



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**4th Session**

**2nd Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 31**

**Monday, October 29, 2007**

**Pages 2008 – 2070**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**

(Pangnirtung)

*Chair, Management and Services Board*

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**

(Nattilik)

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

**Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

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

**Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

*Striking Committee; Management and Services Board*

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**

(South Baffin)

*Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Joe Allen Evyagotailak**

(Kugluktuk)

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**

(Iqaluit East)

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

**David Alagalak**

(Arviat)

**James Arreak**

(Uqqummiut)

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

**Peter Kattuk**

(Hudson Bay)

**Steve Mapsalak**

(Akulliq)

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

**Hon. David Simailak**

(Baker Lake)

*Minister of Finance; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Chair of the Financial Management Board*

**James Arvaluk**

(Tunnunuiq)

**Levi Barnabas**

(Quttiktuq)

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser**

(Nanulik)

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown**

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services*

**Hon. Paul Okalik**

(Iqaluit West)

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

**Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

*Striking Committee; Management and Services Board*

### *Officers*

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk

Nancy Tupik

Law Clerk

Susan Cooper

Sergeant-at-Arms

Louis Uttak

Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

**Box 1200**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0**

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

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

## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	2008
Ministers' Statements .....	2008
Members' Statements .....	2012
Returns to Oral Questions .....	2018
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	2018
Speaker's Caution.....	2019
Oral Questions .....	2020
Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery .....	2041
Tabling of Documents .....	2041
First Reading of Bills .....	2042
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	2043
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	2069
Orders of the Day .....	2069

**A.**

**Daily References**

Monday, October 29, 2007 ..... 2008

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

093 – 2(4): “*The Structure of Inuktitut*” CD-ROM (Tapardjuk) ..... 2008

094 – 2(4): Business Development Centres Study (Simailak) ..... 2009

095 – 2(4): Update on the Nunavut Recycling Initiative (Netser)..... 2010

096 – 2(4): Hamlet Anniversaries (Brown)..... 2010

097 – 2(4): FANS Update (Picco)..... 2011

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

211 – 2(4): Kivalliq Nurses Recommend Tylenol (Curley) ..... 2012

212 – 2(4): Regional Alienation in the Kitikmeot (Peterson) ..... 2013

213 – 2(4): Non Inuktitut Speaking RCMP (Arvaluk) ..... 2014

214 – 2(4): Elders Predicted Climate Change/Global Warming (Kattuk)..... 2015

215 – 2(4): Grade 12 Graduates of Clyde River (Arreak) ..... 2016

216 – 2(4): Gratitude to RCMP Officer Peter Pilgrim of Taloyoak (Aglukkaq)..... 2016

217 – 2(4): Joamie School Family Fun Night (Picco)..... 2017

218 – 2(4): Training Centre at Resolute Bay – Alcohol Lounge (Barnabas) ..... 2017

**D.**

**Returns to Oral Questions**

Return to Oral Question 245 – 2(4): Job Advertisement Without Staff Housing (Brown) ..... 2018

**E.**

**Oral Questions**

264 – 2(4): RCMP Officers’ Transfers (Arvaluk).....	2020
265 – 2(4): Transferred Staff from EIA to Finance (Tootoo).....	2022
266 – 2(4): Information for On-The-Land Safety (Evyagotailak).....	2024
267 – 2(4): Update on the Government of Nunavut’s Response to Motion Concerning Airline Service (Barnabas).....	2026
268 – 2(4): Consider Revising Home Care Policy (Curley).....	2027
269 – 2(4): Number of Communities Contributing to Infrastructure (Peterson).....	2029
270 – 2(4): Number of Communities with Photo ID Equipment (Kattuk).....	2032
271 – 2(4): Capital Budget Planning Process (Mapsalak).....	2033
272 – 2(4): Reduction in the Polar Bear Total Allowable Harvest in Western Hudson Bay (Curley).....	2035
273 – 2(4): Accuracy of Newspaper Article (Tootoo) .....	2037
274 – 2(4): Support for Homeowners (Barnabas) .....	2039

**F.**

**Tabling of Documents**

128 – 2(4): Workers’ Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut – Annual Report 2006 (Netser).....	2041
129 – 2(4): Ministerial Meeting Report – Intergovernmental Ministers Responsible for Workers’ Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut June 19, 2007 (Netser) ..	2041
130 – 2(4): Home & Community Care Services Annual Report 2005-2006 (Aglukkaq) .....	2042

**G.**

**Bills**

Bill 19 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2 – First Reading .....	2042
Bill 18 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Related Statutes – First Reading .....	2042
Bill 16 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee – Environment.....	2043
Bill 16 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee – Nunavut Housing Corporation.....	2055

**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, October 29, 2007**

**Members Present:**

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

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like Members to be aware that we have only two pages at this time. We're hoping that we might get two more during the course of the day. I wish to welcome our pages, Samantha Weber and to my right, Paul Ijiraq, will be sitting up here. Welcome to the House.

Thank you. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of CLEY, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 093 – 2(4): “*The Structure of Inuktitut*” CD-ROM**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to announce that in support of our *Pinasuaqtavut* goal of having the Inuit language as the working language of the Government of Nunavut by the year 2020, the Department of Human Resources is continuing to expand and diversify language training programs and training tools offered to Government of Nunavut employees.

My department has lead responsibility in providing Inuit language training to GN employees and through our partnership with Nunavut Arctic College, we are currently updating course curriculum, teaching materials and resources in order to respond to Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun language training needs throughout the Government of Nunavut, for both first and second language learners.

Until recently, Mr. Speaker, the only method for second language learners of Inuktitut to engage in language training was through in class training offered periodically throughout the year. In reviewing second-language training across other jurisdictions, it was noted that a variety of training methods are used to ensure greater efficiency in training delivery.

To implement an alternative, self-directed approach to language learning, my department worked with renowned linguist, Mick Mallon, to develop a CD-ROM disc, entitled "*The Structure of Inuktitut*." The CD-ROM disc has been endorsed by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and is available to all GN employees. The CD-ROM disc serves to enhance existing Inuktitut as the second language courses and also provide employees who either cannot attend or do not have access to classroom-based training the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of Inuktitut.

Mr. Speaker, my department has actively promoted "*The Structure of Inuktitut*" as a learning tool and I am pleased to announce that over 650 employees have requested and received a copy of the CD-ROM disc. This high demand certainly demonstrates the commitment of our employees to *Ilippallianguinnarniq* and I look forward to updating my colleagues on more language training initiatives in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Minister Simailak.

#### **Minister's Statement 094 – 2(4): Business Development Centres Study**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform the House that the Department of Economic Development & Transportation has recently initiated a review of Nunavut's three business development centres.

This study will be conducted by a working group that includes departmental staff, and representatives from the board and staff of the business development centres in each region.

Mr. Speaker, the study will review the policies and procedures of each organization, and to identify and to recommend the standards and best practices to ensure that all Nunavutmiut have access to good quality business services.

These services are delivered by the Kitikmeot Community Futures Incorporated, the Kivalliq Business Development Centre, and the Baffin Business Development Centre, with each reporting to its own regionally-based board of directors.

These three organizations have recently formed the Nunavut Community Futures Association, to provide a forum for the sharing of standards and best practices in small business development in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, our review of business development centres will help us identify where government support can be applied most effectively to ensure improvements continue.



A report on the study's progress will be completed by the end of this calendar year.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Minister's Statement 095 – 2(4): Update on the Nunavut Recycling Initiative**

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For nearly a year now, my department has been working to develop a Beverage Container Recycling Program tailored to the unique conditions and challenges of Nunavut. To do this, we have researched programs across Canada to see what can be adapted for our use.

After careful consideration, we decided the Nunavut Beverage Container Program should have a deposit system similar to the one used in the west. For the first year, we took a pilot project approach, and established pilot projects in Iqaluit through a local recycling business and in Rankin Inlet through the hamlet.

Mr. Speaker, the pilot project is winding down and as we analyze the results, we are continuing with research to improve and expand our approach.

Due to factors like transportation and climate, recycling in Nunavut presents unique challenges and costs. We will continue with this important initiative and work toward establishing a successful program suitable for Nunavut.

I will continue to keep you informed of our progress on this exciting project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister for Community Government and Services, Minister Brown.

### **Minister's Statement 096 – 2(4): Hamlet Anniversaries**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the Hamlet of Coral Harbour who celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, as well as Arviat and Baker Lake that both have their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. Mr. Speaker, special mention to my own constituency, the Hamlet of Whale Cove, which celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their incorporation date last year.

Mr. Speaker, the municipalities in Nunavut are distinct levels of government in this territory that allow community members to duly elect their own municipal mayors and councils and to organize and run their own affairs.

Local government provides a great degree of independence to our communities and provides opportunities for local solutions and input into how things are run and administered. Many members of this legislature, myself included, had their first start in politics as municipal council members and mayors.

Mr. Speaker, local municipal elections are being held this December 10, where Nunavutmiut will go to the polls and elect their community councils and who will, in turn provide local leadership and stewardship of their respective municipalities while being accountable to those who elect them.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize our municipalities and the excellent job they do governing local affairs. They are true partners with this government in fulfilling our mutual mandates to continue to improve the lives of our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. My apologies. Item. 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education and Energy, Mr. Picco.

#### **Minister's Statement 097 – 2(4): FANS Update**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would to take this opportunity to update the members about the progress with our Financial Assistance to Nunavut Students, or FANS program.

Since the Auditor General's Report last summer, Mr. Speaker, the department has made considerable effort to follow through with the recommendations to improve FANS. Mr. Speaker, we are proceeding with work to enhance the delivery of the program in a timely manner, with an emphasis on accountability. Changes are being implemented to both the administrative as well as the procedural areas, to ensure that all Nunavut students receive fair, reliable and consistent service.

Mr. Speaker, the department is working to improve all the areas around our FANS program; that includes more effective communication with students, improve loan administration and recordkeeping and enhanced training for our staff. The department has also been diligent in making sure that the review of FANS has not interrupted the ongoing program delivery for new and existing students.

Mr. Speaker, many of the changes that will simplify procedural and administrative components of this program will be in place for the 2008-09 school year. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to updating the Assembly on this progress and important changes to our FANS program.

Each year since the establishment of Nunavut, there has been a steady increase in the FANS applicants. This growth is in evidence that our education system is producing more students excited to pursue their post-secondary opportunities. Join with me, Mr. Speaker, in congratulating our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

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

#### **Member's Statement 211 – 2(4): Kivalliq Nurses Recommend Tylenol**

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the concern of my constituents about a miracle drug. Mr. Speaker, I was reading this short note without referring to any of the personal comments.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents say that they're so frustrated with the poor service that we, the Inuit, are receiving from the nurses in the Kivalliq region.

