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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, November 5, 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. Netser to say the opening prayer. Mr. Netser.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Premier, Ministers, and Members, welcome. Thank you for coming back. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 110 – 2(4): Nutrition Framework for Action**

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health and Social Services is committed to *Pinasuaqtavut*, and I am proud we support Nunavummiut in achieving and maintaining *Niqittiavaknit Nirinasuaqniql*, healthy eating. It is my pleasure to release Nunavut's first *Nutritional Framework for Action*.

Our government is committed to building and developing healthy communities, this *Nutritional Framework for Action* compliments the *Public Health Strategy* for Nunavut, which must be community driven. It takes partnership in achieving this goal.

Improving the nutrition and physical activity of Nunavummiut is not easy. It presents us with major challenges personally and socially.

Mr. Speaker, healthy eating is fundamental to fostering healthy people and healthy communities. The *Nutritional Framework for Action* is a plan that offers a path to go forward in healthy living.

It sets the parameters for creating tangible changes.

Mr. Speaker, the framework for action calls for an integrated holistic approach to addressing our nutritional needs. Most importantly, it calls for partnership. Partnership is

an integral tool in supporting realistic approaches to all aspects of health. Communities and government are connected and reliant on each other in creating environments that support healthy lifestyles, to care for those in need, to establish common goals, and to secure the resources needed to achieve our goals.

Good nutrition is basic to health, not only physical health, but also social, cultural and emotional health. The nutritional challenges we see today are a result of rapidly growing commercialization and modernization of our global society, and the effects of such transformation has us on socially and culturally.

Mr. Speaker, we once relied exclusively on the land, the sea, the rivers and the lakes to provide food very high in nutritional value. Today, Mr. Speaker, we need to optimize all the resources available, and consume both traditional and nutritious store bought foods.

Eating healthy food nourishes the body and gives us energy. Healthy eating is fundamental to good health and healthy human development, from the prenatal and early childhood periods on into our later years. We can reduce the risk of many chronic diseases by making healthy food choices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, later on today, during the break, we'll be having a table set up outside in the hallway that will provide some samples of nutritional foods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Brown.

Minister's Statement 111 – 2(4): National Native Firefighter Competition 2007

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to acknowledge a team of dedicated firefighters who participated in a recent national firefighter competition. In August of this year a group of 22 firefighters from across Nunavut gathered in Iqaluit to train and participate in a firefighting skills seminar. From this group, a team of six competitors were chosen to represent Nunavut at the *National Native Firefighter Competition 2007*, which was held in Kahnawake Quebec.

Other participating teams consisted of the winners from Provincial skills training and in competition against these more experienced teams the Nunavut team proudly finished in seventh place.

Mr. Speaker, this is only the second time that firefighters from Nunavut have participated in this national event. Mr. Speaker, for the second consecutive time our team was awarded the distinguished "Most Sportsman Like" trophy.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, our team also joined firefighters from across the country in a vehicle rescue training seminar and attended the Annual General Meeting of the Aboriginal Firefighters' Association of Canada. At the meeting a proposal was made that Nunavut hold this prestigious national firefighting competition in 2009.

The Nunavut team consisted of Atsaina Eyeevadluk (Kimmirut), Luutaaq Qaumagiaq (Cape Dorset), Iqaluk Toonoo (Cape Dorset), Norman Nowyook (Pangnirtung), Thomas Tiktak Jr. (Rankin Inlet), and Kevin Haynes (Cambridge Bay). The team was coached by Fire Training Officer Jeremy Hamburg (Office of the Fire Marshal in Iqaluit).

Mr. Speaker, the department extends congratulations to this team of firefighters and thanks them for their outstanding efforts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 112 – 2(4): Katjaqnaaq!

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) During Parks Day last summer, I launched a new program aimed at increasing knowledge and building awareness about the importance of Nunavut's territorial parks for protection, education, enjoyment and recreation.

Nunavut's Territorial Parks, Heritage Rivers and other special places are more than simply destinations – they are part of our identity and need to be experienced, used and celebrated.

Mr. Speaker, the goal of the program is to highlight and market Nunavut's territorial parks and special places to the increasing numbers of visitors from around the world and to strengthen parks-based tourism in local communities. Their value is immense and far-reaching to their communities, their people and their visitors.

The launch includes new informational brochures and programs highlighting Nunavut's territorial parks and special places, as well as an updated website www.nunavutparks.com. The website now includes information on local guides and outfitters who can take visitors out to the parks, lists community and other local events, provides updates on new and ongoing initiatives in the parks, and allows visitors to the parks to post trip reports, and to post their own images in a visitor's gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you to celebrate our parks and special places, to share the beauty of Nunavut, to listen to the voices of the land, and exclaim, "*Katjaqnaaq!*" – I am happy here, what a beautiful place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 113 – 2(4): Continuation of Priority Hiring Policy

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pride that I rise today to announce that the Government of Nunavut's Priority Hiring Policy has recently been extended to March of 2010. The Priority Hiring Policy ensures that qualified beneficiaries receive priority consideration during the recruitment and selection process and this policy is applied to all job competitions within Government of Nunavut departments and public agencies.

Mr. Speaker, through the Priority Hiring Policy, and in conjunction with other initiatives aimed at increasing beneficiary employment in the public service, representation of beneficiaries in our workforce has been increasing. Since the introduction of the Priority Hiring Policy in August of 2000, the number of beneficiaries in the public service has risen from approximately 950 in December 2000 to approximately 1,500 as of March 2007. This is indeed an accomplishment – one that must continue with increased momentum.

Mr. Speaker, we have a great deal of work ahead of us in order to achieve a representative public service. The most recent Inuit employment goal for this government has been set at 56 percent by 2010. As of March 2007, we are at 50 percent. Through the implementation of human resources programs, services and policies, my department continues to support the achievement of this goal and the longer-term goal of 85 percent beneficiary representation in Nunavut's public service.

Mr. Speaker, the Priority Hiring Policy is an integral as well as vital component of the Government of Nunavut's Inuit employment plan and is a clear demonstration of our commitment to fulfilling the requirements of *Article 23* of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement by building a representative public service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I was a little slow. I would like to go back to Members' Statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Members' Statements. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Go ahead, Mr. Peterson.

Revert to Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 241 – 2(4): Nunavut Arctic College Campus

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleagues for that permission.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House about my concerns regarding the government's commitment to training Kitikmeot residents for career and employment opportunities in the mining sector.

Mr. Speaker, it has been clear for a number of years that the Kitikmeot will be the economic engine of Nunavut when major mining projects come on-stream and begin production.

Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot is home to some of the world's largest and richest mineral deposits, which are attracting the interest of global mining companies. In 2007, Zinifex from Australia acquired Wolfden Resources. They were developing the High Lake project and own the Izok Lake zinc deposit. Newmont Mining from the U.S. is in the process of acquiring Miramar Mines. Sabina Minerals has one of the largest undeveloped silver projects in the world near Hackett River.

Mr. Speaker, those companies are all planning to bring mines into production and join Tahera Diamonds, which began its operations in 2006. There will be many excellent career opportunities in all areas of mining operations, including management.

Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot recognized many years ago that we need to begin to train and educate our residents for careers in the mining sector if we are truly to benefit from our resources.

We proposed to acquire the Lupin Mine and turn it into the Kitikmeot Mine Training School. However, we did not receive much support or interest from the government and that opportunity was soon lost.

Mr. Speaker, we have also lobbied for many years for a new Kitikmeot Nunavut Arctic College Campus that would incorporate modern classroom, lab, and shop facilities to train our residents for careers in the mining sector. The new facility is required to replace the current campus building that is at least 40 years old, and unsuited to being an education facility. To date, we have been unsuccessful on that front, as well.

Mr. Speaker, the government committed to spending several million dollars for the Rankin Inlet Trades School and less than \$1 million to upgrade the Kiilnik High School trades shop. The upgraded trades shop, while appreciated, will be unable to offer the specialized training that many mine jobs require.

It is also unclear how these two facilities will train Kitikmeot people for careers in the mining sector.

Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to continue 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. Please proceed, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important that the Government of Nunavut demonstrate that it understands the Kitikmeot's need for modern facilities and specialized training that our residents require if they are to fully participate in the unprecedented mining development that is currently underway in the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, when the Government of Nunavut is establishing its capital planning priorities, I urge it to keep the interests and future of Kitikmeot residents foremost in their planning and include a new Nunavut Arctic College campus that will accommodate our post-secondary training needs for the next 20 years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. (interpretation) Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 242 – 2(4): Tribute to our Youth

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

>>*Laughter*

It's not Friday but I think we're all moving kind of slow after our... for some of us, the once a year we play hockey, so some of us are moving rather slow today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our youth. Last year on November 9, 2006, this Legislative Assembly held its very first Youth Parliament. I was very impressed by the young parliamentarians and the issues they brought forward in this House.

Mr. Speaker, community infrastructure, 'No Junk Food' Day, school disciplinary policies, alcohol, drugs, gambling, the importance of Inuit culture, and youth rights in Nunavut were just a few of the issues they voiced here in this House.

Mr. Speaker, Seane d'Argencourt was one of the students chosen to participate in the Youth Parliament. As one thing that was going around as some members were here at that time when they were saying, "These are our little mini-me's out there," and Seane is here today and she was my mini-me. She was taking my place in the Youth Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, Seane is planning to go to the University of Ottawa next year. She has also applied to the House of Commons Page Program. If accepted, she will be the first individual from Nunavut to ever participate in the program.

Mr. Speaker, Seane is a very active individual. She volunteers for the help line, the AIDS line, the YEAH North Group, and last year, Mr. Speaker, Seane participated in the International Human Rights of the Child conference at Western University. She made a presentation and had the opportunity to meet the keynote speaker, Mr. Stephen Lewis.

Mr. Speaker, I believe she makes an excellent role model for our youth today and we need to support our youth and we can learn from what they have to say.

Mr. Speaker, today is also Seane's 17th birthday. I would just ask all members join me in wishing her a very happy birthday and the best of luck in the future, and Mr. Speaker, now she knows why her mother asked her to come here today. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 243 – 2(4): Regional Soccer Tournament

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to appreciate today the CLEY and Sport Nunavut for young people coming down here from all over Baffin to play soccer over the weekend.

>>Applause

I especially would like to congratulate the young guys from Pond Inlet and their coach, Gregory Hope, for coming in second overall in the Baffin games.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to state one more time that this demonstrates our need to recognize that our young people need us. They need our leadership; they need our support to make life better and happier for Nunavut's young people.

I also would like to take this opportunity to urge the government that those young people who are unable to vote cannot speak for themselves. We, as members, will have to do that. We try to show the government that these young people need our leadership in making good decisions for sports infrastructure programs in our communities.

I, once again, would like to congratulate all the players from Baffin coming down to our capital to play those games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We congratulate all the athletes from Baffin Island. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Member's Statement 244 – 2(4): Public Awareness on Elections for Youth

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise today to make a brief comment. Mr. Speaker, I believe that we need to encourage, in Nunavut especially, our youth who will be our leaders tomorrow. There is hardly any information available in regard to democratic process and how they teach this program in the schools.

