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**Tuesday, May 29, 2007**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**

(Pangnirtung)

*Chair, Management and Services Board*

**Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

*Striking Committee*

**Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

*Striking Committee*

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(Nattilik)

*Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister responsible for Status of Women Council*

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**

(South Baffin)

*Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Joe Allen Evyagotailak**

(Kugluktuk)

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(Iqaluit East)

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**Peter Kattuk**

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**Levi Barnabas**

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**Hon. Levinia Brown**

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services*

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Innirvik Support Services

**Box 1200**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0**

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

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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Tuesday, May 29, 2007**

**Members Present:**

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

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Good afternoon, Members. I wish to advise you that both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are unable to be present in the House today due to inability to get to Iqaluit due to weather.

In accordance to section 44, sub-section 2 of our Act, where both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are not available to be in the House to sit as Speaker, the Assembly shall elect a member to take the chair as Speaker for the day.

Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask that this House recommend that Mr. Kattuk assume the chair for today's sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Clerk:** Thank you for the promotion. Member for Hudson Bay, do you accept?

**Mr. Kattuk:** Yes, I accept. Thank you.

**Clerk:** Mr. Kattuk.

>>*Applause*

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Hon. Peter Kattuk)(interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Alagalak to say the prayer for us.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Today the Legislative Assembly convenes again. I would like to welcome everyone. I'm very proud to be the Speaker for the day.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation ends) Before we proceed with our Orders of the Day, I will read the following letter from the Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the Fourth Session of the Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #1, 2007-08*;
- Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #1, 2007-08*

(interpretation) Signed by Helen Maksagak, the Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. There being none. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Curley.

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

#### **Member's Statement 117 – 2(4): Recognition of Mary Cousins**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I rise today just a little while ago there was an announcement for the people of Nunavut, especially for the High Arctic region, that our relative has recently passed away, Mary Cousins. She is known by a lot of people in Nunavut. Even before her last name was Panigusiq, that travelled around the C. D. Howe doing medical work on the C. D. Howe.

I rise today to tell the people of Nunavut at that time when it was the Northwest Territories she helped us and supported us. She was the leader, she was a teacher, and a mother. Her parents and her brothers are still with us today assisting the people of Nunavut. You know their father, who used to work for the RCMP, his name is Qajaaq, who is from Pond Inlet, and my colleague knows Qajaaq.

The reason why I stand today to let people know is at the beginning and some people don't know what she has done. She helped me a lot when we first started as an Inuit organization. Are we going to be living in a Qallunaat style or Inuit style? So I consulted with Mary Cousins, I especially knew her brother Moses Qajaaq.

So for that reason Mary Cousins was very welcoming to me and respected me since we started our committee years ago and she was totally involved when we were trying to get ITC going.

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

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we did was we involved Mary Cousins at the beginning of our committee to form ITC. She was also from the Baffin region. She grew up using the Inuit ways. She worked for Indian Affairs in Ottawa in the late 1950s and 60s and was an interpreter with the C. D. Howe. She was seen by a



lot of people in Nunatsiaq at that time, and also in Nunavik. She became a teacher shortly thereafter.

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, Mary Cousins, when I was very young, started out with me and encouraged me to be vocal in forming ITK.

We can't all be leaders, especially when there is an election that we have to follow. At that time, a long time ago, there was a leader that was chosen and he stayed a leader. But today with the elections that we have to follow, we don't always have the same leader, and Mary Cousins helped me in 1971.

We would like to recognize Mary Cousins' mother who is mother who is still alive today because she has helped, encouraged, and welcomed everybody. Mary Cousins welcomed everybody and encouraged everybody to be the leaders in Inuit organizations. I talked to her while I was in Edmonton everyday, and I can say that she has encouraged and taught us for many years. Her children, her daughters, and her son, I would like to say to them that they should be proud of their mother.

She also taught here in Iqaluit. And, before the Inuit Women's organization started, such as Pauktuutit, she talked about having to be leaders.

We would also like to thank Mary Cousins for helping all the people of Nunavut, as well other places and we should be very proud of her. She worked for the government and on the medical ship, and they were afraid, but whenever they saw her on the ship, they were not as scared.

I would like to remember Mary Cousins' assistance when she was alive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

#### **Member's Statement 118 – 2(4): Dog Team Race**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the people that raced in the dog team races. I would like to congratulate the winner, who is a woman, who was the only woman racing, and she is a very young woman at that, Denise Malaki, who is known by some people here, because last year she was acting as a page here in the Legislative Assembly.

She was the very first one in the dog team races, and I would like to represent the Members of the Legislative Assembly to congratulate her on her winning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. I would also like to congratulate Ms. Malaki. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Member's Statement 119 – 2(4): Lack of Docking Facilities in the Communities**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say that I thank the other members that stood before me. I talked about those people that went out racing and I would like to tell my fellow members to act like a woman when you're racing with a dog team.

I talked about the lack of docking facilities in the communities, and they talked about this subject during the Senate Committee. I would like to thank those people that had the meeting on those facilities.

We have to realize that we have no highways in Nunavut and we do not have any other transportation except through ships and airlines. We just do not want docking facilities for the purpose of fishing but also for safety and emergency purposes. Also, goods such as foods that we eat spoil very easily while en route to our communities, such as the Inuit foods like *Mattaaq* and other perishable goods. The federal government should know that these foods are for our survival.

In southern Canada, for example, there are about 80 to 90 percent of the communities that have docking facilities but if you look here in Nunavut communities there are not that many. The federal government should be ashamed of themselves because we also vote for them. It is just like we are way behind the rest of the people in Canada. As far as I am concerned, it should not be like that. We have to have the same kind of convenience as the rest of the Canada. I will be asking about that question during Question Period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Member's Statement 120 – 2(4): RCMP Summer Student**

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Pamela Bolt. Pamela is a young woman from Kugluktuk who recently completed a three-week RCMP Aboriginal Youth Training Program in Regina.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this program will give Pamela the opportunity to work with the RCMP this summer. Her training taught her how to defend in possible situations and, if need be, how to apply handcuffs. We need to do more for our youth in Nunavut. Programs such as this one offer our youth an opportunity to work at careers in policing.

Mr. Speaker, this will be the biggest challenge for Pamela. Fortunately, Pamela has received a lot of support from her family and friends, which is exactly what our youth need.

Please join me in supporting Pamela. She has made a great choice in her summer job this year and I wish her the best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 121 – 2(4): Thank Arviat Spring Volunteers**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say hello to everyone and it is nice to see you again. It seems like everybody knows everybody else. Just by looking at you, some of you have not gone out hunting. Some of us who have gone out hunting look like we are sort of macho.

