



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

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**Monday, February 25, 2008**

**Pages 2840 – 2914**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Nattilik)

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*Deputy Premier; Minister of Community and Government Services*

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Monday, February 25, 2008**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Honourable Patterk Netser, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Mr. David Smailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak, Mr. Premier, Ministers, and Members. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education and Energy, Minister Picco.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 132 – 2(4): Minister Brown Absent from the House**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the members that the Honourable Levinia Brown will be absent in the House most of the day, and hopefully, she will be coming in from Rankin Inlet later on this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Minister's Statement 133 – 2(4): Local State of Emergency in Rankin Inlet**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to update the House today on the current situation in Rankin Inlet. Over the weekend, the power did stay on, and we were even able to open up the schools and the GN offices this morning, although the GN offices are on a half-day rotating schedule. Minister Brown and Mr. Curley went back to Rankin Inlet on Saturday to meet with their constituents, and will be returning this afternoon. QEC has been able to purchase a brand new generator in Calgary, which has been tested, and we're hoping to have that arrive later today in Rankin Inlet or early tomorrow. The conservation effort on the part of the Rankin Inlet residents will likely need to continue, Mr. Speaker, for the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank some of those involved in this emergency situation in Rankin Inlet. First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Rankin Inlet for their patience and their efforts at conserving as much energy as possible over the last several days. Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mayor Lorne Kusugak and the staff and council at the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet, for all of their hard work over this past week, ensuring that the community was made aware of the rotation schedule and updating the community on a regular basis.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at QEC and CG&S, including the Emergency Measures staff, for their long hours of hard work, much of it done outdoors in this cold weather. Mr. Speaker, First Air was able to supply us with a Herc aircraft, and the Canadian Military, who were ready and are ready and waiting if we needed their logistic as well as technical support. I would also like to thank Nuna Logistics for the use of their generator, the one that was located just outside of Rankin Inlet, as well as the NWT Power Corporation, for the use of one of their generators, which was flown into Rankin Inlet from Yellowknife. We were also in touch with the Quebec Hydro and the Quebec Government has told us they would give us whatever support that we would require, as well as making standby generators available through the auspices of Hydro Quebec. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 134 – 2(4): Partnership Between NHC and Illamar  
Marshalling Incorporated**

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform this House about a new partnership agreement between the Nunavut Housing Corporation and Illamar Marshalling Incorporated of Chesterville, Ontario, to handle the delivery of building materials for Nunavut Housing Trust projects.

Mr. Speaker, the corporation has entered into a two-year agreement with Illamar Marshalling Incorporated to provide marshalling and distribution services. This involves the collection, packaging and delivery of construction materials for over 200 new public and staff housing units across Nunavut this year.

Mr. Speaker, I travelled to Chesterville with Housing Corporation representatives to take part in the grand opening of this facility. While I was there, I had the opportunity to meet with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ontario Minister of Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario, and the federal Member of Parliament for that riding as well, Mr. Speaker. Our discussions centered on how we can work together on a long-term partnership that would see a federal commitment for investing in housing for Nunavut after 2009.

I was very impressed, Mr. Speaker, with the facility that Illamar is utilizing, along with the very high level of organization and professionalism shown by the owners and staff. The facility's proximity to rail lines and major trucking routes will ensure packaged materials can be transported in a timely basis to the seaport for shipment to our Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, it's my hope that this initiative will mark the start of a successful working relationship in which the federal government recognizes and addresses Nunavut's unique challenges, leading to long-term sustainable funding levels towards improving the housing situation here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 135 – 2(4): Barb Harvey – Nurse to Know Centennial Achievement Award**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Barb Harvey, Registered Nurse of the Professional Practice Unit in Kugluktuk who recently received the Nurse to Know Centennial Achievement Award from the Canadian Nurses Association.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister of Canada, The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, presented the award to Ms. Harvey in Toronto on February 1, 2008. This award is in recognition of the leadership and exceptional contributions Barb has made to the health of Canadian citizens.

Ms. Harvey originally arrived in Kugluktuk as a registered nurse with the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and after three years she became the Kugluktuk Health Centre's nurse in charge. Several years ago, Barb became a community health nursing specialist. She works with other governmental and nursing departments and organizations on issues relating to the profession of nursing and nursing practices in Nunavut. And Mr. Speaker, after 20 years, she's still in Kugluktuk.

Barb has served on the board of the Registered Nurses Association for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (RNANTNU) for three terms and was a member of the practice taskforce of the Canadian Nurse Practitioner Initiative.

Ms. Harvey's extensive background in nursing and her contributions to the nursing profession in the North and across the country serve as a model of dedication and excellence, not just for the employees of the Nunavut Department of Health and Social Services, but for all Nunavummiut.



Mr. Speaker, once again I want to offer my congratulations to Barb on her national recognition on behalf of Nunavut and thank her for her continued contribution to the wellbeing of Nunavut's citizens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Environment, Minister Akesuk.

**Minister's Statement 136 – 2(4): Update on the Nunavut Adaptation Program 2008**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)  
Good afternoon, my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, in 2007, climate change adaptation workshops were held in three communities in Nunavut – Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay. We wanted to understand how climate change is impacting communities in each region, identify priority areas and increase a community's ability to adapt.

Last year, we also partnered with GN stakeholder departments, Natural Resources Canada, the Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office, and Memorial University to start research activities in Iqaluit, Clyde River, and Hall Beach. Through this project, we are attempting to integrate traditional knowledge and scientific research on climate change impacts. We hope this research will serve as a practical model on how to incorporate adaptation planning into community-based planning.

This March, a final climate change adaptation workshop will be held in Iqaluit, bringing together the elders and youth of Nunavut, who we hope will give us even more ideas.

Over the next three years, this project will be able to identify local climate change conditions, vulnerabilities, resiliency and adaptive strategies. We will be able to predict future conditions, support local planning processes, and produce networks of shared knowledge.

With the information collected from the workshops, research projects, and other sources, we anticipate a draft Adaptation Plan prepared by October 2008.

Climate change is affecting the way we live, work and play in Nunavut. The Nunavut Climate Change Adaptation Plan will be the first of many steps to come in climate change adaptation in Nunavut. With the support of Nunavummiut, along with the proper resources, tools, partnerships, and investments, we can address the issues of climate change today to prepare for a sustainable future in Nunavut tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Before I acknowledge anyone, Mr. Kattuk will eventually come in today and Mr. Evyagotailak is unable to attend this meeting until Thursday because there is a family member who is ill. Thank you.

Members' Statements. Member for the High Artic, Mr. Barnabas.

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

#### **Member's Statement 315 – 2(4): Shortage of Water in Community Reservoirs**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the shortage of water in the communities. Currently, in the High Arctic, in Grise Fiord, I was told that the water holding tank was 45 percent full and just as recent as last month, it was 35 percent full.

Mr. Speaker, during the spring, I do visit Igloolik once in a while to see my relatives living over there. Igloolik residents, when they lack snow in the wintertime, there is a shortage of water.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, a shortage of water is becoming a problem in my constituencies along with Nunavut communities, including Grise Fiord. Perhaps, the Igloolik residents and my constituency communities are suggesting that there would be a program where individuals go get ice and sell it to the communities.

In the Igloolik area, the hunters look for icebergs to get fresh drinking water for community use, and they use their own pocket money to buy their own fuel. They say that the climate is changing and that the glaciers are melting. So therefore, I believe we need to look into or consider looking at the communities to see if we can get an additional program like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

#### **Member's Statement 316 – 2(4): Gratitude to Municipal, Fuel Delivery, Airport and Housing Workers**

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to send my greetings to Baker Lake and I listened to Noah this morning and I was very pleased to hear you when you called this morning.

Yes, they say that the climate is changing. I would like to talk a bit about Baker Lake because it's inland and it gets extremely cold. Especially last month, in that time, the

blizzards are continuous and the coldest weather time of the year is minus 60 degrees Celsius with the wind chill, and it gets extremely cold when there are blizzard conditions because it gets quite windy.

I, too, would like to thank an individual in Baker Lake, especially the weather station, who works for the hamlet council because the hamlet council's heavy equipment is operational everyday even though the weather is extremely cold. They deliver water and they never run out of water in the homes, so I would like to thank the municipal services and also the mechanics, especially because the vehicles tend to break up during cold weather and they continue to work on them. Also, during the extreme cold, the fuel delivery guys continue to deliver fuel to our homes even though the weather is extremely cold, and also, they continue to maintain the airport and they continue to remove the snow. Also, the Housing Corporation staff worked extremely hard in cold weather to maintain homes.

I would like to thank all of the people who do municipal services in the community of Baker Lake and acknowledge them, especially those who have to work outside in the extreme cold. I would like to extend my appreciation to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

### **Member's Statement 317 – 2(4): Annual Drum Dancing Concert**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share with my colleagues that Repulse Bay has been chosen for the second time to host the Annual Drum Dancing Conference.

Mr. Speaker, this Drum Dancing Conference was started about six years ago. The first conference was held in Rankin Inlet, and each year, the board votes and selects where the next conference will take place.