I have heard from other communities that make me so upset of how the nurses can only give Tylenol. I have lost a little nephew because the nurse had told the parent to give it Tylenol. I was told, too, that there was a pregnant woman who was in labour and was told to take Tylenol. What is this with Tylenol and the nurses in the Kivalliq region?

I took my grandson to the health centre because of his pink eye and sure enough, the nurse told me to give him Tylenol. Nothing was done for him. I'm so fed up with Tylenol; I will not bother to go to the health centre in the Kivalliq region. If I had to take my family out for proper medical attention, I would possibly have to go down south.

More lives could possibly have been saved if the nurses would give their full services that they are being paid to do so. I care so much for the people in the Kivalliq home. I'm tired of hearing people that go to the health centre and go home without being treated for their illnesses.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen one person with a big lump on her neck and I asked her what was done for her. Absolutely nothing, for they don't know what it is. I'm sure there are other bit of issues with the nursing care that is beyond belief and giving Tylenol for their labour, for a broken part of their body, for cancer, for anything that is very serious.

That reminds me too, of one of my friends that mentioned their mother had cancer and they told her to take Tylenol. How very sad of health care that we receive in the Kivalliq region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to have permission to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For my part, Mr. Speaker, I share the concern raised by my constituents and to that affect, I can personally say I'm troubled by the single pill solution. Now, I would probably need help to take a health break and go and take a pill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 212 – 2(4): Regional Alienation in the Kitikmeot**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tackle the issue of regional alienation in the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, it is said that Canada is a nation of regions. When you meet a Canadian, he or she will often identify themselves as being a Northerner, Atlantic Canadian, Quebecois or Westerner.

We find differences even within our provinces and territories. The most obvious being the split between urban centres and rural areas, both of which have different needs and priorities.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut was created to address the issue of alienation. The establishment of a new territory was intended to enable the people of the eastern Arctic to become closer to their government and to feel more in control of their collective destiny.

However, I and many of my constituents are deeply concerned that reality has not lived up to the promise.

In the Kitikmeot, the first and most obvious example is geography. Before division, the seat of government was a 90-minute plane ride away. Today, it takes two days of air travel and one night in Yellowknife before a resident of Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Cambridge Bay or Kugluktuk reaches far-away Iqaluit, even if they can afford to fly here. It is not at all surprising that people in my part of the territory feel that their government has actually moved further away from them.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that the location of the government cannot move, but we can move to do more to bring government closer to the people.

Holding Cabinet and Caucus retreats in different communities is a welcome gesture, but the issue of alienation will only be successfully addressed if the public genuinely believes that they and their representatives have a real say in decision-making.

For example, people in the Kitikmeot are still waiting to hear a convincing explanation for why the new Clyde River-based Cultural School has satellite campuses planned for Igloodik and Baker Lake, but nothing in the Kitikmeot, despite the good work performed by our heritage societies.

Mr. Speaker, the KIA Annual General Meeting asked me why the Government of Nunavut doesn't recognize the Kitikmeot's distinctness and uniqueness. A sense of alienation that encompasses an entire region can have a corrosive effect on our territory and governance as a whole. It has to be addressed before there is no turning back.

Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. So you may complete your statement, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a little behind on the translation. Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot has a reputation for being a region of doers, not whiners.

We prefer to be decisive and get things done, rather than waiting for the government to hold a consultation workshop to develop an expression of interest to produce to a request for proposals for an action plan to lead to the formulation of an interim task team that will work to consider an options paper for...

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you get my point.

I believe that regional alienation can be addressed. Some goodwill from our neighbours will help in this regard, and I look forward to the next Assembly taking such steps as properly addressing the Kitikmeot's representation in this House and on Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members' Statements. Member for Tunnunig, Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Member's Statement 213 – 2(4): Non Inuktitut Speaking RCMP**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier, our Justice Minister, was in Pond Inlet recently to meet with the public in Pond Inlet.

Now, we are all aware that the RCMP is the police for the nation of Canada. I believe there is a funding arrangement with the federal government for the RCMP to operate here, and the parameters of that operation.

At one time, we used to have RCMPs who can communicate in Inuktitut in the communities. We very much appreciated that, but today, we are aware and we've heard that they are sent for training down south. We don't have anybody in the police detachment in Pond Inlet who doesn't speak Inuktitut.

We all know 60 percent of the residents of Pond Inlet speak Inuktitut only.

I am going to be asking questions later on to the Minister of Justice as to how the contract is set up by the Nunavut Government to hire RCMP officers and how each community is assigned police officers in the communities. We all know that we need Inuktitut speaking RCMP officers in the communities throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Member's Statements. Member for Sanikiluaq, Mr. Kattuk.

#### **Member's Statement 214 – 2(4): Elders Predicted Climate Change/Global Warming**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the climate change issue in our communities and the planet as a whole.

Many years ago, elders used to say that in the years to come, the day would arrive where winter no longer happens. They used to talk to us about this in our community and that this would be happening with the climate change in our area in Nunavut.

It is happening today. Climate change is taking place in our communities and is affecting our lives. It is going to become a serious concern. The wildlife and their habitats are going to be affected. I would like to ask the Government of Nunavut to further review and study these issues.

Climate change has come about and it is a concern. I would like to hear if some of the ministers or the House has any stories that they've heard in the past from our ancestors about climate change happening.

Inuit leaders, like Sheila Watt-Cloutier, have been very busy dealing with climate change in the Arctic. The President of ITK, Mary Simon, has also been quite involved in dealing with climate change.

I want to find out if the Government of Nunavut is going to do the same and if they've heard of the work that others are doing.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Uqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

**Member's Statement 215 – 2(4): Grade 12 Graduates of Clyde River**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently returned from a visit to my community of Clyde River to recognize the high school students who finished grade 12. Many came to our communities, along and the parents of the graduates to pay their tributes.

I would encourage the other members to attend the graduation ceremonies of the students in their own constituencies. We must not underestimate the value of recognizing the hard work students have done to earn their education. I urge members to join the Minister of Education and local education authorities in honouring the students in their regions.

I want members to join me in congratulating Benny Sanguja, Elisapee Iqaqrialu, Joan Joanas, Treena Hainnu, and Susana Qajaq. There were five graduates in Clyde River on October 26, 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 216 – 2(4): Gratitude to RCMP Officer Peter Pilgrim of Taloyoak**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to announce today that the community of Taloyoak recently had a gathering on October 24, 2007 at the community hall. The gathering was to say farewell to an RCMP member who is leaving the community. Peter Pilgrim and his wife are moving to Rankin Inlet.

On behalf of Taloyoarmiut, I want to say thank you to Peter for his service to our community. He was a very well received RCMP member in our community and he did a lot to work with not only elders but the youth as well. Unfortunately, he's been transferred to Rankin Inlet.

On behalf of Taloyoarmiut, I want to say thank you to Peter for his great service to our community and on behalf of Taloyoarmiut, wish him and his wife well in their new home of Rankin Inlet. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Mr. Picco.

**Member's Statement 217 – 2(4): Joamie School Family Fun Night**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Thursday night Joamie School hosted its Annual Family Fun Night. Family Fun Night is an opportunity for Joamie students, teachers, staff, and parents to share with the entire community a night of games, prizes, events, and activities for the whole family.

Mr. Speaker, this annual event is also a major fundraiser for Joamie School. It helps enhance programs and services offered by the school throughout the community.

Mr. Speaker, a tremendous amount of work and planning by the staff and students goes into Family Fun Night. The parents, students, staff and friends of Joamie donate time, prizes and help staff the mini booths and help coordinate the event.

Mr. Speaker, this year Family Fun Night was a resounding success. Over \$4,000 was raised and more importantly, a great time was held by all.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Principal Eelee Higgins, her staff and students, and all the volunteers for making the Annual Joamie School Fun Night a resounding success. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 218 – 2(4): Training Centre at Resolute Bay – Alcohol Lounge**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome back, Mr. Akasuk.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a constituency meeting I held with the residents of Resolute Bay. It was made very clear to me and you're all aware that there is a Rangers' Training Centre in the community.

The elders there expressed to me their desire not to return to the past where there were drinking establishments in Resolute Bay. Elders have observed many different things that happened in the community in the past and seen those that became pregnant and drank alcohol which changes lives.



That training school is going to be federally funded and operated. Keeping in mind that in Resolute Bay, community operations are divided between the hamlet and the federal government, there is no wish to see these kinds of problems resurface again.

I further rise to ask that community consultations be taken with the hamlet and the local Alcohol Committee so that social problems of the past do not crop up again, especially when there will be this kind of school in the community.

This issue was brought up with me at the constituency meeting I held in the community and I wanted to make sure this was brought up in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Item 3. Members' Statements. Thank you. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

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

##### **Return to Oral Question 245 – 2(4): Job Advertisement Without Staff Housing**

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to clarify comments I made to the House during question period, Job Advertisement Without Staff Housing, on October 25, 2007.

Placing of employment advertisement is a role of the Department of Human Resources and Nunavut Housing Corporation is responsible for staff housing allocation. The decision to provide or not provide staff housing is outside of the responsibility of my department. In my remarks, I indicated that I would direct staff to provide housing for this position.

Mr. Speaker, clarification to the response is that I will direct my staff to request for staff housing eligibility for this position. Following the advertisement process, CGS did sign off the job advertisement and overlooked the eligibility criteria for staff housing request and will seek revision for approval to have that position be considered for staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Amittuq, Minister Tapardjuk.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize and welcome Louis Alianakuluk Uttak. He will be our Sergeant-at-Arms from Igloolik. He will be here for a week. Please welcome him to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to acknowledge an individual who is here in the Gallery right behind me. He is from my home community and is my constituent: Jim Shirley.

I have known him since the 1970s. He used to help the interpreters and is very well known because he is a sculptor of ceramics and wood. He has trained many people and many people are very pleased to work with ceramics. There is a high interest in that from young people, middle aged, and elders that work together.

I am very pleased to have Mr. Shirley here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. I would also like to acknowledge from my riding, although I made a statement, I would like to welcome Abraham Angnakak. His wife is working here, so he is visiting Iqaluit. Welcome.

Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions.

### **Speaker's Caution**

Before we proceed with Oral Questions, I wish to take this opportunity to remind all members of the importance of providing succinct preambles to questions and answers.

While reviewing Friday's *Hansard* over the weekend, I noted with concern that at least one member's preamble to a supplementary question was actually longer than one of the formal Minister's Statements delivered earlier in the sitting day.

I am confident that all members recognize the importance of providing adequate time during Oral Question Period for other members to have the opportunity to pose questions.

I would also remind all members that the purpose of Question Period is to ask questions.