Mr. Speaker, since we expect our youth to be our leaders in the future, we need to give them support and provide an understandable curriculum. I am sure that they think that we select many things but the reason why we do elections is...it seems like our constituencies cannot elect the Government Leader of Nunavut but I can tell you that the Communist Governments in the eastern countries elect their own Premier.

Mr. Speaker, briefly, let me say that if the election process is not understood by young people, then I believe that we need to do a lot more public awareness, provide more information to high school students, provide more support to the youth, and provide them with the meaning of why they need education.

In a Communist country like China, that's what they're doing and they're not even high school students. They're doing that and elementary school students are now electing the leaders in the school.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I'm sure there's a lot more room to encourage the people. We were in Manitoba and there's a program where the Speaker goes to the high schools to explain to students why elections are very important. We would like to see that happening more in Nunavut. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

Member's Statement 245 – 2(4): Encouragement & Recognition of Youth

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to rise and celebrate the youth. I was very proud of the Kugluktuk youth when they started the cut down on alcohol use. We were very proud of them.

We need to be proud of our youth who work very hard because we hear that alcohol and drugs come in, and then we hear it's just young people. I don't think that it's just young people who experience that.

We, the older people, should be aware that we also experience that as well. We always say that our youth are our future leaders, then why aren't we leading them? We should be leading them, instead of just expecting them to be our leaders in the future. We should be showing a good example to be good leaders and role models for our young people. The elders should be helping the youth in initiating positive things. I encourage the adults to be good leaders for young people.

I not only wanted to state how proud I am of the youth, I would like to say that I am very proud of them and would like to encourage them to lead a healthy life. I would like to stand up again in the future to say how proud I am of the young people. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 246 – 2(4): Gun Legislation

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past I have made statements in the House in regard to the gun legislation and how it's inadequate for Inuit. It's not acceptable.

I can say that prior to the gun legislation being introduced, the rifle was used to hunt animals with, and that's the only thing I know how to use the rifle for. I know that in some parts of the world, they believe that this rifle is to be used for human beings.

Mr. Speaker, what I'm trying to say is that the gun legislation is not acceptable for us because our children need to be taught how to use the rifle as they're growing up. This gun legislation doesn't seem to be right for us.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking questions in regard to this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Thank you. I would like to welcome the visitors to the Legislative Assembly, and I also would like to acknowledge Malcolm MacPhail. He used to be a child at the same time when our Sergeant-at-Arms was, too. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

>>Applause

Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 315 – 2(4): Status of Gun Legislation

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I've been asking this question annually now, and it's in regard to the gun legislation. I have not heard about this issue for quite some time now, and I believe that Nunavummiut are interested in hearing it, but today, we have been concerned about the gun legislation because it's not acceptable for Nunavut Inuit.

Since the Conservative Government came into power, what is the status of that now?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this has not changed too much, even though the federal government had made a statement that they want to do away with this legislation. I'm not too sure what they're going to be doing at this time.

I would like to thank them for trying to change that but they will need support from one of the other parties if they are going to do away with that legislation. I think that is where the stumbling block was.

At this time, I really don't know what the status of it is now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister had been keeping me up to date with this and he said that this was in the courts, and that was why he was unable to comment on it. Are they still in the court process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue has not changed too much and that's why I did not mention it.

Yes, it is still in the court system and if any news comes up on this, I will be making a statement on it. The federal government's proposal is the latest one, so that's why I mentioned it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your second supplementary, Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, if it's still in the courts, does the Premier know when it's going to be over? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have absolutely no idea when it's going to be over because the courts operate on their own.

I have been lobbying the federal government to see if we can come to some kind of agreement outside of the courts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister work with his federal counterparts; because you have to keep Nunavummiut informed about this issue; could the minister work closely with his counterparts to come to some agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be having a meeting with my federal counterparts in about two weeks, and the Minister of Justice for Canada will also be there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 316 – 2(4): Report on Staff Housing Review

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

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut's Staff Housing Policy has significantly increased Government of Nunavut housing rents across Nunavut over the last 22 months. I believe it was implemented in January of 2006.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's Business Plan of 2007-08 priorities state that the Housing Corporation will monitor the impact of the new staff housing rent increases and demand for the Rental Assistance Program, and prepare a report for the spring of 2007.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House if this report is complete, and if so, when will he table it in the House for the members to review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. It has to be reviewed by the Cabinet before it can go anywhere. We are currently working on it and once the report is finalized we will be tabling it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've asked for that report several times over the last year and the minister refuses to table it. I appreciate his explanation, but I think we have a policy where it can be tabled if it's not translated.

Mr. Speaker, many Government of Nunavut tenants are barely making ends meet, particularly single parents. There has been a real struggle for low income workers to buy food with what's left over after their rent is deducted from their pay cheques.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House how the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Rental Assistance Program, which is mentioned as a priority, helps Government of Nunavut tenants who can't afford the Government of Nunavut's housing rents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the Rental Assistance Program, we provide this benefit to our employees who are having a hard time making ends meet. We follow the scale of their income and the number of dependants they have in their household.

We are providing rental assistance to some of our employees who require it. We do all we can to make sure that we also follow the policies of the government. This program is still in existence within the Government of Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. Mr. Speaker, it's hard to believe that after 22 months the Government of Nunavut doesn't have a good idea of what the impact of the increased rents are on our employees, particularly our single parent employees who are supporting families of two, or three, or four kids.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House if there has been a noticeable increase in the demand for the Rental Assistance Program due to the increase in government rents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once I have the information as to how much increase there has been in the rental scale, I'll make sure that I give you an update. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are probably a lot of Government of Nunavut employees across Nunavut or ex-Government of Nunavut employees across Nunavut, who have quit their jobs because they couldn't afford their rent. So the information is critical that the Members of this House receive it soon.

Mr. Speaker, applicants to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program exclude the Northern Allowance when they apply to that program for assistance.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister: can the minister indicate to the House if applicants to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's Rental Assistance Program are also required to exclude their Northern Allowance when they apply to that Nunavut Housing Corporation program, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) That's a very good question. I would have to look into whether that applies to our Rental Assistance Program. Again, that's worthwhile to look into within our policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 317 – 2(4): Update on U.S.A.'s Proposed Listing of Polar Bears as Threatened Species

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

Earlier this year, the minister travelled to Washington, D.C. to speak against the ridiculous proposal of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to list polar bears as a threatened species under the United States legislation.

Can the minister provide the House today with an update on the status of this issue and indicate to the House whether his efforts have been achieved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The United States Government has been trying to list the polar bear as a threatened species and there are some opposed to that idea. Right now, the United States legislators are in a debate. So they're at that point right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that it's absolutely essential that we counter this disinformation being spread by extremist animal rights groups and urban environmentalists. Can the minister indicate to the House today what his department's communication strategy is to tell Nunavut's side of the story? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our department is currently working on a communication strategy. We sent out the information and we have dialogues with entities out there, but we will have a clear and definite idea in January. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it's important that our side of the story, from Nunavut, is told. I believe that the minister recognizes that polar bears are far from being endangered and disappearing despite what we might hear on CNN and from the mouths of Hollywood celebrities who live in California.

Will he commit to tabling comprehensive information on this issue for the benefit of members and the public? Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can commit to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. Can the minister also indicate to us that he will correctly explain facts that polar bears are not disappearing just because of early ice breakup as CNN claims? If not, why not? Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have received numerous phone calls from news media from the States and across Canada that our polar bears are not in danger and will not be so for a long time to come because of our stringent management system for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 318 – 2(4): Foster Parent Payments Processing

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe my question will be directed to the Minister responsible for Finance, as last week I questioned the Minister of Health for the program end of the Foster Parent Program. I believe she indicated at the time that the payment process is now over in the Department of Finance.

Can the Minister of Finance indicate, first off, is that a function that is now being provided through the Department of Finance as a result of the transfers of the financial functions of Health over to the Department of Finance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As mentioned in this morning's meetings, it was mentioned that all transactions now are being done within the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said last week, unfortunately, there's a high demand for foster parents not only here but throughout the territory. I know that in doing that, there are rates to reimburse or to pay foster parents that are taking that burden away from the government in providing homes and food for these unfortunate young children.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that these people that are providing that service, not only to the government but to these unfortunate children, are not penalized for doing that. I understand that those payments that are made to people who have children in foster care are processed on a monthly basis.

Can the minister indicate whether that is still the case, or explain how that process goes if he's aware of it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to check with the department on what the actual process is now and bring the information back to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that our Financial Administration Manual indicates that for northern suppliers, they have to be paid within 20 days, which is something that the government hasn't been able to live up to in the past, and there's a lot of frustration by those individuals out there as a result of that.

Mr. Speaker, in cases with families that are taking in children in foster care, I know of an instance, for example, where an individual, as of November 1, hadn't been paid anything since September. To me, that's just unacceptable.

Can the minister indicate if he's aware that the foster parents and people that provide services for the government would be considered the same as a northern supplier and, according to the Financial Administration Manual, should be paid within 20 days? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they should be and I'll check further into that to see what the process is now, and how we were not living up to that 20-day process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the minister indicated this is a new function in the Department of Finance, and it was theoretically done to try and improve the process but here's an example of since that has occurred, things have gotten worse.

Can the minister commit to doing a complete and thorough review of that, especially with the foster parents? It shouldn't be too hard to find out how many people are on that list and ensure that the proper procedures are put in place to ensure that those individuals are paid the money they need to feed the children that they have in foster care without putting undue stress on their own limited resources in some cases. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will certainly have the matter looked into. Thank you.

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

Question 319 – 2(4): Update on Repulse Bay School

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it was last year that I raised a question in regard to the Naujaat school indicating that it was too small for the community. His response was that he was going to check into that, so what is the status? Did he actually look into it and what is going to happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did have an opportunity to follow up on the issues with the school in Repulse Bay. At the same time I had an opportunity to speak with the member about the issue.

The capital plan is before the House, and indeed, the project for the school in Repulse Bay was not in the capital plan for expending dollars this year. What I have committed to do is review our plan in the New Year to see where we have some slippage monies available to see if there's an opportunity to move the school up in the capital plan for the five-year planning purposes, similar to what we've done in other communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When they were in our community, it's too bad they didn't get a chance to see our school. The number of students is getting really high in that community and it would've been so nice for him to see the school. I wonder in what year it will be put in the capital plan. Do you have an idea what year? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are three other capital projects right now ahead of the school in Repulse Bay.

When we look at the attendance numbers that the member has indicated, the current capacity in the school in Repulse Bay is 263 and we actually have 266 students in the

school. We're about three students over the capacity. That would indicate to us that there is a need for, at the very least, an addition to the school and that's the work that we'll be planning and doing in January.

Again, given the limitations of the capital budget, we are trying to review and look at schools which are higher on the priority list based on attendance. Some of the schools are at 113, 118, and 120 percent occupancy and we're trying to deal with those issues right now.

So what I suggest to the member is that, similarly what we've been doing in the capital plan, hopefully in the New Year, to, again, review the opportunities to look at a possible renovation to the school in Repulse Bay to add some capacity based on the student enrolment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. If he personally, or maybe his officials, or maybe his deputy minister would take a visit to the community and actually see for themselves how crowded it is. We expect that the number will increase.