Mr. Speaker, this conference will be held during the week of April 25 to May 2 of this year. There are usually about five or six people from each community in Nunavut who attend this conference. During the day, the conference participants share stories about the history of drum dancing and how they can promote drum dancing to our youth in Nunavut. During the evening, the participants perform drum dancing.

Mr. Speaker, our very own interpreter, Attima Hadlari, participates in this Drum Dancing Conference and I'm pretty sure he enjoys that, and I am proud of everyone that is making efforts to promote drum dancing in Nunavut and I look forward to Repulse Bay hosting this conference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 318 – 2(4): Tahera Diamond Mine Closure**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On August 17, 2006, the Tahera Diamond Mine was officially opened after many years of exploration, permitting and construction. Over 140 VIPs, including the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of Nunavut, flew in from across Canada for the ribbon cutting ceremony to open Nunavut's first diamond mine.

Mr. Speaker, the Tahera Diamond Mine was Nunavut's first mine to open since Nunavut was created and it came after the closure of three producing mines – Lupin, Polaris and Nanisivik.

Mr. Speaker, the Tahera Diamond Mine ushered in an era of hope for a prosperous future for many Kitikmeot residents and businesses. The Kitikmeot Inuit Association negotiated an Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement with the company that provided employment, training, scholarship, and contracting benefits.

Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot's hopes were short-lived.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut has vast mineral resources but they are difficult to access and mine. The conditions have to be right for a mine to have a chance to succeed. The Tahera Diamond Mine spent years in the permitting process, which was followed by a year of construction. However, they could not contend with Mother Nature, production issues, and global market forces.

Mr. Speaker, a warm 2006 winter shortened the shipping time on the Contwoyto winter road, resulting in Tahera receiving only 60 percent of its fuel re-supply. The company had to mine their lower grade diamonds during a period when the world demand for diamonds wasn't great. Skyrocketing global fuel costs and a rising Canadian loonie against the US dollar hurt them as well.

Mr. Speaker, the recent decision by Tahera to seek bankruptcy protection was the correct decision. However, it only crystallized the significant blow that the Kitikmeot economy has suffered. Many Kitikmeot residents lost their jobs and local businesses were left owed millions of dollars in unpaid bills.

Mr. Speaker, Tahera's misfortunes highlight the fact that mining is a cyclical industry where every misstep is magnified tenfold.

In Nunavut, it is extremely difficult and costly for a mining company to arrive at the production stage, but it might be even more challenging for them to remain in business and confer economic benefits on the Nunavut economy and increase shareholder wealth.

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

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, while Nunavut anticipates benefiting from a vibrant and growing mining industry, it is vitally important that the Government of Nunavut develop contingency plans to assist individuals and communities that are displaced by the closure of a major employer such as a mine.

Mr. Speaker, in January of this year, the federal government announced the creation of the new Community Development Trust.

The Prime Minister's announcement of this initiative indicated that, "Some communities are vulnerable because of their dependence on a single employer or a sector under pressure due to exchange rate fluctuations, declining demand notably in the U.S., or other factors. A base amount of \$10 million will be provided to each province and \$3 million to each territory, with the balance of the funding allocated on a per capita basis. This allocation will give all provinces and territories the capacity to respond to adjustment challenges."

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Government of Nunavut should consider using some of its allocation under this new fund to assist the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in wishing Tahera Diamond Mine success in developing a recovery plan for the Jericho Diamond Mine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 319 – 2(4): Response to Statement by the Member for Iqaluit West**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to respond to comments made by the Member for Iqaluit West at our sitting of Friday, February 22, 2008.

Mr. Speaker, I have now had the opportunity to review our *Hansard* from Friday's sitting. I would draw your attention to comments made by the member when he rose in his place to deliver Member's Statement 311 – 2(4).

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that he stated, and I'll quote:

“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...,” it goes on to say, “so I want to make that clear for the record and for the people of Nunavut not to be misled by well-meaning statements that they can use other technology today.”

Mr. Speaker, I also took the opportunity this weekend to review our *Hansard* from November 8, 2007. I would draw your attention to what I actually stated on that day for the public record when I delivered the Report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability on its review of Bill 13.

In my comments to the House, I simply noted that, and I’ll quote:

“Mr. Speaker, Bill 13 would allow regulations to be made to permit the sale of certain types of incandescent light bulbs to deal with certain situations, such as outdoor water service lighting.”

Mr. Speaker, I must say that when I first heard the comments by the Member for Iqaluit West, my initial thought was that the Minister of Energy might want to raise a point of order.

As the Minister of Energy will recall, in his own correspondence to the standing committee of August 29, 2007, concerning Bill 13, he indicated, and again I’ll quote:

“The proposed legislation does take into account the realities of Nunavut’s climate and other circumstances in that it allows exemptions for uses such as you mention, namely in outdoor water service lighting.”

Mr. Speaker, at the time that I presented the committee’s report, I did not hear any concerns expressed by the government with respect to the accuracy of what we reported.

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

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that further work is indeed required to bring forward better legislation in this area, and I applaud the Minister of Energy for having seen the light.

Mr. Speaker, to conclude, my comments to the House, which I delivered to the committee as a chair of the standing committee, were in no way misleading and I hope that this clarifies the record. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Member's Statement 320 – 2(4): Young People & Elders' Sporting Event at Gjoa Haven**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to tell members about an important event which took place in Gjoa Haven on January 19 and 20 involving youth and elders in a sporting event.

Mr. Speaker, a volleyball tournament took place with five teams taking part. What made this tournament special was that the teams were made up of a combination of youth and elders. This shows that youth and elders can work together while having fun and it also speaks well to the healthy community principle which we are striving for.

It shows that our youth and elders can work together happily and laugh together as well, in sports and in our lives. I would like to commend the Gjoa Haven youth and elders as they created a fun tournament showcasing the cooperation of different generations.

I would like to thank the volleyball coach who works at the hamlet, Paul Puqiqnak, for organizing events such as this for the residents of Gjoa Haven because it promotes good sportsmanship and living together in harmony. I would also like to thank him for his good organizational skills. As well, I want to recognize the volunteers from the hamlet as they work for the betterment of the people and I wanted to acknowledge them. Again, I thank Paul Puqiqnak and the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Item 3. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Akesuk.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize individuals from the Workers' Compensation Board Governance Council: Chairperson Denny Rogers from Inuvik; Vice-Chair Shona Barkley from Iqaluit; John Dinner, Governance Advisor to the Governance Council from Ontario; and also the President of the Workers' Compensation Board and Chief Executive Officer, Anne Clark, and her husband Ryerson Clark from Yellowknife. Welcome to the Gallery. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I would also like to welcome the television audience. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

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

#### **Question 396 – 2(4): Conditions at the Repulse Bay Airport**

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

Mr. Speaker, concerns have been raised with me regarding conditions at the Repulse Bay Airport. There are a number of abandoned drums at the airport and at least one abandoned aircraft wreck. The drums were buried under the runway a number of years ago to help keep the surface level, and the community is concerned that they may be leaking.

Can the minister indicate to me whether his department is aware of the conditions at the Repulse Bay Airport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have any information from Repulse Bay but if there is a safety concern and if there is leakage, they would let me know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that it is very important to have the runway at least studied. Will the minister commit to working with his counterpart in the Department of Environment to undertake an assessment and clean-up at the airport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could commit to working with the Department of Environment in regard to the conditions of the Repulse Bay Airport. Thank you.

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



**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister. Can the minister indicate to me how his department works with municipalities to ensure that our airports do not suffer from environmental contaminants? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we're going to be making airport runways and roads, there is usually an environmental assessment done prior to getting any work done.

I think it would be better if you refer those questions to the appropriate minister. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Can the minister indicate to me what training is provided to local airport workers to help them identify potential environmental hazards? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser**: Mr. Speaker, I do not have anything in my notes regarding what the member is inquiring about, so I will have to get back to the member. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. He will come back to you once he has the information. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

#### **Question 397 – 2(4): Update on Safe Harbour Proposal for Arviat**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, in December of 2005, I tabled a number of photographs showing the terrible damage suffered by boats in Arviat due to the fact that there is no safe harbour there.

(interpretation ends) Last September I was very pleased to see the plans and drawings for the safe harbour proposal for Arviat presented at a public meeting by a contracted engineering company in Arviat. Based on those plans, construction on this project can now proceed. (interpretation) That's what we heard and we were told that construction would start shortly thereafter.

(interpretation ends) I am aware that the Government of Nunavut continues to lobby the federal government for funding for small craft harbours. Although Arviat is not included in the list of priority communities, I am sure the minister is aware that the community of Arviat desperately needs a safe harbour.

Can the minister update this House on his progress in accessing federal funding for building small craft harbours in Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is going to be a long day, I believe.

