBA's that Inuit organizations should also be looking at the social impacts of mining sectors in our communities, whether it be alcohol and drugs, whether it be violence against women and children or whether it be supporting families to stay together when they are dealing with spouses or children separation from mining work.

So, it was a dialogue during the KIA AGM on how better we can tap into the IIBA discussions on addressing the social impacts to Inuit as a result of development. That's what the IIBA is intended to address outside the portfolio of this department.

We as the Health Department don't negotiate IIBAs, but at the same time having said that, Health and Social Services does also respond to individuals that have been impacted by the social development, so if there was to a way to try and marry those two processes and support each other as we provide these services to the citizens in our territories, would be useful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks, Minister. Can the minister clarify for this House what type of long-term agreements have been reached with other non-governmental organizations, such as YWCA, to provide resources and support for safe homes in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have four shelters in the Nunavut territory and those shelters are operated through the hamlets, in most cases, here it is through a society. The society here has been working with YMCA in how better to operate the facility and developing training programs, and so on. Those agreements are within those agencies and not so much the Government of Nunavut.

The Government of Nunavut has a range of agreements in place with municipalities to operate the facilities, but beyond that, the extensions of additional agreements would fall under those organizations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. I would like to bring home some good news to my constituents. Can the minister provide an update on what efforts are being made by her department to assist the Kugluktuk Crisis Shelter in becoming operational once again? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department in the region has been working closely with the municipality on how to address the situation with the shelter in Kugluktuk. The original group that had operated the women's shelter there was no longer functioning well, and as a result of that, they had to close the shelter.

The hamlet has expressed interest in operating a women's shelter and there were some negotiations with our department to try and address that. You'll note in our main estimates we have limited resources for operating shelters in the territory, and the proposal that had gone forward in terms of funding was three or four times what we had spent in the community before the closure.

So having said that, the discussions are ongoing but in the interim the individual victims are, unfortunately, transported to other communities where there is a shelter in the interim as we try and address that situation in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 154 – 2(4): Buried Scrap Metals**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. In the Minister's Statement in regard to end-of-life vehicles and scrap metals, they would be sending out old vehicles from communities somewhere down south.

According to my knowledge, some communities have been burying scrap metal.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be working on scrap metals that already exist. If we were to dig out old scrap metal I think we'll dig forever. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know you won't have to dig for a long time because we now have heavy equipment.

So I would like you to consider scrap metals that have already been buried. I believe that's a concern when you leave scrap metal buried, and it's going to pollute and contaminate our environment. You stated that you would be making guidelines. Are you going to include scrap metal that has already been buried? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're not going to be working on the scrap metals that have been buried. We will be working on the communities in the Keewatin region this summer and next year. If this goes well, and if we can get additional funding, then we will expand it to the other communities in Nunavut, but for the scrap metal that is buried, we won't be considering it.

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

#### **Question 155 – 2(4): Staff and Public Housing Policies**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. As he recently stated, the tenants in government staff housing are not in the collective agreement. That's what he stated.

My question is: if they are not there, are you going to set up a policy for public housing and for GN staff housing? Are you going to have the same policy for those, too? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister responsible for Housing, Mr. Akasuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can look at the member's suggestions to see if we can create a policy because we provide staff with housing. The people who rent public housing, we want to try to find out whether we can help out our staff in staff housing.

And we are going to try and see if we can make the policy the same for the public housing and the staff housing.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): The government has a goal that they have to be able to work for the betterment of all people and treat them the same way. That's their goal. That's the goal of the Nunavut Government. And they also have a goal that they would reach 85 percent Inuit employment in the government, within the government.

Some people gave up, say for instance, if a person has a two-bedroom house, they have to pay the rent according to the size of the house, and they don't make that much money. I'd like to ask a question about the goals of the government.

While you're looking after the public housing tenants and the staff houses, is there any way that the governments' own rule is broken by not treating them the same.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister for Housing, Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we reviewed this, reviewed our goal. What we do is give rental assistance to the public who cannot pay the full rent.

And we also have some benefits for our staff houses that are occupied by staff. So what we're going to do is, we're going to be reviewing our policy to find out if there's equal treatment of our staff and the public housing tenants to make sure that the staff do not leave their position.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

The government has a vision, government has directive to treat all Nunavummiut equally. This policy and rental scale for all public housing and Nunavut employees in not equal for all Nunavummiut, the same people.

You hear from time to time, that government employees are now trying to move into, or some of them have moved into public housing because they only pay 25 percent.

This affects the shortage of housing even more. Will the minister review to ensure that the Housing Corporation Policy on Rental Scale abides by the government directive? (interpretation) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are following all policies in dealing with housing for GN staff and for the public in the communities and we have available for the public, houses that can be rented, and we have tried to treat the GN staff and the public equally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister keeps stating that the people that don't have employment usually stay in public housing but I know that there are people that work for the hamlets, and housing associations and other companies that are living in public housing and they have very good jobs. Then the government staff envy them because they pay 25 percent of their wages for rent.

I would like to ask the minister to look at that, to review the policy, and if the government wants to reach 85 percent Inuit employment the government has to make sure that they review their policy properly in regard to housing.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will review the policy and to me if they rent public housing they have to follow the rental scale. They pay 25 percent of their wages and we have some benefits for those individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

### **Question 156 – 2(4): Airport Heavy Equipment Investigations**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transportation and my question is quite clear. A lot of communities in Nunavut have been given essential equipment to be used at the airports from the Department of Transportation but we have heard that the airports' operational equipment have been used to make community access roads, although not in all cases.

Can the minister investigate to see whether that heavy equipment was being used to do other things besides airport work and can he give us a report when he has done his investigation?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister for Transportation, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I can investigate to see whether this is true or not if the member can give me some information as to which community has been using this equipment.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister not just investigate, but question the people that have seen this type of activity going on? I think there is already an agreement in place that this equipment is not being used for other purposes.

If there is an agreement, can the minister...because there is could be an emergency at the airport and that is airport equipment, if they want to use those kinds of equipment they can ask the private sector to rent that equipment.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister for Transportation. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into this and if it has to be resolved then we will have it resolved. I will talk with the Hamlet Council to try and find out if the equipment is being utilized for other things rather than what they are supposed to be used for

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

#### **Question 157 – 2(4): 3 Vacant Units in Sanikiluaq**

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

I think there are three staff houses that have never been occupied. I would just like to ask the minister what he is doing about those vacant houses in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into this to see whose houses those are and to see whether they could be occupied by staff or what purpose they are there for. I will find out which department those houses are allocated to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The local housing organization was wondering why these houses have not been occupied. Perhaps just give them to the

local housing authority and they can assign them as public housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, like I said, I will try to find out which department these houses have been allocated to and after finding that out, perhaps talk with the local housing organization. But I still have to first investigate to see which department is holding that staff housing before I can commit to something. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to elaborate or provide more information to the Minister. I know that they had been occupied previously but today they are empty, just to give you some clarification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will talk with my staff to see if they can investigate which departments these houses are allocated to and then let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like the minister said, he will talk with his staff. I just wondered if the minister could talk with the local housing organization to see whether they can take over those houses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the member's concern to see what we can do as a department and look into the GN staff such as nurses and teachers. They will have to be provided with housing. But I will look into those unoccupied houses that the member is talking about and work with other departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

#### **Question 158 – 2(4): Muskox Management Zones**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Environment. He might not be able to answer it but I would like to bring up

the issue of Muskox in MS 21A and MS 21(18). In MS 21 and (A) they have a management zone and we've heard that they were going to do away with the management zones.