I wonder if he can direct his staff, or himself, or his deputy to actually go visit the school in the community of Naujaat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can do that. I was in the community of Repulse Bay and at the school, I believe it was about nine months ago. The member is correct. I did see that there were some issues with capacity in the school itself.

What I suggest, Mr. Speaker, is that I'll speak to our officials and our capital planner within the department to ensure that, in the next six weeks, we'll be able to go in again to see what the capacity is, and again, look at the enrolment numbers.

The enrolment numbers that I'm working right now, Mr. Speaker, are from the end of September. We usually do the cut-off in October for enrolment numbers because we actually have people moving in and out of the community. Repulse Bay is one of the fastest growing communities in Nunavut and many families are moving back to that community, and that has increased the need for renovation in the community itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 320 – 2(4): Broken Utilidor at Resolute Bay

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy that the Premier is wearing a blue tie today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, in Resolute Bay, for the past three years now, the contractors have been working on the pipes. Every time I go up there there's usually a flood, even after it's been worked on, and it freezes. In some cases the water reaches to the residential areas.

Mr. Speaker, when I met with the hamlet council they were told by Community and Government Services that they were going to bring in their own plumber. I wonder if they actually sent their own plumber. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people that we said were going to that community were going to check into this regarding the pipes. At this time I haven't heard if they finished but I expect that they probably had to do that because they ordered the supplies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have seen problems with the new units that are being built. They have to put the pipes in but they can't move into those units until the plumbing is completed. What will the Community and Government Services do in this case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, those are being looked at. I think they're 95 percent completed. They said that they would finish by August of this year. I can definitely check into this to see if it has been completed because the material that they ordered came in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Both the minister and I know that the pipes are very old and it would probably cost a lot to replace them. I'm also aware that we approved some funding. I wonder when the plumbing will be replaced, especially for the old ones. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The work will commence next year and my briefing says that it should be completed by August 2007, and next year, it should be done by then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 321 – 2(4): Overflow Guidelines for Winnipeg Medical Boarding Home

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

The minister knows that the Winnipeg Boarding Home, Kivalliq Inuit Centre, is used all the time, and even the younger people don't mind but the boarding home is full to its capacity 12 months of the year.

I wonder if it states in your guidelines what you can do if there is an overflow. Can the minister tell me that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As it relates to the boarding homes, the issue with overcrowding has been one that we have been dealing with, not just with the Winnipeg Boarding Home but also with the Yellowknife Boarding Home, the Ottawa one, as well as here.

The guidelines that we use in trying to accommodate patients who require hotel or boarding home arrangement is that we look to other accommodations. It could be a hotel or a billeting arrangement when the boarding homes are overcrowded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I use the word 'overflow' instead of 'overcrowding' because overflow often either at least almost triples the number of patients that are in Winnipeg that cannot accommodation at the Inuit Centre.

So I believe the department should have a consistent policy and guideline as to where the elderly that need proper care, as well as the individuals in very serious conditions, have proper care at the hotel. If that is the case, who makes the decision as to which hotel, or is

there a single hotel booked for the purposes of accommodating patients that cannot be accommodated at the Inuit Centre in Winnipeg? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the case where the boarding homes, if there's an overflow of patients there, from what I understand, the arrangements would be made through the boarding home staff as to which hotel would be used.

I'm more familiar with the Ottawa ones that are used for patients, but I can certainly look into the ones in Winnipeg to see which hotels or arrangements are identified as accommodation options for patients that are not able to stay at the boarding home in Winnipeg. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I certainly appreciate that commitment from the minister that she will look into that.

The patients and the elderly who need escorts as well as the proper care, and those that are seriously ill have asked me to let you know that they have not got that much choice. The health officials in Winnipeg have allocated one hotel which is close to 100 years old, which is not adequate; the elevators are so small for terminally ill individuals, it's very discomfoting.

Since we are paying a premium price for many of the hotels, for a public service, as well as the patient, I wonder if the minister could expand that program to allow comparable, in terms of price ranges, hotels available so that there's some level of comfort, as well as having elevators that are not as slow as turtles.

Once they're down there they need comfort and it's important that the minister table that report. Will she do that? 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 look in to see what hotel arrangements; what hotels or other accommodation facilities are used in the case of when the boarding home is full and provide that information to the member as well as the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 322 – 2(4): Priority Hiring Policy Procedures

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier today the minister did a Minister's Statement in regard to the continuation of the Priority Hiring Policy. We're all having a hard time today.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I want to first off make it perfectly clear that this is a policy I agree with, and I think most people out there agree with it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I know in the past I had raised some concerns where the policy wasn't being followed properly, and when people applied for positions who were non-beneficiaries, they went through, according to the Priority Hiring Policy, went through the list and didn't find suitable candidates that either they cancelled the position or reclassified the position.

So I guess my question to the minister is: with the continuation of this policy, is it still a fact that if they find a suitable beneficiary that they will interview and process that way, but if they don't that they would continue on through the rest of the applications and look for a suitable non-beneficiary that's a northerner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Priority Hiring Policy has increased for hiring practices. This is not going to change accordingly and sometimes the Priority Hiring Policy for beneficiaries is our priority. If there are none that we can hire, then we look for others and the departments do what they wish if they want to hire internally, or if they want to re-advertise jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are there any criteria or policy, or anything that the department monitors or watches to ensure that it is implemented properly as far as reclassifying a position if they don't find a suitable beneficiary?

I raise this Mr. Speaker, because there are a lot of individuals out there who are not beneficiaries but who call this their home, they're feeling that they are not getting opportunities fairly even though they agree with the Priority Hiring Policy.

Positions get advertised and re-advertised. Is there a policy or procedure in place that the department uses to monitor to see if departments are cancelling positions, or putting them

out, or reclassifying them to different positions that they use to monitor that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at each department within the government, when they're looking for employees, they have an opportunity, if that position is not able to be filled, to re-advertise it and revise it, etcetera. If they want to change the policy, then they would have to come to Human Resources. We keep them up to date with the changes they can make if they want to amend advertisements when they can't fill the position and they may put it out again.

If the department is not able to find someone to fill the position, then we will consider other ways following the policy accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding of the Priority Hiring Policy is to find a suitable beneficiary and they can proceed with that. If they don't, then they continue through the applicants to see if there's a local northern non-beneficiary.

Mr. Speaker, the minister just indicated that if the department wants to re-advertise or look at it where they're not in breach of the Priority Hiring Policy, if they don't continue on going through the list of applicants, that's what I'm asking. Are they monitoring the process if there are other suitable applicants who are non-beneficiaries after going through all the applicants who are beneficiaries and they weren't able to find any?

Are the departments obligated to look at the other local northern applicants as outlined in the policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's in three stages. We look at the land claims agreement and hiring practices, and then we look at those accordingly. Applicants may apply if they have the experience within the government and if they have a health care plan in Nunavut, then they are able to apply.

If no beneficiary has applied, then anybody within Canada can apply for the position. It's in three stages: beneficiaries, others from Nunavut, and then throughout Canada. That's how the procedure is. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I know that's supposedly the process but it's been brought to my attention a number of times over the last few years that it appears that that isn't the case.

So I guess what I was asking the minister is: what steps or what procedures do they have in place to ensure that the departments follow the Priority Hiring Policy in the event where they don't come up with a suitable beneficiary candidate, when there may be a suitable non-beneficiary candidate in there? The Department of Human Resources, according to their policy, should be looking at those.

What is the Department of Human Resources doing to ensure that they do that, instead of just cancelling the job, or re-advertising it, or re-classifying it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, for positions and job opportunities that are applied within the government department, according to our Priority Hiring Policy, what we do is we try to get qualified beneficiaries for positions, and I think it's helpful to everybody in Nunavut for this reason.

Statistics Canada put out a number saying 96 percent of non-Inuit are now working in Nunavut. What we are trying to do is to urge the beneficiaries to get hired so that we could have a higher percentage of beneficiaries working within the Government of Nunavut.

This is our priority and our policy within this department since we started in 2000. It's been implemented properly and we're trying to hire qualified beneficiaries into these positions. They are our priorities. Later on, others can apply for the positions if they wish. This was approved by the Cabinet, so this is the policy that we have in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 323 – 2(4): Medical Travel for Breastfeeding Mothers

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

She was talking about the *Nutritional Framework for Action* for Nunavut and the Public Health Strategy. In our community, my constituents would like to find out if there's a new policy in place where little babies that are breast fed are to be left in the community when the mother is going out for medical. I would like to find out if this is the case, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When a patient is travelling and has an infant, sometimes the position is not to have the baby travel with the mother depending on the procedure the mother will have in the hospital. For instance, if the mother is going in for surgery, then the staff would not recommend the child could go to the hospital because someone would have to care for the child down there while she's in the hospital.

There have been decisions of that nature to not allow infants to travel with their mothers, depending on the situation, again, of the patient. It's not always the case. It's on a case-by-case basis and based on the recommendations of the nurses and the physicians. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Madam Minister. Yes, I don't think the public understands this very clearly. The community health centre notified us that patients with infants who are breastfeeding are asked to leave their infants behind. I would like you to inform the public out there and make sure that you let the health centre know about this information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to having that information clearly stated to people who are travelling that have infants and make sure the policy is clear. It can be indicated at which time when infants are denied to go with their parents and whatnot to clarify the policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister and Mr. Arreak. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Question 324 – 2(4): Response to Question on Polar Bear Study

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

Although I asked this before, prior to him assuming his portfolio, I was told that they were going to respond to me in regard to the polar bear research or study that was done down in the Hudson Bay area. I was wondering if the minister has the results to inform us now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you. Which polar bears are you talking about? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Member Kattuk, if you can rephrase your question. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Down in the Hudson Bay area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Ontario Government has done the research on the polar bear around the Hudson Bay area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the study completed by the Ontario Wildlife Service? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not too sure if the study has been completed yet but they have not gone to his community yet. We have told the Hudson Bay communities that the study is incomplete. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Nunavut Government Wildlife Division a part of the research or study that was done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We meet with the researchers to discuss what they're doing in regard to polar bears. Although we don't take part, we do a study. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not quite understand his last remark in regard to the study. What are they studying? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following the research results on the polar bears, there have been numerous studies done in that area but the main thing that they've noticed is that they've lost weight. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 325 – 2(4): Stage of “Closer to Home” Strategy

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

Mr. Speaker, for a number of years now, we have been hearing about the Health and Social Services 'Closer to Home' Strategy. To date, a copy of the 'Closer to Home' Strategy has never been tabled, nor provided to MLAs for review.

Mr. Speaker, my question: can the minister clarify for the House at what stage the 'Closer to Home' Strategy is in, and when might we expect to see a copy if it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought we had tabled that report.

The 'Closer to Home' Strategy, there have been some work involved in reviewing what programs we can provide in our territory as opposed to programs out of territory, or in our communities as opposed to the regional centres.

Some work have been developed in the last few years, such as expanding the infrastructure in the three regional centres, the continuing care facilities, investment in diagnostic imaging equipment that we can use in our communities to provide services in the communities as opposed to other centres. So there have been a number of initiatives in that.