I rise today in regard to Arviat. Every spring there are a lot of people that do volunteer work from going out on the land, and taking the school children to go out hunting.

Mr. Suwaksiork has always assisted by doing volunteer work and to do all kinds of activities in the communities. I would like to thank him for doing volunteer work for the people of Arviat. I know that 99 percent of us don't always win competitions or some activities.

Our Mayor Mr. Mamgark has also assisted us greatly during the fishing derby. He was able to allow young people and kids to be involved in those outdoor activities for families and to teach them to be out on the land. I would like to rise today and thank them for doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Orders of the Day. Members' Statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

#### **Member's Statement 122 – 2(4): Nunavut Sivuniksavut Graduates**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [It's good that we're all back together again. Today I would like to talk about the graduates from Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak and congratulate them. I would like to recognize the two graduates in the Ottawa Sivuniksavut Program. One from Taloyoak - Megan Pizzo Lyall and one from Gjoa Haven, Angela Nuliayuk for finishing the one-year course.

I offer my congratulations, and also to students from Gjoa Haven that graduated. There are 25 students in April 27 that were recognized for their success and I was able to be in Gjoa Haven at that time. I will not say their names because there are just too many of them. They are adults who went back to school so I offer my congratulations to them all.

As well last Saturday I was able to travel with Minister of Education Ed. Picco to Gjoa Haven to recognize four students who graduated from high school. I will say their names but first of all in my family, my mother's first grandson is Corey Aglukkaq and we are very proud of him. Graduating with him are Amos Kamookak, Joyce Kogvik, Nicolas Okpik.

I would like to thank the Minister of Education Ed. Picco for being able to travel from Ottawa to Gjoa Haven and back here by 11 p.m. that night. I congratulate all 35 graduates from Nattilik. I hope they all can continue to further their education and for the rest of the students I wish to say that they should stay in school and try and finish their education.

I would like to thank the people of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven for recognizing the students who graduated. Thank you.]

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. Orders of the Day. Members' Statements. Mr. Peterson.

#### **Member's Statement 123 – 2(4): Heart of Canada's Arctic**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to inform the House about an important initiative that the Cambridge Bay Hamlet Council and Community Economic Development have undertaken.

Mr. Speaker, my community has a world-wide reputation for being one of the friendliest and caring places on Earth to visit. Visitors from near and far are always made to feel welcome and at home when in our community.

The hamlet council and Community Economic Development have decided to take Cambridge Bay's reputation and market it. They have developed the slogan, "Heart of Canada's Arctic." Cambridge Bay is located in the Central Arctic and is strongly committed to wellness initiatives, and indeed, is working very hard on becoming the Centre of Excellence for Wellness in the Arctic; hence, the emphasis on 'Heart.'

The community believes that this slogan will capture the essence of what Cambridge Bay is all about. The hamlet council is trademarking the slogan and will use it on promotional materials and for information purposes.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that our communities undertake initiatives to promote knowledge and awareness of what our communities have to offer visitors. They cannot rely 100 percent on other organizations and agencies to do the job for them.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to join me in congratulating the Cambridge Bay Hamlet Council and Community Economic Development on their initiative and wish

them continued success in promoting Cambridge Bay around the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Orders of the Day. Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

**Member's Statement 124 – 2(4): New Skateboard Park**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and welcome. I would like to update the House on an excellent initiative by the City of Iqaluit for our young people.

Last week, the new and improved skate board park located at the curling rink officially opened. The park consists of new ramps and pipes. As well, the skate park is fully supervised and monitored by on-site town recreation staff.

Mr. Speaker, as parents and elected officials, we regularly hear that there are too few programs during spring and summer for our children. The skate park helps fill this void here in Iqaluit and locally.

I expect that more coverage of this program - the summer T-ball program, the activities at our swimming pool, and other activities - will be available from the city recreation office, and in the local media, like the award-winning *News/North*, and the recent national award-winning *Nunatsiaq News* and its Sixth Estate Editor Mr. Bell, very soon and in the coming weeks.

Mr. Speaker, the work by Mike Courtney and his recreation team, as well as the foresight of Mayor Sheutiapik and the council, should be commended for developing this program for our community. I would like to take the opportunity to thank our City Council in Iqaluit for being proactive on behalf and for our children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Ms. Brown.

**Member's Statement 125 – 4(2): Condolences to Family Members**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I took part in the fishing derby in Rankin Inlet but I didn't get a suntan, even though I took part. I don't think I got a tan from the fishing derby.

Just to update the members, we lost a family member in Rankin Inlet. Although we lost a family member, we are told that we are all to die, but my family members are going through a healing process. My colleague and I went to visit the family who lost their family member, and the mother who lost a child is my first cousin.

Robert Naukatsik, who passed away, has worked with the GNWT for many years and he worked for the Government of Nunavut. For that reason, I would like to update this to you, the family members are going through a healing process, and I will be seeing them after the session here is over.

I would like to send my condolences and my love to all my family members. I will be seeing you after the session is over. I also send my greetings to Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet residence in the South and North of Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 126 – 2(4): Cape Dorset Community Updates**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Premier for being able to visit Cape Dorset to open the Seewald Park.

We played hockey outside when the weather was really nice, and we also traveled with RCMP officials in Cape Dorset and we played at the outside skating rink. They opened the ice skating rink, and we played hockey with the RCMP, along with the bantam young hockey group; they played against the RCMP of Nunavut. They won and beat the RCMP and the Premier.

I would like to extend my gratitude and congratulations to Cape Dorset, and thank them for their hospitality when we opened the facility.

Perhaps the next time the Premier visits Cape Dorset, he'll score the next time but they wouldn't let him score in the last visit. Thank you.

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

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to welcome back to the Gallery today a very distinguished visitor, Mr. Robert Stanbury, QC, or Queen's Counsel. Mr. Stanbury, as many members know, served in Prime Minister Trudeau's cabinet in the early 70s and played an instrumental role in getting funding for the beginning of the process that we have right now for the Government of Nunavut. So I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Stanbury to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery, Mr. Stanbury. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Item 6: Oral Questions****Question 160 – 2(4): Kugaaruk Sewage Lagoon**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Community and Government Services Minister Ms. Brown.

Mr. Speaker, the Hamlet of Kugaaruk asked about the Repulse Bay Sewage Lagoon. I went to visit the community recently. I came to Iqaluit from that community and they asked the same question while I was in the community. The sewage lagoon is overflowing and seeping because it's too small. They were told for I don't know how many years that they would be eligible for the new sewage lagoon.