I'm not exactly sure but I think they were going to be revamping them and getting rid of the management zone in the Keewatin area, if that's the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't been briefed on the issue of musk ox and the only briefing that I got on musk ox was the pair of baby muskoxen adopted by a camp. I believe the Nunavut Management Wildlife Board covers this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm well aware but I just wanted to know if you knew about the management zones, as you are closer to the NWMB. I do go musk ox hunting by snowmobile and there has been drilling in that area for quite a while in MS 21. It seems like starting last year we don't see any more musk ox in that area and it seems like their herd has moved to another area. Is it possible for your department to look into this and do a study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the development, the Department of Environment is concerned with the helicopter surveys that are being done. We will look into this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that they're very aware and careful around the animals but usually all they're concerned about is putting in their stakes. There was even one case where there was an abandoned baby musk ox and once a herd of muskoxen runs they will leave their calves behind. If they see something black they'll go to it and you have to scare them away, or hurt the musk ox.

I think we have to know or find out where the musk oxen are moving to. They might not be moving very far and you might not finish a tank of gas but we have to know where they have moved because they're obviously not in the same location anymore. Is it possible for your department to look into this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to looking into this issue. We do know that we're very careful around our wildlife and herds of animals but we have to make sure that there is a plan so that we can continue having the wildlife around. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm well aware of it but we are concerned about the movement of these herds, and we have to look at what is available in these management zones. We don't want to be breaking the rules when we're hunting musk ox and we will be concerned if we do not meet our total allowable harvest. We have to make sure that they are managed properly. They go all the way behind coming into Baker Lake.

Around MF-20 and MF-18 there is also uranium development, and if all of the musk oxen move to the Kitikmeot area, then there won't be anything left in the Keewatin. That was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 159 – 2(4): Activities during Mental Health Week**

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

Mental Health Week was held in Canada the week of February 4 to 10 in 2007. My question for the minister: what mental health activities did the Department of Health and Social Services plan and support in Nunavut during that week? 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. There are a number of initiatives that have been undertaken by the department. Not only are we looking at trying to build our own capacity but we raise awareness on mental illness in our communities. Each group in the communities have, through their community health officers, announced and identified initiatives around community-based projects by community.

The issue around mental illness is one that, I guess for lack of better word, is raising momentum around Canada on treating individuals with mental illness as any other illness in our society.

So the initiatives that had been undertaken were related to raising awareness at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the answer. Mr. Speaker, Seasonal Affective Disorder, otherwise known as SAD as an acronym, is a well documented mental disorder.

In Cambridge Bay the wellness centre created a room in their health centre that has a special light that allows Seasonal Affective Disorder patients to be treated. And, from what I've heard from the wellness staff, it has been quite successful to date with several of these units.

My question for the minister: has the Department of Health and Social Services determined how prevalent Seasonal Affective Disorder is in Nunavut given our long period with no sunlight and the extreme isolation of our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of any initiatives under way in Nunavut to research the impact of that in our territory so I am not able to respond to his question in terms of how many people in the communities are impacted by that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Obviously, in Cambridge Bay it is a mental disorder, and the wellness centre, again, being innovative and creative have identified a way to help people get treated. I encourage the Department of Health and Social Services to follow up with the Wellness Centre in Cambridge Bay to see how successful they would be with that initiative.

Many Nunavummiut likely require psychiatric counselling from fully qualified professionals. My question to the minister: how does the Department of Health and Social Services ensure that psychiatrists are available to help residents who require this type of professional help? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think first we need to recognize that in most communities we also have mental health workers that provide support to individuals that require that service.

In responding to the individual's question, like many of the programs that we provide in terms of services, we need to bring in those specialists into our communities on a scheduled basis based by regional needs and community-based needs. So like any other service when we bring in specialists that is one of the areas that we organize in order to provide that service to our citizens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Mr. Speaker, there are several major types of mental disorders, there's schizophrenia, there's mood disorders, and by mood disorders I refer to depression and manic depression, there's anxiety disorders, eating disorders, personality disorders and those can all affect our residents.

My question to the minister: does the Department of Health and Social Services have a system to track and record the major types of mental disorders that are affecting our residents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Addictions and mental health services are offered to many Nunavummiut through the health centres and social workers and mental health programs.

In terms of a database in terms of tracking down the number of individuals with the different types of illness is; I don't believe that system or program is available from the territorial context. Within each community and region I would assume that would be the situation. But having said that, I think one of the things that also need to be recognized is that within the department we are looking at recruiting a Director of Mental Health and Addictions to implement some of these territorial initiatives around mental health and addiction.

I look forward to reporting progress on that. But the position of Director of Mental Health has been non-existent. We are looking at trying to shape our programs and services more around this area but I don't believe we have had much coordinated effort in the past.

Having said that, I don't believe we have the data to track every illness from the headquarters office, and I don't believe we have those statistics. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Members, Question Period is now over. Going back to our Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. I apologize. Thank you. 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 High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 075 – 2(4): 2007 Pangaggujiniq Nunavut Quest Dog Team Race**

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a letter I received from Mary Takialuk, the organizer of this year's Nunavut Quest Dog Team Race. This letter provides a brief history of the Nunavut Quest, describes how the race is organized and lists some of the supporters and volunteer efforts that make the race a reality.

Some additional benefits of the race include learning experiences for young support crews and celebrations in the communities that host the quest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Please bring the documents forward. Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Brown.

#### **Tabled Document 076 – 2(4): Government of Nunavut Contract Activity Report for Fiscal Year 2005-06**

#### **Tabled Document 077 – 2(4): Government of Nunavut Procurement Activity Report for Fiscal Year 2005-06**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the following report. Government of Nunavut Contract Activity Report for Fiscal Year 2005-06 and Government of Nunavut Procurement Activity Report for Fiscal Year 2005-06. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Can we have that document brought forward to the table please? (interpretation) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions.

### **Item 16: Motions**

#### **Motion 008 – 2(4): Location of Health and Social Service Positions**

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My motion is about the relocation of positions in Health and Social Services.

WHEREAS there have been persistent problems associated with coordination of medical travel services for the Baffin region ever since the transfer of elements of this function to the Pangnirtung office of the Department of Health and Social Services;

AND WHEREAS the Department of Health and Social Services is currently proceeding with the establishment of the Client Services Coordinator function;

AND WHEREAS the preservation of positions in decentralized communities is an important principle;

AND WHEREAS grouping all Baffin regional medical travel functions together under one roof may help reduce inefficiencies and improve communication;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Quttiktuq, that the Legislative Assembly recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services bring forward a plan to establish the Client Service Coordinator function in the department's Pangnirtung office and relocates that office's medical travel coordination functions to Iqaluit.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. The motion is in order. Before we start with the motion I will remind the members. Any one of the members can speak once to the motion for 20 minutes. And the mover of the motion may speak to the motion first and the seconder can speak to the motion next. The mover of the motion will have the opportunity to make the last statement to the motion. (interpretation ends) To the motion. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to have this opportunity to speak to the motion that I have brought before you. As you will be aware from issues and questions raised by members of this House over the past few sittings, there are persistent and ongoing problems with coordination of medical travel services for the Baffin region.

I think it's safe to say the number of complaints and problems in this area have escalated ever since the establishment of the Baffin region client travel office in Pangnirtung. In the past, medical travel for the Baffin region was coordinated out of one office in Iqaluit.

The medical travel staff in Iqaluit made travel and accommodation arrangements for patients traveling to, and from, their home communities for treatment at the Baffin Regional Hospital and for patients travelling for treatment in southern Canada.

The coordination of medical travel services worked very well out of this office. It is not clear why the department of Health and Social Services saw the need to fix it by splitting up the service delivery function and locating them in two different communities. The Department of Health and Social Services recently announced that the transfer of 17 finance position from the Department of Health and Social Services to the Department of Finance where there is a larger and more stable unit for processing payments.

This move was made in the name of simplicity and unity. This move brings the providers of similar services under one roof. Mr. Speaker, a move like that make sense. I look

forward to seeing the positive results of consolidating efforts and expertise. It should now be clear to everyone that doing the opposite and splitting up functions which have similar practices and objectives only creates problems and inefficiencies.