The second part of it is also training our own personnel to work in our various facilities in Nunavut to provide services such as midwifery training, and later today I will be doing the second reading for the midwifery legislation to allow midwives to practice at the community level.

So a number of different projects have been undertaken by the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. Mr. Speaker, on the March 14, 2005 *Hansard*, the previous Minister of Health said that, “The Care Closer to Home Strategy, recently approved by Cabinet is designed to improve health in Nunavut, creating a system that is sustainable and meets the needs of Nunavummiut for years to come.”

The minister has mentioned some initiatives that they’re working on. I wonder if the minister could clarify those. Can she tell us which ones are still in the planning stages? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think for clarification as well, in the study itself, we also had to look at whether it was viable to have all the services provided in the territory, whether we had the capacity to build infrastructures in the North to accommodate the 200-and-some people that live in out-of-territory facilities as an example.

Those are some of the work and research done for that review. Not all of those recommendations are viable for us to pursue but other areas where we can within the limited resources, the government has.

We had invested in training, as an example, for home care workers; over 40 people have been provided that service, instead of sending patients out to hospitals for treatment; the purchase of a portable mammography to be used in the territory.

Those are the kinds of initiatives that we’re undertaking in the North. At the same time, we’ve also invested into... another example, an announcement I had made last year on the Fetal Fibronectin testing to detect false labours in the community level.

So there are a number of initiatives; exactly what some of those other items are, I don’t have that in front of me to speak to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The former Minister Levinia Brown and the former Deputy Minister Bernie Blais had crossed Nunavut several times. They came to Cambridge Bay; they consulted with the hamlet council and consulted with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association at an annual general meeting about the ‘Closer to Home’ Strategy.

So there's a document and it must exist. The MLAs have not seen it. Well, it's kind of hard for us to measure the success of the strategy if we haven't seen it.

My question for the minister though, Mr. Speaker: can the minister update the House how much it has cost the Department of Health and Social Services to implement the 'Closer to Home' Strategy so far and what costs are anticipated in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the initiatives include the two continuing care capital projects, the \$64 million hospital here, the two regional hospitals in Rankin Inlet and in Cambridge Bay, our infrastructure development that has been undertaken that would support the 'Closer to Home' initiatives, the long-term care facilities, the training that's required into mental health, nursing, home care workers, or social workers and so on.

So there are a number of initiatives that have been undertaken, and in terms of the dollars, I think we see them through our capital as well as our main estimates what initiatives we have undertaken in Nunavut to deliver more services in Nunavut.

Having said that, we also need to recognize that we cannot provide all services in the territory; we will continue to rely on Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton and so on, for cancer care as an example, and/or specialist services because we do not have the resources or the capacity to deliver all the services within the health care files in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that we all appreciate that the Department of Health and Social Services is a very challenging department to run and operate on behalf of all Nunavummiut.

The health touches everybody everyday. We all know someone who is sick, or has been sick, or is being treated by health. The minister mentioned a lot of worthy initiatives and I'm sure that there are many more that they are considering.

The minister mentioned that she thought that that strategy had been tabled in the House. It would be useful on this side of the House if we did see the document as guiding the Department of Health and Social Services to implement all of these initiatives.

So I'm wondering, Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to tabling a copy of the 'Closer to Home' Strategy in the House for members to review before we depart later this week? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to look to see if that was tabled. I thought it was tabled by the previous minister. I'll look into the file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Members, Question Period is now over. Going back to Orders of the Day. 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. I'm sorry, Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report on Bills 003 – 2(4): Review of Bill 4, Workers' Compensation Act

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 4, *Workers' Compensation Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability, and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

And Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 4 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Do members agree to waive Rule 68(6) to have Bill 4 moved into Committee of the Whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Tootoo.

Committee Report on Bills 004 – 2(4): Review of Bill 19, Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Accountability, and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 19 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Do the members agree to waive the Rule and have Bill 19 moved into Committee of the Whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 144 – 2(4): Auditor General of Canada’s Report on the Audit of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut – 2007

(interpretation ends) Members, I wish to table today the Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on the Audit of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Activities. Thank you.

(interpretation) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Tabled Document 145 – 2(4): Nutrition in Nunavut: A Framework for Action

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As for my Minister’s Statement, I’m tabling the document: Nutrition in Nunavut – A Framework for Action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. (interpretation ends) Can we have that document brought forward to the table, please? I would ask my colleague Mr. ... (interpretation) I’m sorry. Moving on. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 22 – Engineers & Geoscientists Act – Notice

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I first want to read back to the Member for Quttiktuq, he mentioned that I was wearing a blue tie but, for the record, it’s red, white, and blue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, November 7, 2007, that Bill 22, *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*, be read for the first time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 20 – Midwifery Profession Act – First Reading

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for South Baffin, that Bill 20, *Midwifery Professions Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in Favour. Opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 20 has had its first reading.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Education and Energy, Minister Picco.

Bill 21 – Education Act – First Reading

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik, that Bill 21, the new Nunavut *Education Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 21 has had its first reading.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 14, Bill 15, Bill 16, Bill 17, and Bill 19 with Mr. Arreak in the Chair.

Before we proceed, we will take a 20-minute break. We were told there were nutritional foods out there in the foyer, so we can go out there and check it.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:08 and Committee resumed at 15:42*

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Before we proceed with business in the Committee of the Whole, as your Chair, I have the following ruling:

Chairman's Ruling

On Friday, November 2, during the proceedings in the Committee of the Whole the Member for Iqaluit East raised a Point of Order in response to comments made by the Member for Rankin Inlet North.

As I understand it the Member for Iqaluit East is asking the Chair to direct the Member from Rankin Inlet North to withdraw his comments. The issue arose while the committee was considering the proposed capital estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

The Member for Rankin Inlet North was questioning the minister regarding policy development for a federal funding initiative. At one point he directed a question not to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, but to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

In posing this question the member stated, "We are concerned that before the policy is drafted that you don't start dipping into cookie jars like the Government Leader normally does..."

In written context it appears that the member was attempting to express a concern about money being committed prior to policy being fully developed. However, the choice of wording is unfortunate. It is wording used in every day language that suggests wrongdoing or illegality.

The Point of Order also relates to comments made by the Member for Rankin Inlet North with respect to the Government House Leader interfering in the work in the House. It appears that the Government House Leader was speaking with the Minister of Community and Government Services at the time the question was put forth.

It was suggested that this is improper. This is not improper. It is quite acceptable for members to speak with each other and share information. Indeed, this might be seen as facilitating the work of the Assembly, as it may assist in providing complete information to members. I find that there is a Point of Order, and I ask the Member for Rankin Inlet North to withdraw both comments. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, gladly, as usual, I withdraw my comments. Thank you.

>>*Laughter*

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. The member has withdrawn his remarks and this matter is closed. We will proceed with the business of the committee. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 16 and the review of the Capital Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Are we in agreement we first deal with the Capital Estimates for Health and Social Services?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 16 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2008-2009 – Consideration in Committee – Health & Social Services

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

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

(interpretation ends) For the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Alex Campbell, the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, and to my right is Rosemary Brown, Manager of Capital Projects for Health and Social Services. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Welcome. (interpretation ends) Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Health and Education have comments? Thank you. Please proceed, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a Member of the Standing Committee on Health and Education, I am pleased to make some opening comments on the 2008-09 Capital Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services.

The proposed capital budget of the Department of Health and Social Services represents close to 15 percent of the Government of Nunavut's overall capital spending for 2008-09.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by recognizing an important milestone in the completion and opening of the Qikiqtani General Hospital, the third new regional health facility in Nunavut. The standing committee would like to congratulate the minister and recognize the other MLAs who have been a driving force behind this project since its inception. Members recognize that the facility will not be fully operational until nurses and other medical professionals can be hired to staff the facility.

The shortage of staff for the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regional health facilities has also been an ongoing problem and neither of these facilities has been fully operational to date.

Committee members will continue to monitor the minister's efforts to promote the training, recruitment and retention of health professionals for Nunavut.

Members look forward to reviewing the upcoming Nurse Recruitment and Retention Strategy as directed by Cabinet during the recent retreat held in Kugluktuk in early September.

The department's proposed capital budget for 2008-09 includes ongoing renovations to the Baffin Regional Hospital. Members are in support of the older facility being renovated as an extension to the Qikiqtani General Hospital, where various related services will be provided. However, cost estimates for these renovations appear to have doubled since last year. Given that plans for establishing a long term care unit within the older facility appear no longer feasible, it is unclear what the additional funds will be used for.

The standing committee continues to have concerns with boarding arrangements for Nunavummiut who fly to the regional centres to receive medical services. For example, the current boarding home in Iqaluit is often full to capacity. Renovations to the Kitikmeot Medical Boarding Home in Cambridge Bay have been delayed until 2011.

For some time now, members have been given to understand that boarding arrangement contracts for communities such as Rankin Inlet or cities outside of Nunavut will depend on the final outcome of negotiations with Health Canada with respect to the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. Members continue to await an update on the department's consolidated plan for boarding home arrangements for Nunavummiut. It is important that the lack of accommodation for patients not become an obstacle to providing as many health services as possible closer to home.

Committee members recognize that efforts have been made to achieve progress on the Continuing Care facilities in Igloolik and Gjoa Haven. Members have noted that the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2008-09 Capital Estimates include funding for staff housing units for both Continuing Care facilities.

It is also important that training opportunities for future employment in these facilities be made available to local residents. Members will be paying close attention to this issue when they scrutinize the department's 2008-09 Business Plans and Main Estimates.

Members were once again disappointed to see that the proposed 2008-09 capital budget for Health and Social Services includes very little funding for community health centre projects. While funds have been allocated for 2008-09 for Taloyoak's Health Centre, the Repulse Bay Health Centre Project remains deferred until 2009-2010.

The Arctic Bay Health Centre Replacement Project had been on the Capital Plan since the 2005-06 Capital Estimates when funding was allocated for a Functional Program to be completed. It is not clear why the Arctic Bay Health Centre Replacement Project is no longer included in the Five-Year Capital Plan.

It is important that the minister clarify how projects are prioritized, especially when comparing the age and technical status evaluations of the buildings.

Last spring, Members of this House approved capital carryovers from the 2006-07 fiscal year for three health centre replacement projects in the communities of Pangnirtung, Igloolik and Pond Inlet. Members are aware that there have been various problems with each of these projects and it is unclear whether they will be completed on schedule and within budget.

From time to time, the standing committee receives correspondence from the GN that outlines budget transfers between capital projects during the course of the fiscal year. In addition to the notification of such transfers, members would appreciate a detailed update including the overall budget and timeline status for each of the capital projects affected.

The standing committee has noted that the department's proposed 2008-09 Capital Estimates includes funding for Minor Projects such as vehicles and medical or dental equipment. Members urge the minister to take into consideration requests that have been brought forward by communities requiring adequate transportation services.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. I am confident that individual members will also have opening comments and questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Do members have general comments? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your officials to the Committee of the Whole.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, as we review these 2008-09 Capital Estimates, I am deeply troubled by the latest five-year capital plan proposed by the Department of Health and Social Services.