I would like to ask the minister if they're aware of the sewage lagoon overflowing in Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister of Department of Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking me the question. Everything was reviewed and all the sewage lagoons are overflowing and getting too small. They were going to look into Kugaaruk's sewage lagoon. Due to the melting of the snow I think that there's an overflow. I will ask my officials to look into that right away.

Although, I know that there are quite a few sewage lagoons that need to be updated or moved; I will look into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The community of Kuugaruk is quite concerned about this because the river is fish; arctic char, and that's where they go fishing. The sewage lagoon is very close to the ocean, and that sewage lagoon is now seeping on to the ocean.

So I was wondering if the minister can deal with this as an urgent case during this summer to get a new sewage lagoon in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague's statement is very important and there was a study done in 2002 during the summer. The consultant had gone over there to review the area. Back in August 2004 they went to look

into that to see what they could do. And also, Dillon Consulting in the summer of 2005 did a study on that in August.

We're now just waiting; according to what I have heard that the Nunavut Water Board is supposed to provide a license, so that's what we're waiting for. Once we obtain the water license in the summer of 2007 and 2008, they will start working on that. We are concerned along with the people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. (interpretation ends) Your second supplementary, Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister for her response. Can the minister inform this House as to how long we're going to have to wait for the water board decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know but we do know that it's very important and it is going to have an impact on the environment. Should there be an overflow, the Nunavut Water Board will have to be informed and they will have to know that it has to be dealt with as soon as possible. We will inform you as to how it's going. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 161 – 2(4): Qulliq Energy Corporation Billing Practices**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Energy.

Mr. Speaker, when you buy a kilogram of apples or vegetables from the Northern Store you expect to be charged for a kilogram of apples and not just an estimate. You expect to pay no more and no less than it should be. It should be the same for the electricity that we consume. You should be charged for what you actually use.

In recent weeks I have received a number of concerns, numerous concerns, from my constituents in Rankin Inlet. They have told me that their power bills are clearly inaccurate and that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has been averaging their bills using estimates instead of actually reading their meters because there is a dog obstructing the pathway or there's too much snow.

Can the minister explain to the House how he will address this problem? Thank you.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Energy, Honourable Ed. Picco.



**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for that question and I would like to thank the member for forwarding to me several emails concerning the constituent issues in Rankin Inlet.

I believe we've been able to address some of the concerns in that fashion. Mr. Speaker, the meter reading is carried out on a regular basis by our staff, whether in Rankin Inlet or any other community in Nunavut.

In some cases, Mr. Speaker, and the member just mentioned one, where there may be, in this case, a dog or an animal that has caused some concern for the metre reader, we want to ensure that the metre reader, like any other employee or public employee, does their job safely.

In this case, if there's an animal in place, then the meter reader cannot get to the meter, then they do an estimate. However, Mr. Speaker, there is a regular day and time when the meter reading occurs, and in the majority of time, Mr. Speaker, the meter readings are carried out as per orders of regulations with the department and with the Power Corporation.

However, in a time like if there's an animal in place, Mr. Speaker, or sometimes because of inclement weather, then the meter may not be read on that date. However, the following month the meter would be read and then that average would be taken for the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The response was short and simple as usual. I think the problem that we are facing, not only Rankin Inlet, is really overwhelming crisis that the billing system of NPC has created for the consumers.

In one community there were so many that it is incredible. The average bill that I estimated from people calling me was about over 1,000 per house. In many cases, these are either probably not as a result of over-billing but the billing system is in crisis. It's a mess. That is one community.

Mr. Speaker, my following question is that last year the QEC commissioned an internal review of its operation, and they recognized that there are billing problems. The report concluded, and I quote, "The review indicates that number of stakeholders raised a concern with timeliness and accuracy of billings. QEC management believed that a new billing system, now in place, will correct past problems. The report recommends that the billing system be reviewed regularly to ensure that it is operating effectively."

Mr. Speaker, it is not operating effectively. Can the minister explain to the House today how the corporation is actually implementing this new billing system? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Energy, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct that the Power Corporation did do a review of billing issues. The billing issues comprise of two issues. One is the actual receipt of payment of an account and the one is, of course, the actual reading of the meter, which manufactures that account.

I would not suggest in any way that the member has that there is some kind of crisis in place. As the member knows, and all the members know, the Power Corporation is subject to annual audits, and at that time their accounts receivables, which in the majority, are meter reads, are checked and added for accuracy. And, indeed, the accuracy of the accounts is very, very high; I do not have the actual percentage, but I do know it is well over 95 percent.

Mr. Speaker, there were some concerns raised with billing. The Power Corporation moved very quickly to fix those problems. In some cases, Mr. Speaker, they have been made known, and in most cases, these are corporate clients not private individual clients, the billings on those peoples' bills and on those companies' bills have been fixed, and the companies involved have been credited in that case where they have been overcharged.

In some cases, as the member pointed out, there might have been under-billing. In those cases, those problems have also been rectified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Your second supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the minister is certainly aware that there were billing problems with the system that the NPC had. Whether they are corrected or not, I believe it is subject to dispute, and I believe it is in that category.

Therefore, I think it is urgent that the second largest community with the largest accounts in private sector and private homeowners in that community is presenting a complaint that the customer service is not what it should be. A number of staff have been moved out to Baker Lake where they are handling all the billing systems up in that place, but a place like Rankin Inlet needs a customer service agent.

Mr. Speaker, I'm aware that section 12 of the Qulliq Energy Corporation Approved Terms and Conditions of Service document states that "In the case of metered service, the invoice for services provided to the customer shall be based on actual meter reading."

This section allows customers to dispute their bills and have Qulliq Energy Corporation do an actual meter reading. However, many of my unilingual constituents are not comfortable wading their way through thick manuals and preparing formal letters. Can the minister commit to ensuring that if a customer in Rankin Inlet calls the Qulliq Energy Corporation or walks into their office, someone will immediately help them to resolve their billing concerns? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for Energy, Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, I appreciate the member raising the issue in his home community, and as the member, I'm sure, would concur that as soon as I received the email I responded back to him that we would follow it up immediately, which we have done.

In cases where there have been mistakes on their bills, then they are being fixed by the Power Corporation. And on behalf of the Power Corporation, if there has been a problem, we apologize for that.

However, as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, I think we send out over 16,000 invoices or bills a month, and sometimes you're going to have some issues when you have that number. I also heard various concerns, for example, from Minister Aglukkaq with one of her communities, and so we are following up those concerns.

At the same time there's a 1-800 number available and we do provide unilingual service where acceptable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Your final supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary is this: Mr. Speaker, the consumers, the private homeowners, do not mind paying for actual metre-read bills, but in many cases the homeowners do not appreciate lending money to Qulliq Energy Corporation and actually having to pay as well the rider that is attached to the bill, as well as the subsidy is based on altered estimates.

