



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

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**Friday, February 22, 2008**

**Pages 2791 – 2839**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Pangnirtung)

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(Nattilik)

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**Hon. Levinia Brown**

(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services*

**Hon. Paul Okalik**

(Iqaluit West)

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**Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

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(Hudson Bay)

**Steve Mapsalak**

(Akulliq)

**David Simailak**

(Baker Lake)

**James Arvaluk**

(Tunnunuiq)

**Levi Barnabas**

(Quttiktuq)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

**Hon. Patterk Netser**

(Nanulik)

*Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation*

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

*Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Human Resources; Minister of Finance; Chairman, Financial Management Board*

**Hunter Tootoo**

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Friday, February 22, 2008**

**Members Present:**

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

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, first of all, Mr. Simailak. Good morning, Mr. Premier, Ministers, and Members of the Legislative Assembly. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 130 – 2(4): Prevention Services Open House**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues.

The Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (WCB) values openness and transparency. On Tuesday, February 26, 2008, the WCB will open its doors to employers, workers, and the community.

As partners in safety, the WCB wants northern stakeholders to be aware of the safety programming and services available. The open house, *Trail Map to Safety*, will inform attendees on the prevention services offered by the WCB.

I personally welcome fellow members of the Legislative Assembly to attend this open house, and witness the efforts the WCB is making to achieve its mission – promote workplace safety and care for injured workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 131 – 2(4): Nunavut Energy Efficiency Act**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, my colleagues. I'm sure there are some members waiting to hear this.

Mr. Speaker, Bill 13 was reviewed by the standing committee last session and I do want to sincerely thank all of the MLAs for their feedback and their suggestions. Based on the MLA recommendations, as well as some input that we've had from the public, I will, Mr. Speaker, be withdrawing Bill 13.

>> *Applause*

But, Mr. Speaker, I will be revising it to make it more comprehensive as suggested by the committee.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I will introduce a new piece of legislation this spring that will set broader energy efficiency standards for household lighting and appliances. Amendments will also be later introduced to set energy efficiency standards for office equipment, buildings and equipment such as boilers and furnaces.

Mr. Speaker, this proposed legislation will be an important part of Nunavut's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing energy efficiency and energy conservation in our territory.

We know that switching to more efficient lighting and household appliances, such as refrigerators, clothes washers, dishwashers and so on, will result in a measurable reduction of our greenhouse gas emissions and this will also mean less demand on our diesel-fuelled electricity generators.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's dependence on oil is expensive and not sustainable. As a government, we need to lead and demonstrate our commitment to cutting our greenhouse gas emissions but also, as the committee has suggested, in incorporating energy efficiencies. Mr. Speaker, we look forward to further debate and suggestions on this proposed legislation. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. There are no more. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

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

#### **Member's Statement 308 – 2(4): Order of Canada Recipient – Larry Audlaluk**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in honour of one of my constituents in the High Arctic, who recently received the Order of Canada. Larry

Audlaluk was awarded the Order of Canada. I am very proud of him; he has worked and struggled hard for what he has achieved. I wish him well in his endeavours.

It is very humbling to see one of our residents receive the Order of Canada; one who lives in the High Arctic. He strived to do things for his people in the High Arctic, and for that reason, he was awarded the Order of Canada by the Governor General.

I would like to congratulate him on behalf of Nunavummiut. He had voiced his concerns over the radio broadcast. I am very proud of him for the work he has done up to now, and I would like to recognize him today and honour him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 309 – 2(4): 9th Annual Kitikmeot Trade Show**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House about another successful Kitikmeot Trade Show event that was held in Cambridge Bay two weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, in the Minister of Finance's budget speech earlier this week, he correctly recognized that, and I quote, "Cambridge Bay is an example of a community that is poised for rapid private sector economic development."

Mr. Speaker, I have long believed that our communities cannot rely entirely on government growth to sustain our economy. This is an artificial economy that could collapse if a government resorts to cutbacks to curb ballooning deficits.

Mr. Speaker, a diversified economy is healthy for a community and a region.

Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot Trade Show has grown tremendously since we held the first event in 2000. Two weeks ago, there were 45 exhibitors in attendance representing a broad range of sectors: tourism, mining, construction, airlines, arts & crafts, and government. The venue was packed every day with visitors and residents alike.

Mr. Speaker, the theme of the trade show was *Business Investing in Youth*. Every year, the organizers arrange for ten youth from the Kitikmeot to attend the trade show and meet business people and attend presentations.

Mr. Speaker, our young people are our future business leaders. They will start and lead businesses that will grow and diversify our economy and create economic wealth for our residents and communities.



Mr. Speaker, the announcement in the budget speech that a new and expanded airport project will commence in Cambridge Bay this year was great news for the Kitikmeot. It will form the cornerstone of a strong regional economy for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to join me in congratulating Cambridge Bay on hosting the Kitikmeot Trade Show and fostering economic development in our region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 310 – 2(4): Nunavut Ombudsman: An Idea Whose Time Has Come**

**Mr. Arreak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to offer some thoughts and ideas on the relationship between the government and the public.

Mr. Speaker, in today's world, the role of government in our constituents' lives has never been greater.

At times, it can be difficult for citizens to know who to turn to for help when they cannot resolve a situation or a dispute.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly, it often seems that we must be more than legislators. At times, we need to be mediators, facilitators, counsellors and investigators.

Mr. Speaker, I noted with interest that the federal government announced yesterday the creation of a new position called the "Taxpayers' Ombudsman." This position is supposed to help Canadians in their dealings with our favourite federal department, the Canada Revenue Agency.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut, we have a number of independent officers of the Legislative Assembly who do excellent work. We also have a new Human Rights Tribunal.

However, I believe that we should give serious consideration to establishing the position of a Nunavut Ombudsman, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, every province and territory except for P.E.I., the NWT and Nunavut has an ombudsman. There are many different models that we can look at in terms of powers, roles and reporting relationships.

I believe that the next Legislative Assembly should explore the idea of creating an independent ombudsman's office that can impartially investigate citizens' complaints and concerns. This position could also have a role to play in mediating disputes and achieving fair resolutions.

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

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

**Mr. Arreak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues.

I believe that this work should reflect many of our traditional values. The position could report to the Legislative Assembly on an annual basis and make recommendations for changes to government programs and laws for us as elected MLAs to consider.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the time for a Nunavut Ombudsman has come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Premier.

### **Member's Statement 311 – 2(4): LED Water Lights**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. (interpretation ends) My Minister of Energy made a comment on a recent bill that we dealt with in terms of trying to address our energy soundness.

When our colleague for Iqaluit Centre was commenting on Bill 13, in terms of the need to have water lights in all our homes today, unfortunately, I want it clear for the record that we do not need a 60-watt light bulb to provide our water light in our homes.

I looked in my neighbourhood and I find it interesting that instead of using a 60-watt light bulb, today, you can use a .8 light bulb, an LED light bulb to provide water light for our homes, which is a lot more energy efficient than wasting energy with a 60-watt light bulb. So I want to make that clear for the record and for the people of Nunavut that not to be misled by well-meaning statements that they can use other technology today.

I think this being a funny Friday that this is a sign of some things are often left behind by some members, but we have to catch up with current events today. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 312 – 2(4): Rankin Inlet State of Emergency**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As reported earlier, they are dealing with the shortage in power in Rankin Inlet for the state of emergency. We were made aware by the minister and his officials that all of the houses are not lit but they still have to have precautions in their homes.

I thank the staff of the Power Corporation and the minister that they have been assisting through the times of hardship in Rankin Inlet and undoubtedly, some of the mechanics have maybe been lacking sleep and rest.

The staff were taught and trained in the community of Rankin Inlet because of the power that has broken down and some of the staff that were trained are being relieved by people in the community of Rankin Inlet. The CGS community emergency measures team have been really working hard with the people of Rankin Inlet and their staff.

The Avataq Tournament in Rankin Inlet has been delayed due to the problems in the community that arose.