It is also extremely hard on those individuals who are already having problems with their health or the health of their family members to have difficult experiences with their travel and accommodations.

I wish to make it clear that I'm in full support of decentralization. Since the regional office of the Department of Health and Social Services are located in Pangnirtung, it seems fitting that policy-type functions such as those provided by the Client Services Coordinator be located in Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to note that the Department of Health and Social Services will finally be bringing forward a praiseworthy initiative of the Client Service Coordinator. Members of the Legislative Assembly have been looking forward to this for some time. It is important for both the minister, and her officials, as well as the members to try and support the constituents, have established processes which protects the rights and privacy of the clients of the health system while assisting them in resolving their concerns and complaints relating to their medical care.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the motion currently before the House brings forward a solution to our client situation: bringing all Baffin medical coordination services together under one roof will help reduce inefficiencies and improve communications. To establish the client services coordination position in Pangnirtung will help to complement the type of services and functions that are already delivered out of the office.

Best of all, the spirit of decentralization would remain supported. As the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, I believe that we should make decisions that make sense. I ask all members to join me in support of this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am in support of this motion since I'm the seconder of this motion, because our elders don't operate the way the Qallunaat people do, they often don't make phone calls.

When they don't have any escort, they get stuck for many days here in Iqaluit. And another thing I found out when I visited Ottawa Larga and I spoke to the Manager of that Baffin Larga, he indicated to me that sometimes there are 27 patients that arrive to the boarding home that have no plans, and when the boarding home is already filled to capacity, then he has to make arrangements to accommodate these patients.

That's how it is, even though the system was working properly. Now, it's not operating efficiently, especially when this region has the largest population. And one of the reasons

is that the patients, when they come to Iqaluit, usually they board at private homes. In my High Arctic community, there are too many patients that wait at the airport who are elders, who are sent back home, instead of taking the flights to the communities. This is not acceptable.

The set up with the transportation office in Baffin region was set up properly when the office was here, when the patients could go to the transportation office. After they were finished with the doctors they could go to the transportation office and make the travel arrangements right away.

The way the system is set up now, the elders are going through hardships. Sometimes they don't even have plane tickets set up even though it's time for them go home. For that reason I will be in support of this motion. And I urge all my colleagues to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be in support of this motion because I've made statements in regard to this issue, when this transportation office was moved. A lot of my constituents are not pleased especially the patients that come here, not just the elders, every patient that comes here is not pleased with the relocation of the transportation office.

Sometimes when they phone the transportation office, they don't even answer the telephone. So this has created a lot of problems in the Baffin region and we have heard the problems out on the street and when we go home to our communities, we usually hear people complain through the local radio station.

This is one of the biggest, major problems that they complain about, because it was not broken and it was fixed, and so that's why it created problems. So I would like to see this motion pass and once this motion has passed I would like to see it implemented. So I urge all my colleagues to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arreak. (interpretation ends) To the motion. (interpretation) Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to debate this issue further in the House and also to provide some clarification to the understanding of some of my colleagues.

First of all, I am not in support of this motion and I'll just explain some of the reasons why.

First of all the motion is not in support of decentralized operations, that's first and foremost: Cambridge Bay and Pangnirtung. The Client Services Coordinator is a territorial position and I have indicated in my letters to the members that this position

would be located at the headquarters operations of Health and Social Services in Cambridge Bay to work alongside the Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations.

The closer the working relationship, the better they will be able to address territorial wide issues around client services as well as travel coordination and the decision was made to move forward in that plan, in that direction.

Moving this to a regional operation would not work well. Pangnirtung is the regional operation for the Baffin, not a headquarters operation. So that is one clarification I think people need to understand in making that decision. I think we need to be well informed in making a decision of this nature.

The second part I need to clarify for you is that the jobs in Iqaluit were never moved. The travel office in Iqaluit is at the hospital to provide a service to the patients at the hospital. I need to clarify that. The positions that were created, they are brand new and created in Pangnirtung to deal with travel for patients traveling from up-island and to other services, not so much the hospital.

Some of them don't need to go to the hospital here. Because every year the file is getting larger and larger and I think I shared last year's statistics, you have last year's statistics: 14,000 travel tickets a year in 12 months in the Baffin. So as we were dealing with that situation we tried to separate and manage the workload better and allow the hospital staff to provide better services to the patients at the hospital.

Before, they were dealing with patients that never even entered that building. So in order to manage the file a bit more effectively we made this change. Did the problems exist before this change? Absolutely. We, on average, received 200 to 300 complaints before this change. So what we are trying to do is improve the services in providing services to our patients. Elders, or youth or unilingual, whatnot, we had put that plan forward. As a matter of fact now we receive fewer complaints.

The hospital staff here is dealing with patients directly at the hospital and I think that needs to be clarified. Supporting this motion will mean laying off two individuals in Pangnirtung because those positions were not moved from here. That's the direction that we are working with in trying to provide the regional travel coordination through the Pangnirtung regional Health and Social Services offices.

So I will not support this motion. If anything this motion is saying 'don't fix it'. It is a problem that existed long before this move, but unfortunately for an individual experiencing a travel problem they can see from the outside that it may appear to be because of a change in the office location for travel, that there's a problem.

But at the end of the day, the problem existed before and what we are trying to do is fix that problem around travel. The second piece, as an organization, we are trying to develop better coordination of managing patient files from the hospital and from the



health centres and the boarding home and so on. So these are system improvements that we are trying to make overall in the territory.

So again, to summarize, I don't believe this motion supports decentralization, moving jobs from Cambridge Bay and Pangnirtung and dissolving two jobs in Pangnirtung and this motion is basically saying 'leave this as is, don't fix it' and then what? So I would encourage the members to look at what we're trying to do and again the jobs here are still here. You are more than welcome to walk to the hospital and meet the staff and they can walk you through the process that's in place.

I think they are doing a phenomenal job considering they process 13,000 tickets in 12 months and trying to coordinate that with the other staff. So I urge the members to reconsider this motion and not support this motion because it means status quo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. To the motion. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to just ... I don't want to reiterate what the minister has said. I think it's important to point out that concerns had been raised in the House with the position that's mentioned here about the Pangnirtung client service office.

Those concerns have been taken seriously by the minister, I know because we had discussed them in Cabinet, and I've had an opportunity to discuss it with her one-on-one, and the minister has put several changes in place, and she actually wrote all MLAs with an open letter on March 6, I believe, and informed them that the office in Pangnirtung now has longer hours so that we can deal with one-on-one basis with clients. They're open until 6:00 p.m.; they're available for emergency requests now on weekends and so on, and it's very important that we've actually trained local people in Pangnirtung to take on these responsibilities.

I've had an opportunity, to experience, firsthand, the medical travel service, not once but twice in the last year and a half. I've also had an opportunity to visit every boarding home in Nunavut several times, and I've had an opportunity to be with people who have been escorted.

I can tell you, and any Member on this side of the House, and on that side of the House knows that when you're dealing with, as the minister has said, 17,000 or 20,000 travel arrangements in a 12-month period, I would ask you to go over to Mac Travel or any of the other travel agents and ask them whether they are doing 20,000 in one year.

The statistics have come back, through an audit with the Department of Health; about 1.5 percent of the travel arrangements out of 20,000 are complaints. When you look at weather issues, when you look at some of the miscommunications, when you look at some of the logistic and some of the administrative problems and questions, you expect to have concerns and complaints raised.

I believe the minister has been proactive, has heard some of the concerns raised, and we hear them, too. We're not immune to hearing them, we have constituents, and we have families. I believe that the Pangnirtung client travel office is now up and working and it is pretty effective. Like in any other arrangement, adjustments and fixes can be put in place, and I believe the minister and the department are trying to do that.