Mr. Speaker, we are waiting for the federal government and I understand that they will be announcing their budget within the next day or so, and we hope to hear their plans with the small craft harbour developments for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister provide an update on the progress in getting a safe harbour built in the community of Arviat? There are a lot of boat owners and they were anxious to see a safe harbour built in their community, so can the minister give us an update? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I concur with the member. We usually set aside \$1 million and if it's not too expensive, we can start working on a safe harbour in Arviat. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year, we saw some documents outlining the plans and it also identified which communities would get those facilities and in which year, and I'm sure that the plans have changed to date. When will the minister make a public announcement of all small craft harbour projects that will be undertaken across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would like to see safe harbours and docking facilities in all the Nunavut communities, but we, as the

government, cannot work alone without support from the federal government. I would like to work with Members of this Legislative Assembly to lobby the federal government, but as this time, we have no resources to build anything.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you. It was very expensive also for the consulting firm, engineers, surveyors, and so on, when the plans were getting prepared. I'm sure that you have all documentation and you can also use part of the \$241 million that we received from the federal government. What's going to happen with all of the plans that were finalized? Is there any money to pay for those? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe he is talking about the Building Canada Fund and it would have to be approved by the members. At this time, I cannot make any commitment in regard to the Arviat Safe Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. Simailak.

### **Question 398 – 2(4): Update on the Meadowbank Mine Training**

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

My question is in regard to Meadowbank, which, I believe, will be starting their development and I heard that they will be employing approximately 300 people.

Could the minister give us an update on Meadowbank and the training opportunities that will be coming out through this mining development? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're quite excited throughout Nunavut with the opportunity that we have with mining development. Indeed, we have actually unveiled, as the member knows and the members know, our Adult Learning Strategy. We've also put in place, based in Rankin Inlet, where we're going to be putting a new trades school and that construction will start this summer, a Director of Mines Training and so on, for across Nunavut; mines training and apprenticeship training.

At the same time, Meadowbank, specifically, Mr. Speaker, we've had an opportunity to bring several people out of Baker Lake and graduated through our Heavy Equipment

Operator Program. All of those people are qualified, indeed, they have national certification. That's part of the work that we've done.

I would hope to be in a position, Mr. Speaker, probably in April after the House finishes here in the middle of March, to be meeting with some of the mine officials, like we did two weeks ago with the Baffinland people here in Iqaluit, to talk about specific training initiatives that they would request to us as a government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the trades school in Rankin Inlet, I hear that construction is going to start this summer. There's an Arctic College facility in Baker Lake and there's a lot of room to house students. I think it would be best to have the training held in Baker Lake until the trades school is completed. When is the training going to start? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had an opportunity to go through the Community Learning Centre in Baker Lake with the member last year, and indeed, what we're trying to put in place right now, and it should start this September of 2008, is a Pre-Mines Training Access Program. What that program would do at the community level, Mr. Speaker, is to familiarize students with opportunities that present themselves in the mining field.

When we talk about mines today, Mr. Speaker, we're not just talking about the old traditional pick and shovel jobs in some hole somewhere. What happens right now, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about mines, we're talking about the whole gambit of professions that would be included, for example, heavy equipment operators, administrative people, support staff, we would be looking at all types of computer generated systems that would need to be run at a mine site, and indeed, power plants would be needed to provide electricity, so you're looking at diesel mechanics and so on. So there's a wealth of opportunity there.

What we need to do is make sure that for people in Nunavut who want to take part in an exciting world that's happening for us here, through the Mines Training Strategy that we have put in place and our Adult Learning Strategy, is to raise the bars in where we get more of our students with grade 10, 11, and 12 so they can actually take on some more of these other opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Did the Department of Education meet with the mining companies to see how much it would cost to facilitate

training projects and other issues so that the young people in Baker Lake could go to work in the mining companies and get some training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the Director of Mines Training that we have on the ground in Rankin Inlet has been very proactive, especially in the Kivalliq region, facilitating meetings with the mining companies and looking at their training needs and training needs specifically. Again, Mr. Speaker, that's something that is occurring on an ongoing and go forward basis.

In the community of Rankin Inlet, we have that program that we have talked about that has won an award, the NECIS system, which matches the community skills inventory of what not only academic but also vocational experience that the people have and we're able to match that with a given employer, for example, in the community.

We know that Baker Lake is one of the communities where you actually have quite a few people on the ground that are trained and ready to go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister of Education go to Baker Lake and meet with the District Education Authority and the hamlet council as soon as he can to see what is happening and so that he could be involved in the process? Will he be able to attend and come to Baker Lake as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. As I was saying earlier, once the House is finished in March, we're looking at end of March and April an opportunity to visit different communities in Nunavut, look at mine training and meet with mining companies.

As I said earlier, we had an opportunity about two weeks ago to sit down here at the Legislative Assembly with Baffinland to look at some of their opportunities. Our next effort is to go into the Kivalliq and we also have a commitment on the table to be in the Kitikmeot and meet with some of the mining interests there too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 399 – 2(4): Details of the Business Training Tax Credit Program**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Finance, and before I give my questions, I would like to say hi to Brian and the crew down at the Grind and Brew.

Mr. Speaker, in the minister's Budget Address, he indicated that they're going to be bringing forward a new Business Training Tax Credit that would encourage and reward businesses to develop a Nunavut workforce, and it indicates that a credit equal up to 30 percent of eligible expenditures would be available to businesses that are based in the territory and provide qualified training.

I'm just wondering if the minister could expand on that a little more and give us a little more detail as to exactly what's involved in this program, if they have a budget amount for it; how much they have set aside, is there a cap on it, and what those eligible expenses are going to be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2008, the expenditure estimates are exactly as they are shown. For instance, if businesses wish to have a training program for new employees, then the government would pay 30 percent of the cost for up to six months of training. We are trying something new with the small businesses; if they're involved in the training program, we will be paying up to 30 percent towards the training of the students for a six-month term.

Also, for other types of employees, if he or she is working in a business and if they wanted further training outside of their job, then they would be subsidized by the Government of Nunavut to further their education in business of up to \$2,000 for the Business Training Tax Credit. This would be a subsidy for the businesses, 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. I'm just wondering if he could clarify; in here it talks about a tax credit, so there is no real subsidy paid out to any of the businesses. He had indicated in his response that there would be a subsidy.

So I'm just wondering: is it just the tax credit under this program for those expenses that he had talked about? I know there are already existing programs in place, but I'm just wondering if they're going to be the same eligible expenses as the existing programs, or if there are going to be any new areas that are identified to be eligible expenses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a government, we have subsidies in three categories of what are eligible expenses. I just want to summarize the three categories.

Employee salaries are included in the subsidies, as well as various northern allowances, things like for housing, and others such as air fare necessary for the training outside of their workplace, and if they wanted to further their education.

So the total budget from the government subsidy, if that person is going to further their education, once that person is in place, and once they finish their training program and are back to their workplace, then they would be able to be credited in that category for their tax credits once they get back to the workforce. So we would be able to say... I don't really know how to say this in Inuktitut, but it's an investment, meaning that the money we are spending on this program would benefit us in the long run and that's how it would be set up, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that it's hard to determine what the costs to the government on this program would be; it's something we wouldn't find out until the following year as it depends on how many businesses took part in the program. Can the minister indicate if the department has developed any kind of information package to go out to businesses outlining this new program so that they fully understand what's out there and what they may be able to claim credit for under the program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we have planned in the budget for training programs, the Department of Education already has programs with respect to those and we're trying to work together with them on this.

Mr. Speaker, we are expecting the plan and the programs to be ready this coming fall for the Business Training Tax Credit. At this time, we are trying to figure out what people think if such a program was being offered where a tax credit would be available for training. Before that is done, we're able to provide support through what we already have in place, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I guess the minister has indicated that they don't really have a general outline of what's going to be covered under that program and they probably won't until the fall.

I'm just wondering if this tax credit is starting this fiscal year, for the 2008 year. So I'm just wondering: how are they going to ensure that the businesses are aware, between now and the fall, if they engage in any kind of training opportunities for their employees, if they potentially may be able to get a credit for those expenses prior to the information on exactly what the criteria is going to be being put out there?

I'm just wondering if the minister would commit to informing businesses in some way of informing them to let them know that "These are the general criteria that we're looking at and we're defining it, if you're not sure about something, hang on to all of your receipts and things like that," so that when the program guidelines do finally come out in the fall, that they may be able to capitalize on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree with the member. My colleague from Economic Development and Transportation and I will be able to work on this together because the employees working outside of government within businesses, who also require assistance for training, need to be informed of the programs available for them, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Oral Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

#### **Question 400 – 2(4): Funding for Replacement of Grise Fiord Office**

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

Mr. Speaker, in the 2008-09 Budget Address, the minister stated that the government's office will be replaced in my constituency of Grise Fiord. When can we see the funding in place to replace that building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Community and Government Services is in the process of making those plans, but I believe that during this session, we'll be able to get more information, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, they are using this building even though it has been closed and condemned by the government. It is still being used by entities that don't have insurance, such as the Hunters and Trappers Organization and the MLO.

And also, the agencies, such as the Nunavut Power Corporation, that have full insurance had to be moved because this building was condemned. If there happens to be a fire or if there was an accident within the building, what kind of insurance contingency do you have for that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I can't give you a guesstimate. I can't guess a response for you at this time, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This situation has been occurring for quite some time but we're lucky that there haven't been any fires and no one has been hurt in that building.