So in a sense this subsidy is being used to pay for kilowatt hours that are not being consumed by the homeowner. Therefore, it's not a simple manner of correcting an over-billing; you actually have to go through whether or not the subsidy has been applied correctly. So will the minister indicate to the House and to the Nunavummiut that the corporation will not be allowed to over-bill any longer? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister responsible for Energy, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's make it perfectly clear that the member has raised several points and I have acknowledged his points. The member has flamboyantly said that there's a crisis and so on and so forth but that is not the case.

Again, the member has, in his last supplemental question, is bringing two things together that are incorrect. Let me, for the record, so that people in Nunavut who are listening will be sure of what is being said, and that is, very carefully and quickly, that the amount of money on the bill for the rider has been approved by the URRRC, which is the Utility Rates Review Council.

If the Power Corporation takes in more money than it's allowed to do, the Power Corporation has to undergo an audit and they have to pay back to the constituents, to the member's constituents, to the Members of the House, to all Nunavummiut who pay a power bill, they have to rebate back any monies that they have received. So there is no borrowing or lending of money to the corporation.

On the billing issue itself, I agree that there have been some issues in some communities, and from time to time this does occur, and we're moving very quickly to ascertain what those amounts are.

The member, if he has an individual case that he's aware of, if he would give me the names of those individuals, which I've asked him for, then I would be able to follow up exactly that account and make the proper adjustments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Picco. Orders of the Day. Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Question 162 – 2(4): Status of Small Craft Harbours for Nunavut**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Earlier this month the minister appeared before the Standing Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans. I was pleased to note that in his presentation to the senators, the minister stated, and I quote; "...studies and proposals have been prepared for both small craft harbours and the deep water port facility. We continue to see no action on this issue while millions are spent in other jurisdictions to maintain and upgrade their harbours."

Can the minister indicate to the House today what kind of support he received from the Senate Committee and our call for federal investment in small craft harbours? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation. Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I met with the Senate Committee on Fisheries and Oceans. We talked about this subject with regard to Nunavut, and they stated to me that they would be in support of getting the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to provide some funding for seven communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the answer. With that Senate support, can the minister outline for the House his department's strategy for getting federal action on the issues of a deep water port for Nunavut and small craft harbours? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans knows the problems that we have here in Nunavut for small craft harbours and deep water port facilities.

In March 2004 there was a committee struck dealing with Fisheries and Oceans to work together with the Government of Nunavut and our department to try to get some funding for those facilities for the communities of Nunavut.

This has been brought to the attention of the federal government in Ottawa already. So what we are trying to do is we are still waiting for those monies for those facilities to be built here in Nunavut, and the Senate Committee has also asked the federal government as well in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that answer, can the minister update me today on the status of the Pond Inlet proposed new breakwater and dock? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They have identified as a priority the seven communities in Nunavut, and Pond Inlet is also one of the seven communities that are on the priority list. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

### **Question 163 – 2(4): Addressing Health and Social Services Complaints**

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

Mr. Speaker, over two months ago, on March 22, I looked to the minister seeking assistance on behalf of a constituent of mine who travelled with her son to Ottawa for a medical appointment. The appointment was cancelled and rescheduled for two weeks later. My constituent was not permitted to return home for these two weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I was very surprised to hear on the news sometime later that my constituent's concerns on this matter still have not been addressed. The department's

spokesperson now says that my constituent can submit a formal complaint to the department.

Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of the Members of this House who are often called upon to provide assistance to their constituents for the listening public and for the public record, can the Minister of Health and Social Services provide a clear and complete description of how and where to submit a complaint or a concern to the Department of Health and Social Services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To address that issue, we have been trying to deal with ways of coming up with more centralized responses to various concerns and the collection of data of various concerns across the territory.

The member is correct that when there are issues of this nature we all receive constituency concerns. To try and deal with some of that, we established the position of client services coordinator and that position will be located in the headquarters division of the Department of Health and Social Services in Cambridge Bay. The ad is out and I believe it closed last week or is closing this week, and we hope to have that position filled shortly.

Presently, all appeal forms for these types of situations are located in various Health and Social Services offices and service providers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Your first supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It often seems that complaints received by the Department of Health and Social Services disappear into a blackhole and their final outcome or resolution is never known.

Can the minister clarify whether the current complaints process includes a mechanism by which decisions made by the department can reviewed or appealed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To clarify two things; firstly, when there is a complaint related to an individual person's medical file, I do not have access to that data, nor can I provide that data to any Member in this House to protect the person/patient's record.

So when there are complaints of that nature that involve confidential medical files of an individual, those types of responses are directed directly to the individual who raised the

issue. So to clarify that in terms of decisions or appeal processes, as I mentioned in my earlier response, the appeal forms are available in every health centre. In fact I have provided the same forms to all the Members in the House some time ago that individuals can use to file their complaints. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Your second supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) The minister stated that she would get a client service coordinator.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, for sometime, the minister has been promising to establish a position for the client service coordinator to assist medical clients, but they could face some concerns.

I recently noted that this position is finally being advertised. When does the Minister of Health and Social Services anticipate that this position of client service coordinator will be filled and functioning? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you. I'm just as anxious as the individual to have that position filled. Just to clarify, there is a service in place right now for any individual who wants to file an appeal or complaint to any of us in the department. That door is always open.

I hope that the position will be filled within a month or so; I believe the competition advertised is closing sometime this week. So, hopefully, within the month I will be able to report to this House who that individual is. I will advise the members, as well as the communities who the individuals they can appeal to, or file complaints to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Your final supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The position of client service coordinator is currently located in Cambridge Bay.

Will the minister commit to evaluate the performance of this position, especially with respect to its effectiveness in dealing with the issues that arise in the eastern region of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once the position is filled and the individual has had some time in that job, I'll commit to evaluating how effective it is and work with each of the regions to put in the processes as well.

The individual position itself is located in the Health and Social Services headquarters operation and its goal will be to put in the processes, as well as evaluations and follow up on their complaints as well. So I will commit to that to see how effective it is in addressing the complaints that the member is referring to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Orders of the Day. Oral Questions. Mr. Peterson.

### **Question 164 – 2(4): Kiilnik High School Trade Shop Delays**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. A few weeks ago I toured the, I am not sure if I should call it a misfortune, but I went to the Killinik High School to visit the teachers and students over there, and I thought I'd ask for a tour of the trades shop.

I expected to see a fully-operational trades shop as the Legislative Assembly approved close to a \$1 million in upgrades and the fact the equipment arrived on the barge last August. Instead what I saw there is a facility that was probably 80 percent unutilized, in my humble opinion, expensive shop equipment sitting idle, collecting dust.