I will not be supporting the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. (interpretation ends) To the motion. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to say that I wasn't planning on speaking to the motion, and after hearing what I've heard, I think I have to clarify something and it's caused me to completely decide that I'm going to support the motion.

The Minister of Health and Social Services indicated in her comments that those were two new positions and that the other positions were still here. When we met with the minister in the standing committee, she had indicated after four hours, I believe she had said that there was actually a position that was taken from here and moved to Pangnirtung. That function being transferred means there are less people doing that job here than there were before.

I think what she had indicated doesn't accurately reflect what the department has done, and for that reason, I will be supporting the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation ends) To the motion. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. The mover of the motion has the closing remark. (interpretation ends) Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister who is seconding the motion.

It's too bad the minister did not talk with the Baffin Ministers but perhaps there are not enough complaints, maybe because they gave up. But there are a lot of people in our communities in the Baffin region that have always constantly complained about the discomfort that they have.

Some of them even have to use their credit card to buy a ticket when they can't get any answer on the telephone and I talked with the nurses and they stated that they are not supposed to give the patients an open ticket, but sometimes the nurse said that it would be better to give a patient an open ticket and the seconder of the motion stated that he supports the motion because it states that the elders and the people have to be looked after in accordance with the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and we have to be able to follow that *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and I would like to have a vote.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The discussion is now closed and we will proceed to voting. In favour of the motion, please raise your hands. Opposed, please raise your hands. Abstentions, please raise your hands.

Members, these are the results of the vote: in favour: seven. Against: nine. No abstentions. The motion is defeated. Orders of the Day. Item 16. Motions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Motion 009 – 2(4): Performance Audit of the Department of Health and Social Services**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Government of Nunavut's Department of Health and Social Services has incurred tens of millions of dollars in over-expenditures and budget shortfalls since 1999;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Nunavut's Department of Health and Social Services has contravened the provisions of the *Financial Administration Act* with respect to over-expenditures;

AND WHEREAS the Auditor General of Canada last performed a comprehensive audit of the Department of Health of the Government of the Northwest Territories in 1992;

AND WHEREAS the 2007 federal budget will provide the Government of Nunavut with an additional \$23 million in funding to support its efforts to strengthen its financial management practices and systems;

AND WHEREAS the Members of the Legislative Assembly are of the view that an independent, objective and comprehensive performance audit of the Department would provide valuable information and recommendations for the Government of Nunavut to use in determining how best to allocate its resources;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Arviat, that the Legislative Assembly recommends that the Executive Council of Nunavut, pursuant to section 47 of the *Nunavut Act*, advise the Commissioner of Nunavut to request the Auditor General of Canada to undertake a comprehensive performance audit of the financial management practices of the Department of Health and Social Services and report thereon to the Legislative Assembly as soon as practicable.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I already mentioned the rules of the motion. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to be able to speak to this motion here today, and if you look at it, I think I've lost count of the number of times since 1999

that the Members of the Legislative Assembly have been put in a position where we really don't have any choice except to vote for supplementary appropriations to cover over-expenditures in this department. Obviously, if the department has already spent the money on things like medivac flights, we really have no choice except to rubberstamp the supp.

It wasn't that long ago, that I and other members were in the Tuktu Committee Room listening to the government witnesses during our hearings on the Auditor General's Report telling us that the department had finally turned the corner and got the department's spending under control.

However, it's clear that the haemorrhaging is continuing. The department is bleeding red ink. This has to stop. We have to send a message to our constituents that we will comply with our own laws. I've been saying for a long time that it is clear that there's something fundamentally wrong with the budget development and financial management systems in place where we continually face this situation.

The recent move of Health and Social Services staff to the Department of Finance tells us that the department and the government have enough on its plate now just getting the bills paid.

Indeed, if you looked at some media coverage in the Northwest Territories that places like the Stanton Hospital are going public with what they refer to, and I'll quote it, "Problems in dealing with Nunavut patient billing issues." They don't have the time to conduct the sort of in depth audits and reviews that is required.

I look at this as a positive motion, which is designed to help the department and the government as a whole. Since 1999, we have had a number of Ministers of Health and Social Services. Every single one of them has struggled with the financial pressures that accompany this challenging portfolio.

As I noted in my motion, it has now been a decade and a half since the Department of Health underwent a comprehensive audit. It took place in 1992. I have a copy of that report here with me today and we have not had a comprehensive audit of this nature since then, and I think that the time has come for this to happen.

I view this like a trip to the dentist. It may not be the most pleasurable experience but the end result is that you get better. The worse thing to do is to let the problem get worse.

This audit won't cost us a dime; the Auditor General's Office does not charge the Government of Nunavut for the valuable work that it performs. If the recommendations turn out not to be helpful, well, we're no worse off than when we started.

However, I'm extremely confident, that they will be extremely beneficial, and I ask all members to support me in this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I apologize. (interpretation ends) To the motion. (interpretation) The seconder, Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be supporting this motion, obviously. It has been way too long since we have done a review of the Department of Health and Social Services.

You have to have a review done and get some recommendations to make improvements on this issue of over-expenditures. When you have over-expenditures year after year, it's very hard to get your budget in line again, and our constituents become aware of the chronic problem and then look at exactly what the government is doing. We usually have to ask for supplementaries that could have been used for other programs and services that would benefit the communities and Nunavummiut.

We hope to have this department keep within its budget and I think it's very important to have audits or reviews done on a regular basis. This is public money that we are talking about and it has to be used to benefit the taxpayers. We are responsible for the finances and if we can keep within budget the constituents out there would have more confidence in the government.

That is not only for the people of Nunavut. There are other people out there that are looking at the government and if we have an audit done on this department, then we will find out where the problems are. Even if you set up your budget and try to be as accurate as you can there are times when we have to ask for supplementary appropriations. We have to realize that there are cost cutting measures that we can put in and I think we owe it to our constituents to make sure that we stay in line. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the members for bringing this forward. I think it's no secret the challenges that we have faced as the Department of Health and Social Services in our territory in the past eight years. The challenges continue to be a challenge in our territory in addressing these concerns.

I have spoken to my colleague, the Minister of Finance, and in addition to the other initiatives that we have undertaken over the last year to try and start fixing the way we do business around financing, and I think those initiatives will help. In terms of the recommendation to have the OAG report, that will be put forward to the OAG to consider conducting this audit going back to 1999, and I believe those are part of the normal processes of the OAG office. Whether this can be done right away is something that we would have to discuss with our colleagues in Finance and the OAG and they set their work schedule and I believe they identify which departments they will audit in Nunavut on an annual basis.

So how quickly something like this, dating back to 1999, can be done will remain to be something that we need to clarify and bring forward. I would also like to say that, or identify that this not be restricted to the other initiatives that we are also doing internally. An audit or a performance audit is a way to identify issues and so on, but I do not want to be restricted to the OAG office in trying to deal with the challenges that we face in putting systems in place such as the medical travel or other things as we deal with the challenges within the Department of Health.

I think the Minister of Finance and I both spoke this session on how we're trying to strengthen financial management. And some of the examples some of the members have heard is to try and get the Department of Health to focus on doing better analysis and trend analysis of initiatives in the north rather than being still focused on one thing, that being the payment processing.

So we haven't seen the end result of those changes that so long as we're moving forward I think the recognition has to be given that those things are something that we are continuing to trying to do to improve initiatives and deal with financial management. And I believe that we need to do it sooner than later and not wait on an audit report, an audit report is important, but recognizing immediately we need to address the challenges within our own organization.

As minister, I am, as like my colleagues, I'm frustrated by some of the challenges we face in trying to move forward and predict medical travel expenditures as an example. I'm as frustrated as you are, and I'm willing to work with each and every one of you to report some of those needs to change as we address the issues around it.