However, I would like to ask a question. We are experiencing a shortage of offices in that community, and with the lack of office space, some staff are forced to move out of the hamlet office. What kind of plans does your department have? How much funding will you be providing for that office? Do you already have plans, or a set amount of money to be used for that building? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Community and Government Services should respond to that because we don't have that information within the Department of Finance, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 401 – 2(4): Community Development Fund**

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier today, in my Member's Statement, I spoke about the Tahera Diamond Mine closure. They're in bankruptcy protection until June 2008. I also mentioned there were jobs lost in Cambridge Bay and businesses were hurt. In my

Member's Statement, I mentioned the federal government's announcement in January about a Community Development Trust that is targeted at communities that are vulnerable because of their dependence on a single employer or sector under pressure due to exchange rate fluctuations, declining demand, notably in the U.S., or other factors. I also mentioned that there is \$3 million to each territory in per capita funding after that.

So my question for the Minister of Finance is: has the Government of Nunavut determined how it will use its share of the Community Development Trust funds when the federal budget is approved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) At this time, we haven't identified or received the money yet from the Government of Canada as far as the monies to be set aside by legislation. So we're waiting for the money. We will be entitled to about \$3.8 million out of the fund. So we're hoping that it will be passed before any election is called so we can utilize the dollars that have been identified. (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 answering my question. I certainly hope that that money is approved by the federal government because Cambridge Bay could sure use some help, not just Cambridge Bay but the entire Kitikmeot, because employees and businesses that are affected come from right across the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, my next question for the Minister of Finance: can the minister tell the House if there's a special committee within the Government of Nunavut that is specifically tasked to help communities address emergency situations when a major employer, such as a mine, ceases operations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) We have gone through a number of closures, unfortunately, during our two tenures of government. We usually form a committee with ED&T and they work out, with Environment, what needs to be done and we try to find ways to take advantage of opportunities that come our way with closures, whether it be cleaning up operations, or trying to make the best of the situation.

So I'm sure that we will start working on that as a government. We are hopeful that the company will come out of bankruptcy protection and continue production, but at this time, it is hard to say. (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 for that answer. I guess I will ask the Premier directly instead of the Minister of Finance. Can the Premier tell me and tell the House if the Department of Finance has calculated the financial impact that the closure of the Tahera Diamond Mine would have on Nunavut's economy, and if so, what is it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm not aware of any calculations at this time but we're all hopeful that the company will recover. We're all trying to remain optimistic but it's a difficult situation. We're all hopeful that things don't turn that way and we'll continue to try and assist the company in our own ways to try and regain stability. 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 answer. I guess we're all hopeful that Tahera can survive and come out of bankruptcy protection with a recovery plan and carry on in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, my next question for the Premier: can the Premier tell me if Tahera Diamond Mine has contacted the Government of Nunavut for any financial help to keep their mine open, and if so, was any financial help provided? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I'm aware that they want to try and get our fuel tax rebate in place. We had approached them prior to this that we would like to get a Development Agreement to take advantage of the fuel tax rebate but there's no agreement in place yet.

In its place, we have been trying to offer help in terms of identifying other ways of taking advantage of the fuel tax rebate. So we're hopeful that we can get an agreement so that we can do our part and get them assistance at this time, but other than that, I'm not aware of any other ways that we can help them at this time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Members, as I stated earlier before, I wanted to thank Mr. Kattuk for coming back and thank him for coming straight to the Legislative Assembly.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral Questions. Mr. Kattuk.

**Question 402 – 2(4): Update on Polar Bear Study at Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel welcome here, too, but I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Environment.

I know that he knows the response to the question that I'm about to pose because, in the earlier days, we met with the HTO in Sanikiluaq in regard to polar bear management. As he stated at that meeting that there's going to be research or a survey done on the polar bears and that the research was going to be completed by 2008, my first question is: has that research been completed yet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk, and welcome. Minister of Environment, Minister Akasuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Ontario Government did a survey close to Belcher Islands, but within this year, we want to start a survey, including Sanikiluaq and the Foxe Basin area, a polar bear survey along the Foxe Basin area, including the Sanikiluaq region and the survey will also include Belcher Islands. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regards to the research that was done previously, what were the results? What were the findings on the numbers of polar bears at that time? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you. The research that was done previously, to date, we still have not seen the results yet, but I can look into where they're at with their research and what the results have been. Once I get the results, I will inform the member.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister stated that his department will do a survey or research the polar bears, can the minister tell me at what level will the researchers do their study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We usually do a three-year survey on each management area. So after the three-year research has been completed, we'll have the results. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. In regard to the statement that you made about the results from the previous survey, once you get the results, could you commit to providing that information to me and to the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, once I receive the results, I will provide that copy to you. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 403 – 2(4): Update on Inuujaq School Conditions**

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

Mr. Speaker, can the minister provide an update of the foundation and the problems at the Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been some serious ongoing issues with the foundation of the school in Arctic Bay. We've had a team of technical experts, Mr. Speaker, go into the community and review the situation. We believe that we will be able to rectify those concerns this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How much money will be used to fix the problem there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What's happened in Arctic Bay is there has been what is referred to as permafrost destabilization. Because of that permafrost destabilization, indeed, part of the school had moved off kilter, as it were, which caused a lot of problems inside the school itself. It's an expensive problem to fix; right now, Mr. Speaker, we have an estimate of about \$950,000, almost \$1 million to fix that problem.

We also have seen other schools and other infrastructure in Nunavut, whether through global warming, climate change, or what have you, there have been issues with the destabilization of permafrost and that is the case in Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 404 – 2(4): Overview of Presentation to Senate Committee on Poverty**

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

Mr. Speaker, I raised the issue of poverty in the House on Friday.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to read that the minister addressed the Senate Committee on poverty on Thursday while they were in town. Poverty is a crisis situation that affects many of my constituents and quite a few other folks across Nunavut. I wonder if the minister could take some time to provide the House with a short overview of his presentation that he made to the Senate Committee on the issue of poverty in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had a prepared statement; I believe it was 10 or 12 pages and I actually got away from the prepared statement and actually spoke.

I would suggest to you, from some personal knowledge of the situation of poverty and homelessness in Nunavut, what I tried to explain to the Senators, first of all, it's not acceptable that when you have a senior parliamentary body, like the Senate of Canada, decide when the majority of the members decide not to come to Nunavut because it's too expensive for them to come here to hear from rural and northern areas of Canada about poverty and so on.

What I tried to do is frame it in that light and suggest to them that there are a lot of issues around poverty. The first part of poverty is when you deal with the many socio-economic factors that many people in Nunavut are dealing with, which includes overcrowded houses and a lack of a sustainable infrastructure system.

In the south, Mr. Speaker, it's very important to point out, that the federal government maintains the Trans-Canada Highway from coast to coast, and indeed, up the Mackenzie Valley. In Nunavut, we have no highways, so we would expect to have that type of infrastructure supports.

So there was a lot of discussion around the socio-economic impacts of poverty in the north – overcrowding, homelessness, and the lack of infrastructure – which leads to some of the economic issues that we have been talking about in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that brief overview. I'm sure he would speak eloquently and much longer if we gave him the time.

Mr. Speaker, I have used this chart over the last couple of days to highlight the serious issues that we have here in Nunavut; it's statistics from the National Council on Welfare and it shows the provinces' and territories' issue on poverty. There are some very alarming welfare stats for Nunavut.

While most other provinces and territories, as of March 31, 2005, showed a decrease or a negligible increase, Nunavut required a whopping 60.5 percent increase, showing that nearly 44 percent of Nunavut's population is on welfare.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister: can the minister confirm if these numbers are the same figures that his own department is seeing? Why is nearly half of our population on welfare? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of those numbers are misleading. What happens in Nunavut, unlike anywhere else in the rest of Canada as the example, is that the only strong economic opportunities that we have in our communities is on a seasonal basis and that's usually during the construction season from May to September.

At that time, in most of our communities we have an opportunity for outfitting, there are tourism opportunities, construction, as we said, and so on. Because of that, more people are actually involved in the wage economy.

Once the fall comes and the winter and so on, a lot of those opportunities dry up, so there is a need for more people in Nunavut to access income support to be able to maintain their families.

So, Mr. Speaker, the quick numbers are that there was a \$7 million increase in actual income support monies paid out from 1999 to 2006-07 during that eight-year period.

Also, at any given time, the numbers that we have demonstrate that about 48 percent of Nunavummiut would be uptaking on the Income Support Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I'm glad that the minister mentioned income support programs. Since I've been a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I have seen the Income Support Program increase significantly. That's over four years.

Having looked through the Department of Education's budget for 2008-09, I see that there's a hefty increase of \$4 million to the Income Support Program which will bring it to over \$30 million annually. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it is one of the Government of Nunavut's biggest cost items, probably second only to medical travel.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House if he thinks that massive annual increases every year in the Income Support Program are sustainable to address the poverty issue in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think, quickly, when we look at the numbers, the numbers can be a little bit misleading.

I'm sure the member remembers that we actually increased the amounts paid out by 15 percent, meaning we increased the amounts that people would be eligible for by 15 percent. Therefore and thus, you would expect that the amounts of monies in the budget itself would increase by that same number.