We are still worried about some of the older houses that have broken pipes. For this reason, I'll be going home this afternoon. The Member for Rankin Inlet South will also be in Rankin Inlet for the weekend.

We would like to thank the Government of Nunavut for assisting us with our state of emergency in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 313 – 2(4): Congratulations to Aurora Players**

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess it doesn't surprise me that shots have been fired across the floor. Personal agendas and feelings should not get in the way of us doing our jobs. So much like Mr. Workman, I'm not very much surprised.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues about a moving event that took place last week at the Inuksuk High School here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the Aurora Players presented a play called “Emotional Roller Coaster.” This exceptional group of young people played roles that require a dedication to acting and roles that were extremely challenging.

Mr. Speaker, the cast put on 10 performances, and each of the performances expressed a different theme. These themes targeted difficult issues that our young people face. I would like to congratulate the cast for their dedication to the performing arts, as well as depicting and bring to light and bringing forward some of the important issues that they deal with on a regular basis. These young people are:

Teresa Tufts, Eden Tootoo, Emmanuel Morakinyo, I’m sorry if I pronounced that name wrong, Emmanuel, Eric Blair, Daniel Verreault, Sara Tufts and Allan Heath, and the directors for the performances were John and Renata Solski.

Mr. Speaker, the cast was very grateful for the support that they received from the high school staff and their colleagues who are fellow students that were doing all of the technical work involved to make the play possible. I believe that a well-rounded education includes an appreciation for culture, music and creativity.

I encourage these young students to continue their efforts in promoting performing arts at the high school, and I ask all members to join me in congratulating Iqaluit’s Aurora Players. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members’ Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Mr. Picco.

#### **Member’s Statement 314 – 2(4): Constituency Meeting Items**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week, I hosted a constituency meeting in Apex.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who took the time to attend the meeting and voice their concerns and comments, and indeed, Mr. Speaker, made very many proactive observations and suggestions on aspects of our government.

Mr. Speaker, there were several topics that were raised, including the new language bills and the new *Education Act*, concerns with residential schools, the need for more Inuktitut at home, at the workplace, and indeed, in public throughout Nunavut, the Harvester Fuel Tax Credit, and infrastructure issues were also raised.

Mr. Speaker, concerns with having elders phoning the new hospital and getting automated as opposed to real life people at the switchboard was also raised.

Mr. Speaker, I have had an opportunity to speak with my colleagues, Minister Tapardjuk and indeed Minister Aglukkaq, on the issues raised and will follow up with them in writing these concerns.

Mr. Speaker, the questions and input from the constituents was well welcomed, and Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity not only to thank the people who attended the meeting but the translators, the town staff who helped me set up the Abe Okpik Hall, as well as the catering for the event which helped make it a success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Before we proceed, this morning I was informed by the people of Pangnirtung that they are finally able to see us live, so I would like to welcome them first and foremost. Thank you.

Orders of the Day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. If there are none... I hear there's an emergency outside. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Nattilik, Minister Aglukkaq.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I would like to recognize Sylvie Boucher, who is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister as well as for the Status of Women, who is here with us.

>>Applause

With her are the staff Mila and Nathalie and Therese. Welcome to the Gallery.

Just a bit of background, Sylvie Boucher was here yesterday to sign an agreement with YWCA Canada for funding for homeless issues for women for NWT, Nunavut, and the Yukon. She will also be here meeting with the Qullit Status of Women Council staff and will be touring some of the facilities, the women's shelters in particular, in Nunavut.

I also want to thank her for an opportunity last night; I had an opportunity to meet with her for dinner to talk about some of the challenges faced by women in Nunavut. I hope that she will seriously consider opening up a Status of Women Canada Office in the northern region.

So welcome to the Gallery and welcome to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to welcome my son who is here this morning. He will be going back on Monday and he has been coming to the House for the whole week. I am sure that it has been very educational for him and I'm sure that it will be useful in his capacity as deputy mayor. I just want to say goodbye to my son as he is leaving us. I say hi to my son and that I love him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 384 – 2(4): Breakdown of the \$89.1 Million Contingency Fund

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

Mr. Speaker, in the minister's Budget Address, he had indicated that they had set aside a contingency of \$89.1 million. I am just wondering if the minister can elaborate in detail what the breakdown of that \$89.1 million was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): In regard to the \$89.1 million, it is not really broken down, but it is going to be used for emergencies. For example, if the cost of energy is going up... it's for contingencies and it's going to be used for unexpected situations that might arise, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Could he elaborate? They didn't just pluck \$89.1 million out of the air. Hopefully, there are some categories which equal up to \$89.1 million. That's what I would like the minister to be able to provide to us. Will he do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be able to give you a breakdown once we start dealing with the budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I looked through the main estimates and there's nowhere in there where it says \$89.1 million for contingencies. So I don't know where we can question that other than the fact that he mentioned it in his Budget Address.

Does the minister not have a list of whatever items that they had, like the rising cost of fuel? He mentioned energy related issues that they're estimating to have a contingency for this amount. Surely, he has a list of that. They didn't just, poof, create a number of \$89.1 million and it's not identified in the main estimates exactly where that would be. So the only place it's clearly mentioned is in his Budget Address.

So I'm asking the minister: will he provide us with the list and the estimates that they have for that amount that he's indicated of \$89.1 million for contingencies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): As I stated, I can't elaborate any further than what I had stated already. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry if I'm not making myself clear to the minister but what I'm saying is that the only place it's mentioned of the \$89.1 million contingency amount is in his Budget Address; it's not outlined anywhere in the main estimates.

So what I'm asking him is: they must have had a list with the amounts, like items, whatever they were, that totalled up to \$89.1 million; will the minister provide us with that information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I said that I will be making a breakdown of the list and I will be able to identify those categories once we review the main estimates of the Department of Finance in Committee of the Whole. I don't know how else to answer the question but my response is that yes, we will provide that information, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 385 – 2(4): Emergency Funding for Plumbing Repairs**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. For the past three days, we have had a state of local emergency in Rankin Inlet. I think that the Housing Corporation should be a Member of the State of Emergency Committee.

I have heard from Rankin Inlet that the older social housing units have inadequate insulation and there are so many pipes bursting that the Housing Corporation won't be able to keep up with them. For that reason, I would like to ask the minister: is it possible for the minister to increase the amount that's available for maintenance? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Housing Corporation deals with the repairs and fixing the pipes that require repairs. I will speak with Mr. Scott to see how we can assist the residents of Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that the municipality has a state of emergency and I know that the public housing have to do their work, and I know that if they were not able to keep up with the maintenance costs, perhaps, they could use private contractors to do the maintenance work because they're in a state of emergency and they need to give some rest to the staff.

So perhaps the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation could provide some funding so that this maintenance budget will not just be eaten up. There are a lot of private contractors, if you could consider using those individuals in the community.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a state of emergency in Rankin Inlet and we are very sensitive to that. Perhaps, after we figure out how much funding has been used for that state of emergency, then we will probably be able to consider the private contractors that the member has just mentioned and probably figure out how to use the private contractors.

After I speak with the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, I will inform my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Question 386 – 2(4): Western Hudson Bay Polar Bear Quote**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The residents of Arviat were able to watch us on live broadcast and they were very pleased to see that. I'm sure that the residents of Arviat are watching, so I say good morning, and I hear that the weather is really nice and it's not even cold, which I'm very happy about.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Environment. (interpretation ends) Over the last six months, there has been much talk of reduction in the Western Hudson Bay polar bear quota. Can the minister update the House on what plans are in place for allotment for each community in the Kivalliq region, which had a polar bear quota from Western Hudson Bay? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to work with the communities that are going to be impacted from the reduction of the Western Hudson Bay polar bear quota. We will look at how we can provide more support and we will want to work closely with the impacted communities so that the economic potential will not be lost. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get back to my question because he didn't respond to it. My question is: how are you going to allocate the polar bear quota and what kind of plans are in place for allotment for each community in the Kivalliq region? How many tags can they get from this reduced quota of the Western Hudson Bay polar bears? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. If there's a reduction in quota, we will have to work with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to figure out how we will distribute the quota to the communities. We will keep the communities informed as we work on this. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister knows, the hunters in Arviat will have less income this year because of the reduction in the polar bear quota, which means that there will be no income for the hunters as guides for big game hunting.