But at the end of the day we need to look at how we do business. The purposes of how we do business need to be evaluated if we're ever going to get a glimpse of how the spending patterns work and to think differently from just processing. And this is where I need to focus my staff to deal with analyzing and providing support to the regional offices and putting in the systems necessary to forecast better. And I'm committed to do that, I want to reassure my staff and my colleagues as well that we're moving forward.

So in terms of moving forward on this, I have to then bring forward the concerns to the Office of the Auditor General office through the Minister of Finance in looking at an audit to 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. To the motion. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just very quickly, on the motion to do a performance audit on the Department of Health and Social Services by the Auditor General of Canada. We believe that this will give us an opportunity maybe through this motion and through the independence of the Auditor General to look at the adequacy of the base that is in place through the funding that we've received from the Non-Insured Health Benefits.

We believe the federal government has the responsibility, fiduciary responsibility for Inuit for not only in Nunavut, but in Canada. The biggest problem that we've experienced is the expenditure base that we have in place within the department, and within that funding arrangement that we have from our federal partner. We believe the audit will be able to demonstrate that inadequacy of the budget.

Second part as the House Leader, Mr. Speaker, It's very difficult for the government to vote to agree to audit themselves. As a result Mr. Speaker, the cabinet will be abstaining from the vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. To the motion. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the thoughts of all the speakers on the motion. As minister Picco pointed out, this is something that could be good and will be good for not only the Department of Health, but the government as a whole. And if it's going to be good for the government it's going to be good for everyone in Nunavut.

One thing I want to clarify and I know I overheard Minister Picco clarify to the Minister of Health. The audit is not going back to 1999; the motion is that they do a performance audit on the financial management practices of the Department of Health and Social Services.

As far as the comments relating to, I don't know if they'll be able to do it. You know if you look just recently in the last year and a half or two years, the Northwest Territories passed a motion to have the Auditor General do a special audit on the Workers' Compensation Board and that was complied with quite quickly and some very good information was gained from that audit.

So I look forward to that happening with us. Over the years I guess, probably even before division, there have been problems in Health. We have tried our best with our limited resources. I am not knocking the staff or anyone in this, but this is simply I think the best thing for us to do is have an objective outside look at things and give us a different perspective in looking at the whole thing.

If you are looking at it like the minister indicated, we wouldn't want to pass a motion to audit ourselves. That's the whole idea, if you are trying to fix the problem, if you are looking at it from the inside you don't always see it. And that's why I think it's important that we get an outside, objective view and a fresh look at how things are done. Maybe they will be able to give us some good solutions to try and help alleviate the problems that this government has had with the Department of Health over the years.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Question has been called. All those in favour please raise your hand. Opposed raise your hand. Abstentions. Thank you. The results are those in favour: nine. Those opposed: none. Abstentions: seven. The motion is carried.

Thank you. To the motion that was made I will be writing to the Auditor General in regard to the motion. Thank you. Item 16. Motions. Member for Rankin North, Mr. Curley.

**Motion 010 – 2(4): Referral of Tabled Document 049 – 2(4): Discussion Paper for Ikummatiit – An Energy Strategy for Nunavut March 2007 to Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)

WHEREAS the document titled *A Discussion Paper for Ikummatiit: An Energy Strategy for Nunavut* was tabled in this Legislative Assembly on March 21, 2007;

AND WHEREAS the Members of the Legislative Assembly are of the view that this is an important document which requires detailed scrutiny;

AND WHEREAS the Fourth Session of the Second Legislative Assembly of Nunavut will reconvene on March 29, 2007;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Quttiktuq, that Tabled Document 49 – 2(4) be referred to the Committee of the Whole for discussion.

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. If there are comments to the motion. I would like to ask the mover if he has comments.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, very briefly the energy strategy that was tabled, it is in regard to fuel and electricity. These strategies that are tabled ... but there are no cost estimates or just like if I ask a kindergarten class...we have to know...if we're going to have a hydro project, and there should be timelines. We don't get that information. It seems like we have good visions but the motion says that ... if they're going to be tabled documents, are they going to get cheaper, and if we're going to make an investment, how much will it be?

Those are the things because we don't have enough time for ten minutes, so we want the minister to have the answers to the questions we might have. I think he has an energy wizard somewhere in his pocket, and we want him to disclose all of that information. I would like to thank the seconder, and I urge all of the Cabinet Ministers to support this motion.



**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the motion. (interpretation) Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support this motion because a lot of times we don't have all of the information, therefore our constituents don't have all the information. We try and make decisions but once we approve something, we find out later that the smaller communities apparently were paying higher than the bigger communities. So for that reason, we want to have all of the information that we need from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. To the motion. (interpretation) I'm sorry. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the mover and the seconder of the motion and I know that the Energy Strategy has been tabled, and we've actually received quite a few requests from the general public to table, and some people from the media to review it.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, as we know when we tabled the *Ikuma I* and the *Ikuma II*, which was the genesis as it were for the Energy Policy that we have brought forward. We had a full debate in Committee of the Whole I believe it was in Baker Lake when that occurred. Now, it gives us an opportunity to move three years forward and have that same type of debate during our May sitting.

I do want to say one thing to the mover of the motion, and that is over the last couple of days, and this is our last day, the member made some strong remarks ... well, I might have had an operation, Mr. Speaker, but I'm not deaf. I heard those remarks, and I look forward to debate them with him in May.

With that, Mr. Speaker, as the House Leader, again, we will be supporting the motion. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. (interpretation ends) To the motion. (interpretation) Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. The motion is carried.

Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 2, Bill 3, Bill 8, and Bill 9 with Mr. Arreak in the Chair. In accordance with the authority vested in me by Motion 4 – 2(4), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

We will have a break for 20 minutes.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 16:24 and Committee resumed at 16:55*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Arreak): I call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 2, Bill 3, Bill 8, and Bill 9. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to commence the review of the supplementary appropriations starting with Bill 2, followed by Bill 3, after that we will proceed to the clause-by-clause of Bills 8 and 9. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Are we in agreement to deal with Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #3, 2006-07*?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Bill 02 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #3, 2006-07 – Consideration in Committee**

**Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act #3, 2006-07 – Consideration in Committee**

**Chairman:** I would like to ask Minister Simailak, Minister of the Department of Finance, to make his opening remarks. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before members today to speak to the Supplementary Appropriation Bills 2 and 3.

Bill 2 is the *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #3, 2006-07*. This supplementary appropriation will provide funding of \$77,183,000 for the following:

- interdepartmental transfer of surplus capital funds to operations and maintenance within the Department of Justice;
- the Qikiqtani General Hospital; and,
- allocation of the Nunavut Housing Trust Fund.

Bill 3 is the *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #3, 2006-07*. This supplementary appropriation will provide funding of \$21,929,000 for such items as the following:

- interdepartmental transfer of surplus capital funds to operations and maintenance for the law enforcement contract, corrections, and the Legal Services Board;
- agency nurses, medical travel, residential care services, and physician services;

- the Petroleum Products Stabilization Fund; and,
- local housing organizations.

I would be pleased to answer questions from members. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Do you have members you would like to bring to the table? Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Pardon me, minister. I think I said members. I meant witnesses. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, will you assist the witnesses to the witness table.

(interpretation ends) Minister, for the record, introduce your witnesses. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Diane Moebis, and on my left is Peter Ma. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Welcome. (interpretation ends) Before we proceed I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have ten minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

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

Do members have any general comments? As there are no general comments we will now proceed to page-by-page review of the Supplementary Capital Estimates. Starting with page 4 of the *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #3, 2006-07*.