In 2004, this committee was very pleased to see the Department of Health and Social Services commit capital funding for the 2005-06 fiscal year to begin planning for the replacement of the Arctic Bay Health Centre.

At that time, Mr. Chairman, the design and planning phases were scheduled for 2007-08 with construction planned for the two fiscal years following that. Although the Arctic

Bay Health Centre Replacement Project was deferred twice over the next two capital plans as tabled in 2005 and 2006, I was surprised and shocked to note that this year the Arctic Bay Health Centre Replacement Project has been dropped completely from the five-year capital plan before us today.

Mr. Chairman, the community of Arctic Bay feels betrayed by what appears to have been an abrupt change in the department's plans and priorities.

Mr. Chairman, it is not at all clear to me or to my constituents how certain projects can suddenly become prioritized while other projects with long-standing commitments are simply dropped off the plan.

Mr. Chairman, when we see strange things like this happening, it makes us wonder what purpose the government's five-year capital planning process is actually serving.

Mr. Chairman, it is not clear to me how a 24-year old facility with serious structural problems, that I have discussed and displayed in this House a number of times over the years, can suddenly be considered less of a priority for replacement than a 19-year old facility that has already had a significant amount of funding approved for its renovations over the past few capital budgets.

Mr. Chairman, in 2005-06, this House approved \$15,000 to begin planning for the Arctic Bay Health Centre Replacement Project. I will be seeking clarification on what this money was spent on and what the results were.

Mr. Chairman, I will also be asking what justification was used to drop the Arctic Bay Health Centre Replacement Project from the five-year capital plan.

Mr. Chairman, it is not clear what criteria are being used to determine the scope, status and priority level of the capital projects under the Department of Health and Social Services.

I look forward to a full and comprehensive accounting of this information and all related decisions. My constituents deserve a full explanation on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. General comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) The standing committee only reviews documents presented. We are not given information, for example, when the Health Department is preparing plans on which communities need replacement or renovations.

We are not given complete information on what the health centres need before we have reached this stage with the numbers here. It is only when everything has been included into the plans that we finally see them.

So when we, as a committee, finally see what has been put into the documents, we note things that we thought had been put in previously into the five-year plan. As an example, in Arctic Bay, certain items were no longer on the five-year capital plan. I wonder how we'll be able to know, especially with the buildings that urgently need to be replaced.

We have an idea that FMB and Community and Government Services usually know which buildings are the oldest and which needs to be replaced on an emergency basis.

For myself, I was shocked. For an example, only when we ask, only when the committee asked to get more information, especially for the two communities; there are probably more; but we're only aware of the two.

In Arctic Bay, the health centre is 24 years old and hasn't been renovated, maybe except for the stairs. The one in Gjoa Haven is a 20-year old facility, which is about four years newer, and has been renovated maybe just about every year because it's in a very poor condition. Gjoa Haven definitely needs a health centre.

The one that was in the worse condition was dropped off the five-year capital plan. What we're trying to say as a government are those communities that are not represented by a minister.

I can't understand why it was dropped off because here they're saying that they use *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*. According to *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, we should help those who are in more serious situations. This is not *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*. We're not saying to build one in Gjoa Haven, but what we're saying is I don't think you utilized *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* during the planning stage.

We ask that Community and Government Services examine closely the standards and criteria to see whether they need replacements or improvements because they really needed to make those new facilities and now the two health centres are dropped off.

I will be raising questions. I might want to include FMB and Community and Government Services when we're under the Health Department because not everything is handled by the Department of Health. There's engineering and planners, where FMB makes the funding available, especially if there needs to be renovations. So that we could get adequate answers, I think they will have to answer some of our questions during Committee of the Whole, or if possible, the Premier will have to be held here, too.

When we get back to our communities, we'll have to inform our constituents the reason why it was put like this using these standards or criteria. If we're going to approve this, what conditions are we agreeing to? We have to be very careful.

We have to agree if we are to explain to our constituents because it's going to be very difficult if we'll be able to do that because they're funded by tax. We all pay taxes and

that's why the funding has to be utilized wisely using *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*. I will also be raising questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to welcome the minister, the deputy minister, and the capital planner to the Committee of the Whole.

We're not doing this personally. We don't want to attack you personally. I just want the minister to know and I think she understands, as well as the Government Leader, (interpretation ends) this is the election year budget, obviously. I think you must remember that it's an election year next year.

To some of us, the document, as it is, is not reflective of fairness to the region. I'll be very hard pressed to try and explain how the health budget is like for a place like Kivalliq, let alone my constituency. Not one penny, not one cent, is in the health budget or capital for Kivalliq. So Mr. Chairman, how am I going to explain my role?

When you look at Iqaluit for instance, there's \$4 million allocated for the coming capital budget. In total, \$8.6 million for the region, \$4.7 million for Kitikmeot, prominently mainly for one location or so. I believe, to be fair, I think the budget for the other constituencies or other regions is fine but we need to expand that budget.

I believe that the capital budget, as a whole, has a contingency allocation, if not, I might be wrong. But if there's such a contingency, we should ask the Cabinet or the Health Minister to work on that, and come back and re-draft her budget within the next two days.

I have nothing good whatsoever to say about it for the Kivalliq region because there's not one penny. I believe it's not a proud moment for Kivallirmiut and I am ashamed of it. There are needs, there are patients that continue to look around for accommodation when the weather often gets bad in Rankin Inlet and the Minister of Health has promises. We are exploring a health transit, patient care, patient facilities, boarding homes for Kivallirmiut and nothing whatsoever.

I don't know how the minister is going to explain to us but it's possible that if she is willing, she could recommend something for this coming fiscal year. I'm not sure how I'm going to vote for this proposal when it has not... I repeat, I think I'm quite clear, Mr. Chairman, when I say, "How can I support the budget when it has not a penny, not one cent, for the Kivalliq region?" It's a significant region, I say, for Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) I know, Mr. Chairman, that if our elders hear this, they will not like the Cabinet very much, especially the Health Minister. We're not saying we want to delete them but rearrange it, or maybe to Repulse Bay because you have contingency authority. That's all I wanted to say. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. General comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would echo some of the concerns my colleagues have raised in the committee's review of the Department of Health's Capital budget. There seems to be a lot of questions that need answering and I look forward to hearing those answers here in the Committee of the Whole.

Some of the concerns that I have raised with it, I'm not going to go on with the ones that my colleagues have already mentioned, but in some of things that I've mentioned and we've seen over the years of projects proceeding, or not proceeding because the bids are coming in way over the budgeted amounts and I have raised that issue with the minister and the Minister of Finance.

Are these numbers that we're looking at reliable as part of the whole, not just this department but the entire capital budget? It always seems like the government will look good if they can put 20 projects on the capital list but we know in reality they're only going to be able to do 10 of them.

And, when it comes to the approval of the budget that's approved by all Members of this House, and once it's approved, then the bids are coming in way too high, we've got to cut 10 off. It's not this Assembly that gets a say in which 10 get cut off. It's the Cabinet.

I have issues with that and, again, not just with this department, I've raised this with other departments. My colleague from Arctic Bay said he supported it when he saw this project for Arctic Bay that was on there before. There's no money around so it gets bumped off. That never came here in the House. It was a decision that was made in Cabinet.

As far as which projects go ahead and which ones don't, I think that, as a government, they should be coming forward with more realistic numbers so that we actually know what we're voting on.

If you look at the department's budget this year, one of the projects that it has in there, it says the number is determined by using class C estimates and the numbers are not reliable. To me, if I'm approving that project, I want to know a reliable number to be able to look at.

By approving a non-reliable number, to me, that's like writing a blank cheque. If it comes in double that, well okay, if we would have known that now or even going into this, maybe it wouldn't even be on there. Maybe the department wouldn't even put it on there if it knows.

So I have concerns with this matter, and I also have some concerns on how projects seem to come and go and fall off the five year capital plan. I'll be looking to hear some answers from the minister on exactly how that happened or didn't happen, and some questions relating to how some projects stayed on.

I'll be asking some questions and raise that based on some responses that were provided to this committee and what the Community and Government Services officials, as far as what's treated, how projects are looked at and when they would be considered a new project or a continuation of an old project.

I have some concerns looking at projects in here over the years; it appears that there seems to be a discrepancy in how and if that same procedure is used throughout. It doesn't seem to have been the case for what and for sure for the one in here.

Again, I look forward to hearing the response to these questions from the minister, and like my colleagues have indicated, I do have some concerns and some doubt over the capital budget that we see before us here for the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. General comments. I have no more names on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page H-6. Health and Social Services. Detail of Capital. Directorate. Tangible Assets. Headquarters Region. Total Headquarters Region. \$1 million. Do you agree? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's half a million dollars I know, again, is not a whole lot of money for Minor Projects and for Small Capital. I'm just wondering if the department has an indication as to how those funds are going to be used. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minor Projects; \$500,000 will be used to replace obsolete equipment or vehicles that are in poor condition, or purchase additional equipment that require new equipment.

In terms of the other, Small Capital; funds to be used to do some minor repairs and renovations of buildings. So it's telephone systems or that kind of expenditure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. For Small Capital or Minor Projects, do they have a listing of priorities or projects that they would like to address under those areas by community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand for these two categories, the way it's set up, is based on need, and the regions would put forth their needs for various small capital or minor projects. That's all there, too. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Page H-6. Total Headquarters Region. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have raised in this House a number of times to describe the condition of the Arctic Bay Health Centre, and I have even tabled photographs and described many problems in the facility. The Arctic Bay Health Centre is now one of the oldest health centres in Nunavut.

Chairman: Mr. Barnabas, I will have the committee approve the Tangible Assets for Headquarters Region before you ask your question. Total Headquarters Region. \$1 million. Mr. Curley.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, I need your guidance in this area because I'm not sure where I'm going to speak for the Kivalliq region with that detail because the Kivalliq region is not in there. I would prefer to address them now, while we're in the minister's responsibility, alright?

Chairman: Alright. Thank you, Mr. Curley. I'll give you a chance to voice your opinions after we have approved the headquarters region, any time after this capital item. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, the headquarters region is obviously related to projects that are associated with the whole health budget for all of Nunavut, not just for the headquarters, in my view. So isn't it the appropriate place to do that? It's up to you and I'll abide by your final ruling. Thank you.

Chairman: Alright, I'll do that. Total Headquarters Region. \$1 million. Does the committee agree? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, my question is specific. When allocating for minor projects, how do you determine which projects qualify to a particular location? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each region would put forth their proposal based on needs. They would forward that to Rosemary and Rosemary works with each region to allocate minor capital projects to various regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Can you clarify who Rosemary is, minister?

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Rosemary is the witness sitting next to me here, as I introduced her earlier. Thank you.

Chairman: Alright. Thank you, Minister. You mean Ms. Brown. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: So if a region, or a community, or officials from the region don't put forward a new request for minor projects, they don't get a penny as is the case with the Kivalliq region.