Preambles should establish the premise of a question and provide sufficient information upon which a minister may base his or her answer. Members should refrain from using

this time to offer comments or arguments that would be better delivered as a Member's Statement.

The cooperation of all members in this regard will assist your chair in maintaining order, and contribute to the decorum of the House.

Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Tunnunig, Mr. Arvaluk.

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

#### **Question 264 – 2(4): RCMP Officers' Transfers**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier who is also the Minister of Justice.

He was just recently in Pond Inlet and met with the people, and so he is very well aware of what they had to say. I'm not too sure if he has already responded to them or not. Usually, when he responds, he lets me know, but he has not done so yet.

So therefore, I would like to ask this question in regard to the RCMP officers who speak Inuktitut. Why do they get these bilingual speaking RCMP officers to stay in an Inuit community for a certain term and then send them down south later on? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Justice, Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke with the RCMP Commanding Officer (CO) and he said that is how they do it all over Canada. Each officer is regularly transferred. There is no limitation as to where they are sent and the RCMP officers usually have to accept their relocation. That is their usual practice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): We have heard and we are aware that the federal government pays 30 percent of the RCMP Division and the Nunavut Government pays the rest. Isn't there a practice in place? Is there an agreement, or is there lack of agreement and is that why he responded to me that way?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Justice, Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The RCMP is contracted out and we follow the usual practice. I have already spoken to the CO and talked our unhappiness over this issue. We have asked if they can review this matter because the way the system is, it is not benefiting the Inuit of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to agree with the Premier for the first time that this is indeed not set up right for Nunavut.

If we pay 70 percent of the RCMP Division, then why don't I know that fact? Since we have a contract agreement with the RCMP, I wonder why there is no set policy where the Inuktitut speaking members who are from Nunavut must stay in the North. Can the minister tell me if they can include that in the next set of negotiations with the federal government and the Nunavut Government?

What I say is that when the federal government wants to do some training in Afghanistan, they were able to send the RCMP to carry out the training. Therefore, they can also set a policy that if you are an Inuktitut speaking RCMP, you should be stationed in Nunavut. I would like to ask that question. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Justice, Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an office at the Department of Justice and conduct some issues pertaining to justice there. The agreement was signed prior to the creation of Nunavut. It's an agreement for 20 years, so we still have another 10 more years.

We would like to rectify this situation before we go to the next stage of negotiation because we need more Inuit RCMP officers or special constables so that they could provide assistance to the Inuktitut unilingual speaking people. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we now know as he just told us that we still have 10 more years before it can be changed. He says, however, that we would like to resolve this situation prior to 10 years is up. He knows, too, that this might not be resolved before 10 years have passed.

My next question is: will you be planning for change prior to our term is over? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Justice, Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if the member is requesting a strategy during this session or the term of our government but we will keep looking for ways during this term. I'll probably be able to present a plan in a year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 265 – 2(4): Transferred Staff from EIA to Finance**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Finance.

Mr. Speaker, last Thursday I asked the minister for an update on the positions that have been transferred from the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Department of Health and Social Services to Finance.

He gave the information on all the numbers for the staff from the Department of Health and Social Services. I would just like to ask him if he has information for the numbers for the Department of EIA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there were four financial positions transferred from EIA to Finance. Of those four positions transferred, one employee has transferred to another department and another employee has resigned to work with the Government of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the whole idea behind this concept was to strengthen the financial management of the government, but given the numbers that the minister has just provided, roughly half of the people that were processing paper and looking after these finances left.

So I'm just wondering if the minister could give us an update as to how this has helped strengthen the financial management when it seems like all of a sudden, they just chase half of the people away from doing that work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, he is correct in the numbers of staff leaving, rather than transferring to finance, moving to another government department and also resigning total.

Of the 20 positions that were transferred from Health to Finance, there were nine employees who either resigned or moved elsewhere, but we are continuing work within the Department of Finance to strengthen financial management.

We are in the process now of analyzing all of the positions that we need. We will have an improved knowledge of the job specifications for all of these positions. This will allow us Mr. Speaker, to start working towards establishing centres of excellence within the Government of Nunavut across all departments.

So all of that work continues and will continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated that there are nine people from the Department of Health and Finance Division left, and two out of the four from EIA left.

Can he just give us an indication of what steps and when do they plan on having those positions filled so people can be performing that financial function? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's part of all the standardization of procedures that is also taking place within our department. These will be identified and documented as best practices for certain financial functions.

But in terms of the positions themselves that are vacant presently, we're working as quickly as we can to fill those positions, so that we can get the necessary work done and strengthen financial management. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The numbers themselves show that it may have had the opposite affect on finances and now you have half the people doing double the work.

My question for the minister is: if you have half the people that were performing those duties prior to the transfer have left, how is the department making up for that in the interim where there are 11 to 13 people doing the work out of 24? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Finance is a large department with everybody working on finance issues. So we have other staff within the

department that is helping these people that moved over to finance to carry out the necessary work.

As we recruit new staff, those new staff will be fully trained by our department to carry out the work and through that, do the necessary work that we wanted them to do in the first place by transferring those positions to Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 266 – 2(4): Information for On-The-Land Safety**

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

On the weekend, we were informed of a tragedy in Kugluktuk. A married couple had been out trapping over the weekend and fell through the ice close to their return to the community. The tragedy has resulted in a death of one partner and the other has been medivaced to Edmonton. My deepest condolences go out to their families.

(interpretation ends) I think we can prevent some of those accidents in our communities. My question is this: what kind of information does the department currently provide to the public about safety and awareness when going out on the land? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to going out on the land, we had tried to put out some information to make sure that people went out safely and fully prepared, to bring all the necessary equipment that they might need in case of an emergency like sleeping bags, and so on. Elders also constantly advise people on what to bring. Elders particularly warn about travelling on thin ice.

We've been hearing about the thin ice and it is happening in Rankin Inlet. We were told that Lake Williamson's ice was too thin. They advised the people not to go through that lake. The elders can be utilized to give advice. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. (interpretation ends) In this case, I believe that the people may not have been familiar enough with the local area to travel safely.

Has the department considered working with the local community to present information pamphlets to new residents who are planning to go out on the land so they are aware of the dangerous spots in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Emergency Measures Agency within CGS works with the communities and give workshops in regard to safety issues.

Regretfully, we hear about those kinds of incidents every year, be it people who have been successfully rescued or got lost. It's desirable that people avoid the risks, and I think it's up to the individuals to go out there and get the information themselves. But of course, we'll do all we can to improve the system as there is a lot of room to improve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Madam Minister. Yes, it's very good to let new people who are moving to the communities know because a lot of them don't know about the danger areas in the communities, especially in Kugluktuk. We are by one of the biggest rivers and a lot of areas are very dangerous.

This couple had just recently moved to Kugluktuk. Can the minister commit to keeping the public who are new to the community informed about danger spots they may encounter when going out on the land? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, the Community and Government Services Department doesn't usually know who is going to be moving where or who are newcomers, but I think it's a very good idea to contact the entities that deal with emergency and public information.

I urge the newcomers to go and see the hamlet office or the hunters and trappers association and other agencies. I think it would be best if they get that information beforehand and as you probably know we do have cable channels that make sure that that type of information is available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Question 267 – 2(4): Update on the Government of Nunavut’s Response to Motion Concerning Airline Service**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, the Legislative Assembly passed a formal motion on November 21, 2006, concerning the urgent need for the GN to work with the Northern Air Transport Association to bring forward an action plan to improve the availability of affordable and reliable air service to our smaller communities.

On March 7 of this year, I asked the minister for an update on the GN’s response to this motion. At that time, he indicated to me that he had not yet discussed the issue with his officials.

Can the minister provide an update today on the status of his department’s actions on this important issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you. We are currently working on this issue in our department and we are looking at how we can work with the Northern Air Transport Association and other entities in Nunavut. I’m not exactly sure how we’re going to work on this issue as we have different airlines that are owned by different companies and they set their own fares.

With that, as everyone is well aware, it’s extremely expensive to work up here in Nunavut and I think it’s up to us to find out how we can improve the system. But at this time, we’re not exactly sure how we’re going to go about this as the airlines are privately owned and not operated by the government. They do have to make it profitable in order to survive up here.

So we’re looking at all those issues to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Earlier this year, the Minister informed the House that his department had completed its review of the Nunavut Transportation Strategy. When will the updated Transportation Strategy be implemented and tabled in the Legislative Assembly? 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. It has been updated and implemented, but the federal government will have to give us some funding that will be used for Nunavut.

Once we review that funding and see how we can use it in Nunavut, and after that update as to how the federal government will let us use the funding, then we will know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My constituents in the High Arctic continue to have concerns about airline service. Will the GN's new Transportation Strategy take the needs of the smallest communities into account? 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. Yes, that includes all the concerns of the communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The GN has a new Fuel Tax Rebate Program to encourage mining companies to explore in Nunavut. Will the minister commit to looking at similar ways to encourage airlines to improve their service to our smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, we are concerned about the high cost of everything in all communities in Nunavut and we are looking at ways of how we can decrease the transportation cost in Nunavut. We are looking at all different things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Question 268 – 2(4): Consider Revising Home Care Policy**

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with pain and compassion for those individuals requiring home care treatment in many Nunavut communities, in particular, in my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, not all home care individuals who require treatment have the same needs. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if she would consider revising in-home care treatment requirements from time limits from nine to five to beyond nine to five, and if not, why not. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The home care services are provided to individuals that require home care assistance, I understand there is some flexibility around the hours of service provided to the patient that requires the treatment. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If that policy is clearly defined in the guidelines of medical services, will the minister make sure that is communicated to local health facilities?

Mr. Speaker, the reason I am asking the minister for that is there are seriously terminally ill individuals that require treatment beyond nine to five hours. In the experience of these individuals is that they suffer and require urgent medical help but they have been denied that in view of the policies that are being interpreted to conflict what the minister just said.

So will she communicate that policy directly to the health centres as soon as possible? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Health, Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The home care services and hours are a reflection of the level of care required by the patient and where there are individuals who are terminally ill, or end of life support; more hours are added to that.

So if that is not being practiced, I will commit to the member to look into that issue immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Home Care Treatment Program is very popular and is welcomed by our elders. It has made a difference in a number of communities, including my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, not all the service providers, like medical facilities, have a clear understanding of the policy. For instance, a terminally ill patient was asked come into the facility. We'll help you. Mr. Speaker, the individual was not able to dress up and just go.

So therefore, will the minister clearly indicate to this House and to the medical facilities that they must respond to the terminally ill individuals requiring that the nurse is able to come into their home and treat that individual? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make sure that the staff is aware of the policy in place and the process that we follow currently which is that any person who wants to get an assessment for home care services can do that. At the same time, a terminally ill person, their plan of care is developed by the home care nurse.