Department of Justice. Subject, Capital. Not Previously Authorized. Correction. -\$1,217,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Total Correction. -\$1,217,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Department. -\$1,217,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Page 5. Health and Social Services. Capital. Directorate. Not Previously Authorized. \$4,000,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Directorate. \$4,000,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Department. \$4,000,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Page 6. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Capital. Not Previously Authorized. \$74,400,000. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): I just want the correct information. Is that referring to the piles, the foundations? That \$74,400,000, is it divided? For example, how much is it going to cost to put the steel piles? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): I believe the Minister for the Housing Corporation can answer that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the foundation development \$4,248,000. There are 236 units for that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Housing Corporation. Not Previously Authorized. \$74,400,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$74,400,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go back to page 2 of Schedule 1. Capital. Total Capital Appropriation. \$77,183,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Members, go to Bill 2 in your legislation binder, that's your white binder. I believe you've got your copies. Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #3, 2006-07*. Clause 1. Definitions. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. Minister Simailak.

**Committee Motion 003 – 2(4): Amendment to Schedule of Bill 2 by Striking Out Vote 1 and by Substituting Vote 2**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the schedule to the bill be amended by striking out vote 1, and by substituting vote 2 on the schedule. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** The motion is on your pink paper. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour, raise your hand please. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Clause 3 in the schedule as amended. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Go to Page 3. Schedule. Vote 2, as amended. Capital. Total Capital. \$77,183,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$77,183,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Return to page 1 of the bill. Page 1. Clause 4. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 5. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Page 2. Clause 7. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to Bill 2 as amended?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 2 can immediately be placed on the Orders of the Day for Third Reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #3, 2006-07*. Turn to page 4. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Law Enforcement. Not previously authorized. Total Law Enforcement. \$381,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Registration Court Services. \$106,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Law Enforcement. Not previously authorized. Total Law Enforcement. \$381,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Registration Court Services. \$106,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total Registration and Court Services. \$106,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Correction. \$730,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total Correction. \$730,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 5. Bill 3. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Legal Services Board. Not previously authorized. \$600,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total. Legal Services Board. \$600,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total. Department. \$1,817,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Page 6. Bill 3. Health and Social Services. Operations and Maintenance. Healthy Children, Families, and Communities. Not previously authorized. \$1,415,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total. Healthy Children, Families, and Communities. \$1,415,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Treatment. \$9,103,000. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, this is way high for \$7,000,000 for medical travel. Can we get a breakdown how much of these are for the increased costs for each region from that \$7,305,000? If we can get a regional breakdown. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Health Minister could answer that question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Simailak. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll commit to providing the breakdown for the medical travel to all the members here with the \$7 million, not only

the \$7 million but also the overall total budget breakdown, including the \$7 million over-expenditure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. (interpretation) Thank you, Minister. For the Minister of Finance I would like to ask him; it states here that the escalation of medical travel and on the same page, \$256,000 is for the implementation of a new remuneration package for physicians.

I wonder if the Minister of Finance can say which doctors that applies to. Is it just for one region, if the minister can inform us? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** The health minister can answer that. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$256,000 is to enhance the current physician contracts that we have. I have spoken in the House that we need to be more competitive across Canada in compensating physicians in Nunavut. This would enhance the current compensation package we provide to our current level of physicians to make it comparable to other jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister, so with that increase will we be in the competitive range or that the increase, is it an annual increase or is it just one time increase. My first question, is their salaries competitive now, and is it a one time or an annual increase. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): I'll ask the health minister to respond.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Minister, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you. The funding is to try and enhance it so that we're more competitive. Right now, physicians in Nunavut are the lowest paid in Canada, so it brings us a bit higher than we have been compared to other jurisdictions. So, our challenge is recruiting and continually looking at that. So, we'll continue to monitor that to see how we are doing, but this incremental funding will address the issue immediately. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister but I do want to ask another question. Now that we understand a bit, now that we are a bit more competitive with other provinces but the physicians or the doctors we have are not provided with staff housing by GN. But do they pay for their rent from their salary, or is their physician's staff housing subsidized? Could the minister respond to that? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Health Minister Health Minister will respond.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Simailak. Health and Social Services Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand the physicians working in the north are part of the same housing pool but I have to confirm that. It may differ by region. As far as I know that is the current arrangement, but I need to get back to them to clarify that. Most of the physicians that we have are on contract, so I need to get back to the member to address his question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. That's what we wanted to hear because we get confused. They lost staff housing. Some contracted physicians are housed in hotels, as there is no staff housing available.

Would the Government of Nunavut pay for the hotels for the Department of Health?  
Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Health Minister can answer that.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contract positions can also own their own homes. I know of cases here, some physicians have homes and live in them. For the current individuals on contract with us on a long-term basis, I believe they're part of the housing pool but I need to confirm that. As for the short-term specialists physicians that come up outside, they stay in the hotel as far as I know. And in some communities there are transient units so they would stay in a transient unit for that short period of time, but I will provide that information to the member because I don't have that before me today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the travel explanation on medical travel \$7,305,000, I've noticed that some mining companies are contracting air and charter services outside of Nunavut, maybe because they are cheapest. When she's requesting proposals from airlines or charter services, has she gone Canada wide, for the purpose of medical travel? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Health Minister please.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Mr. Chairman, when we put out the RFP for Medivac Contracts, that's open to anyone that's interested in providing a service. Because of the high volume or high cost of setting up aviation companies in the north, most companies that are already in the north put in their proposals on that, but it is open to anyone else outside of Nunavut, as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Isn't there one airline in southern Canada that applies for these contracts? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Health Minister, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health, when we do our contracting, we do it through the public process. We advertise through newspapers, and so on, for Charter Medical Services, and Medivac Services. I don't know what airline in southern Canada the member refers to, but just in terms of the process that we do follow, it is a public process through the contracting procedures guideline and any aviation company can submit proposals based on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last question on this, to the same minister, is that escalation in medical travel. How is it that they require an extra \$7 million that was not previously authorized, when they already have a medical travel contract? Are they

billed for each medical emergency and each passenger for airline services? Is that why this is not controllable? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Health Minister please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the last three years the department medical travel budget has increased by 16.3 percent since 2002. Some of that relates to the fact that there are more sick people requiring medivac or medical travel.

Some of it relates to the fact that cost of aviation fuel has gone up which increased our contract and we're looking at that trend a bit more closely in that there is a very close coalition to the increase of aviation fuel, to the increase of medical travel budgets, but it's an escalation of two things; one is that piece. The other piece is related to more sick people requiring transportation out.

Yes, we have contracts in place for medivac, we also have contracts with First Air and Canadian North for transporting people on scheduled aircraft but the volume of people requiring treatment has also increased.

The population growth in Nunavut has increased as well, so it's a combination of factors. Why have we not been able to predict it? It's not easy to predict illness, when people are going to get sick or not, like RSV as an example. In just days, we medivaced 30 people with RSV, and that's very costly. So, there are a number of factors that relate to this piece. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, isn't there any cheaper way, for example, if you have a five-year contract with an airline, or a chartered service, that you cannot simply say okay, whether it's one trip or 100,000 trips, here is the amount of the contract for five years. That would attract maybe cheaper charter service airlines to bid for that. We need to get control of this exorbitant expenditure.

I guess my next question is: have you reviewed the method of medical travel including potential air charter service businesses across Canada in order to get the best deal for your money? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Health Minister, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have negotiated with some of the airlines at trying to reduce the escalating cost of medical travel and medivacs in the north.

As much as we put in the effort to try and get the best deals in the north for medical travel and medivacs, it's difficult to predict the frequency of when that service is required when people get sick. That's the difficult part that's difficult to predict because we don't know on a given day how many people will be sick. So that's the challenging part.

Have we reviewed how companies in southern Canada provide service as compared to the north, I can't say we have. It's most likely much cheaper to provide some air-type transportation to southern Canada as opposed to the north. But at the same time in southern Canada, there are many more hospitals in the south. We have one in Nunavut and that's in Iqaluit.