After saying that, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to note that we do see a need for an Income Support Program in Nunavut. That program and support is a program of last resort for Nunavummiut, meaning they haven't an opportunity for full wage employment, or indeed, maybe have not qualified for unemployment insurance or another similar program that would be eligible for them.

The other point to make is that we have such a young population, Mr. Speaker. Many of our population are between the ages of 18 and over and because there is no opportunity for employment, they have to have an uptake on the Income Support Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. Mr. Speaker, I don't think anyone doubts that we need an Income Support Program but we need a sustainable Income Support Program and the increases are very substantial every year.

Mr. Speaker, last year, the Government of the Northwest Territories conducted an extensive review of their programs and support for those on the lower end of the socio-economic scale in the Northwest Territories and they focused on poverty or those in poverty.

The Government of the Northwest Territories drew information about all of their programs together and the results were comprehensive and sweeping changes to the whole range of the services offered to folks who are in the lower end of the socioeconomic scale.

In Nunavut, we have similar programs and similar socio-economic challenges. My question for the minister: can the minister tell the House, does he see an urgent need for a similar extensive review of Government of Nunavut programs and services that are targeted to help folks who are in the poverty range? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the point to make here very quickly is that the issue around poverty is real in the north, not just as the member has mentioned in Nunavut but in the Northwest Territories and in rural remote parts of Canada, and that was what the Senate Committee last week was doing here.

We need to be able to look at the socio-economic factors that cause the issue of poverty. First and foremost, we have to deal with the issue around housing, and we know that overcrowded housing and so on; people not having enough to eat; the lack of economic opportunities; those are the three major areas where you need to be able to look at. How do we increase that?

We have, for example, undertaken 700 new houses; we've put an apprenticeship training program in place at the local level; more local people will be working on those construction projects; we have put programs in place under the Income Support Program, like being able to help people if they see a job in another community, we help them make that move with transitional allowance for that; we put programs in place under the income support for young girls, for example, who have found themselves in the family way, who are pregnant, so that they could actually find daycare and be able to go back to school.

So we need to be able to look at those types of factors; education, as well as the other socio-economic factors. That type of review is ongoing within the department but also throughout the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would like to remind the members to keep their questions and supplementary questions as short as possible and that also goes for the responses.

Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Question 405 – 2(4): Capital Estimates Approved Last Fall**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Finance, again dealing with his Budget Address for this O&M budget that we're looking at here as it seems to be consumed a lot by capital projects. In his Budget Address, he had indicated that the members had approved \$98.3 million in capital projects.

I'm just wondering if he could confirm if that's the capital budget that we approved last fall and that it does not include all of the new items that he mentioned in his Budget Address. If he could provide us with a revised number would be with all of those new announcements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the session, we identified everything that was slated for capital projects in the regions, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would assume that that number is going to jump considerably when they bring... I assume that the minister meant that he would be bringing forward a Supplementary Appropriation Bill to deal with those projects.

Mr. Speaker, I know last year we approved a little over \$88 million in capital carryovers for projects that weren't being completed, and I know that his predecessor had indicated that, over the past two years, capital carryovers have increased significantly. I'm just wondering if the minister is confident that all of these capital projects, not only the \$98.3 million but the new ones that were announced in his Budget Address, are something that can actually be achieved in the coming year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we will work extremely hard to implement all of the programs, and if we need additional human resources, we will do so, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know in the past we have seen a lot of projects that have been delayed or postponed due to lack of funding, and I know that there have been budgeted amounts, and each department, we heard in the fall, has been coming back and saying they're finding projects coming back in on tenders anywhere from 30 to 50 to 100 percent higher than what was actually budgeted for.

If that happens with these new projects, would the minister commit to coming back to the full Assembly to decide on which projects go ahead and which ones don't so it's not just the Members of Cabinet that can pick and choose which capital projects get delayed and which ones don't, and that it would be something that all members would have a say in? 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 think we'll see any further changes. When we're dealing with the capital estimates, usually there are working groups that deal with the capital projects, and I don't think we'll see much of a change with that.

We have working groups who deal with those and all Members of the Legislative Assembly will be given an opportunity to have their say when we're dealing with the capital estimates, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the point I'm trying to make is that over the last few years, we have seen projects being put off. This year and last year, a lot of projects have been put on and I know I have questioned in the past the accuracy of the budgeted amounts for those projects when they have been continually coming in significantly over budget on the bids.

All of the Members of this Assembly vote on the capital budget and if there is only enough money in there to do half of it when all of the tenders come in, all of the Members of the Assembly don't have a say in which half of those projects move ahead. That's what I'm looking for, Mr. Speaker, is a commitment from the Minister of Finance that if something like that were to occur, as it has in the past, that it come back to the entire Assembly, as a whole, to decide on which projects move forward and which ones don't. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. We will be looking at the items. We would like to make sure that the projects go ahead. We will do a review and we will also be looking at how we can best proceed.

We have a working group already who reviews the list and they are representing the different departments. I don't think we can make too many changes at this point and we will be using the same process, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members, Question Period is now over. We will go ahead with our 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. Minister of Finance and CLEY, Minister Tapardjuk.

#### **Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

##### **Tabled Document 179 – 2(4): Crown Agencies Council Activities Report from April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following: Crown Agencies Council Activities Report for Year Ending March 31, 2007.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Please bring the documents to the table.

Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Finance and CLEY, Minister Tapardjuk.

##### **Tabled Document 180 – 2(4): 2007-2008 Letters of Expectation to Crown Agencies**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following: the 2007-2008 Letters of Expectation to the five territorial corporations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Please bring the documents to the table.

Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

##### **Tabled Document 181 – 2(4): Correspondence from Standing Committee Regarding “Energy Efficiency Act” Bill 13**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to table copies of correspondence between the Minister of Energy and myself, as the Chair of the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Accountability, concerning Bill 13. The first letter is dated August 23, 2007, from the standing committee to the minister and his response of August 29, 2007, from the minister to the standing committee.

I would encourage all members and ministers to carefully note the minister's comments on page three of his letter to the committee in which he acknowledges the need for any legislation in this area to, and I quote again, "take into account the realities of Nunavut's climate and allow exemptions for uses such as you mentioned namely in water LED service lighting." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Please bring the documents to the table.

Thank you. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 23, 24, and 25.

Before we proceed with Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break and when we return, Mr. Arreak will be in the Chair.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 15:14 and Committee resumed at 15:42*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Arreak)(interpretation): Thank you for coming back. We are going to start our Committee of the Whole proceedings. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. 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. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to commence with the review of Bill 23 and the Main Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Does the committee agree to proceed 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:** Thank you. I have a few remarks to make. Before we begin line-by-line proceedings, I have an announcement to make.

Members will have noted that in the 2008-09 main estimates, information concerning departmental grants and contributions has been included at the end of each department's main estimates.

Additional information for members was distributed as a separate item at this morning's meeting of the Regular Members' Caucus. This information indicates in which departmental branch a grant and contribution line item is located.

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

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

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Alex Campbell, the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services. To my right is Raj Downe, she is the Assistant Deputy Minister to Health and Social Services. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. We're dealing with Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. On page H-4 of the main estimates. Are there any more questions on this page? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister's officials back. I just have a few questions in regard to that page in the business plan. Mr. Chairman, there's a line item that increased about \$2.4 million from last year and that's ADM Programs and Services. I'm just wondering if we could get an indication of what that increase of \$2.4 million is for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the member just outline which line item? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Directorate in the business plan, it's on page H-14, where you'll see there's an increase of \$2.4 million for ADM Programs and Standards. That's what I was looking for with that.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to ask Alex to go through that change. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The increase to the ADM Programs and Standards are as a result of realigning the responsibilities for the department.

Previously, the ADM of Corporate Services only had two divisions reporting to that position, which was Finance and HR. We have realigned the department where now the ADM of Programs and Services is responsible for other program standards divisions like the Public Health Division, as well as the Mental Health Division, Social Services and the like.

So we're realigning the department to have more of a balance through the two ADMs. The ADM of Operations, who is going to be responsible for more of the operational arm of the department, including the three regional centres as well as the regional offices, and \$2.4 million of that funding is to implement the Public Health Strategy as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Campbell for that response. There is a whole Public Health Division in the department, and I know that one of the things that have been mentioned by the minister in the past is that this whole Public Health Strategy is there and there is all this money for it. However, in that actual area in the budget there are only a couple of areas where there are increases.

Maybe if we could get an explanation as to why that \$2.4 million is being put in there and not into the Public Health Division in the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask the ADM, Raj, to answer that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Downe.

**Ms. Downe:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$2.4 million of that is currently just parked in the ADM of Programs and Standards and as we start implementing the Public Health

Strategy, that funding would be moved into the Public Health Branch of the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Downe. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that response. I know in the Public Health Division there are: health promotion, information research, the TB program, health protection, environmental health, communicable disease control, and the Chief Medical Officer of Health, along with nutrition.

I'm just wondering if the minister or her officials could indicate which areas they're looking at and then how much they're looking at targeting towards each of those areas out of that \$2.4 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask the assistant deputy minister to provide the breakdown of the \$2.4 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Downe.