In fact, I took a picture of one of the pieces of equipment that I wrote on it, "Ed, please help" and then emailed it to the Minister of Education. I asked the school officials why there are delays and they couldn't give me any solid explanations. So I emailed the minister and I am still waiting for a response.

My question for the minister is: can he explain why, after nine months, the trades shop of the Kiilnik High School is still basically inoperational? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to say that the member had an opportunity to go to the school. Sometimes when we look at what we see in the media and go on that basis, of course, there are always two sides to every story.

In this case, as the member knows, the trades shop area is in the school; it's in the Kiilnik High School in Cambridge Bay. I would suggest to you that that school has electricity and that indeed most of the equipment would be able to work.

The problem seems to be that the current shop teacher, and the school itself, had ordered more industrial electrical equipment, and because of that, when that arrived, they didn't have the opportunity to have the electrical upgrade done so that when you have several pieces of equipment running, including equipment to take care of the dust issues and so on in the school, that you weren't able to use that equipment.



CGS have the responsibility of making sure that the school is up to snuff, as it were, under electrical code. What occurred then is that a request had to go out to CGS to say all of this equipment is now on the ground here and we need the wiring done. Thus, CGS had to go out to get an electrical person to get the drawings done and so on to have the electrical done. So that's basically what occurred.

The first step was that the equipment was ordered, and the equipment that came in was ordered before the consultation was done with what was needed on the electrical side to support that equipment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Picco. Your first supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

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

There certainly does seem to be some confusion over what the process is in Cambridge Bay. Here you have school officials ordering expensive equipment, the Department of Education officials. The minister indicated that Community and Government Services should probably have been in charge of that project, and probably came in after the fact, as he said.

I did hear that story that the power is 208 versus the requirement of 220, but it shouldn't take nine months to sort out that problem. I have heard many meetings were held with school officials, members of Community and Government Services, and officials from the Department of Education.

So in those nine months, nothing has happened. My question for the minister: can the minister explain what the respective roles are for each of these departments, to ensure that this project will be successfully developed and serve the Kitikmeot students and adults who want to continue to further their education? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, this is a lesson learned. I know the member doesn't want to lay any blame, or I'm not in a position to lay any blame.

What I can say is that CGS has moved forward. They have hired a consultant. That person is doing the logistic and administrative work to be able to have the electrical installed, and that should be up and running by August; that's the amount of time that I'm told. So when school starts in a couple of month's time, the equipment and everything will be able to be used.

What has happened here is that we've gotten a little ahead of ourselves. The equipment was ordered. Once that equipment arrived, the capacity of the electrical grid in the school, to have all the equipment on, for example, wasn't there, and then it had to go back to the Department of Education.

The Department of Education doesn't do the actual work; we contract that, as the member knows, to Community and Government Services, who takes care of all government property, then they moved quickly to ascertain what type of voltage was needed and what type of specifications were needed, and so on.

So that's my understanding of what has occurred. I've been to that site with the member. We're quite proud of the work that is being done there. Equipment in the shop could be used. I'm not saying that there was no equipment being used; you just couldn't, for argument's sake, have it all on at the same time. So there was actual training and everything able to occur there, it just wasn't to the capacity to have the majority of the new equipment on. That has now been rectified.

We do have the CGS person in, and the students at Cambridge Bay Kiilinik High School will be able to use the equipment in August. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Picco. Your second supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. It's always amazing how fast we can get things resolved when the ministers are contacted and they start directing people. It shouldn't have to happen that way. We shouldn't have to stand in the Legislative Assembly and follow up on this stuff, and ask the ministers embarrassing questions.

The minister mentioned that it should be operational by the end of August. Would the minister be prepared to give me his commitment today that the Kiilinik High School Trade Shop will be fully operational by the end of August 2007, and further; offering a full range of program courses available to the high school students and the Nunavut Arctic College students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, again, I thank the member for raising it. The member has been in correspondence with me on this issue for a couple of weeks now and I don't find it embarrassing. It's an issue where, logistically and administratively, the ball was dropped. We have tried to pick that ball up and move forward with it.

My understanding is, based on the good work that CGS is now doing on the file, having the consultant in place, the shop should be running by August. So I'll make a commitment to the member that by August 30/September 1/September 15... no, I will make a commitment to the member that by August 30 that the shop and the equipment that have been sent in will be fully functional and be able to be operated in the school; and, that the electrical system, which seems to be the major problem, will be rectified and up to snuff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Picco. Your final supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that commitment. I hope he means August 2007. I noticed that he didn't mention the year.

The school officials mentioned that the woodworking and welding was Phase 1 of the shop project, and of course, there was the little electrical situation there so they couldn't offer those programs, but they are willing to offer Phase 2, smaller equipment; working on small engines, piping, and other small programs, if they can purchase equipment this month, or within the next few days.

I wonder if the minister could give me his commitment to assist the school officials to purchase that equipment so that they could at least offer some programs to the high school students prior to the conclusion of this school year. Can the minister give me that commitment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The whole process for the Cambridge Bay High School trades shop was part of the initiative we announced last year with the trades school. We said we were building the major facility, the Nunavut Trades School in Rankin Inlet. We also upgraded the auxiliary sites that we have in Iqaluit and in Cambridge Bay to provide additional mine training.

The focus in Cambridge Bay out of that shop in the high school is to help Cambridge Bay residents, Kitikmeot residents, and the high school students to be able to broaden their horizons by going to trades programs.

Welding and millwright training are two of the scheduled programs that will be moving forward on that. If the school and the local DEA have suggestions on some other programs that we're able to facilitate, then, I would make that commitment to the member that we'd be very pleased to look at it and see how we could help facilitate that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Picco. (interpretation) Orders of the Day. Oral Questions. Mr. Alagalak.

#### **Question 165 – 2(4): Status on the Breakwaters**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Small Craft Harbours and Docking Facilities.

First of all, I would like to thank David Simailak for going to Arviat to help with the fishing derby. Everyone was pleased to see him in our community. The next day, through the CB radio, although I'm not one of the senior citizens, I heard the senior citizens in the

community talking through the CB radio that they enjoyed your visit very much. (interpretation ends) People really appreciate you being in Arviat.

(interpretation) Now that I've given you very good news because they appreciated you, I give you a bit of bad news, too. Last winter, we met with each other to talk about small craft harbours and I was mainly talking about breakwaters because when we live in an area where the tide is high, we have no place to put our boats in such as safe harbours.

Sometimes we do work on behalf of women; we provide them with women's shelters. We talk about safe harbours and breakwaters. So I would like you to update me on what the status is on the breakwaters. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I enjoyed my visit in Arviat very much because every time we visit Arviat their hospitality is always great.