So the transportation piece for transporting patients is a challenge for us because we do not have the facilities here. And as much as the flying of patients are the same but if southern Canada/northern Canada is comparing apples and oranges when it comes to what we have for charter services or services we provide within the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like a clarification from the Minister of Health, through our Finance Minister. First of all, I think the airlines that we do have certainly try to work hard with the resources that they have, and also the equipment that they have.

But I think it's really up to the government to seek and request exactly what type of equipment they wish to use based on the terms of the proposals, the tender.

I would like to ask the minister exactly, and also clarify perhaps by way of a letter to the committee here, that she indicated all these medivac contracts where they are normally secured through an open tendering process but I think we need to clarify that.

I think it's important to understand exactly for the essential services that you need, I don't believe it's a completely open tender because you can issue an invitational tender for specialized airlines for medivac services for instance. I believe your department probably uses an invitational tender; it's not 100 percent open tender.

The second one, obviously, is the limited request for proposals. Again, that's one method. I'm not 100 percent sure that open tender process is used where you completely open it up for certain companies. So that information is really essential so that we know exactly from which of the northern companies are bids normally provided.

Can the minister undertake to clearly state exactly how the contracts are secured for medivac services considering the point that I raised? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the Health Minister please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. And I think that I committed to providing that last week in committee of the whole area around that very issue and I will provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Turn back to page 6. Treatment. \$9,103,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Treatment. \$9,103,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total Department. \$10,518,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page 7. Community and Government Services. Operations and Maintenance. Directorate. Not previously Authorized. \$2,900,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Directorate. \$2,900,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total Department. \$2,900,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$6,694,000. Not previously authorized is that for the production of some of the units that will be built. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To Mr. Akesuk, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Minister responsible for Housing, Mr. Akesuk

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's for day to day operations for \$5,037,000 in salaries, its \$1.6 million. So it's for day to day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then why wasn't this able to be predicted in the main estimates. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To Mr. Akesuk, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Minister responsible for Housing, Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we've been working very closely since last year, a couple years ago, to make sure that there's adequate funding for local housing organizations in the communities throughout Nunavut and we figured that they would need this much money. And this year we figured out that it's \$6,694,000 that would help them out to be in a better situation of not running into any deficit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Page 8. Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$6,694,000. Not previously authorized. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$6,694,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$6,694,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go back to page 2. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance Appropriations. \$21,929,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Members, go to Bill 3 in your white legislation binder. Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #3, 2006-07*. Clause 1.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Clause 2.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 3.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Go to Page 2 of this schedule. Page 2. Schedule. Vote 1. Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$21,929,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Supplementary Appropriation. \$21,929,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Return to page 1 of the bill. Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 5.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 6.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 7.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree to Bill 3 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do members agree that pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 3 can be immediately be added to the Orders of the Day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Members. (interpretation) We still have Bill 8. (interpretation ends) Bill 8, "*An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*" Reprint. I would now like to ask the Law Clerk to join us at the table. Law Clerk.

### **Bill 08 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Consideration in Committee**

I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for Finance to make his opening remarks. Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before members to speak to Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, specifically a tax credit for single parents.

This is a commitment I made during the December 2006 Session of the Legislative Assembly to the members. The Bill is designed to provide single parents some much needed tax relief. It does this by introducing a new tax credit for single parents that will see the amount of taxes paid by them decreased by as much as \$255.12. The effective date would be January 1 of this year.

All Nunavummiut who will file the 2007 Income Tax Return will be eligible for a cost of living benefit of up to \$1,200. However, during the Department of Finance's appearance in front of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability, committee members suggested that single parent families have more difficulty making ends meet than many two parent families.

As a result the government has agreed to introduce an additional tax credit, one that will be available only to single parents. Single parents will be able to claim this tax credit if they make more than \$60,000 in net income. The credit will be calculated at two percent of their net income over \$60,000 to a maximum tax credit of \$255.12.

Single parents who earn more than \$72,756 will also receive the maximum tax credit, which when combined with the previously announced cost of living credit of \$1,200 equals \$1,455.12.

We would be pleased to answer any questions from the members.

**Chairman:** Thank you Minister. Do you want to change your witnesses? Or do you want to keep the ones you have there now? Minister Simailak.



**Hon. David Simailak:** Yes. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you Minister. Thank you Minister. Please for the record introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. On my right is Peter Tumilty and on my left is Peter Ma. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Does the Co-chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations have comments? Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have some comments. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability have had the opportunity to scrutinize Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*. And I'm pleased to be able to make some brief opening comments today on the initiative.

Mr. Chairman, members enjoyed a productive dialogue with the minister and his officials during his appearance before the standing committee. When the standing committee scrutinized the increase on Payroll Tax that was introduced during our last session, members were mindful of a number of issues.

Statistics produced by the Canada Revenue Agency, which are publicly available on its website, reveal an informative picture of our Territory and its tax filers. For the 2004 tax year, approximately 32 percent of Nunavut tax filers reported an annual income of \$10,000 or less.

Approximately 35 percent of Nunavut tax filers reported an annual income of \$60,000 or less. Approximately 20 percent of tax filers reported an annual income of more than \$70,000. Just over 1,000 tax filers or seven percent reported an annual income of \$100,000 or more.

Mr. Chairman, committee members recognize those in the higher two income categories can afford to make a greater contribution. However the committee was concerned that the lower income Nunavummiut, especially single parent households, be protected from the increase in the Payroll Tax.

The standing committee was pleased to receive a commitment from the minister that he would introduce further legislative measures during the sitting of this assembly to address this issue. Bill 8 accomplishes this shared goal.

Mr. Chairman, on a related note, the standing committee is pleased that the Minister is committed to moving forward with measures to ensure that the payroll tax system is reviewed with the objective of ensuring that it captures revenue from contractors and consultants, especially those who do not live in Nunavut, but may earn significant incomes from contract work with the Government of Nunavut.

That concludes my opening comments Mr. Chairman. The standing committee supports the bill and recommends its passage to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Are there any general comments? There being none. I'll go through clause-by-clause of the bill.

Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*. Reprint. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the committee agree to Bill 8 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do members agree pursuant to Rule 62(2) that Bill 8 can immediately be put on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you, very much. (interpretation) Bill 8 is concluded. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Minister Simailak. Thank you, Mr. Ma. Thank you, Mr. Tumilty. (interpretation) If you have any closing remarks, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my staff for being here with me, and also to the ministers that answered all of those questions. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Members. I would now like to ask Mr. Speaker to make his opening remarks on Bill 9. Mr. Speaker.

### **Bill 09 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act – Consideration in Committee**

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies for the late entry. I was watching you on TV and I thought you were going out for a break. My apologies, Mr. Chairman.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to appear today before the Committee of the Whole to introduce Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*.

As members will recall, the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the 2004 Territorial General Election was tabled in this House on February 22, 2005, and considered in detail by members during the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole.

Subsequent to its consideration of the report, the Committee of the Whole adopted a motion on April 27, 2005, recommending that the Management and Services Board, in cooperation with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, develop amendments to the *Nunavut Elections Act* for consideration by the Legislative Assembly. In December of 2005, the Legislative Assembly passed Bill 10, which implemented a number of recommendations for improvements to this Act.

The bill before you today proposes measures to further strengthen, clarify, and simplify a number of provisions in the Act related to the integrity and accessibility of our electoral process. I would like to take a few moments to highlight the key elements of the bill.

The term “charitable organization” will be clearly defined to allow more non-profit bodies to receive candidates’ surplus contributions. For example, any one of the 30 Nunavut organizations that the Canada Revenue Agency recognizes as a registered charity will be eligible to benefit from this provision, in addition to municipal corporations and registered societies in good standing.

A declaration process is replacing the nomination process. The existing requirement to have 15 nominators and witnesses is being removed.