I have a question on exactly what you have with the so-called Minor Projects and Small Capital, we would actually say \$300,000 or less, but that is not the case, they're both more than \$300,000. So can the minister outline in detail exactly what kinds of projects are allocated within this \$500,000 to \$1 million figure? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have Ms. Brown explain what funding was allocated to the Kivalliq region under Minor Projects and Small Capital projects last year, and explain the guideline used to allocate that funding and I'll ask Ms. Brown to elaborate on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: That's not what I'm asking. I'm asking about the detailed breakdown of the headquarters projects. What are they?

(interpretation) I think the minister doesn't understand my question. What is the \$500,000 in Minor Projects, Headquarters Region, going to be used for? It says the amount is not even \$300,000, but both of them are \$500,000 each. What are they geared towards? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$500,000 for Minor Projects and Small Capital projects of \$500,000 is for accounting purposes located in the headquarters operation.

That funding is used for various projects identified by the three regions. So the three regions would identify their minor projects and submit those to the head office, and the head office would then prioritize those and distribute the funding.

It's simply for accounting purposes that it's not divided up. The \$500,000 is not divided by three regions. It's basically for accounting purposes held at the headquarters office and distributed based on need in submissions from the regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. That's important to note. My question is: it says here that the so-called small capital projects supposedly should be up to \$300,000 or less. Why then

are they categorized as small capital when they, in fact, are half a million dollars? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, the \$500,000 is for the three regions and the money is stored at the head office. Each region would submit their needs to the regional office and that money is distributed.

The way that it's described here is that anything less than \$300,000 would be considered for it as a project at one time. Anything beyond \$300,000 would not qualify under this Minor Project or Small Capital category. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: I assume the minister's office or department would have a guideline for minor projects. Why are the minor project guidelines, if any, required when, in fact, it doesn't appear to be followed in this regard? I believe the \$500,000 shouldn't be, in my view, be stealing from the little guys who qualify for small minor projects in the amount of \$300,000 or less.

So why do you terminate small projects when \$500,000 is not a minor project, in my view? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, the \$500,000 is a territorial budget for minor projects for the 25 communities in the three regions and the same applies to the minor repairs. So for example, if they need to replace a porch in one of the health centres, a door has been broken and whatnot, that would fall under minor capital funding.

Anything beyond \$300,000 would not be considered on one project, and that \$500,000 is there to maximize the dollars for minor projects throughout the region.

In the past, I believe in 2004-05, the \$500,000 used to be divided up into three regions and we were finding at that time that we could not accommodate any request from regions because the funding was too little. So by consolidating the funding, \$500,000 for minor capital and so on, at headquarters, we were able to exercise more flexibility in regional submissions for minor capital, as an example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: My next question is, in terms of the \$1 million allocations for Minor Projects and Small Capital, do you have a number of locations for these two items, and if so, which communities are planned for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding would be allocated based on submissions from the communities and the regions, and once that information is collected, then that funding would be allocated for those minor projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. What the minister is telling this committee is that up to now, you have not received any submissions for any funding from any region, you just have an allocated amount of \$1 million for Minor Projects and Small Capital, and that is yet to be distributed to the regions. Do I understand you correctly in saying that? Thank you.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Page H-6. Health and Social Services. Detail of Capital. Directorate. Tangible Assets. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like Mr. Curley, I have a question to ask here that's not in here. There's a substantiation sheet in the department's book on the project. I figured before we get into any specific area that probably might be the best place to get a response for.

Mr. Chairman, it deals with the Kitikmeot medical boarding home facility, which I believe is a couple of years behind schedule now. Mr. Chairman, the substantiation sheet indicates that in May they received a bid for a little over \$1.7 million and it was deferred until sufficient capital funds were available.

On the construction amounts in there, there's a budgeted amount of \$2.1 million. I'm just wondering if I could get... \$1.7 million is less than \$2.1 million, so I'm just wondering if I could get a clarification. I'm sure there's probably a good reason for that but I would just like to hear it on the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going have Ms. Brown explain that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the budget that we had for 2007-08 for the medical boarding home, it was \$1,003,000, which we were going to be short that amount of money for the boarding home.

The \$2.1 million is the value of what we feel the renovations will be, given the input from CGS, that by the time we get to do the renovations in 2011-12, we figure, with inflation, it will cost that much more.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we look at the overall view of things and some of the things that we've seen throughout this capital budget, it sounds like it's just a \$700,000 difference in the bid to what was budgeted for, and then you see some projects that have come in over double from \$17 million to \$30 million, which we've already seen in the capital plan.

How is it determined, then, that, "Okay, we don't have \$700,000. We've come in over our budget, so we're not dealing with that one until the future. We're going to find the money for this one and move ahead with it, but this one here doesn't get it because we don't have the money for it." Maybe just get an explanation as to how that's determined. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I'll get Ms. Brown to answer that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the time when the bid came in, we were also looking at the potential for staffing at the Kitikmeot Health Centre in terms of both physicians and nurses. We felt that this project, the Kitikmeot Boarding Home, could be deferred until the building could be opened at its in-patients.

The Department of Health is also looking at an overall boarding home strategy for all of the facilities in conjunction with Health Canada. That will allow the department time to get more information about possible input of funding from Health Canada for this facility.

Unfortunately, now, we have had the fire in August, which has now compounded the problem. At that time, in looking at the \$1 million, it's just over a million dollars that was sitting for the medical boarding home. We were also in a situation where the two continuing care centres, one for Igloolik and one for Gjoa Haven, were also coming in over budget.

Because this was a major GN priority, we applied to FMB to be able to temporarily, at this point in time, use the money from the medical boarding home and defer it for a few

years until the staffing situation in Nunavut could be improved, physicians as well as nursing, and sort out the boarding home strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. We are on H-6. Total Headquarters Region. \$1 million. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Qikiqtaaluk Region. I have two members on my list already. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I will go back to the question, Mr. Chairman, that I was trying to ask. I apologize if I went too far ahead.

I have raised in this House a number of times to describe the conditions at the Arctic Bay Health Centre. I have even tabled photographs and described the many problems at the facility. The Arctic Bay Health Centre is now one of the oldest health centres in Nunavut.

Can the minister explain to me why the Arctic Bay Health Centre has been dropped off the five-year capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back in 2004-05, the Department of CGS had completed a technical review of the facility. That technical review was given to the Department of Health as a base to start the process of developing a program study to figure out the size of the building and what would be delivered and so on.

To respond to the technical review conducted by CGS Technical staff at that time, \$15,000 was allocated to the Department of Health and Social Services to start the process of doing the program review of this facility, which would include identification of the site, basically, what programs would be delivered out of the health centre, which would form the basis of a submission back to CGS to start the process of a tender call, and design and architects and so on.

That \$15,000 remains within the Department of Health and the plan is still for the Department of Health to do the program review for the facility in Arctic Bay.

The challenge that we have in meeting all of the capital needs is the limitations of the capital funding within the Department of Health as well as the government, and what we are trying to do is still keep that project rolling within internal allocations to complete that program review and possibly use the Taloyoak and the Repulse Bay design for Arctic Bay considering that they are similar in size and so on.

So the process is we are still proceeding with Arctic Bay within the limited capital budget that we have as a government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier this week I received copies of the technical status evaluation reports for both the Taloyoak and Arctic Bay Health Centres.

I have looked through both of these reports in detail but I can tell you I'm not an engineer. When I look at the results of these evaluations, it's not clear to me that the age and condition of one building is significantly worse than the other.

Can the minister explain exactly what specific aspects of the evaluation reports were used by her department do determine that the Taloyoak Health Centre was in greater need of replacement than the Arctic Bay Health Centre? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The projects for Taloyoak and Repulse Bay have been in the capital main estimates since the first government. That's 2002-03.

Those two projects have been in the books for two governments now, and the direction I had given the department was to try and complete the commitments of the previous government as well as this government for projects that were started back in 2002.

If you go to the main estimates of that year, many projects, such as the Igloolik Health Centre, the Iqaluit hospital, the Pangnirtung replacement, the Pond Inlet, the Rankin Inlet Health Facility, the Cambridge Bay Health Facility, those projects all got completed with the exception of two projects: Repulse Bay and Taloyoak. So those are projects that have been ongoing since 2002 that I have instructed my staff to complete.

The technical assessment that was completed by the government's CGS Department is the same process for any other capital projects followed by the government. We are a client to CGS. They have the expertise to do an evaluation of our facilities, and based on their review, they come forward to the department and say, "Look, this should be a priority and you should look at doing a program review," and so on, which is what happened in Arctic Bay when the technical assessment was completed in 2004.

The technical assessment came to Health and we responded to that by saying, "We need to do the program study part," which is used to design the size of the facility, and that process is still in the works and we hope to complete that review by this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister explain to me why the Taloyoak Health Centre Replacement Project has been given priority over the Arctic Bay Health Centre Replacement Project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, the priorities for the department is to finish off the 2002 commitments and the 2003 commitments, which includes Repulse Bay and Taloyoak Capital Projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At almost every capital budget session since the 2000-01 Capital Estimates was brought forward, the Legislative Assembly has approved capital funding for renovations to the Taloyoak Health Centre. More specifically, funding for the Taloyoak Health Centre Renovation Project has been approved in six capital sessions since the year 2000.

The Legislative Assembly has also approved carryover funding for these renovations every fiscal year since 2003. Can the minister explain what the approved funds for the renovations at Taloyoak Health Centre has been spent on over the past few years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask Ms. Brown to explain that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the existing budget for the existing Taloyoak project to date is \$835,000. Some of it is in this fiscal year's budget because of past carryovers and it has been for the design of the building.

There was about \$200,000 that was transferred, I can't remember the exact figure, I think it was \$266,000 transferred out of this budget for the emergency repairs for the Sanikiluaq Health Centre.

At this point in time, the only budget that Taloyoak has is for the design. The \$200,000 in 2008-09 would be to complete any design issues prior to going out to tender, if the building code changes, or the projects identified by the architect are no longer available by manufacturers.

Construction money, like for Repulse Bay or anything else, we are only looking at 2008-09 approvals from the government, and the planning for the construction of the Taloyoak, the construction funds will be in 2009-10, and that's when we would be asking for them

in the capital plan and for 2010-11.

How did we go from a renovation to a new project? We initially had the concept of the renovation and a new addition would be the best way to go from that community based on some of the information from the 2000 assessment by Technical Services, plus the facility plan that we completed in 2003.

When we had been working with the design architect and CGS over the past year, we had found that, with the new requirements for infection control during any type of renovations are very stringent now, with the code upgrades required, it would take, perhaps, five phases to do a renovation of that facility, plus the new addition, and those costs were approaching the costs of a new health facility, period.

We did not feel that going the renovation route was necessarily a good cost use of the government's money versus going with the new.

The Repulse Bay Health Centre, which is also in the early stages, has a very good early design, adding about four or five rooms to what Repulse Bay would be, we could make the size of them the same, and then, we would approach CGS to be able to amend contracts to get out a common design, which, this common design, probably, mostly likely, could be acceptable to the community for use in Arctic Bay because Repulse Bay and Arctic Bay are very close to this.