We haven't really worked on the development of the breakwater because we have no funding. Although I mentioned the seven communities, we're still waiting for that.

The federal government minister and I spoke to each other, and they said that they would set aside \$25 million for seven years. Ottawa has not told us how we're going to utilize this \$25 million since the federal budget has not been approved yet. We have not been told as to how the funding is to be used. We're still waiting for that response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just prior to you becoming a minister to this portfolio, I used to make statements in regard to the homemade breakwater to protect the fibreglass and steel boats.

We do not wish to see boats being destroyed due to lack of breakwater facilities; it's very difficult to get insurance. There is no funding available for hunters who lose their hunting equipment and there's no compensation program. My question is perhaps to work with the municipalities to get a breakwater, or get some form of a facility where they can use the facility during low tide. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it's the facility in Arviat where they had a fishing derby, yes, it's very short and it's very shallow. I will ask my officials to look into the Arviat breakwater to see what they can do. So I will ask them to look into this again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will be expecting that this coming summer. We do not wish to see another incident. Yes, we were talking about some form of protection. I know that when they built Eskimo Point, the engineers drew the facility, but according to the knowledge of Inuit, that facility is quite shallow.

I would like to ask the minister again. I know that there's no funding for this but not too long ago I was a Chair of the DEA, but there have been so many re-profiling on capital budgets. Perhaps you can do the same, like move one budget to another. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been thinking about all those issues because, of course, there is a need in all the Nunavut Communities. There are breakwaters required, landing docks, holding docks, or other devices that are required in every Nunavut community. We have been considering all of these issues and trying to come up with a plan where we can do something in all Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Mr. Curley.

#### **Question 166 – 2(4): Number of Health and Social Services Deputy Ministers Resignations**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Premier.

From April 1, 1999 and to date, the Department of Health had nine deputy ministers so far and all or most of them have resigned on their own due to their work or for some other reason. I think the Premier knows very well why or for what reason these deputy ministers have been resigning.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Nunavut do not know why nine deputy ministers have resigned. To date, the people of Nunavut are now asking for answers as to why so many deputy ministers are resigning from Health and Social Services. Could the minister inform the House as to why there are so many deputy ministers resigning? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The majority have resigned on their own. We cannot do anything about them and we cannot keep them if they do not want to work in those positions.

This department is the most challenging of all to work in and there is a very heavy workload, and we are sorry that there have been that many resignations. We do try to get people to work in those positions, and on more than one occasion we have advertised nationwide to find qualified individuals to fill those vacant positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for responding to my question, but he didn't answer some of my questions.

There are deputy ministers who resigned for personal reasons. They worked for the people of Nunavut. We are aware that the Department of Health and Social Services is one of the bigger responsibilities.

We can see more and more staff who have roamed around. Can the minister inform the House as to why there have been firings of some personnel, and as to what kind of compensation is paid once they ask the department? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) The Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, a lot of them resign for personal reasons. We try and make sure that we take good care of all of our employees.

I am very pleased to have Alex Campbell take on the deputy minister's role when we did ask him and we're grateful that he has accepted. We hope to have him there for a long time. We have to try and catch up for the past nine years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier.

The people of Nunavut would like to know why there are way too many resignations in the department, as we're losing faith. The current deputy minister we have there, as some of us think, he has worked for Economic Development and other departments. I think it's very important that he has that experience; deputy ministers have to have experience in the field that they are taking the responsibility for. Mr. Campbell doesn't seem to have any experience in Health and Social Services.

As that's the case, I would like to ask the Premier if this individual has the qualifications to fill the deputy minister's position. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at the deputy ministers and looking at their work experience, and their past experiences, he has been a deputy not only in Nunavut, but also elsewhere in the south. I am very pleased that he has the experience and the expertise, and also the willingness to fill this position.

There have been a lot of turnovers over the years. Some of them were put in for just a term position to fix whatever the problem was. While we were looking for a permanent employee, there have been term positions. I would like the people of Nunavut to know that this is a very important department.

Looking at the nine deputy ministers, it's not only that, there have been interim fills in between, which are counted into the nine. Some were just there for an interim position. For the people who want to look at the dirt and so on, they put it all together and make it into nine deputy ministers. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier stated that there were some who filled the positions on an interim position. I believe that's not the case. They were hired by the Premier; the Premier personally appointed those deputy ministers to those positions and signed the contract. That contract was signed by you, personally. I don't believe we should do that.

We have very few people who have the willingness. I have seen Mr. Campbell's resume when I was working for NTI as I used to work with him in the 1990s and before. Due to that, if we're going to be hiring deputy ministers who do not have the qualifications, then I think it would be a lot better if we appoint deputy ministers who are unilingual, elder, and Inuit. Thank you.

**Speaker**: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This position has to be filled, and because of that, we have to have interim positions sometimes that have the expertise and the knowledge.

We have looked outside of Nunavut to make sure that this position is permanently filled. Because of that, it seems like we have a high turnover in this deputy minister's position. The reason is because of the interim fills and the permanent fills. They're all counted as nine.

The only person who can fill this position is someone with the expertise, knowledge, and the experience. It is a position that cannot be filled by just anybody. Mr. Campbell is very experienced, and I want to make sure that his integrity stays in tact, and I would like to assure you that he has the experience, knowledge, and the expertise to fill that position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Okalik. Orders of the Day. Oral Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

**Question 167 – 2(4): Status of Passport Photos**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought I was going to run out of time. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Multiculturalism, Mr. Picco.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, through repeated questioning in this House, we are finally supposed to have a solution to passport photo problems. Can the minister update this House on the status of this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very quickly, the member is correct. The member should take a lot of credit for helping drive this issue through repeated questioning in the House.

Mr. Speaker, recently, during the Nunavut Association of Municipalities meetings, we were able to facilitate the purchase of passport-quality photo equipment, and training sessions were given to employees of our various communities and hamlets in Nunavut.

The hamlet employees then took that equipment back with them to their communities, and I am very pleased to say today that the majority of our communities are using that equipment and were able to facilitate the expedient taking of passport quality photos to help Nunavummiut get their passports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Picco. Your first supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that during the Nunavut Association of Municipalities meeting, the senior administrative officers were given the training to take pictures that are required for passport applications. How much are the hamlets going to pay for the usage of the equipment and for the application process? Thank you.

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



**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very quickly; because we were able to tag the training on during the NAM meetings, there was no cost for bringing people in and being able to facilitate the training. Also, Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut has purchased the equipment and has turned it over to individual hamlets at no cost to the hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Your second supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my last question. (interpretation ends) Did the government supply any private businesses with the equipment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did hire a contractor to help deliver the workshop, but the equipment was not given to any private communities.