So I will ensure that the policy is communicated to the Kivalliq staff, not only the Kivalliq staff, again, throughout all the regions, again, and clarify that to the people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 269 – 2(4): Number of Communities Contributing to Infrastructure**

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

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut's capital planning process is an important vehicle to discuss and improve large scale education projects, such as high schools. As you know, funding is always an issue and it is usually a shortage of funding, and additional funds from elsewhere are extremely limited, particularly from hamlets.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House, since 1999, how many communities have contributed capital funds to Government of Nunavut projects, such as high schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I heard the member correctly, he asked; since 1999, how many communities have contributed to capital expenditures based on the community's infrastructure education needs; I have only been the minister since 2004, so I can say that since 2004, I'm not aware of a request by the government to an individual hamlet to contribute dollars toward the establishment of a school, or education infrastructure in a given community.

The only example I can remember since 1999 was, indeed, the situation in the community of Cambridge Bay where there was a request for a school that was larger than, according to our criteria, that would have been welcomed in the community. The community actually contributed I think around \$50,000 at that time to expand the size of that gymnasium.

There was also some money put into the Baker Lake school, I believe, similarly on the gym. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. I thought the Minister of Education knew all about the projects in Nunavut going back to 1999 and earlier, on education projects in particular.

Mr. Speaker, hamlets have limited funds and fundraising is extremely difficult. In smaller communities, raising large amounts can often take years.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister: can the minister explain to the House under what conditions or policy can the Government of Nunavut require hamlets to contribute capital funds to high school projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that I had an opportunity to be in a meeting with the member from 1:30 on Saturday to almost six o'clock, I think it was, and so I don't know where he finds the time to do these questions.

>>*Laughter*

Very simply, Mr. Speaker, I don't know of a policy in place, or an administrative rule that subjects any given community to an opportunity to contribute. It's usually done on a project-by-project basis, and it's usually done by convention, where, for example, a given hamlet would come forward and say, "Look, the school design, or in this case, the gymnasium, we would like to have a larger gymnasium. Is there an opportunity to have contributions from the hamlet to make it a little larger?" And then that would be looked at in the context of what the needs of a given community are, for example, what happened in Baker Lake and what occurred in the member's community. 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. He asked me when I find time; I always have time sitting right here listening to him when he answers questions.

Mr. Speaker, when a capital project is constructed in a community, particularly a high school project, there's a high expectation that the project be the top of the line, high quality project.

In Cambridge Bay, we contributed \$80,000 towards the Kiilnik High School gym, and received a facility that has substandard gym floors, backboards, and now, stage lighting. Last year, we identified problems with the trades shop, which was corrected this year.

Mr. Speaker, would the minister commit today to request a complete review and inspection of the Kiilnik High School to bring the high school up to standard with a new gym floor, backboards, and working stage lighting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me say first of all, the Kiilnik High School in Cambridge Bay, as you know, Mr. Speaker, and many Members here in the House know, is probably, first and foremost, one of the best pieces of infrastructure in Nunavut; a several million-dollar price tag.

I would suggest to the member that it is up to standards. Indeed, the extra, I think it was \$700,000, which has been recently put into making sure the trades shop is up to par.

I will commit, Mr. Speaker, to reviewing the capital expenditures in the school to see if we can actually move forward on the concern with the gymnasium floor, and to look at the issue with the basketball backboards, and the lighting. So I would make that commitment to the member to review that and look at what opportunities that we have here in place.

I should also say that the actual design of the floors was reviewed by all parties and the local DEA around 1999 and 2000 when we were doing the planning, but I understand that the floor is a bit hard and I have been on that floor. So I would make that commitment to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, just to clarify, it is a very nice school. The area that I'm concerned about, as are my constituents, the students and the parents, is with the gym. The trades shop, of course, it had to be upgraded with the problems with the wiring. Overall, the school is nice. In 2007 dollars, it's probably a bargain, because it only cost \$17 million and now, we're looking at \$40 million for high schools.

Mr. Speaker, in the private sector, the customer is highly valued. Most businesses would have a slogan that guarantees your satisfaction or your money refunded. As I said, we are dissatisfied with our gym; the floor is like concrete, as the minister has indicated, it's hard on the kids. The basketball backboards are cheap. We've identified that our lighting that doesn't work.

The minister has made a commitment. Could the minister commit today that if he can't rectify these problems, would he commit the Government of Nunavut to refund their \$80,000? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Education and Energy, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear him say with interest. I'm sure he probably would like to take that question back.

No, I would make a commitment, Mr. Speaker. I will make the commitment, right now in the House, that we will review the opportunities that may present themselves in being able to facilitate some repairs to that floor to see if we can bring it up to the standard that we have in place right now.

I think there is an opportunity to be able to do that under minor capital. However, we have to remember that and the members remember that there are a lot of needs out there for capital infrastructure, especially for education. We did see, for example, the pictures of the school in Arctic Bay and some of the other concerns that we have. So I need to be able to put them in that context.

So that's the commitment that I'm preparing to offer to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 270 – 2(4): Number of Communities with Photo ID Equipment**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

The smaller communities would have problems for some of the photo IDs in the communities. Can the minister tell me how many communities are able to make photo IDs for their communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I am correct, all the communities are able to make their own photo IDs and are able to use that ID throughout Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my constituency, we only have one camera and I don't think that should be the case. Would the minister be able to speed up the work so that we can have our IDs because a lot of times we have to go through Montreal.

I was told one time when I was getting on, "If you're going on the airplane, if you don't have an ID, then you don't get on." Many of our people have to go through Montreal enroute. Can the minister inform his officials to speed up the process so that we could have a better system for photo IDs in our community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will speed up the process. I thought that was done already but we will speed up the process. Once I know, I'll get back to the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Sanikiluaq.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Lastly, when is he going to find out from his officials and let me know? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will inform him today as to what has been done for his community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 271 – 2(4): Capital Budget Planning Process**

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

Mr. Speaker, I want some clarification and I asked this question during Committee of the Whole regarding the Capital Estimates. Is the minister aware ahead of time, once they're planning for the Capital Estimates, that the Government of Nunavut and the federal



government, once they are going to put them in the form of paper, as to how much money is allotted for capital projects for the estimates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we know at least a year ahead of time to put into the estimates for the capital projects. In our planning stages, we have an idea as to how much funding will be allotted for the projects and for the five-year capital projects as well.

Our officials, our staff, the deputy ministers, and EAs are always aware ahead of time and they inform the committees. This is our process every year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I notice. I'm asking this question because we know that they're not going to use a certain amount of funding for a particular project and it's in the plans. I'm sure this is not the first case.

So when they're not going to use the capital funds, and it's a large amount, why do they move them to another project and just leave them in the capital plans saying that they were going use it and then not use it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We go accordingly to our understanding for the capital funding and the request from the communities in that they're going to be used for the whole year.

Sometimes we do encounter problems and challenges that we face in a year. A lot of times we have to look for other funding to use for the projects this year, or when the year is coming, or when the year is finishing, sometimes we do encounter problems. Sometimes our departments do ask for permission if we could move them around and this is how the process goes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I know the situation. This has happened more than once, that they make changes during the end. A lot of times they do too many changes and remove them of the funding, and then the large amounts of funding are removed or moved to another project. Were they made aware way ahead of time that the changes were coming? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once we are in the planning stages, our staff gets together and they make us aware. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us: is he expecting any changes for this year for capital plans? Is he expecting any changes that will happen for capital projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know of any changes that will be made this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Question 272 – 2(4): Reduction in the Polar Bear Total Allowable Harvest in Western Hudson Bay**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, just last month, the *Nunavut Gazette* media brought out information regarding the polar bear regulations that the estimates of the polar bear quota for the Hudson Bay region was originally 56 but now they lowered it to 38.

I recognize this, Mr. Speaker, for the decision that the minister made. Was the Wildlife Management Board aware of this? The minister has authority whether he can say yes or no to it.

My question is very obvious and understandable. Can the minister elaborate and tell the House why he approved this decrease of the quota for polar bears? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When there was a request for the decrease of the polar bear quotas, I had said no to the NWMB, and as we continued on with the process, I said yes to the decrease. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NWMB probably had good reasons when they made that decision for it to be approved to lower the quota. Can the minister tell the House why the NWMB asked the minister to approve the lowering of the quota for polar bears? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was a survey done in the coast of Hudson Bay near Churchill, Manitoba, regarding the decrease of polar bears in that area, and for that reason, we lowered the quota. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. GN's own submission to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is available at the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board's website. It states and I quote, "The opinions expressed by the local hunters are not in total agreement with the scientific information. They do not support any reduction in the total allowable harvest." Can the minister explain to the House why the opinions of local hunters were ignored? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been in consultations with the HTOs for that region regarding that and their argument was that there have been a lot of bears witnessed but our numbers show that the polar bear population is in decline. For that reason, we decided that the reduction of the quota would be best for the future users of the polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that it is important that we openly and honestly acknowledge that when it comes to quotas in wildlife management, there's a fundamental divide between the opinions of scientists, the wildlife advocacy group, who wear the same hat with different organizations, and the experience and knowledge of lifelong Inuit hunters.

It is clear where I stand. I trust the hunters and I trust the elders. Can the minister clearly explain to the House why he does not? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have utmost respect for IQ knowledge, and if it wasn't for my father who passed away in the recent years, he and other elders, along with the members asking questions, used IQ knowledge to ensure that we have the benefit of hunting our polar bears now.

Mr. Speaker, we have considered IQ knowledge quite well, and NTI studied the IQ studies in Western Hudson Bay and we may undertake this depending on whether the NTI study has been completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

### **Question 273 – 2(4): Accuracy of Newspaper Article**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, and it refers to the document I tabled earlier in this sitting on October 23, titled, 'No Quick Fix for Agency Nurse Problem: Aglukkaq.'

Mr. Speaker, in that article it indicates and it says, "Aglukkaq said she will reveal a new plan to address Nunavut's critical nursing shortage after the legislation comes back in the session on the 23rd."

Mr. Speaker, we're back and I guess I would just like to ask the minister if that is accurate because according to her, a lot of the stuff in here hasn't been accurate. So I would just like to ask her if that's an accurate comment in there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's no secret. I've said that many times in this House that I would be tabling a Nursing Recruitment Strategy in this session, between October and November 9, and during that time I would table that information. That also can be found in the *Hansard* of June. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know in the spring when we were talking about that, she had indicated it was almost complete and it had to go to the Cabinet. Has that strategy gone through Cabinet for approval yet, and if so, when? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Recruitment Strategy has gone to Cabinet and right now, we're finalizing how we will be presenting the information. I had also said that I would have to go back to FMB to get the final approval before I can release that document. Hopefully, I would be able to do that before the session ends on November 9. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It says the Nursing and Recruitment Strategy contains measures that will go a long way towards giving nurses more reason to work for the GN on a permanent or indeterminate basis.