This will avoid the potential for technical errors in the process of becoming a candidate, and simplify the process for Nunavummiut wishing to stand for election. It will allow potential candidates to focus on identifying financial agents and campaign managers.

The period of disqualification for a candidate whose financial return is not properly filed is being limited to five years. Financial agents will also be subject to this disqualification. This provision strikes an appropriate balance between the need to encourage compliance with the law and the importance of providing a reasonable sanction that will stand constitutional scrutiny.

Elections Nunavut will appoint an auditor with the expertise to review all candidates’ financial returns to ensure that they are reviewed fairly and consistently. Many jurisdictions currently require candidates to appoint and pay for their own auditors, but Elections Nunavut will be responsible for this function.

Elections officials will be provided with an expanded range of tools with which to provide greater protections for voters from disturbance at a voting place.

A provision is being added to make it clear that election contribution shall only be used to pay for election expenses. This will safeguard against the misuse of funds.

Because of the remoteness of many communities and the recent enactment of the *Electronic Commerce Act*, election officials are adding provisions to more fully provide for digital signatures and the electronic filing of documents. This will improve the efficiency of the process.

The bill also includes a number of housekeeping amendments. That concludes my opening comments. I look forward to responding to any questions or comments that members may have on Bill 9. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table? Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, please introduce your witnesses for the record.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That red light in front of me is intimidating. On my right is Sandy Kusugak, very well known by the members around here; she's the Chief Electoral Officer. And, on my left is Jack Orr, who is our Legal Counsel.

**Chairman:** Mr. Speaker, for the record, could you say his name again, please. Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's been a long month. My apologies. Patrick Orr. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome to the Chamber. Are there any general comments on Bill 9? There being none. Clause by Clause starting on page 1. Bill 9 in your white legislation binder. Bill 9, *An Act to amend the Nunavut Elections Act*. Clause 1. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. Well, when this was going to be considered we went home before it was finished but in the *Nunavut Elections Act* there were some people saying something about having a set date and some who were opposed to it. Can we get a clarification on that before we go clause by clause? That was my question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Sandy Kusugak respond to your question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ms. Kusugak.

**Ms. Kusugak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were asked to look into it further at the second to last management and services board meeting. As these amendments were already in preparation our plan was to refer the information back to the management and services board at the completion of these amendments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the officials. I'm sure that they've been working quite hard over the past number of years to clean up the *Nunavut Elections Act*. I appreciate that. And Sandy Kusugak and Patrick Orr are here and they worked extremely hard to draft the act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Clause 1 of Bill 9. *An Act to Amend a Nunavut Elections Act*. Clause 1. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 2. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 3. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 4. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 5. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 6. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 7. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 8. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 9. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 10. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 11. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Clause 12. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 13. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 14. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 15. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 16. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 17. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 18. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 19. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 20. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 21. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 22. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 23. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 24. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 25. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 26. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 27. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 28. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 29. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 30. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 31. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 32. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 33. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 34. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 35. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 36. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Clause 37. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. There is also Page 10 and 11. Schedules. Do you agree to that?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do committee members agree to Bill 9 as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Are you agreed that pursuant to Rule 62(2), Bill 9 can be immediately placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you, committee members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sandy Kusugak, and Patrick Orr and thank you, Sue Cooper.

Thank you, Members. We have finished the business that is in front of us. I will now rise to report progress and please rise for the entrance of the Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Back to Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Arreak.



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

**Mr. Arreak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bills 2, 3, 8 and 9 and would like to report that Bills 2, 3, 8, and 9 are immediately ready for third reading and that one Committee Motion was adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to.

**Speaker:** Members (interpretation): We have to fix something here. (interpretation ends) Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make corrections on ... I'll start from the beginning again. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bills 2, 3, 8, and 9, and would like to report that Bills 3, 8, and 9 are immediately ready for third reading, and that Bill 2 is immediately ready for third reading as amended, and that one committee motion was adopted. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. (interpretation ends) It has been a long day. Is there a seconder? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Simailak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you. Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to Item 8. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. The member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 8. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Minister Netser.

**Revert to Item 8: Returns to Written Questions\*****Return to Written Question 001 – 2(4): Enforcement and Implementation of the Wildlife Act**

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I also thank my colleagues. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question 01 – 2(4) asked by the Member for Rankin Inlet North on March, 14, 2007 concerning the enforcement and implementation of the *Wildlife Act*.

Mr. Speaker, the return is quite detailed. I have filed it with the Clerk for transcribing into *Hansard*, for the public record, and for distribution to all members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

\*See Appendix for full text of Return to Written Question 1 – 2(4).

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

### **Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2007-08 – Third Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2007-08*, be read for the third time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 1 has had third reading.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

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

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 2 has had third reading.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

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

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 3 has had third reading.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

#### **Bill 08 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South/Whale Cove, that Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, be read for the third time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. I'm sorry. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 8 has had third reading.

Third Reading of Bills. Minister for Education, Minister Picco.

**Bill 09 – An Act to Amend Nunavut Elections Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act* be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in Order. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 9 has had its third reading.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Clerk, can you see if the Commissioner is ready to give us Assent to Bills? Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

**Assent to Bills**

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2007-08 – Assent**

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

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

**Bill 08 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Assent**

**Bill 09 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act – Assent**

**Commissioner:** As Commissioner of Nunavut I hereby assent to the following bills:

Bill 1, *Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2007-08*

Bill 2, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #3, 2006-07*

Bill 3, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #3, 2006-07*

Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*

Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act*

Those are the bills. You have been here for a while and I know you are tired physically and mentally. I hope you make it home fine but we're supposed to get a blizzard tomorrow. Have a good flight and have a safe return to your families. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for May 29:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Tabled Document 49 – 2(4)
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. Members, while we are on extended adjournment I wish you a safe trip and thank you for working hard during this session. On behalf of you I would like to thank all the Iqalumiut for their hospitality and our staff for having worked very hard.

>>*Applause*

Members, I would like to invite you to the Nanuq Boardroom so we can meet with the staff in the Tuktu Boardroom.

At this time our House stands adjourned until Tuesday, May 29, starting at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:19*

# **Appendix – March 29, 2007**

**Return to Written Question 001 – 2(4): Enforcement and Implementation of the Wildlife Act**

**Asked by:** Tagak Curley, MLA (Rankin Inlet North)

**Asked of:** Hon. Patterk Netser, Minister of Environment

**Date:** March 14, 2007

**Question:**

1. How many charges have been laid under the *Wildlife Act* since it came into force on July 9, 2005?

**Response:**

Two (2).

**Question:**

2. What were the circumstances involved in the laying of each charge?

**Response:**

Charge #1 – A non-resident sport hunter who was licensed to hunt only muskoxen illegally hunted a caribou.

Charge #2 – A resident hunter was charged with unlawfully harvesting a family group (female accompanied by dependant cubs) of polar bears.

**Question:**

3. Section 241 of the *Wildlife Act* provides that alternative measures may be used to deal with a person alleged to have committed an offence instead of judicial proceedings. On how many occasions have the provisions of this section been used?

**Response:**

None.

**Question:**

4. Section 160 of the *Wildlife Act* provides that the minister must appoint an Advisory Committee of elders to review current, traditional and historical types, methods and technologies of harvesting wildlife in the context of the guiding

principles and concepts of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and to advise the minister on those it considers humane and safe. At present, who are the members of the Advisory Committee?

**Response:**

The regulations necessary for the full implementation of the *Wildlife Act* are presently before the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) for review.

This process, providing for a full review of the draft regulations by NWMB, RWOs, and HTOs, has slowed down full implementation of the *Wildlife Act* provisions.

I am working with my colleague Minister Tapardjuk to utilize the existing *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit* (IQK) for wildlife purposes.

IQK was formed to provide the Government of Nunavut with advice on Inuit cultural issues. Utilizing this already operational and experienced committee allows us to avoid duplication and bring additional efficiencies to our operations.