**Ms. Downe:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$2.4 million is divided; as the strategy gets implemented, we will be using \$50,000 for each community for strengthening the community in helping them develop the Community Wellness Program. We will be providing greater support to the Community of Health Committees for their travel and help support them to manage the start of their committee for another \$210,000. We are going to have Community Staff Development Officers for a total of \$600,000, again, to support the Communities of Council, and we are going to establish an Epidemiologist Program, which is a total of \$120,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Downe. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that response. I'm just wondering, under Directorate and under the Grants and Contributions, I believe there's \$200,000 in there for those Communities of Council. Based on what was just mentioned, will that amount be doubling another \$210,000 or is that per community? Can I just get clarification? I heard \$50,000 a community and then I heard \$210,000, so I just want to get clarification there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it is right now, the Health Committees in the communities receive \$2,000 annually to operate. Under the Public Health Strategy, there are a number of initiatives in there that recommend the development of community-based wellness initiatives and there other recommendations



in the Public Health Strategy for initiatives that we're looking at implementing in keeping people well.

So the investment is to strengthen the role of Health Committees at the community level. We're looking at approximately \$50,000 per community to develop those wellness plans that are based on community needs and community identification. And, if Alex wants to... I think that answers the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask the minister or her officials when the communities will be able to start seeing that funding flow for those purposes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The implementation plan for the Public Health Strategy is in the works. We're hoping, shortly after the main estimates are approved in this House, we will be able to start going into the communities to develop those community-based plans and the training, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I just want to go back and get a clarification. Mr. Campbell had indicated earlier that the increase was partially due to the realignment of the department.

I'm just wondering if they could indicate if they have taken some of the responsibilities that were part of Corporate Services and moved them into that particular area, and if so, how much, if there's a dollar figure, was transferred over out of Corporate Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Raj respond to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Downe.

**Ms. Downe:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This year, we have had a major realignment of the various branches. As far as Public Health is concerned, we did not make a lot of changes to that. We are just in the process of getting that \$2.4 million to the whole strategy; to the whole public health area.

Yes, the \$2.4 million is new money; it's not from an existing budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought I heard Mr. Campbell say earlier that as part of the realignment, they took some of the responsibilities out of Corporate Services and moved them into that area.

Could I get confirmation if that was, in fact, a correct understanding or not, and as a result of those transferred responsibilities, how much money went along with that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have the deputy minister speak to the reorganization of the department. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Just to clarify, the department went through reorganization at the program level last summer. The Assistant Deputy Minister of Programs and Standards now has Mental Health as part of her portfolio, Population Health, Social Programs, such as the Director of Social Programs reporting to her, and we also have Professional Practice now reporting to her.

Reporting directly to me are the two ADMs, along with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Director of Medical Services, and the Director of Policy, Planning and Evaluation. As well, I have the Executive Director of Corporate Services reporting to the deputy minister.

Included in that Corporate Services section now is Health Information, which is the IT component of our department, Human Resources, as well as Finance; whatever was left over from the transfer to the Department of Finance, which is the processing unit that went across. We still have the Director of Finance, the Budget Officer, the Finance Officer, and a few other staff who are at headquarters as well as the regional centres.

We do have the Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations who is responsible for the territorial pharmacy issues, the hospital here in Iqaluit, as well as the three regional centres and having three executive directors reporting to him directly.

In that process, we have made some adjustment in the budget for 2008-09, which is now reflective of some of those changes that we're making as our recommendations to the Committee of the Whole.

Regarding the specific transfers of how much; as we work through the exercise, then we can explain the individual as what we have been trying to do just to clarify some of those transfers here and there.

As a department, we try to identify those areas that were controllable issues that we have been transferring. Like, if we needed extra money in certain areas, we looked at some of the controllable expenses like travel expenses, excluding medical travel, material purchases and stuff like that. We tried to zero in on those kinds of budgetary issues when we were trying to reallocate the budget in the department.

So that's what we have tried to do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another area that has about a \$4 million increase is Corporate Services. I'm just wondering if I could get an explanation as to why that's increased by \$4 million given the fact that the 20 of the Corporate Services were all of the finance positions that were transferred from the Department of Health out of Corporate Services, and I think it was about \$1.3 million that was transferred out of Health over to the Department of Finance.

I'm just wondering what the significant increase is there given that 20 of the PYs that were in that division before have been transferred over to the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Raj to answer that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Downe.

**Ms. Downe:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Corporate Services section was reorganized and that includes all the kinds of corporate services' functions in that area, which includes Human Resources, Health Information, which is IT, and then the leftover of the finance section. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if those other two areas, Health Information and Human Resources, were included under Corporate Services in the previous year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask the deputy minister to answer that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Corporate Services had two programs reporting to that previously which were Human Resources as well as the IT function of the department.

What we have done now is we have reallocated the workload across the department and we're trying to realign the program responsibilities to the proper branches. We do have the Executive Director of Corporate Services that, like I have said, now is responsible for HR, is responsible for the finance section, and is responsible for the IT unit of the department. Before this it was called the Regional Corporate Operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Never mind the little semantics in the name change, I guess what you said is Regional Corporate Operations, I believe, is the term you used. Is that basically what happened; the name was changed and it's just called Corporate Services now? Was I correct in hearing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** I will ask the deputy minister to respond to that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the old organization structure here, so I'll just qualify my answer by saying what we're proposing now is a reorganization of the department to include an ADM now responsible for Operations and an ADM responsible for Programming Standards. I have the Executive Director of Corporate Services now responsible for Finance, HR, and IT.

I'll get back to the member on specifically what the structure was for the reorganization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan under Corporate Services, it's on H-15 in our version, it might be one or two pages off in their version, it said that problems in the past, but it's showing for the previous year, for the 2007-08 year, it was \$13,753,000, so they get that increase of \$4 million going to the \$17.6 million. That \$13 million that was there in last year's amount that's showing in there, did that include those 20 PYs that were transferred over to the Department of Finance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if that \$13 million there includes the positions that transferred over to Finance. If I remember correctly, the Supplementary Bill was introduced I think it was in June transferring the money. So in the old business plan, we would report the old figure that had originally been approved.

So I'll just have to clarify and get that, and Kevin, if you're listening here, perhaps, he can go and find that information out whether, in the main estimates, it shows as before the transfer took place of our PYs to Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it saves someone a trip; I think it was in the fall of 2007 there was \$1,360,000 that was transferred over.

So actually, if the minister has indicated that the number in the business plan for last year would not have taken that into account, so there was actually a little over \$5 million increase to Corporate Services if you take that into account. I'm just wondering if I could get a breakdown of what that \$5.36 million, roughly, was actually for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the business plan for 2007-08, I'll find out in the report whether that's included or not and then report back, and I think he has the figures before him anyway.

Just a point of clarification before I go and work through the changes within the Directorate, is the member asking for the breakdown of the Corporate Services Division and all of the changes, or is the member asking questions related to all of the changes within the Directorate as per H-4 as outlined in those line items before us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't asking for H-4; it was just specifically dealing with Corporate Services.

I'm positive, if you look at the actual main estimates that we have before us now, it shows a Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted, for the 2007-08 year was \$17,494,000 and that's the Total Directorate amount in the business plan for 2007-08. So the revised amount has changed from that, so I would assume that it doesn't take into consideration the \$1.3 million that was transferred over to Finance.

What I'm looking for then is, basically, there is a little over \$5 million increase in Corporate Services and that's what I'm looking for a breakdown on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you. I'm just trying to work my way through here, going back and forth in the line items, if you can just bear with me.

The \$24,175,000 is the revised amount for the Directorate from last year. Last year it was \$17,494,000 before the restructuring within the department. The changes overall in the department were outlined by the deputy minister as to what transferred to the Directorate within the restructuring of that. Some of that includes new money such as the \$2.4 million for the Public Health Strategy. I don't believe any other new money that was approved, or that is before the committee now, falls under that. So I can say \$2.4 million will fall into that.

Under HR, the breakdown by division, I'm going to outline it by compensation, grants, and travel, and so on. From last year, I believe there is a difference with PYs being allocated. I'll just get the DM to walk through what positions transferred to that division, which includes PYs as well as O&M required to operate those programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the difference on Compensation and Benefits, I'll just rattle off some of the numbers that were affected here.

In the Public Health Initiatives, we added three PYs to the ADM of Programs and Standards totalling \$360,000.

In the reallocation of the funding, we used the following: we added one position to the deputy minister's office at \$103,000; we deleted one position from the ADM of Operations at \$99,000; we had the Nurse Recruitment and Retention Strategy that added 12 positions to Human Resources at \$4,853,000; we added one position for the Executive Director in Region 2 and I believe this is Iqaluit for \$100,000; we deleted one position from the Executive Director in Region 4 at \$93,000, Region 4 being the Kitikmeot; we deleted one position from Corporate Services in Region 3 at \$83,000, Region 3 being the Kivalliq; we added one new position to Information and Technology at \$105,000; we added another position in the Women's Initiative at \$100,000; we made some pay adjustments at \$84,000 that we needed to reallocate the money.