In some communities, for example Iqaluit, there are five individuals who are doing the passport photo. In those cases, they did not receive the equipment. In other communities where there was no person or individual doing passport photos by the private sector basis, we provided a camera to the hamlet.

The hamlet has the option of charging \$30 or \$40 whatever the amount they feel is correct in that given community for the passport photo taken and the passport photo that we provided, the equipment meets all the passport requirements of Passport Canada so that the passport taken will meet their standard and help facilitate the passports. So this is a good news story across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Question Period is over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 8: Returns to Written Questions\***

**Return to Written Question 003 – 2(4): Akitsiraq Law School Program**

**Return to Written Question 004 – 2(4): Environmental Contaminants**

**Return to Written Question 005 – 2(4): Supplemental Costs of Staffing HSS Positions with Non-Certified Nurses**

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the responses to the Written Questions 3 – 2(4), 4 – 2(4), and 5 – 2(4) that were filed with the Office of the Clerk. Thank you.

\*See Appendix for full text of Returns to Written Questions 3 – 2(4), 4 – 2(4), and 5 – 2(4) filed with the Clerk.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

I have some documents that need tabling.

### **Item 13: Tabled Documents**

**Tabled Document 078 – 2(4): Statutory Requirements for Tabling of Reports and Other Documents in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut May 2007**

**Tabled Document 079 – 2(4): *Integrity Act* First Five-Year Statutory Review January 10-2007 – Report from Integrity Commissioner**

**Tabled Document 080 – 2(4): Integrity Commissioner Annual Report April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007**

**Tabled Document 081 – 2(4): Elections Nunavut Annual Report for 2006-07 and Report on the Administration of the Tunnuniq By-Election October 2006**

I wish to table the Statutory Requirements for the Tabling of Reports and Other Documents in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut dated May 28, 2007. Thank you.

Also, I wish to table the Report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut on the 5-Year Statutory Review of the *Integrity Act*. Thank you.

I also wish to table today the 2006-07 Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut. Thank you.

I also wish to table today the 2006-07 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

**Tabled Document 082 – 2(4): Utility Rates Review Council of Nunavut 2007 Annual Report**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table the document: 2007 Annual Report of the Utility Rates Review Council. (Interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Can we have the papers at the table? Item 13: Tabling of Documents. Ms. Brown.

**Tabled Document 083 – 2(4): Dry Cargo Resupply Programme Activity Summary Shipping Year 2006**

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Dry Cargo Re-supply Programme Activity Summary - Shipping Year 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Brown. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Clerk.

**Tabled Document 084 – 2(4): Response to Petition 1 – 2(4) - Medical Charter Services for Sanikiluaq**

**Clerk (Mr. Quirke):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm tabling the response to Petition 1 – 2(1) Medical Services for Sanikiluaq that was filed with the Office of the Clerk. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Peterson.

**Item 14: Notices of Motions****Motion 012 – 2(4): Confirmation of the Integrity Act – Notice**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, May 31, 2007, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that the Legislative Assembly confirms the *Integrity Act* in its present form.

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

**Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills****Bill 10 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008 – Notice**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, May 31, 2007, that Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Item 15. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

**Bill 11 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1,  
2007-2008 – Notice**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, May 31, 2007, that Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Mr. Picco.

**Bill 13 – Nunavut Energy Efficiency Act – Notice**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that on Thursday, May 31, 2007, that Bill 13, *Nunavut Energy Efficiency Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Item 15. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Peterson.

**Item 16: Motions**

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The member is asking for unanimous consent to deal with the motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Member, please proceed.

**Motion 012 – 2(4): Confirmation of the Integrity Act**

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

WHEREAS Nunavut's *Integrity Act* came into force on July 1, 2001;

AND WHEREAS section 58 of the Act requires a review of the statute be held every five years;

AND WHEREAS the Report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut on the 5-year Review of the *Integrity Act* has been tabled in the House;

AND WHEREAS the Integrity Commissioner finds existing provisions of the Act to be practical and appropriate, identifies no amendments essential to its effective operation and is satisfied with the Act in its present form;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that the Legislative Assembly confirms the *Integrity Act* in its present form. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The motion is in order. To the motion. A question has been called. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item. 16. Motions. Item 17. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

### **Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request the consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow the first reading of Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Simailak. The Minister of Finance is seeking consent for Bill 10 to have first reading today. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Mr. Minister, please proceed.

### **Bill 10 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008 – First Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Simailak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. [Bill 10 has had first reading.]

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for first reading of Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Simailak. The Minister of Finance is seeking consent for Bill 11 to have first reading today. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker (interpretation):** Agreed. Please proceed, Mr. Minister.

**Bill 11 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1,  
2007-2008 – First Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Simailak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. [Bill 11 has had first reading.]

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

**Item 18: Second Reading of Bills****Bill 10 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008 – Second Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of Nunavut to defray the capital expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Simailak. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. Bill 10 has had second reading and is referred to Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

**Bill 11 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 1,  
2007-2008 – Second Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 11, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operation and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2007-2008*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of Nunavut and reduces an appropriation to defray the operations and maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2008. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Simailak. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. Bill 11 has had second reading and it is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Picco.

**Motion 013 – 2(4): Adjournment for the Day**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to take this opportunity to congratulate you for an excellent job on behalf of the members today in the Chair.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to our Rule 46, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Quttiktuq, that this House adjourn for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco, Member for Iqaluit East. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

We will proceed to Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder for tomorrow morning at nine o'clock, a meeting of the Regular Caucus in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for May 30:

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
  - Bill 10
  - Bill 11
  - 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:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 30 at 1:30.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:21*



# **Appendix – May 29, 2007**

## **Return to Written Question 003 – 2(4): Akitsiraq Law School Program**

**Asked by:** James Arvaluk, MLA (Tununiq)

**Asked of:** Hon. Paul Okalik, Minister of Justice

**Date:** April 18, 2007

### **Question:**

1. As of March 14, 2007, what was the total cost of the Akitsiraq Law School Program (ALSP), broken down by category of expenditure?

### **Response:**

The Government of Nunavut was one of numerous partners and sponsors in the Akitsiraq initiative. The Akitsiraq Law School Society is a non-profit organization which was formed to oversee the program. The Government of Nunavut's total contributions in relation to the Akitsiraq Law School Program were \$3,041,680.

The society is operated by volunteers and is an entity independent from the Government of Nunavut. It is currently preparing an extensive final report incorporating all of its revenues and expenditures, the organizing work and the academic program. We are anticipating that this document will be a useful guide for both reviewing the program and building on the successes of this model. I will provide that report to members when it is received by the GN, hopefully before the 2007 fall session.