CGS recommended this change of approach to a standalone building based on the consultant's assessment and that's why we have identified this in the 2008 Capital Plans Submission Substantiation Sheet as a replacement project, rather than a renovation project. So it is now been through the FMB and a standing committee, and as is before this committee.

Certainly, we hope COW understands that we are not favouring one community over another. Taloyoak started first as did Repulse Bay, and as soon as we learned officially from TSD, Technical Services, about the state of the foundation and so on of Arctic Bay, we put it in the plan.

Part of the problems and the issues are the pressures on the community continuing care centres and the driving up of the whole government's cost. I don't know if I've answered the question exactly, but there may be a little bit more information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I can agree with you that we've been putting so much money aside per year for renovations that's approved by the Legislative Assembly, and then when there's a renovation now, we want a total change. I can't understand and I don't agree with you at all, and I'm sure that I don't agree with a whole lot of people out there.

Anyways, besides that I have a question: on November 24, 2004, this House approved funding for the Department of Health and Social Services 2005-06 Capital Estimates, including \$15,000 towards the replacement of the Arctic Bay Health Centre. Can the minister clarify what this money was spent on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That \$15,000 that we had identified was in response to the technical report that was released from CGS. The \$15,000 would be used for putting in the functional program study for the possible health centre in Arctic Bay.

So the functional funding would be used, again, to identify site locations, how many patient booths would be required and so on for the facility itself. That project is still underway. We hope to complete that part of the functional program review for the Arctic Bay health facility this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last week we heard from officials from the Department of Community and Government Services that when the scope of a project is completely changed from its original scope, then this becomes a new project.

Can the minister explain to me why we are being asked to approve funding for the brand new replacement health centre in Taloyoak as if it were a continuation of renovations when it's clearly a new project with a new scope? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have Ms. Brown explain the process that we follow with CGS related to projects.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The functional program in 2003 identified the Community of Taloyoak needed more examination rooms, needed space for dental, home and community care, mental health, and more social worker space.

In 2003, it was felt that the renovation of the existing building and an addition would cover the needs of the functional program. Over the past year we have found that the needs that were identified in 2003 would not adequately be met by a renovation and an addition because a new building costing about the same amount, the government's money is better spent on a new building.

The scope of what we wanted to have housed in the building to service the community of Taloyoak has not changed. We work closely with the Department of Community and Government Services and they have agreed with the consultant's recommendation that we switch from a renovation/addition to a new building.

Now, this is not a new project because it has been going along for several years. At this point in time, we feel that the money that, so far, has been tentatively been approved in the past capital plans for 2007-08, and now being asked for in 2008-09 and the five-year plan. We are not asking for new money for an increased scope of work. The project, in terms of construction, has changed. It's a renovation but it still comes under construction.

Yes, this is part of the recommendation to us which we have brought to the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. As promised, I'll give Mr. Curley time to ask questions. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't realize my colleague has departed.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, the minister, in her opening remarks, concluded by looking forward to my support for capital estimates for 2008-09. I would like to ask the minister: why did she want me to support her capital estimates when there's not one penny allocated for Kivalliq region? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past we have funded projects in the Keewatin. We just opened a hospital facility in the Keewatin, we opened the Chesterfield Inlet long-term care facility, and we are proposing a new health centre, the Repulse Bay Health Centre. So there are projects going to the Keewatin and are in our capital projects that we presented for the members' consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, for the record, it's important that the minister respond to my question. Are you using these previous expenditures to justify why I should support your budget? Is that what you're telling me? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All I am doing is demonstrating that in the last few years there have been a number of projects in the Kivalliq and in the three regions, and even proposals are up for discussion and for members' feedback. I would

seek the members' support to support the projects identified in the various regions for the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. With your response, minister, it could appear that when I'm questioning you, I would look as though I'm trying to create a difficulty for you but I'm really trying not to.

So I want to ask you a question: for the record, exactly what percentage of the capital budget for 2008-09 is allocated for the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Repulse Bay funding in there, whatever percentage that works out to, is in the allocation or the identified health budget. At the same time, once the small capital and minor projects funding has been allocated, we would be able to give him the precise amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have constituents in the second largest community of Nunavut. Quite a lot of brilliant people; they can read the document and they can see the document but the minister cannot hide behind her statement and say there will be some funding.

Can the minister name one project with a dollar amount for the Kivalliq region, and say and present budget items so that my constituents can see? I don't see any penny or any capital project allocated for 2008-09. I'm not trying to make it difficult for the minister. I'm saying to the minister that there is not one dollar that looked a little better allocated for the Kivalliq region.

The Kivalliq region is a very important part of Nunavut and for the minister, during an election year, to leave out Kivalliq with not a dollar, is that any better comfort to the minister? The allocated is shameful and it's ignoring the Kivalliq region, and my constituents will say, "They don't care about us." Why are you treating Kivalliq as such, Madam Minister?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, as a whole of this government, there have been a number of projects identified for the Keewatin outside of Health.

I mentioned earlier that we just completed a \$16 million health facility in Rankin Inlet, and we're looking to the boarding home once our negotiations are completed with Health

Canada to construct a boarding home in Rankin Inlet. From my colleagues, I understand that we're constructing a trades school, as well as a correctional facility. So those are a number of projects going to Rankin Inlet.

As it relates to the Department of Health for the Keewatin, we completed the continuing care facility in Chesterfield Inlet. We're proposing to complete the project that was started in 2003 for Repulse Bay.

So there are projects, as a government, overall supporting the Keewatin and Rankin Inlet. I don't know what more I can say there, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I want the minister to, again, reflect on my statement. I'm not trying to make anything difficult for you. That's your budget, not mine, and the government should know that.

She quoted some of the projects that are really not her responsibility and I think it's fair that I respond to them. When I look at the CGS capital budget that we just passed and approved, 36 percent of the CGS budget was allocated for the Baffin region. Minister, if you would jot these figures down, the Kivalliq region receives 19 percent of the total allocation which we approved last week. The Kitikmeot region received, if you don't have that percent, 28 percent. So you're trying to convince me, and I don't think you will, that we've just approved for CGS was very good for the Kivalliq.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say to the minister, the minister has failed the Kivalliq. I cannot see any reason why you would be so proud in representing my region because when you don't have one penny allocated, in spite of the last three years we have been saying, "Where is the Kivalliq Boarding Home?"

The so-called health facility, in my riding, and my colleague's, Levinia Brown, is for the region, for the whole region. It wasn't allocated specifically for Rankin Inlet, and therefore, you're not fully able to have a total continuing care facility for medical care as you originally planned.

So I believe, Madam Minister, you have completely failed Kivalliq and you're afraid to admit it. Why?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, in the projects for Keewatin, we have completed a health centre for Rankin Inlet; we have completed a continuing care facility for Keewatin in Chesterfield Inlet; we are proposing to complete a project in Repulse Bay, again, in the Keewatin.

I don't see that as a failure. I see it as contributing to the communities' infrastructure needs as it relates to health amongst other government priorities. The department has also been spending its minor capital project funding from last year to renovate the old health centre in Rankin Inlet. So there is funding going to the Keewatin.

I don't see that funding of over \$20 million as being a waste. I beg to differ in opinion in that because I think those facilities have contributed to the development of health care services in that region.

What we're proposing for Repulse Bay is to finish off a commitment of this government that started in 2002-03 for Repulse Bay to finish it off. That funding has been used for other priorities and what I'm proposing is to finish off those capital projects that were started in 2003 because those commitments have been made to Repulse Bay, to Taloyoak as well.

The continuing care facilities, as a commitment from the Full Caucus Retreat in Arviat, added a lot of pressure to the Department of Health, and other projects that were approved in 2003-04 were put on hold to accommodate the decisions of Full Caucus to construct a continuing care facility in Gjoa Haven and in Igloolik.

So if you look at the commitments that were made between 2003 and 2004 of the Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung, Igloolik, Iqaluit hospital, Rankin Inlet hospital, Cambridge Bay hospital, those are all done with the exception of two: Repulse Bay and Taloyoak. I'm in the process of trying to complete what we started.

So we've had to use some of that funding for the continuing care and at the same time use the funding to deal with the emergency repairs that were required in the Baffin region of Sanikiluaq.

So within the limited dollars that we have, we have tried to accommodate the needs of the communities and the needs of members in addressing capital priorities and we're trying to move forward in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I would like to remind the minister once again that she asked for in her concluding remarks, asked for my support and I have stated the reason why I don't feel I should.

I reminded also, the minister this was not my budget, that's your budget. I voted for the capital expenditures last year, the second year and the first year. They have concluded. If the minister says she's so successful, why has the department been going through tremendous staff changes?

If I can remind the minister, the department doesn't appear to have been so successful in the last seven years since 1999. Seven or eight different deputy ministers under her

department, under her ministerial responsibility, how many deputy ministers has she actually gone through? I don't think that's a great record, Mr. Chairman.

I cannot be convinced by the minister who failed to really appreciate whatever funds this government collects and allocates should be fair and transparent for the ongoing. You cannot and should not use the practice of eliminating a region from your capital plans for a number of reasons because my constituents could see and the public could see it doesn't appear to be fair. They're not ignoring it.

I know that you will not use that term but I could because I feel the Kivalliq region has been failed by this minister, and this minister, Mr. Speaker, if she wants support from all members on this side, you can do it. You can have two days, if I were you, to re-arrange and move some of the projects by not sacrificing any other regions.

The other regions have done a lot better, I can tell you, Madam Minister, than the Kivalliq. So, Mr. Chairman, I again ask the minister to help me move ahead, and why should I support this capital item? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. I would like to remind committee members we are dealing with capital items, or capital budget. I'll give the minister time to respond. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it relates to the operations, past ministers and past deputies, those are not related to the capital projects and I will not respond to that.

In terms of Keewatin, there are projects in the Keewatin. Perhaps, the member can help identify here, then what is it that is a priority for Rankin Inlet that we have not identified in our books that should be up for review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, the minister, if she feels doesn't have to look to me, she can look to Madam Rosemary Brown, who is an expert on health facility needs, is also operating an old health facility, which I'm sure requires renovations in Rankin Inlet. And, if they are the priority of this minister, we would have seen figures in 2008-09 but there are none.

So my question to the minister is on boarding arrangements. For the last three years, the minister has been promising that the negotiations with Ottawa are still ongoing. What new information can the minister provide to me or this committee about what's happening with the boarding home that she promised when the capital project began with a new health facility for the region to be based in Rankin Inlet?

Why has she, for the last few weeks, been saying, "Sorry, zero." Can she estimate, present an estimate at least, for this coming fiscal year? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. A Point of Order has been called. Minister Picco.

Point of Order

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the Point of Order very quickly, the member is referring to the minister over the passed three years why she hasn't brought figures forward so on and so forth.

I'm sure the member realizes the chronological sequence of events here and that, indeed, the minister has not even been the Minister of Health for the pass three years and wouldn't have had the opportunity to bring forward the numbers that the member is talking about.

Our five-year capital plan and the numbers in the capital budget were approved in this House when the member was here. This year we're looking at 2007-08 and projecting onwards.

So per the Point of Order, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the member to refrain from referring to the minister as the minister responsible for the past 36 months on numbers that she had no control over because she was not the minister responsible.