The minister just indicated that that strategy has been approved by Cabinet. Could she give us some indication to us and to all the nurses out there what some of those measures will be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have shared, off and on, what may contain in that report. What we're trying to say here is that it will be a multi-dimensional approach that we're looking at to try and address the situations and the challenges we face in Nunavut.

Once that information is tabled in the House, I will be more prepared to speak to the specifics of each of the items in the strategy but not until such time as I'm able to release that document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, earlier the minister indicated they're just looking at trying to figure out how to present it. It has been approved by Cabinet and surely, the minister would agree this is a good news story.

Can she please inform the Members of this House and the nurses out there what kind of specific measures are in that strategy, that has been approved and that they're just waiting to figure out how to present it, are in there for them? Will the minister please do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be presenting the information; we're translating it. I also said in my earlier response that yes, we're looking at releasing

it but I would have to go back to FMB to ensure that the commitments, financially, are also approved before I table that report.

I had responded to Mr. Arvaluk as well earlier this week that I would be prepared to speak to the specifics of the strategy and I'm anxious to release it just as much as the members are. Once it's released, I will be able to present it and speak to the specifics of the strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 274 – 2(4): Support for Homeowners**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. It has been a week long since we've had a question for him.

Mr. Speaker, my question is in regard to the homeowners; (interpretation ends) let me speak in English; Nunavummiut who can afford the cost of buying and maintaining their own home. As the minister will be aware, the Nunavut Housing Corporation offers a series of programs and financing options to help Nunavummiut who want to own their own homes.

Can the minister clarify what support services the Nunavut Housing Corporation provides for Nunavut homeowners? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking the question. For homeowners and for potential homeowners, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has programs and they are available to assist potential homeowners.

Our staff visit the communities to look at ways of how they can provide more assistance and support to the homeowners or to the potential homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some housing associations approve the applicants, but some members who belong to the Nunavut Housing Corporation don't...

(interpretation ends) Owning a home is not simple. Just like owning a vehicle, you also need insurance for your house. That insurance is based on a value of the house which is determined by a property surveyor or a property appraiser.

Can the minister clarify for this House how many professional property surveyors are in Nunavut and in which communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): I don't have the figure on how many inspectors but I will get back to the member with the response. Also, our staff should be notified as to which homes need inspections so when the inspectors go to the communities, they have a better idea of what they need to do within the community.

I will get back to the member on the number of inspectors and how much they cost. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barnabas**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those communities where there's no property surveyor, can the minister explain how homeowners can have their houses evaluated for insurance purposes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said earlier, we would like any region of our territory to contact the district offices in the regions to make an appointment to get somebody into their community for the purposes of evaluating their units, or the houses that are owned by our people.

I think it's important that we work very closely with the MLAs, the Housing Corporation, and the homeowners of the territory to come up with ideas of how we can improve our delivery of how we evaluate the houses that we have in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that this responsibility is in Iqaluit but there is no building inspector here in Iqaluit.

There are new units being constructed. When spring comes, the new buildings start shifting, even though they're brand new. That's just an example that I'm going to use because we are experiencing the same problem in the smaller communities.

(interpretation ends) Will the minister commit to working with his officials in the Nunavut Housing Corporation to ensure that all Nunavut homeowners have the services they need to insure and protect their homes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will work with them on how we can deal with this issue and I will speak to my officials on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Members, the time for Question Period is over. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Curley.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased and proud of our visitor who rarely comes here, our good friend from Keewatin, Mr. John Hickee, I would like him to be welcomed.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Environment, Minister Netser.

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

**Tabled Document 128 – 2(4): Workers’ Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut – Annual Report 2006**

**Tabled Document 129 – 2(4): Ministerial Meeting Report – Intergovernmental Ministers Responsible for Workers’ Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut June 19, 2007**



**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following documents: the Workers' Compensation Board of the NWT and Nunavut Annual Report for 2006; and also, the Workers' Compensation Board of NWT and Nunavut Joint Ministers' Meeting on June 19, 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Tabled Document 130 – 2(4): Home & Community Care Services Annual Report 2005-2006**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the Annual Report for 2005-2006 Home Care and Community Care Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Could the member please provide the tabled document to the Clerk's table?

Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Mr. Simailak.

**Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

**Bill 19 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2 – First Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 19 has had its first reading.

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

**Bill 18 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Related Statutes – First Reading**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik, that Bill 18, *An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 18 has had its first reading.

First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 15, I apologize, Bill 16... I apologize. Bill 16, with Mr. Evyagotailak in the Chair.

Before we go into Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:21 and Committee resumed at 15:55*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Evyagotailak): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following item to deal with: Bill 16. What is the wish of this committee? Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish continue with Bill 16 and commence with the review of the Capital Estimates for the Department of Environment, followed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Are we in agreement we deal with the Capital Estimates for the Department of Environment?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

### **Bill 16 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee – Environment**

**Chairman:** Thank you very much. I would now like to ask Minister Netser, Minister of Environment, to make his opening remarks.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here this afternoon before the Committee of the Whole to present the department's capital plan for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's proposed capital budget for 2008-09 is \$1.7 million.

The capital projects for 2008-09 focuses on two areas which are: Wildlife Management and Parks and Special Places.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut parks play a crucial role in the protection and promotion of Nunavut's outstanding natural and cultural heritage, and in supporting positive recreation and tourism experiences. Our parks are developed for the benefit of Nunavummiut and for both national and international visitors. Through our capital plan, we are continuing to ensure our parks meet the needs of Nunavummiut and visitors.

A substantial portion of the department's 2008-09 capital budget is within the Wildlife Management Division. The focus is on maintaining and renovating present wildlife offices, and replacing some of our aging wildlife mobile equipment.

During this fiscal year, we completed three new wildlife offices located in Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove and Hall Beach. A fourth wildlife office in Cambridge Bay is in progress and we are hoping it will be completed within a couple of years.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's Capital Plan is focused in areas that clearly support the needs and priorities of this government as well as the needs of communities throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. (interpretation ends) Do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: I do. Thank you.

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

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Sergeant-at-Arms, can you please escort the witnesses?

For the record, minister, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Simon Awa, Deputy Minister, and on my left, Mr. David Monteith, Director of Parks and Special Places. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Welcome to the Committee of the Whole. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* has reviewed the proposed Capital Estimates of the Department of Environment for the 2008-09 fiscal year, and I am pleased to provide you with the committee's comments.

The committee notes that the department's proposed 2008-09 capital budget of \$1,700,000 is approximately 16 percent lower than its 2007-08 budget.

Mr. Chairman, \$600,000 of this amount is going towards the Kugaaruk Park Development, which is a new project. \$1,000,000 will go toward small capital projects and the final \$100,000 is for Wildlife Office Renovations.

Mr. Chairman, although there is new funding for the Kugaaruk Park Development, the committee was informed that development of the park cannot proceed at this time as the proposed area is currently being leased by prospectors through INAC. The minister indicated that it is difficult to state when work will be able to begin on this park. The committee recommends that the department work with INAC and the hamlets to share information when land is being leased by prospectors or mining companies in order to avoid future problems such as this one.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, members have expressed concerns regarding capital projects in various departments that have previously been delayed because of problems associated with the tendering process. It is important that municipalities receive clear information from the department when the timeline or scope of projects changes during the middle of the year, so that they have a clear understanding if a project has to be delayed or when a project will be completed.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee supports improvements to the territory's park facilities and visitor centres, which are the responsibility of Economic Development and Transportation. Members noted that \$1,000,000 is budgeted for small capital projects. This budget is to provide funding for mobile equipment, laboratory equipment and parks centre equipment. Members urge the minister to provide separate substantiation sheets for each project, with a breakdown of how these funds will be used and to clearly identify how much funding each project will receive.

Mr. Chairman, members noted a recent Request for Proposals to conduct an organizational review of the department. When the Department of Sustainable Development was split into Environment and EDT, this was to allow each one to focus on its different mandate. Mr. Chairman, it has been a concern that while the Department of Environment has responsibility for parks, the Department of Economic Development and Transportation has responsibility for the related areas of tourism and visitor centres. Another example is that while wildlife officers purchase pelts from local hunters, these pelts are then given to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Members look forward to being kept fully informed on the results of this organizational review.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to the matter under discussion but not until every member who wishes to speak has spoken. I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during page-by-page review of the departmental estimates.

Do members have any general comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be raising some questions but I would like to point out a couple of things.

The minister's comments in regard to the parks, for example, in Kugaaruk, we are not sure, as he stated, looking at what they have done, \$600,000 for design, twice for \$150,000 each. I am wondering if they were adequate, or exactly what they are going to use and why they need \$600,000. I will be raising questions on that as to what the Chairman mentioned on the second page, the Department of Environment asked to be reviewed.

I believe for two years now or more that hunters who sell their sealskins were handled by Economic Development. As regular members, we haven't understood exactly... it's not treated like a developing thing but the hunters sell their skins so they can get hunting equipment and gas money. That's what they use it for.

It's not exactly an economic development and it's not fully supported, or where they can make entries and the government spends a lot of money in that. For example, in Pangnirtung there's a fish plant and in Rankin Inlet there is a meat plant. It's not developed like those two.

Why was it transferred to the Department of Economic Development? We don't understand that. During your organizational review, I want that to be included. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a concern under the Department of Environment as the minister is fully aware, and I agree with Mr. Arvaluk because I don't fully understand why the sale of sealskins is under Economic Development.

I often asked the minister in regard to that because it's concern of ours in my constituency that we don't have a wildlife officer. Since I've been here, for those hunters who wish to sell their sealskins, there hasn't been one there, so there is a concern. I want the minister to recognize our concern in my constituency.

One of the concerns is the polar bear study during 2007-08. I believe it's to be concluded in that year. Not too long ago, some quotas were increased and Sanikiluaq residents were envious of that increase for the quota. They didn't increase it because they still have to do a study in our area. That's also one of our concerns.

With regards to tourism, this is not the first time that I bring this up. The residents are very interested in operating tourism projects because there's not very much about Sanikiluaq to attract tourists to our community. I want that to be considered, too, because I believe there is a committee for economic development in our community.

Those are my comments. I wonder if the next time you make plans that Sanikiluaq be included, especially with the tourism. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. I would like to remind the members that we are dealing with Environment.

Also, Mr. Netser, I'm just wondering, for the members' concerns, if you can provide them with more information on sealskin sales because a lot of communities don't have economic development. Mr. Netser.