At the same time, only five percent of sealskins from Nunavut harvests were sold in auctions and it means that the small number of sealskins sold will also have an impact on the hunters' income this year.

What measures does the minister plan to introduce to assist the hunters in offsetting their only source of income in Arviat? They will be losing quite huge sums of income that they were going to receive. So what kind of consideration have you made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back when there was a moratorium in around the McClintock Channel, we worked with the HTOs of the impacted communities to look at how we can assist them with their source of income.

With regards Western Hudson Bay polar bear quota reduction, we will want to work closely with the impacted communities and look at ways that we can provide some additional funding for the income for HTO's. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this should have been my second supplementary question.

In spite of that, as I stated before, the hunters will lose their income and the polar bears remain in Churchill due to the smell of food and they lose a lot of fat. It seems like that's exactly what's going to happen to the hunters when they lose their income and they will just be watching the polar bears.

Would you be willing to go to Arviat to deal with this issue so that you can meet with the HTO to explain why there was a reduction in polar bear quota and why sealskin wasn't selling in auctions this year, and how we will be assisting the hunters who rely on the harvesting of wildlife for their main source of income?

Since you haven't arrived to our community, perhaps, if you're willing to agree to visit our community you can do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Just to remind the members, in your questions, please state the ministers' portfolios instead. Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would be willing to visit the community with my officials. I cannot tell you the date at this time but we would be willing to go there. Thank you.

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

**Question 387 – 2(4): Protocol to be Followed During GN Office Renovations**

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

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut leases office buildings and other facilities across Nunavut to permit their employees to deliver the Government of Nunavut programs and services to the public.

Mr. Speaker, from time to time, these facilities must be renovated or upgraded by the landlords and it's usually done when the buildings are vacant. As you can see, Cambridge Bay has an office building that is currently being renovated.

My question for the minister: can the minister explain to the House what protocol the landlord must follow when they are required to undertake a major renovation or upgrade to a building while Government of Nunavut employees are still working in the building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A very good question, indeed, from the member. That's one of the areas that I think I would have to investigate simply because I have not known how they do it when the building is occupied, especially in the Cambridge Bay situation, where we had looked at the office space because that one was considered for a new release and there were insufficient office buildings.

That one particular building that I'm referring to as an example is the major one that different departments are in, I think there are seven, and that one is due for renovations as was said in this House.

I would have to get back to my technical staff to see what they would do in that case - while renovations are taking place, what would they do with the staff? I appreciate hearing that question because we do have to have a good plan ahead for the staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Mr. Speaker, I was in the office building last week. Upon entering the building, it was quickly apparent that I was in the middle of a major construction zone. I spoke to some

Government of Nunavut employees and they told me that there is daily construction and that's during the work hours of the government. It was very disruptive to them and the visiting public.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House why her departmental officials would not instruct the landlord to restrict their renovations and upgrades to weekends and 5 p.m. to 7 a.m., the overnight period, when the Government of Nunavut employees and the public are not in the building and they're removed from any potential danger? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will instruct the staff to do so because I'm concerned as well for the safety issues aspect of the building while renovations are happening, but that will be carried through. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that commitment, I guess, that she gave me. Mr. Speaker, the situation was even a bit more absurd when I was talking to the Government of Nunavut employees. They told me that they had been asked to move their files and desks so that the construction workers could replace and paint walls and remove carpets. So the Government of Nunavut employees were helping the landlord do their job.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell the House if she believes that it is acceptable for the Government of Nunavut employees and the public to have to work or meet in facilities where major renovation projects are in progress? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I was not aware of such things happening and it wasn't brought to my attention. However, no, I don't accept that at all because as a former government employee myself, I do know what the job descriptions are and those job descriptions must be followed.

I will check into this further with the staff to see if, in fact, it's happening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This incident isn't isolated to Cambridge Bay, but it could happen anywhere in Nunavut. We have 25 communities and we have government employees working in many facilities across Nunavut, so it could happen anywhere.

With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, would the minister commit today to have her officials review all phases of any renovation upgrade plans with their headquarter and regional managers affected by work anywhere, to find acceptable construction schedules that do not disrupt the operations of the Government of Nunavut employees or the visiting public, or expose them to any worksite hazards or dangers during the course of their work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is always a first time, I suppose, in every situation and in every part of the world. However, I will do that; I will ask for a review of the situation and what's happening in the member's community.

I, too, am curious to know of the outcome. I know the staff of CGS do their reports very efficiently and they would tell me of something out of the ordinary. This one is news to me, so I will, for certain, ask for an investigation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 388 – 2(4): Relocation of Repulse Bay Landfill Site**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, the minister probably remembers that I have raised this question before in regard to the dump in Repulse Bay.

When I met with the hamlet council, they had a major concern with the location of the dump. This winter, a lot of snow fell and the fence doesn't do much help and debris is flying onto the runway, so the location should definitely be moved. Has this been looked into? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I recall how it is and I actually went to the community. There were going to be plans made but I can't remember if we did do some allocation for that. Maybe we'll be able to bring this up in Committee of the Whole.

I do feel for their concern and if there's any funding, then we can try and help them, especially since there shouldn't be any debris flying around on the runway. So I'll urge my officials to work with the hamlet council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Yes, this should be treated as an emergency case. They're being told not to burn the dump because it might interfere with the airlines coming in and I know it will cost a lot to relocate the site of the dump. Can the minister treat this as an emergency situation and maybe come up with funding to relocate the site of the dump this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will work with the planners and I will keep the community informed as to how we can work together to deal with this. If they treat it as an emergency, then we can move some money around to try and address the situation. We will definitely look into this and I'll inform my colleague of the process. 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 her response. Can the minister inform the hamlet council via correspondence in the near future of what she just said? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I do agree. This must be a major concern in the community and they have to know in advance what plans there might be. I will discuss this with our staff in Rankin Inlet and in the Keewatin region, and I will direct my staff to write up a letter or have a conference call with the hamlet council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 389 – 2(4): Photo Identification**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure exactly who my question is directed to but you might know. The residents of Sanikiluaq have to go through Montreal, and we still don't even have any equipment to make IDs. I wonder if

the minister can provide such equipment for the community of Sanikiluaq for ID purposes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, he showed us that we need identification cards and we are currently working on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also know that the community of Sanikiluaq will eventually get equipment in the summertime. What is the reasoning behind the fact that they will have to wait until summertime to get such equipment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first that I have heard of that. I don't know why they have to wait until summertime to get equipment and I'll check into this. I feel that the community shouldn't have to wait until summer to get equipment, especially when people have to be medivaced or are on medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He mentioned that he is willing to work with me on this but he said that he didn't know that they're waiting until summertime. I wonder if the minister can commit to providing equipment before summertime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree with him.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. Tomorrow or next week; can he inform me when? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before summertime. Thank you.

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

**Question 390 – 2(4): Closure of Grise Fiord School**

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

Mr. Speaker, today the school is closed in one of my constituencies, Grise Fiord. Does the minister have any idea how long the school will be closed? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. There has been an incident raised in the community of Grise Fiord, and in cooperation with the superintendent of the school and the principal, it was decided to close the school and that's what has occurred. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister again, as some teachers don't want to return to the community, will those teachers be replaced immediately? What is the situation on this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, there has been an incident in the community and there have been some concerns raised. What I can say to the member and to the people in Grise Fiord is that we take this issue very seriously, we have been kept up to date on it, and that we would hope to be in a position to open the school on Monday morning if everything goes well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The community, as a whole, has a concern because their children have to attend school. If the school is going to open, what will happen to the students and the teachers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to say that the security of the staff at the school and the students are of the utmost importance to the government, and indeed, we believe that over the weekend, we will be able to look at what has occurred.