The difference between Grants and Contributions is \$1.2 million. We have the Public Health Initiative included in there, the Community Public Grants that we talked about earlier, they grew to \$1.2 million, which is \$1,250,000, and the allocation that we're proposing there is 25 communities at \$50,000 each.

Under Other Expenses, Travel and Transportation, there's a difference of \$486,000. What we did was we increased money for the Public Health Strategy at \$210,000 and there is a reallocation of funding of \$276,000.

In Materials and Supplies, there's a difference of \$52,000; we reallocated \$52,000. In Purchase Services, there's a difference of \$31,000, which is a reallocation of \$31,000 in that. In the Utilities, as you note, there's no difference in the Utilities. In Contract Services, there's a difference of \$142,000. We have reallocated that \$142,000 in our budget. In Fees and Payments, there's a difference of \$211,000. Again, we have reallocated \$211,000 to other areas of the budget.

In Other Expenses, we have a difference of \$462,000. Again, we increased funding for Public Health at \$600,000, but we reallocated some money at \$1 million.

So it's just we're trying to balance the overall budget of the department and we went through each of these proposed allocations as I just outlined for each of the areas. That's the specific information that the member was asking for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Campbell for that response. I think it was in there, maybe I'll just get a clarification again. I was looking not so much for the whole page of the Directorate on the main estimates. I was saying just what looks like about a \$5.3 million increase in Corporate Services. That's what I was specifically asking about.

Just in the Corporate Services area where, last year, it's showing \$13,753,000, but that doesn't take into account the \$1.3 million that was transferred out after that to the Department of Finance, up to \$17,660,000 in this year's main estimates in the business plan. Maybe if I could just get a breakdown of just specifically that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** I'll get Raj to respond to that.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Downe.

**Ms. Downe:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of that funding is related to bringing in the Health Information System into Corporate Services. Previously, it was allocated by itself in a separate area; I believe directly reporting to the DM. Also included there is the Regional Finance that was previously elsewhere. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Downe. (interpretation) Thank you. Please keep in mind that when we don't have a quorum, we can't continue. So if you can check the number of

members before you leave the Chambers. Our quorum is ten members and when there is less than ten, we don't have a quorum.

Mr. Tootoo, your time is up, even though I don't have anybody else on my list for questions. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and her officials to the Committee of the Whole today.

I wanted to ask the minister some questions on the Women's Initiatives outlined on page H-15 of the business plan. I noted that there's an increase of \$98,000 for the next fiscal year. This fiscal year the budget is \$430,000 and next year it will be \$528,000. Could the minister provide some information on what the increase will be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that increase was an additional PY to that division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I noted, also in that area, the line item that "Provides financial assistance to Qullit, the Nunavut Status of Women Council" of \$250,000.

Page N-VI-2 of the main estimates indicates that the funding "only permits one face-to-face meeting due to increased travel costs." The committee may have to go back "to renegotiate its current contribution agreement with the Department of Health and Social Services or return to the Financial Management Board for supplementary appropriation at a later date."

Can the minister indicate if she feels that, in fact, the Nunavut Status of Women Council should get more funding now rather than wait until a later date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the member explain to me where the N-VI page is? I'm not sure what you're reading. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's right near the back of the main estimates and it says Qullit Status of Women Council. It's on page N-VI-1 and N-VI-2.



Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council; it's an information item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to the member for that; there's all these new information items and annexes to our main estimates.

The \$250,000 that we provide goes to Qullit Status of Women Council operations. That funding is not funding that goes to the shelters but rather it's the money that's given to the Status of Women Council Office here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the answer. Yes, I understand that the money doesn't go to shelters; it goes to the Qullit Status of Women. But, it seems that the increasing travel costs are chipping away at their core funding that they receive from you, and instead of being able to meet twice a year, they can only meet once a year.

I think it's important for organizations to be able to meet with their members regularly. So if they're reduced to one meeting a year and with the increasing costs, it's probably inevitable that they'll require more funding. My question to the minister: do you not think that, perhaps, they should get more funding and get it now rather than wait until a later date when it becomes much more critical? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the travel costs in Nunavut have increased. I understand the council has held numerous teleconferences as well. Next week, the Qullit Status of Women Council will be here to meet at their face-to-face meetings and take it from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. If the minister could indicate: is it up to the Qullit Status of Women Council to submit a budget to you requesting initial funding, or is it just an arbitrary funding amount that the Department of Health provides to the Qullit Status of Women? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of process, the council will come forward to the department to request for additional funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. In that paragraph, it describes the Women's Initiatives. There's a description there in the Women's Initiatives, "... offers support to women's shelters..." Can the minister...

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** I believe the member had not completed his question. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was in the middle of my question. I just wanted to ask the minister if she could tell us what support the Women's Initiatives offer to the women's shelters in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Women's Secretariat, now under the Directorate, provides, first of all, a role and support to the Qullit Status of Women Council on the advocacy group's initiatives and priorities, and assists in working with the Qullit Status of Women Council on various priorities that they have identified in Nunavut as being areas that we can focus on.

For instance, the Qullit Status of Women Council, in the last few years, had been working on initiatives related to breast cancer, to homelessness, to violence against women, and women in leadership, and various projects of that nature. Our division works with them to try and advance some of those priorities with them.

At the same time, the Women's Secretariat, within the Department of Health and Social Services, provides the policy and administrative support to this government, as well as me, as Minister responsible for the Status of Women, on federal/provincial/territorial initiatives. For instance, in preparation for F/P/Ts, that policy person would be responsible for coordinating the Government of Nunavut's position on various items up before agenda discussions, while organizing and participating at national conferences, such as the Aboriginal Women's Summit that was held in Nunavut.

We participated in that in partnership with Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and meeting with various stakeholders at the community level, it could be the shelters, it could be women's groups in communities, on some of their issues in trying to advance those priorities at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that very detailed answer. I fully support women's initiatives and any money we can give to folks in this category would be, I'm sure, a benefit to all women in Nunavut.

On the same page, page H-15 of the business plan, under Persons with Disabilities, I was wondering why the funding level remains at the same level year after year. I recall last year or the year before, the disabilities' folks met with us as a group and explained that they needed more help. I'm wondering if the minister could indicate why her department can't give the persons with disabilities more help in their budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$90,000 that you see on H-14 is funding that is transferred to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to fund a salary that oversees the administrative support for the People with Disabilities Working Group. This is one area that we are looking at in examining internally in terms of how we can better manage the People with Disabilities Advocacy Group.

Because of the nature of the business, the funding, in the past, has been allocated to an outside agency as they are advocates to advance the issues of importance to people with disabilities including the government. But it is an area that we have looked at and are discussing ways of how we can better deal with that.

Having said that, internally, within the Department of Health, we have taken the active role in trying to consolidate within the Government of Nunavut the various programs and services available for people with disabilities in partnership with the Department of Education.

Last year, we tabled in the House a booklet that outlines all the Government of Nunavut programs, as well as the Government of Canada, that supports people with disabilities just to get some more information out to the people with disabilities group as well as individuals in the community who require this information within the communities who require this information within the communities.

What we have tried to do is do the work as well internally as to what we do for people with disabilities in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Could the minister tell me approximately, I'm sure you should have some detailed numbers, how many Nunavummiut are there that have disabilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information before me. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Is that information that you could easily find and provide to the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it relates to the services that we provide to people with disabilities, that information should be within the Department of Health. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I guess, then, today or tomorrow, you can provide that information to us so that we can have it available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, I was reading. If it's available tomorrow, I would be glad to provide it. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. In my riding of Cambridge Bay, I notice that every year, there seems to be more people coming down with disabilities of one sort or another and it's very difficult for them to live in their communities and get around. So I think it's a very important issue that we address. Nunavummiut, even with disabilities, should be able to live a reasonable standard of life.

I'm wondering if the minister could tell me how she interacts or works with other departments in the Government of Nunavut to ensure that people with disabilities are able to have a reasonable standard of life in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you. Could the member clarify the question in terms of how I interact with what? Sorry.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, certainly. The Department of Health is only one department, and you indicated that disability is something that's important to

your department, but I think most departments in the Government of Nunavut have a role. For example, Housing would have a role to ensure that the houses are designed with disabled people in mind.

So I'm wondering how you work internally with your colleagues in the Cabinet to ensure that people with disabilities, throughout all of the departments, are given an opportunity to enjoy at least a standard of life in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you and I thank the member for clarifying his question. I think I answered part of that question earlier in that the Department of Health has been active in promoting and getting the information from across Nunavut what programs and services are available for people with disabilities in government, not only within the Government of Nunavut but also with various federal government programs.

That document that outlines, in one place, what services are available was tabled in this House and released. It consolidates information from the Nunavut Housing Corporation, as an example, that design houses to support people that require ramps or specialized counter heights or whatnot, as an example, is a program, as well as programs available to people with disabilities that require education through the Special Needs Education Program and various initiatives of that nature. So the Department of Health has taken the coordinating role in that.

At the same time, the advocacy group advocates the issues that they see as priorities and highlight some of the challenges that they face, similar to the Status of Women Council, which have provided us some direction in areas they wanted addressed. And, one of them was having the information available in one place for them. So in that way, we have supported the coordinating role of it.