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you. Are we open for questions already? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Not yet. We're still on general comments. Perhaps, later on you can give more information to the committee members. Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Mr. Minister and your officials. There are consultants that go into my community, Pond Inlet, and Igloolik with regard to the route.

Yes, the mining companies, we wish to see such development because they will produce jobs. But the residents of Igloolik, Pond Inlet, and Arctic Bay will be affected because that's where caribou migrate. The roads that they will be building, the proposed highway, goes right through the migration route.

Just before Nanisivik closed down, we used to have a concern. We weren't sure if there were dangers from the mine. Even though we wanted to acquire the buildings from Nanisivik, we were not sure if they were safe for health reasons.

If they're going to be developing, then they'll be affected in both ways, whether they travel by land or by water. I know the governments will do their studies on waters but they haven't said anything up to date.

The Inuit have other concerns with the mining companies. I wonder if the minister will be able to brief us as to what they are doing for the concerns of the Inuit. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. General comments. I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page I-6. Environment. Detail of Capital. Program Development. I'm sorry.

Members, questions about why and the reasons for the sale of sealskins being the responsibilities of Economic Development and Transportation should be asked in Question Period not here in Committee of the Whole as we are dealing with Environment.

Thank you. Environment. Detail of Capital. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my opening comments I mentioned that I wanted to ask some questions.

Yes, I understood that the wildlife office projects were delayed, especially for Hall Beach and Cambridge Bay. I already heard that it was completed in Hall Beach. What is the status at this time? Can the minister respond to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is he referring to the one in Cambridge Bay?

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Netser. Mr. Mapsalak, can you clarify your question to the minister?

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the one in Cambridge Bay. I'm referring to that one. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Cambridge Bay Wildlife Office project is underway and it will take a couple of years for the project to complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What about the office in Hall Beach that they built; did the people who built the offices encounter any problems? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we request, then it's handled by the Department of CGS, but we haven't heard if they encountered any problems at the Hall Beach offices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How does the department identify which community would know ahead of time if the community needs an office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We identify the communities that have the oldest buildings, and once we finish the Cambridge Bay office, then we forward it to the FMB. That's how the process goes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A different question. We were really expecting, particularly the community of Kugaaruk, for their community centre office. The minister identified the funding for that particular community and was going to go ahead but they had encountered problems and were not able to start the project in Kugaaruk.

What's happening with the \$600,000 that was going to be used for that community? What are they going to be using the money that was allocated for Kugaaruk now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) That \$600,000 was given back to us but we're going to go ahead with the project. We'll be able to do three or four. It has been identified for the building, so we are going to go ahead with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a brief question for the smaller projects that the *Ajauqtiit* Chairman identified earlier in his first statement. It is in regard to the surveys that were done by the laboratories. When there are animals that have sicknesses, a lot of the time we have to send them out to Northern Quebec. If we were to get a laboratory in Nunavut, would that laboratory be used throughout Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's supposed to be set up in Igloolik. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it just going to be used by the community of Igloolik? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's going to be used for all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to get a clear answer. Will they send the animals or things that need to be tested to the laboratory in Igloolik?

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is called trichinosis that the walrus get tested for. (interpretation ends) I believe, Mr. Chairman, that this is a health issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Exactly what are the laboratories supposed to be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) It's for maybe caribou and polar bear testing. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. Would that be under health issues? I understand though. For the pelts, skins, and fur bearing animal skins, sometimes they get sick and they get diseases. Can't you work on these within your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As just indicated earlier that this is the Department of ED&T's file, and when the appropriate minister comes to the witness table, you can ask that same question. Until then, I have nothing to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What the *Ajauqtiit* Chairman said earlier, he wanted us to bring these issues forward. Since the minister is unable to address the issues, that's it, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You said that we were on page I-6 concerning Kugaaruk. I have been reading these details of the capital but it's just concerning the \$600,000. Can the minister tell me what these capital projects are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could he clarify his question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk, can you clarify your question to the minister?

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't attempt to understand the capital estimates because they don't really say anything.

However, in the substantiation sheets there should be an explanation as to what we are spending. We have budgeted \$600,000 for Kugaaruk Nunavut Parks Facility design were in drawings with location and construction estimates. Why only construction estimates in the details for parks facilities and equipment? What is the \$600,000 for?

Can you not simply say *Qamutiik, Umiaq*, (interpretation) or whatever? (interpretation ends) Say something that will make me understand why I should approve this \$600,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For that, Mr. Chairman, I can have Mr. David Monteith answer the question.

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

**Mr. Monteith:** Thank you. The \$600,000 we spent was based on the completion of two studies that we have been doing over the year in terms of looking at boundaries for a proposed park.

We have three or four different areas that have been picked out around the community, and assuming that we have approval from the community and the issue with respect to mineral leases and development that might take place as a result, then we would use the money towards the design of facilities, interpretive signs, entrance signs, any bridging or trail development that might take place. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's mostly expensive stuff. There's no actual construction because it says right there in the capital estimates, Kugaaruk Park's Development.

You also have, in the substantiation sheet, \$150,000 for design and \$150,000 for other *Titiraujaq*, planning. Now, \$600,000 is for continuing the designing and planning, finding boundaries, and designing the other signs that you will be needed. That's \$900,000 all together. Is there any way to do this cheaper if you're not actually constructing a tangible asset on it? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When a community calls for parks and special places within its area, it takes many years and a lot of planning, approximately eight years. That's why it seems to be expensive but it's spread over a period of time, and when you really think about it, Mr. Chairman, it's really not all that expensive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Environment. Detail of Capital. Program Development. Tangible Assets. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials to our Committee of the Whole today. I just wanted to get some clarification. I appreciate my colleague, Mr. Mapsalak, for raising it - the wildlife office in Cambridge Bay.

In your opening comments, minister, you said that, "Cambridge Bay is in progress and we are hoping it will be completed within a couple of years." And then you stated to my colleague that it "is underway." Could you clarify what you mean by "in progress" and maybe give me a sense, when you say two years, is it currently under construction now, or will it be completed in the next fiscal year, or are you talking two fiscal years from now? Can you clarify that for me, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The progress is underway right now. We are removing an old building where we want to construct the new office building, and that's why it's going to take a couple of years and that the construction is underway. So that's part of the overall project is to remove the old building, and then install and construct the new building on site. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Could the minister give me some more specific details on when he actually expects it to be completed? When will it be operational and ready to move in? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We hope to occupy that building by 2009. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. There was an RFP process this summer, I believe. Can the minister indicate to me if any contractors in Cambridge Bay or elsewhere throughout Nunavut bid on that RFP? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand, Mr. Chairman, that the tender has been put out twice, but so far there haven't been any contractors willing to bid on the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. Can the minister indicate... Obviously, you must be concerned because you said in your substantiation sheets about Coral Harbour that Coral Harbour is the most dire need after Cambridge Bay. So I would take it that Cambridge Bay is really in dire need of a new wildlife office.

Can you tell me if your department or the department heads, who have been handed the responsibility to look at the RFP, if you have reviewed why there has been no interest in that RFP in Cambridge Bay from various contractors and developers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier, we review the funds, and in this particular case, the wildlife office in Cambridge Bay, we give the fund over to CGS.

Often times, the bidders bid way over what we had substantiated for and I believe that is one of the reasons why we haven't had any bids for the construction also. I understand that it's Nunavut-wide that nobody wants to really bid for small projects, such as this one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. Can the minister tell me, you've had two RFPs and there has been no interest, do you have an alternative plan to work now to ensure that that wildlife office is replaced in Cambridge Bay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There is a tender coming out in early December and we will do our very best to ensure that the construction is started next coming summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. Can the minister give me his commitment or re-assurances that the funding for that wildlife office will not be transferred to another community or region in Nunavut, and possibly delay this project by longer than two years? Can he give me that commitment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will commit to the member that I will not transfer the funds over to Coral Harbour, who is next in line. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that commitment. Just for the record, I think that every community in Nunavut should get a new wildlife office as that was one of our promises when we first got elected in 2004.

So nothing against the other communities, but in Cambridge Bay, we've been patiently waiting for a wildlife office. When we have an opportunity to get a wildlife office, we don't want to lose it. So I appreciate your commitment.

I hope that somehow you can convince your Cabinet colleagues that wildlife offices are a priority in all of the communities, and we'll get back to our one per year commitment, and hopefully, somehow, the Government of Nunavut can work their way to construct those facilities within the budgeted costs that we approve as legislators.

That's just a comment, Mr. Chairman. It's not a question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson, for your comment. Would you like to respond to his comment? Thank you. Environment. Detail of Capital. Program Development. Tangible Assets. Headquarters Region. Total Headquarters Region. \$1.7 million. Does this committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Total Tangible Assets. \$1.7 million. Does this committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Back to page I-4. Environment. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditure. Total Capital Expenditure. \$1.7 million. Does this committee agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Are you agreed the Department of Environment is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you very much. Minister, do you have any closing remarks?

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** I would like to thank the minister and his staff for answering questions to the committee. Right now, I thank you. Do you have closing remarks?

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** No.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Thank you, Minister and your staff.

Now, I would like to break for 10 minutes before we go on to our next department.

*>>Committee recessed at 16:43 and resumed at 17:00*

**Chairman:** I would now like to ask Minister Akesuk for Nunavut Housing Corporation to make his opening remarks. Minister Akesuk.

### **Bill 16 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee – Nunavut Housing Corporation**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The corporation's capital plan for 2008-09 has been set at \$19,125,000 from the Government of Nunavut and additional funding of \$4,290,000 from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, for a total capital budget of \$23,415,000 for 2008-09.

We will continue to work towards obtaining further federal contribution towards achieving our goals set out in the 10-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan.

The 2008-09 capital estimates main highlights are:

First, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's funding for the Modernization and Improvement Retrofit to the Local Housing Organizations, the Fire Damage Fund, the Mobile Equipment Fund and the Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program and the Homeownership Programs remain at approximately the same level as last year.

Second, the corporation has responded to requests for more staff housing particularly for the new trades school in Rankin Inlet and the Continuing Care Centres in Igloolik and Gjoa Haven by requesting additional funding to construct these staff housing units.

Thirdly, the corporation continues to renovate older staff housing units in communities with the greatest needs.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased to report to the committee that the Nunavut Housing Corporation on September 4, 2007 implemented the enhanced Homeownership Nunavut Home Repair Program which encourages eligible homeowners to increase energy efficiency by providing an additional \$15,000 for energy renovations or repairs.

Homeownership program eligibility requirements were also modified to make these programs more accessible to Nunavummiut. As of September 1, 2007, the Northern Allowance, Settlement Allowance and the Isolation Post Allowance were eliminated from the assessable income.