My understanding right now is that we would be in a position, hopefully, to open up the school Monday, but again, I want to make sure that the Members in the House know that we want to ensure that the safety, of course, is utmost in the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

### **Question 391 – 2(4): Need for a New Community Hall for Baker Lake**

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

Mr. Speaker, I believe that healthy communities require adequate infrastructure that allows our constituents to come together for important gatherings and events.

The community of Baker Lake has identified the need for a new community hall to replace our current facility which is aging and increasingly inadequate to accommodate our rapidly growing population.

The hamlet council submitted a proposal for assistance from the minister's department. Can the minister inform me when she will reply to the proposal to share the cost of construction for a new community hall for Baker Lake? When can she respond? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of proposals. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we all know there are many demands and expectations for projects throughout Nunavut, and also, the projects outweigh the money that we get. We all know this.

(interpretation) I've been to Baker Lake more than once and I have been in the community hall. I do agree that the size of the building is inadequate. It's true that there's a growing population and a lot of community halls are not adequate for the communities now.

The Baker Lake community will be visited by the planners and it's been identified on how it will be... I can't respond at this time but once I get the information I will be able to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hamlet council members and staff have to work extremely hard and some of the communities are not earning enough revenue. The hamlet council had to order material for a new community hall but it will have to be built and the interior will also have to be constructed. This was discussed by the minister last fall when all the mayors met in Baker Lake and this was brought up again at their conference.

The hamlet said that they wanted to pay half of the cost of the project but the demand for a new community hall is growing in the community of Baker Lake and CGS has been dealing with this issue for a few months now. I would like to find out when this issue will be addressed because the hamlet council would like to know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I do remember that being a discussion and being on the table. At this point in time, it's under review on how it would unfold because the community of Baker Lake is willing to pay half and the rest would come from the capital plan. Because it's a unique situation, it's being reviewed.

We really appreciate the Hamlet of Baker Lake for doing this, and once I have the answer, I will communicate with the Member from Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The capital estimates which are approved by the Legislative Assembly for 2008-09 is only \$368,000 for the community of Baker Lake. The community's increasing in population and we're not able to keep up with the capital plans, so we need some more assistance.

Can the minister direct her staff and her officials to come to the community of Baker Lake and meet with the hamlet council to discuss the capital projects that are needed in their community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have stated that the capital plans are going to be reviewed once again. I also have stated that there will be consultation visits

throughout the Nunavut communities because in the New Year, we had announced that there would be visits to review these capital projects, and one of them is Baker Lake.

I will ask my staff, in fact, I'll give directions to the staff to go meet with the hamlet council there as requested by the member. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 392 – 2(4): Business Consultations on Energy Efficiency Bill**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question as the Minister of Energy stated that he withdrew Bill 13 but he also stated that he was going to be revisiting the bill and replace it with a better version, so I thank him for that.

First of all, I would like to tell the minister, as he was talking about making offices, equipment, buildings and furnaces more energy efficient, that some of the office equipment like computers would be a good place to start because they're quite expensive to run as opposed to furniture that don't require electricity. Can the minister consult with the business community, homeowners, and Nunavummiut so that the bill won't just be one-sided? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member is correct. In the first go around on Bill 13, we did have an opportunity to work with the businesses and take their suggestions. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that that would also take place, for sure, with the proposal that we have brought forward this morning, and that is, again, to be able to take some of the committee recommendations and move forward with a newer piece of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley**: In view of time, Mr. Speaker, I indicated when the bill was first introduced in this House that it was the biggest publicity stunt that the minister was introducing to the Nunavummiut on light bulbs but I will not argue with him any longer as he has been convinced that the bill that was drafted did not work.

I am impressed that he is now willing to look at new ideas and new restrictions on some of the wasteful energy that are occurring in Nunavut. I would like to ask the minister if he would consider restricting the waste that has been expressed by Members of this House, particularly with the streetlights when the sun is 100 percent visible in Nunavut. I believe that we could save a lot of energy by way of using that.

Also, I would like to ask the minister: will he consider providing incentives from homeowners to reduce dependency on home heating fuel maybe by way of providing

financial assistance to purchase stoves that use not other than home heating fuel? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's nothing more than I rather enjoy doing than debating the honourable member, and in this case, I won't because I agree with his suggestions as I have suggested in the statement.

The Government of Nunavut does not have its own energy legislation that actually sets standards for household appliances, lighting, and computer equipment and so on. The only one that is actually on the books, of course, is the federal *Energy Efficiency Act* which was passed, I believe, in 1992. So a lot of things have changed in that period of time.

So I take the suggestions by the member seriously, and again, as we're formulating this new piece of legislation over the next couple of weeks, I would hope to be in a position in early May to be able to present a draft of that proposal to the committee, and again, get some suggestions and ideas.

We will incorporate some of the things that we have heard here today, and again, this is at very early stages of this proposed legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly appreciate the minister's willingness to consult as well as to receive some suggestions.

In view of the fact that we just had an emergency situation happening and homes have been shut off from the furnaces and so on due to the power shortages, I understand, from many of the MLAs as well as the other homeowners speaking occasionally, that having a woodstove reduces dependence on significant amount of energy, and I believe that's one option the minister could consider. Would that be the kind of program that you would be willing to discuss with the Members of the Executive Council? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In *Pinasuaqtavut*, we said that for the term of this government, from 2004 to 2008, we said that we would conserve and reduce the use of energy and find alternatives to diesel for electricity generation. We're trying to move forward in that way; we have our Energy Strategy in place and so on.

It may seem a bit strange for people listening in today that there is a suggestion where we can use woodstoves in Nunavut where we don't have any trees. However, we do know that many Nunavummiut have woodstoves in their houses, and indeed, there's a lot of

excess available from construction and so on. This may be one alternative that we can look at, so again, I'm open to that suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome and appreciate your willingness to look into all of these. I believe Nunavummiut need all the help that they can get to reduce energy consumption. In an emergency like this, these kinds of equipment would have been very useful for a number of homes. Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate his willingness to consider them.

Mr. Speaker, because of the emergency situation in Rankin Inlet, I will no longer be needing this particular light bulb that I had purchased for myself.

>> *Laughter*

In this case, through the Office of the Clerk, I would like to present them to the Minister of Energy; he now has withdrawn the Light Bulb Bill; that he did allow these particular kinds. I believe it will last him a lifetime. They're only 100 watts; that's all I can afford.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I do not believe there was a question to that last comment. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Question 393 – 2(4): Pension Adjustment Announcement**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's really nice to see the Minister of Energy smiling. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance and it again deals with announcements made during his Budget Address.

Mr. Speaker, in the sections where it talked about moving forward, it mentions that the government has announced a number of new tax incentives for Nunavummiut. One of them, Mr. Speaker, was the pension income credit up to \$2,000 which would provide relief for senior citizens; this increase is of \$1,000.

Could the minister indicate if that is a new thing, or is that just a catch-up from the same amendment that the federal government made I believe in 2006? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is under the federal government and we will be giving a pension income credit of up to \$2,000. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked the minister to correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe that this was implemented for the 2006 year by the federal government. If that was the case, why did they wait two years before the Government of Nunavut implemented that benefit as well for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a response and I will have to take it as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll ask another question on the Budget Address, and look forward to getting that follow-up information...

**Speaker**: I apologize, Mr. Tootoo, just give us a second, please.

**Mr. Tootoo**: So we can't ask any questions on the Budget Address?

**Speaker**: Thank you, Members. In reviewing the response from the minister, I believe the minister took that question as notice, so we will have to advance to the next member and allow Mr. Tootoo another opportunity at a later time.