Secondly, as the members know, any boarding home is flow through money provided by the federal government for Canada. It does not appear in the main estimates that we would build a facility because that is done through the auspices of rental of given accommodations by our federal partner. And, that is cash or flow through money through that department to the contractor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Your point is taken. To the Point of Order. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: To the Point of Order, the minister does not excuse whatsoever from the role of the minister from any other actions or budget planning process from any other ministers. We looked at it as one government.

If I'm wrong, Mr. Chairman, when you rule on that, I take into consideration the minister, any minister, takes the responsibility of any ongoing matters of whoever the minister was. I fail to see the connection with the point that the Government Leader is trying to make. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. I thank the member for making the Point of Order. We'll take a 10-minute break to make a ruling. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 17:15 and resumed at 17:32

Chairman's Ruling

Chairman: Welcome back. As all members are aware, one of the principles of ministerial accountability is that ministers are responsible for all matters that fall within their portfolio.

Although decisions may have been made prior to a minister taking office, ministers who are in office are presumed to be aware of the issues facing their department. However, as always, a minister may choose not to respond to a question, but the member's question is not out of order.

I would note that the member made an honest error in stating that the minister has held her portfolio for the past three years. There is no Point of Order. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I want to continue. I want the Government House Leader to note that I'm not taking anything personally in any way, shape or form. I'm responding to the budget as submitted. She asked for my support in her opening comments.

I have a question with respect to boarding home arrangements for medical clients. The information that I have states that the three regional health facilities have been an issue of concern not only to me but to all the regions.

So having said that the draft 2009-13 Five-Year Capital Plan does not include any projects for Rankin Inlet, or Iqaluit, let alone for this capital year, I would like to ask the minister why, in view of the fact the project is over two years behind schedule; why has the minister not succeeded in getting a penny for these boarding homes that she promised would coincide or follow the regional health centres, including Rankin Inlet? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it relates to the work that we've been undertaking with Health Canada for the boarding home, we presented the comprehensive Nunavut-wide plan to Health Canada in September.

Health Canada, and I stated this before in the House, have asked the Government of Nunavut to put forth a proposal for all its boarding home needs, which goes from Edmonton to Yellowknife to Cambridge Bay to Rankin Inlet to here to Ottawa, and from current needs to future needs.

That report, that information was discussed with Health Canada, again, I said in September. The department is working to consolidate that information to present to the House hopefully some time this month to members.

The work that's undertaken involves putting forth our argument for every boarding home and the daily rates that would be used to construct new facilities and so on. We have been successful in moving forward in some of them, for example, the Ottawa Boarding Home,

in partnership with the Inuit organizations who are proceeding to construct a new boarding home in Ottawa.

The contract RFP process is out for tender for the Yellowknife Boarding Home, which is going to be expiring in January 2008, I believe. In terms of going forward with the other ones, for Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet, we hope to have the plans ready for release soon.

In terms of the comprehensive report for Nunavut on all of the boarding home needs for the territory, I hope to have that report completed some time this month. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. You will notice, Mr. Curley, that your time I have allowed has run out. If you have any further questions, please let me know. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: I do have a couple more. The minister said that the report will be done. Who is actually carrying out the report? Is it done by a consulting firm, or is that an internal report? Can the minister be a bit clearer about those projects? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. I'm using my discretion to allow you to ask more questions.

>>*Laughter*

Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That report has been done in combination of both a consultant and internal staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I indicated to you that the boarding home requirements, particularly the northern locations are two years, at least, behind schedule. Is it likely that we will get the same conclusions if negotiations have not succeeded; in other words, leaving it to the future?

What exactly and can the minister assure us that something will actually happen? Will there be some dollar figures allocated, at least the GN contribution side? Is that possible? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our preference would be to continue the discussions with Health Canada and have Health Canada cover the cost of constructing the new boarding homes in Nunavut and/or outside the territory where the

service is needed. That is the current arrangement with Health Canada. The boarding homes are covered under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

To construct new facilities, we would have to put our cases forward as a territory and which they had asked for. They wanted a comprehensive Nunavut-wide plan for boarding homes' current needs and future needs, which we presented to Health Canada in September to initiate our discussions. So the plan for us is to seek the funding to operate the boarding homes from Health Canada, instead of the Government of Nunavut funding.

Having said that, I think the discussions are going quite well with Health Canada and we are able to move forward on some projects. The plan is to try and address the Keewatin, the Kitikmeot, and the Iqaluit facilities within the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: ... the discussion is taking place, but it remains to be seen whether these discussions will be successful or not. The only time that we're going to be satisfied is when you actually deliver some dollars. I think it's not good enough to have a good discussion going on because I don't get any good marks for having good discussion points with anybody, including my wife. I'm kidding you.

Mr. Chairman, I have a question with respect to the health centre in Rankin Inlet. The building inspectors and whatnot have concluded, when it gets completed for occupancy, that there still remains quite of a number of exterior building deficiencies. What is being done to address the deficiencies at the moment with the Kivalliq Health Centre in Rankin Inlet?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Ms. Brown, the Manager of Capital Projects, to respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are still some issues on the roof in terms of anchors that have yet to be put on. The parking lot has been expanded for staff use. Internally, we still have some heating problems in the lab, which the architect has come up with an alternate solution that still hasn't been done. A lot of the deficiencies that have been identified have been corrected. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Surely, they are certified somehow by some inspector because some would be from the fire department and some would be from engineering divisions in the government.

Have you specified exactly how much these deficiencies cost and what remains to be done, and if so, how are you carrying out correcting those deficiencies without any capital allocations submitted? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have Ms. Brown, again, respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the deficiencies were warranty items and so they were of no cost to the government. The remaining budget that was carried over from last fiscal year to this fiscal year was \$302,000. There are still some funds remaining of that carryover to correct the remaining deficiencies, such as the architects' fee and the ventilation upgrade for the laboratory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. In terms of the mechanical facilities and mechanical equipment, are these warranty-related in some respect, and if so, are you satisfied, the minister believes, that the mechanical equipment has been fully dealt with? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Brown advised me that CGS is dealing with that issue related to the mechanical system. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Yes, I think I did not fully get the information on the warranty matters. Are there some outstanding warranty issues with respect to mechanical ventilation? I would think it's partly covered by the vendor providing the ventilation system. I just want a clear explanation of whether or not these are still under warranty yet. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would have to obtain that information from CGS, as project managers of that facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. One last question to the minister. The minister has not fully explained or anything, or convince me why I should support her budget with zero dollars for the Kivalliq region. In view of the fact, there are a number of projects in regions that

are not satisfied, why does the minister feel that she should continue on as Minister of Health? I believe that you could voluntarily resign for failure to treat regions equally. Why don't you do that now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. We have another Point of Order raised. Minister Picco.

Point of Order

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would ask the member to withdraw his comment when he proposes that the minister is not treating each region fairly. In his comments he said, "Why don't you resign when you look at not treating each region fairly?" That is incorrect and it is inappropriate language in our Assembly. So I ask the member to withdraw those comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. To the Point of Order. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: The budget document that's submitted is clear, transparent, that there is not one penny, not one cent, for the Kivalliq region. I use that reference that the minister has not treated the regions fairly and I believe not having a penny for a region fits into my using the word, "not fairly represents the region."

So in that regard, Mr. Chairman, I failed to understand why the Government Leader would be so excited about that when I'm using my privilege to call the minister voluntarily resign. I am not insisting for a vote on that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. I don't find a Point of Order in this Point of Order. I'll give the minister an opportunity to answer the question, or to respond to this. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I stated earlier that the government has provided projects to the Keewatin in the past, last year and including the start of the Repulse Bay project. We completed, again, the Rankin Inlet Health Centre, the Keewatin Chesterfield Inlet facility and so on. But as a government, many investments have been made to the Keewatin.

As a government, we don't look at it by department distribution, we base our programs based on need. Based on need the funding is allocated to each region and to finish off the projects identified in 2003. We are proceeding to move forward on the completion of projects based on need.

There are a number of projects this government has supported for the Keewatin region. We have a trades centre, a correctional facility, health centre, continuing care facility, and the Repulse Bay Health Centre; so there are a number of projects; housing units.

So as a government, the government has put forth a number of projects to the Keewatin and I think the government has been fair in its allocation of capital funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. The minister is using other departments as a reason for trying to convince some of us that we should support the budget that she has submitted with zero dollars to Kivalliq region.

I indicated earlier, if she reads, 17 percent total of CGS Public Works budget is allocated for the Kivalliq region, 38 percent for the Baffin, and 28 percent for the Kitikmeot. The minister does not understand these comparisons. Since she has failed to provide leadership to the Health Department and I believe it's best that she resign. Why not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Again, I'll give the minister a chance to answer or not to answer the question. A Point of Order has been called. Minister Picco.

Point of Order

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is, if we look at our Rules under Point of Order, under debate, under (h) and (i), the member is imputing false or hidden motives to another member. He is suggesting that the minister has not put money in the Kivalliq region under the capital budget. The capital budget for the Government of Nunavut is a five-year process.

Does the member suggest that the minister should go out and create a project and spend capital dollars on a budget for the Kivalliq when there is no need to do that? We have just spent over \$15 million in the region in health projects in the member's riding alone, in Rankin Inlet. Now, on top of that, Mr. Chairman, we actually built the new health centre in Arviat, we opened that up a couple of years ago. Money has been expended.

I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, you would make a ruling that the member is imputing false or hidden motives to another member, as well as making an allegation that the minister is indicating profound bias in the allocation of capital resources, when indeed, the capital budget of the Government of Nunavut goes before each standing committee and goes before the Cabinet itself, where we have members representing the regions.

So I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that a ruling should be made that the member is imputing false or hidden motives to another member that she is biasly allocating dollars within the capital plan, which is not the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Picco. To the Point of Order. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, I advised the Government House Leader earlier that he should not get excited because we're dealing with a capital item that is clear and transparent. Zero dollars, not a penny, not one cent, for the Kivalliq region. We're not talking about last year's budget. I voted for that and that's completed.

Now, the Government House Leader is imputing that I'm making false allegations against the minister. No, her record is quite transparent and clear. She has failed to represent my region and my riding. It's an election year, this budget is not worth supporting, and she should voluntarily resign. That's all I ask her. Yes or no. Thank you.

Chairman: Order, please. Thank you, Mr. Curley. I'll let the committee know that there is no Point of Order again. The minister is not required to answer questions and that's her right, Minister Aglukkaq.

I take it that there are no more questions. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Though I would like to ask a question, but looking at the time, it's getting close to six o'clock. I believe that I'll be asking questions way beyond six o'clock, so I would like to move to report progress. I could ask questions tomorrow instead. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Going back to Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Arreak: 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, Mr. Arreak. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder to the motion? Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. All those in favour. All those 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. For tomorrow morning, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability at 9:00 in the Tuktu Boardroom, and a meeting of the Full Caucus at 11:00 in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for November 6:

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 20
 - Bill 21
19. Consideration of Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 4
 - Bill 14
 - Bill 15
 - Bill 16
 - Bill 17
 - Bill 19
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 November 6, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:58*