I am also pleased to report that the Nunavut Housing Trust delivery is proceeding on course for the current year. Construction on the housing units where materials were ordered and delivered in the fall of 2006 will be largely completed by December.

Across Nunavut, the construction projects are meeting or exceeding the NHT targets of 60 percent Inuit employment and there are 65 Nunavut apprentices working on job sites across the territory. We believe that there will be additional apprentices once we have all the information.

(interpretation) Funding for the Housing Trust units has been appropriated outside of the capital estimates process and is not included in the information provided today.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today. I look forward to a meaningful discussion and we will be pleased to hear your comments and to answer any questions you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you for returning. Would you like to have your staff sit with you?

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Yes, I do. Thank you.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): For the record, minister, please introduce your staff.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my immediate right is Mr. Scott, President of Nunavut Housing Corporation, and to my immediate left is Eric Whitworth, Chief Financial Officer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Welcome. Are there any general comments from the committee? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do have opening comments, Mr. Chairman.

As Chair of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development, I am pleased to provide opening comments as the Committee of the Whole begins its consideration of the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2008-09 Capital Estimates.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee had the opportunity to meet with the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation in September of this year to scrutinize the Nunavut Housing Corporation's draft 2008-09 capital estimates.

In his Economic Statement of last fall, the Minister of Finance informed the House that the Government of Nunavut would move to ensure that its capital planning process takes into full account the costs of incremental housing associated with major projects, operations and maintenance expenditures for new facilities, and the impact of capital projects on community resources.

The standing committee notes that the updated five-year capital plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation includes over \$22 million in planned expenditures for staff housing units associated with the territory's new trades school in Rankin Inlet, the Kivalliq correctional facility, the cultural school in Clyde River and continuing care facilities in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik.

On September 13, 2005, the Government of Nunavut's new Staff Housing Policy was announced. The announcement indicated that "the new staff housing strategy will be phased in over a five to ten year period. During this time, the government will incrementally increase rental rates in all Nunavut communities and withdraw from providing staff housing in the emerging market communities of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. This change in policy will lead to an incremental upward correction in rents to private market rates and the transfer of landlord responsibilities from the GN to property owners."



(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, during its review of the 2007-08 capital estimates, the standing committee publicly emphasized the importance of evaluating the impact of the GN's new Staff Housing Policy on the government's recruitment and retention efforts, especially with respect to front-line health care and education workers.

The NHC's current business plan indicates that the corporation "has been monitoring the implementation of the new Staff Housing Policy and will prepare a report on the impact of the first year of its operation and present it in the winter of 2007. The corporation will work with the Department of Human Resources to measure the impact of this policy on Government of Nunavut recruitment and retention."

The standing committee urges the minister to table this report at the earliest opportunity, so that all Members of the Legislative Assembly may be able to review its findings and begin to evaluate the success of the policy in achieving its stated goal of "establishing sustainable housing markets and encouraging home ownership."

Mr. Chairman, on July 11, 2006, the GN announced that new federal funding of \$200 million had been designated to establish a Nunavut Housing Trust for the construction of 725 new housing units across the territory. On December 5, 2006, the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy was formally tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the minister.

The standing committee has recognized that increased numbers of new public housing units will also result in increased operations and maintenance expenditures. In June of this year, the Legislative Assembly approved close to \$9 million in supplementary funding to Local Housing Organizations to help them in meeting forced growth needs and to assist with costs associated with new housing units. Mr. Chairman, it is essential that the NHC's business and budget planning process takes this trend into account.

Over the course of this year, the minister has delivered a number of formal statements in the House concerning the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy. The standing committee supports the strategy's goal of providing training and apprenticeship opportunities for Nunavummiut to learn skills and earn qualifications. Members also support the NHC's efforts to adopt flexible approaches to meet local preferences and circumstances with respect to such issues as the length of workdays on construction sites.

However, the standing committee is concerned that logistical problems associated with the sealift process and the NHC's new approach to tendering have resulted in a situation where materials for the construction of approximately 178 public housing units in a number of communities will now have to be airlifted into the territory, at significant cost to the NHC. It is unclear what the ultimate impact will be in terms of financial costs and delays to the construction schedule. The standing committee expects the minister to account to the House with respect to what specific factors caused this situation to occur, and to indicate what specific steps the NHC will take to ensure that this is not repeated in future years.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee also expects the minister to provide a comprehensive report to the Legislative Assembly during the upcoming spring sitting on the 2007 public housing construction program.

Members of the standing committee have also received concerns from local companies with respect to the NHC's contracting practices. While the standing committee recognizes that no single approach will satisfy all parties, some of which may have competing goals, it expects the NHC to communicate with Nunavut companies in a transparent manner.

Mr. Chairman, the GN and NTI jointly submitted a Ten-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan to the Government of Canada in September of 2004. The action plan called for federal investment of approximately \$1.9 billion over ten years for the construction of 5,700 new housing units in the territory. The NHC's current business plan acknowledges that the \$200 million in Housing Trust funding "represents just 10 percent of the total requirement noted in the Nunavut Ten-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan" and indicates that one of the corporation's priorities is to "work with NTI and other groups to lobby the federal government to fund the remainder" of the action plan. The standing committee looks forward to the minister accounting to the House on his success in this area.

The standing committee has noted that the NHC recently issued a Request for Proposal for the development of a "Housing Strategy for Nunavut." While the standing committee has been given to understand that the purpose of this initiative is to develop an overarching strategy that will complement the Inuit Housing Action Plan and the Nunavut Housing Trust Delivery Strategy, members would caution the NHC to avoid duplicating work that has already been undertaken.

Mr. Chairman, in addition, while the standing committee recognizes the benefits of engaging consultants for highly specialized or technical projects, it stresses the importance of ensuring that the development of government policy in such a fundamentally important area as housing be led by those who will ultimately be accountable for its actual implementation, and who live in the jurisdiction where its results will be measured.

Mr. Chairman, the NHC administers ten different programs to assist homeowners and potential homeowners in Nunavut. In recent months, the minister made a number of announcements concerning improvements to the accessibility of a number of homeownership programs, in addition to announcing the Nunavut Housing Corporation's new Homeownership Energy Efficiency Rebate Program.

According to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2004-05 Annual Report and other information provided by the minister to the standing committee, Nunavut Housing Corporation's expenditures on its homeownership programs has increased from just over \$2 million in 2004-05 to \$3.6 million in 2005-06 and \$4.7 million in 2006-07.

The number of Nunavummiut benefiting from these programs has also increased, as illustrated by the change in the number of approved applications for Nunavut Housing Corporation programs from 155 in 2004-05 to 321 in 2006-07. Mr. Chairman, this is an increase of over 107 percent. The most significant increase in demand between 2005-06 and 2006-07 was for the Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program.

However, the level of demand for the NHC's Tenant-to-Owner Program appears to be not particularly strong. It also appears that the Government of Nunavut's Staff Condominium Program was not a great success and will not be continued. Mr. Chairman, the NHC's current business plan indicates that "157 condominium units were constructed in 10 Nunavut communities. Some of the condominiums were sold in Iqaluit in 2006."

The Nunavut Housing Corporation has allocated \$2,116,000 in its 2008-09 capital estimates for homeownership programs. It is unclear if this amount will be sufficient to meet public demand. The standing committee encourages the NHC to regularly review its homeownership programs in order to determine which are successful and which are not. The standing committee also encourages the NHC to review their eligibility requirements in order to ensure that transient residents do not benefit from programs that are intended for long-term Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee notes that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2004-05 Annual Report was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until March 21, 2007. Its 2005-06 and 2006-07 annual reports have not yet been tabled. These annual reports contain information of considerable importance and are required by law to be tabled. The standing committee encourages the minister to work to resolve the outstanding accounting issues that have delayed their being tabled in a timely manner.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the 2008-09 Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, other members of the committee will also have comments to make on this item. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to the matter under discretion 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 departmental estimates.

Do members have any general comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make several observations from the minister's opening comments, especially on page one in the middle paragraph that he stated that, "...Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program and the

Homeownership Programs remain at approximately the same level as last year.” Is it because the demand is less this time than last year?

Another comment that I would like to make is on the second page of his opening remarks that “Construction on the housing units where materials were ordered and delivered in the fall of 2006 will be largely completed by December.” We are doing capital estimates for 2008-09. Why didn’t he mention that the construction of the housing units is for 2007? Why did he skip the 2007 about its ordering and delivering of these public housing units?

In his opening remarks, with the problems we had, especially the chairman of the standing committee’s comments about delivery problems this year that very little is talked about in our capital planning process of how we are going to answer these questions or problems.

I will be asking along the lines of these questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members, comments? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the minister and his officials here to the Chambers in the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Chairman, I know that one of the biggest issues that we face in Nunavut is housing, and that leads to a lot of other issues out there. Another big issue that the government, and certain departments in the government have, is staffing. A lot of that is related to housing as well.

You hear a lot of whining about the increases to the staff housing rents and there is mention of more staff housing here. The chairman mentioned the review that’s being done on that. I look forward to seeing that and asking if we’re losing people because of staff housing costs, why we are building more units. Do we need to be building more units if it’s not working? Have they thought of looking at different options or approaches in that area? So I look forward to asking questions on that and hear responses from the minister.

I, too, would like to applaud the department for the increased Energy Efficiency Program that they have there for adding additional funding for that program. I know that with the increasing costs of electricity and the cost of fuel, that it’s drawn on top of the increasing rents and the markets for housing is quite high, so it costs a lot; it’s not cheap to buy a house, especially here in Iqaluit.

Those other costs are also passed onto the retailers. They’re not going to drop their bottom line. They’re going to increase their costs. So the complete spectrum of the cost of living goes up on a regular basis whenever there’s an increase in those costs.

I look forward to asking the minister on the status of how the units that are proposed to be built here in Iqaluit and the status on those units as well.

I'll save the rest of my comments and questions when we get to the appropriate section. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Any more members for comments? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I would just like to add with respect to opening comments, I would like to advise the minister, through my opening comments, that I think it's really quite serious and important that the minister be transparent with the way in which the housing delivery is administered.

We have good faith in the Members of the Assembly, and to the president and the officials, we have granted you the authority to manage the construction of units from the last capital request that were made last year to this construction season currently.

I'm disappointed to say that the minister is not transparent with his opening remarks about the problems that are now associated with the delivery, as well as the procurement and packaging issues. It's not going to go away, Mr. Chairman. I believe the minister or the president should really account for those.

We were given to believe that when the contract for delivery, procurement and packaging, which were issues last year, that there would be considerable savings. I will be asking you to explain exactly what you meant.