Oral Questions. (interpretation) Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

#### **Question 394 – 2(4): GN Assistance to Grise Fiord Situation**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, currently, I believe there are approximately 30 people in my riding of Grise Fiord that will be leaving. I would like to ask the Premier what kind of support the community has received with regards to this problem we're experiencing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The RCMP has been in contact with the hamlet council. I can't exactly say what has been happening but I will

keep the member and the hamlet council informed. We're going to deal with it directly because we don't want to put anyone in a dangerous situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are no social workers or mental health workers in the community. Is the government going to place a position up there so that there will be adequate support provided to the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been working with the respective minister on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The nurse in that community also wants to leave because of this problem. If there is an emergency, what types of emergency plans does the government have in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The nurse is going to stay up there as we have not heard otherwise and we thank her for helping all she can. I can't talk about the RCMP's activities but I'm sure that they're prepared for any emergency that might occur. We are giving the community all of the support it needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 395 – 2(4): Lead Department to Deal with Poverty**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier as well.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I rose and spoke about poverty in Nunavut, and I had some statistics from the National Council of Welfare that shows that on March 31, 2005, 13,800 Nunavummiut were on welfare, and in the previous year, March 31, 2004, there were 8,600 Nunavummiut on welfare. So that was a 60.5 percent increase which I thought was quite huge jump.

I have been trying to find some information on what the government is doing to address poverty in Nunavut because I don't seem to be able to find the information. Various

departments have responsibility for some of it but I would like to ask the Premier: can the Premier tell the House which department has the lead responsibility for addressing poverty in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I believe we all have responsibility to reduce poverty in Nunavut. We have been doing as much as we can to make sure that we get out of the vicious welfare cycle.

I have been talking to my Minister of Education in finding ways to assist our students further in post-secondary studies so that they can get qualified and take on the jobs that are coming our way.

We have been trying as much as we can to stimulate our economy, promoting mineral activity, and doing as much as we can to support our fisheries, our arts and crafts industries, so I think we all have a role. It doesn't matter which department it may be.

We have been doing as much as we can and we will not stop until every Nunavummiut has an opportunity to work. So I think that's something that this government has been trying to do – to try and reduce the numbers of poverty in Nunavut. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for the answer. I agree that all departments have a responsibility. The Premier spoke about some initiatives that the government is working on; I think they were general initiatives. Can the Premier tell the House what specific initiatives the Government of Nunavut has to combat poverty in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) For one, our economy is growing, so more opportunities are coming to Nunavummiut so they can take on some of the jobs that are being created. So when a person is working, they tend to be healthier and have a much positive lifestyle in terms of being able to support their families. So I think that's one thing that's looking positive for Nunavummiut.

In preparation for more activity that's coming our way we have been working very hard in creating trades schools that will be coming in the fall in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Iqaluit.

So we're doing what we can so that we can get out of this welfare cycle that's been around long enough.



For other citizens that may not want a job in the mining sector, we're creating incentives for education. I look forward to my Minister of Education supporting our students more. Our latest budget introduced tax incentives for students who are studying in post-secondary institutions to help them more financially through books.

So we're trying to do a number of things and we will continue to try and find ways to make sure that we get out of this welfare cycle. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier. Mr. Speaker, a lot of work has to be done. These numbers are not made up; we did have that 60.5 percent increase and that was only two years ago, and the costs have gotten greater in Nunavut ever since.

I think that some of the issues that related to poverty are housing or the lack thereof, lack of a voice and access to legal aid or representation, literacy is a problem, lack of education and training, jobs, food, and health and wellbeing is another, family status; we have a lot of single parents raising many children, so it's difficult for them. The government subsidies can only go so far.

The Premier indicated earlier that everybody has the responsibility; all departments. So I'm asking the Premier: will he commit today to the House to establish a Government of Nunavut Interdepartmental Working Committee to address the growing poverty in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) That's a very good suggestion. I know that our deputies have been working hard in terms of trying to make sure that the goals that we set during this term are implemented; one of which was economy. So I'll take that under advisement and see what else we can do.

I must say that we have done quite a bit of work in this area and there is much more to do, and I appreciate the member's suggestion. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that commitment. Mr. Speaker, a little bit of research yesterday online - the National Anti-Poverty Organization - and I can provide the website to the Premier later. They indicated that Canada has never had a national anti-poverty strategy, and then they indicated that presently the only provinces are Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador that have provincial anti-poverty strategies.

My question for the Premier: will the Premier commit to the House that the Government of Nunavut will develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy to address poverty in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I appreciate my colleague's suggestion, and as I said, I'll take it under advisement.

I must say that we're in an enviable position as Nunavummiut. We have a young population so we can do something about that. We can educate these young people so that they will be self-sufficient and self-supporting in the long run. So that's an advantage that we do have as compared to other jurisdictions.

So there's an opportunity that we're trying to utilize by training these young people and by keeping them in school. I look forward to all of my colleagues' support in making changes to the education system through our proposed legislation so that we can keep these young people in school.

So I appreciate the member's concern and it's a concern shared by all of us in this House. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Question Period is now over. We'll go back to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Member for Nattilik, Minister Aglukkaq.

#### **Item 14: Tabled Documents**

##### **Tabled Document 178 – 2(4): F/P/T, Ministers Responsible for Status of Women – July 9 to 11, 2007 Iqaluit**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the FTP Ministerial Report for Ministers responsible for Status of Women Meeting that was held in Iqaluit, July 9 to 11, which was a very successful meeting and a report from that. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Can we have that document brought forward to the table, please? (interpretation) Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Minister of Finance and CLEY, Minister Tapardjuk.

#### **Item 15: Notice of Motions**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, February 25, 2008, that Bill 24, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2007-2008*, will be read for the first time, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister, I would like to inform you that we are on Item 15. Notices of Motions. We will give you another opportunity at the appropriate time.

Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

### **Item 16: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 24 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2007-2008 – Notice**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will try again. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, February 25, 2008, that Bill 24, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2007-2008*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Tapardjuk.

#### **Bill 25 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2007-2008 – Notice**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, February 25, that Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2007-2008*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 16. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation) If there are none, Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

### **Item 18: First Reading of Bills**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 24, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2007-2008*, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 24 can have first reading today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Minister Tapardjuk.

#### **Bill 24 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2007-2008 – First Reading**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 24, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2007-2008*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Please bring that document up. Thank you. Bill 24 has had its first reading.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like consent to waive the two-day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2007-2008*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 25 can have first reading today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Bill 25 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2007-2008 – First Reading**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Natilik, that Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2007-2008*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Please provide a copy of the bill. Bill 25 has had first reading.

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Item 19: Second Reading of Bills**

**Bill 25 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2007-2008 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 3, 2007-2008*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is to establish operating budgets for the Government of Nunavut. In some cases this bill has succeeded in reducing costs while controlling others incurred by the Nunavut Government as of this coming March 31, 2008. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 25 has had its second reading and is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Tapardjuk.

**Bill 24 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2007-2008 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 24, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3, 2007-2008*, be read for the second time.

This bill is geared towards capital that has been identified by the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 24 has had its second reading and is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 23, 24, and 25 with Mr. Arreak in the Chair.

Before we proceed with the committee meeting, we will take a break for lunch and return at one o'clock.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:44 and Committee resumed at 13:03*

**Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

**Chairman** (Mr. Arreak)(interpretation): Thank you for coming back. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bills 23, 24, and 25. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 23 and the review of the Main Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Does the committee agree we will deal with the Main Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Bill 23 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2008-2009 –  
Consideration in Committee – Health & Social Services**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Minister Aglukkaq, do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table? Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Yes, I do.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

(interpretation ends) Thank you. For the record, minister, please introduce your witnesses. Minister Aglukkaq.

**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 Raj Downe, the Assistant Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Welcome to the Chambers. We were on general comments yesterday and I didn't have any members on my list. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Can we ask questions now? I would like to ask questions under Directorate. I am leaving today, so I wanted to go first.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We are not there quite yet. I don't have anybody else on my list, so we will move on to the main estimates. We will start with H-4. (interpretation ends) Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. First of all, I would like to welcome the minister and her officials. I have a couple of questions.

I raised this question last year but I feel I didn't get a response. Last May, in Rankin Inlet, there was a death in the waiting room. For that reason, I was unable to ask questions and the minister couldn't respond because there was an inquest of a judicial type. That was a quasi-judicial type review according to our Rules, is that completed yet? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I recall, the question is related to a coroner's investigation that was happening at the time. I would have to consult with the

Minister of Justice to see where that review is at to respond to the member, or he can direct his question to the Minister of Justice, who is responsible for coroners' investigations and reviews. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Minister. The minister had stated that there was a review being conducted but I wasn't allowed to ask questions because it was an ongoing RCMP investigation. Under the *Coroners Act*, I don't think somebody was directed to do an inquiry.