### **Question:**

2. What were the Government of Nunavut's total expenditures in relation to the ALSP?

### **Response:**

The Government of Nunavut's total financial contributions in relation to the Akitsiraq Law School Program were \$3,041,680.

### **Question:**

3. How much funding for the ALSP was provided by the Walter and Duncan Foundation of Toronto, the Government of Canada, and other third party sources?

### **Response:**

The financial contributions of all other agencies other than the Government of Nunavut totalled \$2,329,288. Some in-kind contributions are still being assessed.

The funding includes some student funding and salaries, support for elder participation, specific workshops for both students and the public, and accommodation and compensation for professors and staff.

**Question:**

4. What allowance and benefits were provided to students enrolled in the ALSP?

**Response:**

The allowances and benefits afforded to students depended on whether they were sponsored by a partner agency.

Students sponsored by the Government of Nunavut had access to housing and received:

- tuition and book allowance from FANS (Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students)
- 70 percent of the starting salary of a GN lawyer plus Northern Living Allowance, totalling \$52,416.16 per year.

In return, students committed to work for two years for their sponsoring agency after graduation, or for another agency within Nunavut for four years after graduation.

**Question:**

5. How many students were initially enrolled in the ALSP?

**Response:**

15 students were initially enrolled.

**Question:**

6. How many students graduated from the ALSP?

**Response:**

11 students graduated after four years of study.

## **Return to Written Question 004 – 2(4): Environmental Contaminants**

**Asked by:** Levi Barnabas, MLA (Quttittuq)

**Asked of:** Hon. Patterk Netser, Minister of Environment

**Date:** March 28, 2007-08-07

### **Question 1:**

Pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act*, the Department of Environment has the responsibility to identify and prevent potential threats of environmental contamination. What steps have been taken, either under the Act or through other departmental initiatives, to monitor the levels of mercury in Nunavut wildlife?

### **Response to Question 1:**

The Department of Environment works closely with the Wildlife Toxicology and Disease Division, Science and Technology Branch, Environment Canada to monitor contaminant levels in polar bears. Fat samples are collected and analyzed every five years to monitor any changes in contaminant levels, mercury is included. The most recent collection of samples was carried out this spring. Levels of other contaminants such as PCBs, other chlorinated hydrocarbons, and brominated hydrocarbons such as polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) flame retardants have historically and/or are presently being monitored. Testing under this program shows that mercury levels in polar bears have been on a long-term declining trend.

In addition the GN Department of Environment sits on the Niqiit Avatittinni Committee established by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada under the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP). This committee is co-chaired by the GN Department of Health and Social Services, and its mission is:

*‘Working to reduce and, wherever possible, eliminate contaminants in traditionally harvested foods, while providing information that assists informed decision making by individuals and communities in their food use.’*

An extensive list of research funded by NCP can be viewed at the following link:

[http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ncp/intdc/index\\_e.html](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ncp/intdc/index_e.html)

### **Question 2:**

How is the Department of Environment involved in determining the extent to which the Nunavut environment is subject to damage from such energy-producing technologies as hydroelectric power?

### **Response to Question 2:**

The Department of Environment works closely with Institutes of Public Government (IPGs) to review the impacts of development projects within Nunavut, including energy producing technologies such as hydroelectric power. Following the processes described in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, we provide input into all project proposals pursuant to our responsibilities under the *Environmental Protection Act* and *Wildlife Act*. At the present time there is a hydroelectric project being considered for the South Baffin area near Iqaluit, and as with all projects, we are working with the proponents to ensure that any possible impacts, including contaminants discharge, are identified early. If a developmental project has potential to discharge contaminants to the environment, DOE ensures that this potential is raised to the IPGs so that impacts are assessed and mitigation and monitoring measures are identified.

In addition to projects within Nunavut, there are concerns that major hydroelectric development projects in Quebec, on rivers that discharge into the Hudson and James bays, may have impacts in Nunavut. As projects in other jurisdictions are outside of the jurisdiction of the IPGs, the Hudson Bay interagency working group Nunavumi Tasiujaquamiuqatijii Katutjiqutijiingit (NTK) was established in response to concerns raised by the community of Sanikiluaq. The Department of Environment is a member and partial financial supporter of this group, and its activities include appearing before the environmental review panel for the Eastmain 1-A Rupert River project. At this forum Nunavut delegates raised concerns about the impact of this project on the marine environment, paying particular attention to potential impacts on traditional harvesting and country food, and cumulative impacts of current and future hydro projects on the marine environment of the Hudson Bay. One outcome of this review panel was a recommendation that the federal government establish an independent research and monitoring program to address cumulative impacts on the Hudson Bay and James Bay ecosystems. The GN and NTK are currently seeking assurances from the federal government that this recommendation will be implemented.

**Question 3:**

What tools are in place for wildlife officers or other officials of the Department of Environment to inform the public in circumstances where levels of environmental contaminants, such as mercury, are found to be rising?

**Response to Question 3:**

The Department of Environment has wildlife officers located in all 25 of Nunavut's communities, and these officers work very closely with local Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) on matters that are related to harvesting. In addition, most communities are relatively small and providing broad public notice is generally not difficult.

If our research, monitoring from project proponents, or the studies undertaken by the Northern Contaminants Program identify a problem of public concern, then we can

utilize these community based staff to work with HTOs and inform the public. It is important to note, however, that any matter related to human health, including rising contaminant levels in country food, falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Social Services, and therefore they would take the lead in advising the public.

**Return to Written Question 005 – 2(4): Supplemental Costs of Staffing HSS  
Positions with Non Certified Nurses**

**Asked by:** Hunter Tootoo, MLA (Iqaluit Centre)

**Asked of:** Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health and Social Services

**Date:** April 26, 2007

**Question:**

What were the total supplemental costs of hiring additional nursing staff as support for the International Nurses recruited by Trillium Consulting and subsequently employed by the Department of Health and Social Services who were unable to practice independently before they had successfully passed the Canadian Registered Nurses Exam?

**Response:**

The total cost of hiring agency nurses as support for the internationally recruited nurses was \$2,576,000 for the fiscal years 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Nurses who are new to community health centres or hospitals require extra preparation, whether they are new graduates from the Nunavut Arctic College, or new to the Canadian healthcare system, but especially for those who are new to the health system in Nunavut. The agency nurses hired as support for the internationally recruited nurses served as mentors to provide the extra training required for work in our system. One of the lessons learned from our involvement in the International Recruitment Strategy was that our orientation process for all nurses hired must include a training component. The department is working to include this type of training for future hires, regardless of their origin.