There are some views that there were going to be more than \$2 million and someone told me today that there would have been \$5 million worth of savings. To go through this new approach, was that information accurate, or was it misleading? Mr. Chairman, I flip through these kinds of official statements at face value and that we don't fool around with those statements, and we don't want to be misled by these statements.

And if someone did provide misleading information, they should account for their responsibilities for inaccurate information because I'm not sure that the new approach has resulted whatsoever in costs savings.

So someone will have to explain these to us and I believe these considerable expenditures, for having to maybe ship all the material that are now sitting in Montreal to be airlifted, is not going to be a cost benefit at all to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page L-6. Grants and Contributions. Headquarters Region. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Further to a part of my opening comments that I made officially as chairman of the standing committee, so no personal comments, I would like the minister to indicate to us what costs savings, when he announced exactly to a press release or interviews by his officials, have been made with respect to the new procurement as well as the packaging and distribution contracts.

Can the minister clearly and transparently explain exactly how that new contracting arrangement that he announced last spring has resulted in the success for this current shipping and construction season? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We saved \$6 million in that area. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. That's actually significantly larger savings than was first presented by the media or that some officials circulated.

I would like to ask the minister, whether or not this particular savings, that he alluded to, with respect to new contracting arrangements or the procurement, as well as the distribution packaging, is officially contained in any report or whether it's just an estimate of the so-called savings that the GN's Housing Corporation hopes to make. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we try to give the exact figure. Maybe there are times that we might be off but we try to abide by the figures that we give. Yes, the \$6 million is true. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I certainly hope that the minister is providing us accurate information.

In my way of justifying explanations to cost expenditures that have not yet been completed, I fail to be completely convinced by the minister of what he is saying is accurate, because how can you actually say there were cost savings for something that is a complete disaster right now, and then you have the materials that have been shipped by suppliers have not met the criteria and the conditions of the contract that you issued last spring?

It may be funny but it's deadly serious to us. How can you actually say there are cost savings when some of the materials have been shipped back to the supplier because there

was no space at the 20,000 square feet facility that your contractor provided, because there's no room for them to entertain it?

The minister should explain to the committee because I think you have mismanaged your Housing Corporation budget and we have yet to see whether or not there would be any cost savings if you have to now charter and airlift all that material, according to the press information that we read, 45 truckloads of material, perhaps even more now, sitting in Montreal. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. The materials that were supposed to make it to Nunavut, perhaps there are approximately 7,000 metric tonnes and there are approximately 125 metric tonnes that are still down there where they ship material.

We wanted to use the funds properly. We have prepared the Nunavut Delivery Strategy to see how we can cost save when we are constructing 725 units in Nunavut. We have also considered how we can increase the number of units. We tried to cost save during the time when we started dealing with it, and as I stated, that \$6 million is an actual fact that we have saved money on. We're still working on it.

And the issue that you just brought up, Nunavut has to understand that we're still working on the 7,000 metric tonnes in Nunavut. We are still doing inventory on this but I cannot give you the figure right now as to how much we will be expending.

As the member stated, we have to be honest and I do not want to tell a lie. We want to deliver all this material to the communities and we will continually work on this issue to make sure that Nunavummiut understand.

We wrote a letter to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and we had a press release for Nunavut. We released that information trying to be as honest as possible. I don't want to tell a lie to the people of Nunavut and that's not what I was elected for. We will work very hard to deal with this properly.

This \$200 million cost savings will be used to build units to benefit Nunavut people. So even though we experienced this delivery problem, we will still deliver the 725 units according to the original plan. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I did not say that you were telling a lie, what I said was the figures that were mentioned could be misleading. Even before the cost saving per year was completed, you estimated that \$6 million. You cannot give an exact amount before it's spent. This big mess is not completed yet.

I know that you have been told that there's going to be \$6 million in cost savings because you now have to airlift all of the material. I don't think that's a true figure. It's going to be more expensive to deliver and use, and yet, you say there will be savings. I don't believe you have been given the proper support and I'm pretty sure that there could even be a lawsuit. For that reason, if this delivery was done properly, then we would save money.

We don't know which communities didn't receive their material by sealift. The information you provided us yesterday or today states that the construction has started in some communities but it doesn't say how much material units are still missing.

Our correspondence is not responded to yet and the standing committee's request for detailed information said that you have been evasive. I wonder why that is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I have said that they are still under review and we don't want to give out information that is incomplete. I want to provide adequate information to the members as to which communities have not received their materials. This review has not been completed.

So therefore, I cannot provide you with that information because it is incomplete. We're still doing inventory. Once that is complete and the information is available, and I'm sure that other communities have received their materials but we have to deal with the other communities on what kind of materials didn't make it to their community and what kind of materials or parts are not in their community.

We need to find out and we have not completely reviewed this. So therefore, I cannot provide you with that information until everything has been completed. I will provide correspondence explaining that because there are quite a few communities.

Once we do all of the proper writing of what's missing in the communities, then I will provide that to the members. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I know that you're trying to say understandable words.

I was told for many years that those are experienced transport companies. I was told today that the distribution and packaging contractors probably don't know. We have to get the information from them but I don't think they have experience with that.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister: if we're going to have cost savings with contracting of the packaging and distribution, the marshalling contract, you can get that



information to find out, why did you say that the delivery went well and now, you have to tender again? That same tender closed on Friday. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Mr. Scott to respond to that, as you know I haven't been in my office until late this morning. So I'll get Mr. Scott to respond to that.

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

**Mr. Scott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Curley, for your very good questions. I would like to provide a little bit more information to the member as well.

The estimate of savings that we feel we could have achieved through changing the way we procured the material was based on a comparison of material costs this year versus our material costs from last year.

Now, part of the difficulty in coming up on an exact number is that last year's material costing included marshalling and freight and we have to strip those numbers out of the numbers in order to do a proper comparison of the two. If all things had gone well with the marshalling company with the marshalling contract, then those are the savings that we would have achieved and we would have been able to deliver additional units from the Housing Trust.

Obviously, the difficulties with the marshalling and the materials that were left behind, and other issues with the marshaller, are going to erode those savings. But at this point, our estimates certainly would not exceed where, right now, our expected savings are.

We have never indicated that we are going to be flying all of this material in at once. Part of the delay is trying to organize to ensure that we are utilizing the most efficient way of getting this missing material to the communities that need it. That will include, yes, we would be flying some materials in as soon as possible, and some of them may have left the new marshalling yard today to go into the communities that are most advanced in their construction for this fall.

Other materials may wait until spring, when we do the spring startup on some of our construction sites. Some of those may have to be flown in as well, but also, a lot of the material, if we organize and coordinate it, may be able to wait until the first sealift that comes in next summer. There would be some additional savings on there as well with what we're, right now, expecting to be additional costs.

The 125 metric tonnes of material down there, we could take them, it's roughly six Hercules loads, drop them off into all the affected communities, which is the majority of communities in Nunavut, at a price tag of about \$900,000. So that would possibly be the worst case scenario.

We're trying to manage those materials down there as best as possible to ensure that we mitigate our potential losses or additional expenses. I'll leave it at that and hopefully, that will satisfy Mr. Curley. Thank you.

**Chairman** (Mr. Arreak): Thank you, Mr. Scott. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) There are a number of concerns that we have as a standing committee, as the minister quite well knows, and I appreciate the response coming in from the Housing Corporation President.

I think there was a question that was not answered and I would like a clear answer. First of all, I think the members should understand clearly why the distribution, procurement, and packaging, in the end, is no longer just marshalling. The suppliers are no longer responsible with packaging any amount of drywall that you buy from. They are just going to distribute it to the facility in Montreal. That's the way I understand it.

Maybe you could explain to us: why was this particular approach used? It appears that your new process that you entered into since last spring is not working out. So why do you have to re-tender now, even before the year is over? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Scott**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After the results of last year's material tender came in, the additional cost from that tender - the additional cost for materials, marshalling, and freight - was the main reason why we dropped the number of units we felt we could deliver from 800 units to 725 units.

Originally, when the money was announced, we anticipated being able to deliver 800 housing units until we received the material prices from last year's material tender. We realized at that point that that's only if we continue to do business and prepare materials the same way we always have, those costs are going to continue to rise. So we needed to look at different, or new, or innovative approaches in order to try to get a handle on the rising costs.

One of the things that we did besides separating the marshalling and crating from the contracts was we split our material requirements into five commodity items; there were five tenders as opposed to one large tender. In addition to the marshalling being separate, we also looked at containerizing a lot of our materials, as opposed to the traditional way of crating all of the material at an additional cost.

So the savings that we are anticipating are as a result of better prices from suppliers because the tender was broken out into several different components, and also that we use and we're looking at different methods of packaging the materials.

I believe that might answer most of Mr. Curley's questions but I'm not sure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) It was quite some time ago that we received that \$200 million.

We were asked by the standing committee to look at cost saving measures because it's very expensive to send the material by ship. That was the direction that was given to us by the standing committee and we were asked to look at different options. So this is what we did: we followed the advice of the standing committee and to look at cost saving measures when we were looking at packaging and sending the material up to Nunavut.

That was the direction that was given to us by the standing committee and that's what we tried to do. We could do another review to see where we can save more money.

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

**Mr. Curley:** I appreciate the response coming in. I'm not going to argue with the minister. I want to deal with the actuals.

The tender, obviously, was issued last year for marshalling, as well as requesting the supplier to make new arrangements, but the minister or his officials of the Housing Corporation doesn't appear to take the experience as a value. You hired people that had no experience whatsoever, and therefore, you are trying to convince this committee that you actually are going to have substantial savings and you have not.

You have demonstrated that the fact is that there is a big mess. The people that I spoke to, acting surprised, told me that, and they have told you since last May they said that you guys are getting into huge trouble. You guys have to shape up. None of your officials take them seriously, so they end up speaking to CGS. At least they had a person willing to listen. That information was provided to CGS because they felt, then, that only the public official can convince the Housing Corporation officials of the big mess they are getting into and they're downplaying this serious problem.

Only the Auditor General, I believe, is going to get that information to clearly, I think, express whether or not you have proper financial savings.

You cannot save any money. The distribution agency that you hired is billing you for hot air, when there is a volume with nothing in it, where previously, the other contractor used to fill up the volume that is empty with other things. There's no way that I believe that you are going to convince us.

So therefore, in view of time, I move that we report progress as this will continue for tomorrow and so on. Thank you.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Colleagues, going to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 16 and the Capital Estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Member for Rankin North, Mr. Curley. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of a meeting of the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Accountability at nine o'clock tomorrow morning in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for October 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

- Bill 18
- Bill 19

19. Consideration for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 16

20. Report to Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until October 30 at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:03*