It seemed like the minister stopped me from asking my questions because she knew there was a review going on. So I started thinking that she was misleading the House and to date, she cannot respond. Does the minister know exactly what is going on within her department?

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand of the Rules of the House, and you, as Chair of Committee of the Whole, and the Speaker, as well as your table officers can clarify this, when there is an investigation that's taking place, whether it be an RCMP investigation or a coroner's investigation, those matters are not discussed and debated in this House.

At the same, when there's an investigation related or a court proceeding occurring, those matters are before the courts, or there's a process under the coroner's legislation, as far as I understand it, and are matters that are investigated through that process, and as a department, we don't interfere with that process. We wait for the courts to rule on issues, the coroners to file their reports, and it's up to the coroners and the RCMP to determine whether an inquest is necessary or not, or when a coroner is to be called in.

As far as I understand, that's the procedure that's in place. Perhaps, as Chair, through the table officers, you can clarify that for this House. It's the way I understand the procedure to take place and as far as I know, in terms of the Question Period, the Rules in Question Period is that matters before courts or quasi-judicial are not subject to debate in this House is how I understood it.

So that's the ruling that your officials, Mr. Chairman, would have to make a ruling on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I thought I heard him understand what the situation is right now. Minister, can you clarify if it's still under investigation or what the status of it is right now? Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** I believe I responded to that, Mr. Chairman, that I would have to follow-up with the appropriate minister responsible for doing the investigations with the coroner, and that falls under the Department of Justice.

I would have to follow-up with my colleague to see where that particular file is as it relates to the previous question from, I believe, the November session before I can respond to Mr. Curley's questions in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The minister is stating that she doesn't know at this time, so I cannot have the member proceed with the same line of questioning. Do you have another question you would like to ask? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Mr. Chairman, on the question, certainly, as a member, I have the privilege to ask questions however I frame them. What I see occurring right now is that I have been blocked from asking questions for events that are not clear or events that, if any occurred, have not happened.

On that basis, I'm trying to clarify for my constituents that there was, as I indicated earlier, I'm saying this as a member with my privileges, that I was asking for it right from last year whether there was a coroner's inquest to be held. There was never an announcement of a public inquest other than a routine investigation of any death that occurs. That is not called for as a special investigation; that's a routine job of the local officials of the RCMP.

The minister alluded to the fact that there was a quasi-inquiry going on which no minister has announced or whatever. If it was announced, it would be made public and I wouldn't have to argue against it. I believe the minister is using some excuse to prevent me from asking for information on a review that isn't really happening or called for under the provision of the coroner's special powers granted to the minister or the Minister of Justice. That's on that basis.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that your ruling may be appropriate but it's subject to challenge as well, and I won't be calling for that at this moment. I believe you need to allow myself, as a member, a bit more opportunity to clarify questions that are lingering out there because the health facility was a location where the death occurred and the minister responsible has refused to address that particular problem, so I need your help. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. The minister had already replied that she doesn't have a response right now. The Minister of Justice had already stated that when she is able to respond, she will do so. Do you have another question, Mr. Curley?

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will continue to address that and I will not be bound by just promises that something is happening when, in fact, it could be a misleading statement. That's not acceptable. I will not ever mislead this government or this Assembly, and sometimes I believe that we're playing with the rules very loosely.



I have a question to the minister. The minister indicated that she's working on the retention and recruitment policy. I would like to ask the minister exactly what all of that money... I believe there was an amount over \$1 million last year that she said was going to be used for recruitment and retention, and there was some debate, I believe, with that figure, and eventually, the reference to developing strategies for recruitment and retention was removed. I would like to ask the minister: exactly why is it taking so long to develop that policy or strategy? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy was released to every member in November and that document was released to the public in November, a copy was also distributed to the media and so on. I have a copy of a memo I wrote in November to every Member of this House, providing the copy of that, I believe a press release was also issued on that subject that went out to the general population as well as to the staff of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** What is the implementation plan of that strategy? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The implementation plan is in the works; again, I said it was released in November. Over December and January, the staff had been working very hard on the development of that implementation plan.

There's also some developmental work that's in the works related to initiatives around promotion of nursing careers and so on through the RFP process and its departmental stages in terms of developing that.

Having said that, many of the initiatives are tied into the collective bargaining process, and I have said this many times, including in my opening remarks, many of the initiatives outlined in that are subject to the ratification of the union agreement. So we're waiting for that process to complete to trigger the implementation of many of the initiatives that are outlined in that report.

Having said that, also that there are some things internally that we can start on, which we have started on internally within the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** I appreciate that. My understanding is that, with the ongoing provisions of implementing health programs and policies, as well as the medical care locally,

obviously, I think the policy is quite clear in respect that the particular level of service must continue and so on, but even with that minimum, the local nurses and health centres continue to operate with tremendous shortage of nurses.

I can give you an example, I don't know whether they will make any sense to the minister, even just this last week, I was told that, right at the opening of the local nursing station or health centre, they were not accepting any walk-in individuals at the second largest community because they only have two nurses on staff and standby. Why do you allow such a shortage of nurses in local places like Rankin Inlet? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of recruiting nurses, I have stated many times in this House that there is a nation-wide shortage of nurses. Currently, in Nunavut, by jurisdictions, we have not closed down any facilities. There is a shortage of permanent nurses; we fill those vacancies through casuals and/or agency nurses.

All jurisdictions are having difficulty attracting and retaining qualified health care professionals, and in a competitive market, such as the nurses, they are highly mobile and they have access to opportunities across the country.

The Department of Health has done a lot of work to try and develop a long-term Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy, as tabled in this House, to be a living document, and I stated again in the House that we have put that plan together in partnership with frontline nurses, nurses, and public health nurses in Nunavut.

The proposals we put forward to the union are part of the issues, and again, that's subject to the collective bargaining process. We're trying to train our own nurses in Nunavut as part of the initiatives. So there's a whole bunch of parallel initiatives that are taking place to try and address building capacity within Nunavut.

Back in 2004-05, we were down to I believe 40 percent capacity with nurses. We're close to 50 percent in our nurses – we have 70 positions vacant in Nunavut of the 211 positions. We continue to fill those vacancies through agency nurses and casuals, and we continue to hire our graduates in Nunavut.

The challenge is great, and just two weeks ago, I met with nurses and mental health workers at the Discovery Lodge Hotel to talk about some of the challenges they face, at the same time, to try and support the nurses at the frontline that are under a lot of pressure in delivering services.

So the partnership, in working with our nurses to address their issues on a daily basis, is one that I have committed to and I have worked very hard the last two years to try and address in putting forth a Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy, putting forth a competitive proposal to the union, agreeing to review the compensation levels of our

nurses and comparing those levels to Canada. We have committed to that, we have talked to the union about that, and we have talked to our nurses about that.

So there are a number of initiatives in the works, and right now, we are not at 100 percent capacity but I believe the department is in the right direction in trying to address their needs. Of course, we can't meet all their needs.

Another part that has been a challenge to them was the issue of housing, which Minister Tapardjuk had announced that he would help and the recommendations he announced in his Budget Address will also help address some of the challenges in our hiring. So there are a number of initiatives that we're trying to undertake in our communities.

As it relates to that particular situation in Rankin Inlet, I will speak to... and I know that in our health centres, on clinic days, there are appointments and there are walk-ins that don't fit in unless it's an emergency. They try and book the next available slot for walk-ins so long as they're not emergencies. I know that that's the practice in communities but I can look into what happened in that particular situation in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I know the minister is trying to justify how great a job and so on, and that she is dealing with the emergency situation with respect to nursing shortages and so on, but the minister is not very convincing, Mr. Chairman, and I'll tell you why.

The reason is she has gone through a number of deputy ministers, so the minister should not use two-year ago stuff and the experience of all of these deputy ministers that have not worked for more than a year for the last I don't know... I forgot; I won't tell you. So in that regard, the minister should be focusing on exactly what the shortages are in local Rankin Inlet. She doesn't know; it's a shame. Nurses need help.

What is the current status of local doctors in Rankin Inlet? I believe they're on a fly-in, fly-out basis temporarily, so that's another question. Have you recruited actual resident doctors for the region based in Rankin Inlet? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to pull the current staffing levels and vacancies for Rankin Inlet's chart, hang on.

Currently, in Rankin Inlet, as far as I can see from my chart here, there are seven nurses in Rankin Inlet. I don't believe there are vacancies there based on my list that I have here with me. In terms of doctors in Kivalliq overall, Kivalliq has 4.5 positions and there is a vacancy of one position for the region for doctors. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. This is a common concern pertaining to the doctors by our constituents since it seems they do not check the previous charts. The charts are not followed up by the doctors when checking patients from the communities.

For this reason, I would like to ask the minister: do you have any plans? Yesterday, I stated that there is too much political interference within the administration in the regions. I was stating whether it is time for an administrator to deal with the staffing of the nurses and to look at the whole delivery of health care in the community level, including perhaps local administrators in the communities to try and resolve the regional issues, including nursing issues. Have you taken these areas into consideration?

The deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers are all politically appointed so they should not be the ones that are controlling these matters. (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy ministers are appointed by the Premier; the assistant deputy ministers are hired through a competition process; and assistant deputy minister positions and down, to directors, to executive directors, to regional managers, to managers, officers, interpreters, clerks, those are all hired through a competition process; they're not hired by me directly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. (interpretation) I don't think she understands my Inuktitut. I think the administrators have to be in the hospitals, (interpretation ends) independent from these political appointments. (interpretation) If this is not the case, our process will never work properly. I would like her to review the idea of having administrators and if we are to finish prior to Monday, I would encourage other members to ask that question.

Also, the business plan states that on page H-4, I'm happy to see the Mental Health Training Program that's in place because there are many people that experiencing extreme hardships in the communities. It's not just in my community, but others as well where people are endangering others, due to mental pain and anguish since there is very little mental health support in any community.

Will the minister support the training program for mental health workers in Nunavut? There are no facilities and none on the horizon. However, if we could hire properly trained staff in our communities, then our elders wouldn't be in such dangerous situations.

You said that the two-year Mental Health Training Program is starting up. Can the minister clarify to the House what is actually transpiring in this program, please? (interpretation ends) Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Mental Health Program is one of many programs that are being offered in Nunavut through the Department of Education and the Nunavut Arctic College to address the shortage of health care professionals in Nunavut. It's being delivered; the individuals graduated this year and are in practicum now.

In terms of the delivery, the design of the curriculum, and so on, those questions should be directed to the Minister responsible for Education as they are the delivery agent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. As I indicated earlier, the area of mental health is a very important issue for many Nunavummiut. Many of our individuals that are in mental health situations put tremendous pressure on elders as they're the only ones that are providing emotional care for mental health because there are no institutions to put them into.

The minister really should have a whole lot more substantial information and assistance provided to us. We can't just say we don't have any money; there is tremendous waste. We even have a surplus of \$4.5 million, and yet, she says she doesn't have any money.

But, I would like to ask the Minister of Education...

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** I have a Point of Order, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. A Point of Order has been called. Minister Aglukkaq.

### Point of Order

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Mr. Chairman, my point is that I didn't say that. You can't just state in the House what I haven't said and what I didn't say; I didn't say that. I said the program is being offered through the Nunavut Arctic College. Did I say we didn't have any money?

In terms of what I do say, I would suggest the member be careful in terms of what he's saying I'm saying because he's putting words into my mouth that I did not say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I believe the minister should wait until I complete my presentation so she does understand if she didn't understand me. And, I think that's one good quality that she should get is to learn to listen, so I will carry on.

I understand that, for instance, mental health care is underfunded and I have the right to say it's underfunded. There's no money in the budget; the minister hadn't put any. Therefore, I am right to say it's underfunded as the minister has not submitted any major mental health delivery program for Nunavummiut, and that is correct, Mr. Chairman.

My question: has the Minister of Health indicated that the question should be addressed to the Minister of Education on that? So therefore, could the Minister of Education explain to us exactly what the Mental Health Training Program is about, the two-year program, in detail, and can the minister indicate to us why he is not allowing this Mental Health Training Program for Nunavummiut as an accredited program? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. There was a Point of Order called but there's a debate going on and they're collecting facts, and I know that there is no Point of Order. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very interesting listening to the debate between the minister and the member. When we're usually dealing with the operations budget of government and government departments, redirects are usually approved when there's a specific question on the budget that's before the House. In this case, my budget isn't up for debate; however, I am prepared to discuss the budget in some detail.

The question on accreditation is an easy one to answer. Accreditation of any program in Nunavut, or any other jurisdiction for that matter, there are two types of accreditation that are brought forward.

One is what we call a national or international accreditation. Good examples of that are our Nursing Program, our Law Program, and our Teacher Education Program. Those programs are accredited, meaning once a person finishes that program and gets a Bachelor of Education Degree or a Nursing Degree, for example, they can take that accreditation or that degree and they can work anywhere in the country when they apply for accreditation in that given province, given the instruction and the academic background that they received.

In this case, with the Mental Health Program, the Mental Health Program itself is coordinated through the Nunavut Arctic College and is accredited in Nunavut. We haven't taken that program and asked if the accreditation or the diploma that a person would receive from that program would be accredited in another jurisdiction.

So hopefully that helps answer and clarify the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Picco, and I thank you for clarifying some of the issues. Mr. Curley, do you want an answer from the Minister of Health? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I was on the right page when dealing with the... on H-4 of the business plan of the government, and in particular, the Minister of Health, the program, it is stated, will begin in September 2005 and expanded from Rankin Inlet... I'm sorry. A Mental Health Training Program is offered through Arctic College, so we are consistent with the minister if he was a bit worried about it or whatnot.

I have another question in view of the fact that I'll be leaving. I would like to ask the minister a question on the same page and the same paragraph. The minister indicated that the Midwifery Program which began in Rankin Inlet, "... expanded from Rankin Inlet to Iqaluit..." Could the minister explain to us exactly what she means by "expanded"? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. You will notice that your time has expired and I have another name on the list. I'll get back to you if you have any questions later on. I'll take this question for now. Madam Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Midwifery Program is now being offered in Iqaluit and has been offered in the past through Nunavut Arctic College in Rankin Inlet. There is a birthing centre, as the member knows, in Rankin Inlet. So the program and some of the students, I believe, are working in the hospital here to do their practicum for midwifery. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak:** I guess there's no light in my desk here, so... it's your fault? Okay. (interpretation) I wanted to ask...

>> *Laughter*

**Mr. Alagalak:** What's going on?

**Some Hon. Members:** There's no light bulb.

**Mr. Alagalak:** No light bulb, alright. (interpretation) I believe we're in the Directorate and I think it's appropriate to ask my question on this page. In the minister's opening comments during Committee of the Whole a few days ago, she stated, and possibly I'll ask a question first, that the Nursing Program will be enhanced as it's one of the goals.

I'm sure that it would be a cost saving measure if we start producing nurses that are trained here and we will most likely be less dependent on agency nurses. Where would the cost saving be? Would it be because the nurses will be making less money, or is it because we're going to be using less agency nurses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. We're on H-4. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the member is referring to my opening remark about developing our own capacity within Nunavut to address the nursing shortage.

I guess, overall, the concern has been the high cost of agency nurses and what we're trying to do in Nunavut is to reduce the dependency on agency nurses by developing a long-term Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy for our nurses in Nunavut, and that involves a number of initiatives; whether it be training on-the-job, professional development, increase and review of their compensation, and so on.

The salary levels for all our nurses are determined through the collective bargaining process and that issue on bargaining is still pending.

So the high cost related to the use of agency nurses is the recruiting and the travel, the relocation and filling in the jobs, is what I had alluded to in my opening remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't seem to understand; I have a lot of bass that I can hear and I think it's a low tone. I'm having problems with my mic here.

Anyways, I wanted to refer back to the comments that you made earlier in the committee meeting. I would also like to ask you about the strategy and the Nursing Program. It's a long-term goal and it applies today, but my question is: how long would the Nursing Program be? You stated that it was a long-term goal; how many years are we talking about when it comes to training Nunavut-based nurses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut's Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy is meant to be a working document with five-year initiatives in there and longer. What we have also put in place to support this long-term initiative is a working group of nurses and people in the field to oversee directions to focus it in terms of some of the challenges faced by our frontline nurses in Nunavut. So it's meant to be a long-term strategy in that it's not one year at a time. I had mentioned, I believe, five years as a start but we will continue to do that.

The idea with the development of this strategy was to have the people that deliver health care services at the community level and the hospital level to be involved in guiding and directing the Department of Health on the issues around the nurses' challenges and in addressing nursing fields. So in that way, it's long-term; beyond five years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you. That's very good to hear. Some people decide not to further their training because the programs are not long-term, so I have another question.

At that time you were making your comments, you stated that you were going to be going into the House to talk about the possibility of pursuing a career in the health profession. What kind of incentives would you offer in order to attract individuals who would like to pursue careers in nursing? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask the deputy minister to respond to that question. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Some of the incentives that we're looking at that the minister indicated earlier have been tabled through the collective bargaining process. We're looking at having a long-term training program for Nunavut nurses and we're trying to attract Inuit nurses into the profession.

One of the proposals that we have in the strategy is to implement a joint strategy with the Arctic College in developing the Nursing Program and expanding the program to the regional centres – Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. One of the proposals is to have an intake of 15 trainees in Cambridge Bay as well as 15 in Rankin Inlet.

We're also looking at a foundation program for students that are a bit short in their science and math requirements. We're going to be working with Education and Arctic College in developing a program to facilitate that as well.

We're trying to look at ways of implementing some professional development incentives in the department for nurses particularly and we're looking at some career planning for nurses in the department. So there are a number of things that we have in the strategy that we are trying to facilitate in the department through the strategy.

There are a number of compensation issues that are, as I said earlier, into the collective bargaining process that will also help the recruitment of nurses into Nunavut. So I'll leave those to once the collective bargaining process is completed, then the department will include those in the implementation plan when that happens. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to hear that but (interpretation ends) maybe I should speak a little bit in English if I may.

The attraction to the students is very important because I think there has been a lot of... some of the students have a doubt because there actually hasn't been any advertisement or any brochures from the Health Department. I know that you people are really working hard with the Education Department to try and come up with the best solution to try and recruit as much nurses from Nunavut as possible.

There might be brochures or any information that is available but sitting somewhere in Nunavut that something is preventing them by distribution to among the communities. I wonder if the minister would make more available those brochures and the intention of the Health Department and Education to try and attract.

You know how easy it is to try and apply into this, including what sort of funds are available, if you would just enter and write your name down on a piece of application to try and pursue a higher education for yourself. The ages don't matter; if you have a kid, one or two, it doesn't matter. Just get up and sign up or something like that, just like the United States President said that in World War II, "Come on," and pointing on people, to try and really get them on the lines of trying to get an education to meet the needs of Nunavut.

I think we really need to highlight a brighter picture of what this government needs. I wonder if you could just maybe highlight some of the work you're doing now.  
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the member for raising that because there is a brighter picture I think we can all present in entering the health care field.

In terms of trying to promote Nunavummiut to take on careers in the health care profession is a challenge but one that I think we can all be advocating as Members of this House in trying to support our frontline nurses in the delivery of health care services.

Having said that, we have a program... I'm just going to speak to some of the examples that we're trying to develop internally within promoting working in the health care field within the Department of Health. We are working with an RFP process to put out the promotional piece of working in the north in the communities and the opportunities that nurses can gain in terms of experience working in our health centres in the north. So we're working on the RFP process to develop that.

One of the other areas that we're working with is that we have now about 14 nurses, I believe, have graduated from our program in Nunavut. Those individuals, of course, can work anywhere in Canada but some have stayed in Nunavut. We have Inuit nurses working in Nunavut now.

In Rankin Inlet, I had a tour of the facility there and the tour was given to me by three Inuit nurses, very competent, and one from Arviat, I think you know her very well, very confident, who works in emergency, and so on. So using those individuals as role models is supporting, within the Department of Health, in the recruitment drive of our communities. So that's one of the programs that we're trying to establish.

In terms of promoting more in the education system is to work with the Minister of Education's division to promote the careers again in our schools - the access years - but not only that, it was to also support our summer students that are in the health care field and working with them to promote the professions as well in our communities and in our health centres.

We have also guaranteed our graduates employment upon completion. On June 8, the Nunavut Arctic College Nurses here will be graduating and I encourage anyone who is in town to attend their graduation. Those individuals are guaranteed employment in our system.

So we're trying to get that process rolling through the development of this Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): That's it.

**Chairman** (interpretation): He's done. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to backtrack further to Mr. Curley's statement on H-4 under Directorate. The training and health strategies that have been discussed is to be used to develop or enhance our nursing compliment in the communities and how we could better serve Nunavummiut.

I heard that there are 14 new nurses and I'm very pleased to hear that, but the present nurses that we have, for example, in Pond Inlet, we have a nurse who is neither Inuk nor is she a white person.

She is of First Nation descent and her daughter is also a teacher up there. She's just like apart of the Inuit and she's lived up there for many years but she is giving up because when the agency nurses come in, she has to continually train them. She's at the verge of giving up because she has to train them continually as they don't know who Mrs. Qajaaq or who Mr. Katsiq and the way they live. Those people don't know the lives of the individuals at the local level, so she has to continually train them.

The question that I would like to ask, Mr. Chairman, is that I spoke to the head nurse in Pond Inlet, I'm not going to mention her name but I'm sure you know the individual, but this individual has been working up there for a long time. She has her own snowmobile, a home, and enjoys living in Pond Inlet, but she is not happy with the Nursing Recruitment

and Retention Strategy and she said that this is not satisfactory yet. They will still envy the agency nurses.

I would like to ask a question because the minister said that, during the negotiations with the NEU, we'll see an improvement to this and we already know that Government of Nunavut is part of NEU. Although they hire consultants, the agency nurses don't know about the situation at the local level.

As the minister with your department, what can you do to assist the Arctic College nurses who are taking the program? Perhaps, you can provide them with more support, especially so that there could be less stress amongst the families who are taking the Nursing Program. What kind of programs will be in that strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just trying to get clarification on the member's question, if I can just, perhaps, rephrase that. Is the member asking what support we have provided to our nurses at the community levels that are not in the program? Is that the question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You told us in the last session in the fall that the nurses' training programs falls under the regular FANS program, financial assistance program under the Arctic College. Since then, you have introduced a training and retention strategy paper. What do you have in there that will improve the financial assistance for nursing students that are written right in the strategy plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you for the clarification. The Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy initiative, as it relates to supporting our students, I'm going to have the deputy minister respond to that question. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at a tutoring program for the nurses that are taking the nursing training program. We're also looking at providing some additional support for their daycare expenses that they incur while they're attending college. We're also looking at extra support for upgrading some of their skills as well while they're taking the training program.

So those are three specific things that we would be doing as a department in addition to what they're presently getting from the Department of Education through the FANS program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Campbell. I'm sorry, Mr. Arvaluk, I have an announcement to make. As per Rule 6(1), I recognize the clock and will report progress.

Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Ms. Downe. Thank you, Mr. Campbell.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Members. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

### **Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Arreak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 23 and the Main Estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Minister Akesuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of a meeting of the Regular Caucus on Monday at ten o'clock in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for February 25:

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. Replies to Budget Address

11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 23
  - Bill 24
  - Bill 25
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, I would like to remind you that we are invited to meet with people at the Brown Building at 2:30 (interpretation ends) with the Embrace Life Council. (interpretation) This House stands adjourned until Monday, February 25, at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 14:07*