At the same time, I believe under the Treatment section of my main estimates, there's a whole range of services available to people with disabilities, whether it be hearing impaired or physiotherapy, and so on, that describes what services we provide from the health standpoint to people with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that detailed answer. I've had several constituents that I've had to help in the last year who have disabilities. Just dealing with the government is a fairly complicated process; you have to deal with the different agencies or different government departments. So it would be appreciated if the minister could highlight to her colleagues that their departments also have the responsibility to help people with disabilities.

Another area that I'm concerned about is homecare and I have asked a question about homecare in the past. It's come to my attention recently that, in my riding, there's a

shortage of homecare nurses which is affecting the delivery of the program. There are homecare workers but then there are homecare nurses, and that seems to be an issue.

I'm wondering if the minister could explain how her department focuses on recruiting homecare nurses for the Homecare Program not only in my riding but right across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The homecare services that we provide at the community level. It starts at the community level if there is a need that is identified by an individual who requires homecare services.

So anyone at the community level can request homecare services through their community health centres and/or homecare offices. Once that request is made, the nurses at the community level then determine what homecare services are required based on a clinical assessment of that particular individual that has put forth their request.

Once that evaluation has been completed, then the nurse at the community level will then initiate the recruitment of a homecare worker at the community level to address the need that has been identified by an individual through a self declaration request, or an assessment from a nurse practitioner or a nurse at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. So, minister, are you saying that any nurse could technically qualify to be a homecare nurse? It doesn't have to be a homecare nurse specialist; it could be any nurse in the community that could make visits to homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you. There are two areas: there are homecare workers and there are homecare nurses. The homecare nurses are recruited through the normal recruitment process of the Government of Nunavut, through HR, and by region. The homecare workers that support the homecare nurses are recruited at the community level by the nurses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. That was my question earlier. There is a shortage of homecare nurses which is affecting the delivery of the program. So how does your department address that area? How will you recruit homecare nurses who can support the program? I'm not worried about homecare workers because I

think we're pretty well covered there, but it's the homecare nurses that we have to worry about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there is a need by community, by region, then the Executive Directors would identify those needs and go forward to the department for additional funding for PYs if there is a need for additional homecare workers at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I believe that there is a need in my Cambridge Bay riding. I have heard that from people.

One of your priorities for 2008-09 on page H-16 is to "Expand the level of services being offered at the new Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay health centres by recruiting more staff under a successful recruitment and retention strategy." Could the minister provide some detail on what level of services will be expanded at the Cambridge Bay Health Centre? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** I'll ask the deputy minister to speak to that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to update the member, this Assembly approved an implementation strategy for the department that includes a number of services that will be expanded at the regional centre in Cambridge Bay. We will review some of the services and provide that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Campbell for the answer. I think it was this time last year when the former assistant deputy minister said the health centre was 70 percent operational. I'm hearing anecdotal information that the shortages of indeterminate, agency, and casual nurses, that the level of services is, in fact, not at 70 percent.

So I'm wondering if the minister could comment on how the department is going to expand the level of services at the health centre in the coming year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not to respond to anecdotal information, what I can speak to is related to the implementation plans of the three facilities and I will have my deputy minister respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Campbell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) First of all, I just wanted to re-emphasize that there is a global shortage and we have been hearing this all along that we are struggling to try and find health professionals in general for Nunavut and that's true for all of the country. It's a global issue. There are a number of challenges in trying to recruit and retain health professionals, and particularly, in the nursing sector, we do have that great need.

Now, specific as to some of the things we're looking at for expanded services or improved services for the centre in Cambridge Bay, we're looking at a Day Hospital Program. We're also looking at a regional diagnostic medical laboratory services for the centre; we're looking at diagnostic imaging services; we're looking at improved in-patient services that are there for short-term purposes; we're looking at some services for palliative care for the centre; we're also looking at some rehabilitation services; at some point, we're also looking at a birthing program for the centre.

Those are some of the high level areas that we're looking at improving in some of the services that are offered at the health centre in the region. That's our plan for the next three years and I'll qualify that by saying that plans are subject to change.

As I indicated earlier, we do have some challenges in trying to recruit nurses in each community, so a lot of this will depend on recruitment efforts that we have started in our Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Campbell. One second, Mr. Peterson.

>> *Laughter*

**Chairman:** Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the deputy minister for that explanation. It certainly seems like a lot of services will be offered, and of course, like you said, it will be contingent on how many nurses or medical professional staff that you're recruiting.

I'm aware that in Alberta, I think I mentioned it in my opening comments the other day, they're recruiting for a heart hospital down there and they're looking for 600 nurses. So I anticipate that there would be a few Nunavut nurses, and possibly even some from Cambridge Bay, who will be applying for the jobs down there.



You mentioned, "... under a successful recruitment and retention strategy." I take it that's the Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy. Can you give us an overview, to date, on how the strategy has been working? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll start on responding to some of that question and I'll ask the deputy minister to elaborate more on the internal initiatives.

The piece on the monetary proposal is one that is still outstanding and that remains outstanding until the collective bargaining process has been dealt with. So I can't speak to the pieces that are in that proposal for our nurses because that, again, is under collective bargaining and the members will have an opportunity to vote on that and so on.

Having said that, I'm going to ask my deputy minister to talk about the other initiatives within the department that are not tied into the collective bargaining process that we're working on internally. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the things we're doing internally, as the minister has indicated in earlier discussions, we will be doing a review on the job description of our nurses and see what comparative analysis we can have going with the other jurisdictions in Canada on their job descriptions and have a comparative analysis done on the types of pay and benefits that they provide to their nurses. So that work is currently on its way and we're trying to get that started.

I know this is a lot of bureaucracy we're talking about but that's where things start in government. We do have a steering committee that's been established in the department. It has had three meetings so far and it includes the regional nurses participating and community nurses participating in that committee, as well as our headquarter types participating in that committee.

We are looking at doing a promotional program for nurses as part of that process, doing some videos, doing some posters, having a recruitment campaign in some of our job fairs down south, running some TV ads, and that kind of work will be happening.

We're currently working on a terms of reference and the Request for Proposals will be going out in the next... I keep saying in the next two weeks but the two weeks never come, it's anticipated that the Request for Proposals will be in the papers in the foreseeable future.

We will also have a process started to include a review of the Nursing Program that we have with Arctic College, as we indicated last week, on how we can expand that service to some nurse training program in Rankin Inlet as well as Cambridge Bay, as well as having some foundation here established. We will be starting those discussions with

Arctic College in the next month I'll say, once our budgets are approved. So there are a number of things we are doing in-house to get ready for recruitment.

Of course, the government also approved the 12 additional nursing positions to be used as pools for the regional offices. Those are being currently in the process of getting the job requests for staffing action done for those positions. Those positions will be located in the regional offices, four in Cambridge Bay, four in Rankin Inlet, and four in Pangnirtung. The purpose of those nurses is to act as pool nurses for the whole of Nunavut. Yes, they're located in the regional offices but they're expected to respond to covets for nurses in other communities as well throughout Nunavut.

So there are a number of things that we have started by initiating the steering committee and things like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Campbell. We're on page H-4 of Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to follow-up on Mr. Campbell's last comment. I wasn't quite clear if I had missed it or not but he's just mentioned, as part of this whole thing, that there was going to be an RFP coming forward in a couple of weeks but it never seems to come. Exactly what was that RFP for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** I'll get the deputy minister to respond. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The Request for Proposals will be for a firm, or consultant, or otherwise, a media company to develop a promotional program for our nurses in the way of having posters made for some of our role models, having a video made of nurses working in Nunavut, suggesting a recruitment process down south, developing some promotional material, developing a website for our Nursing Program, and that kind of activity that we want to promote nursing. Down south, I guess, is where we go.

There is going to be also a recommendation that will be provided to the department on the types of fairs that we should be going into, like job fairs, and what our target audience should be.

So we're expecting that promotional RFP, as I said, to be out in two weeks. That's what I told the minister a couple of weeks ago but I still haven't seen it on paper, so things are slow and the process has started. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Campbell for clarifying that. One of the other things is, I don't know if it was the minister or Mr. Campbell had mentioned earlier, that they're looking at reviewing all of the job descriptions and looking at how they would compare to similar work conditions in other jurisdictions.

I think as my good friend from Cambridge Bay that used to be here used to say, "It's no secret that..." I'm sorry; not Cambridge Bay, Baker Lake. That one wasn't a good friend.

>> *Laughter*

He was just a friend. "It's no secret that nurses are leaving Nunavut even to southern jurisdictions for better pay and benefit packages."

So, in looking at that, one could assume that by reviewing the job descriptions and looking at how they compare with other jurisdictions, that we would anticipate that there would be an increase in pay and benefits or pay based on what other jurisdictions are paying their nurses right now. Would that be a fair conclusion to make? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we have committed to doing, and we have advised the union of this as well, is that we are going to do just that: we're going to review the job descriptions as it relates to other jurisdictions and how we compare for pay.

So in Nunavut, if we compared a nurse practitioner job and then Alberta, if they're the same, how do they pay? There might be some discrepancies there. We might be higher; they might be lower, and so on. What it will allow us to do is to do a comparative analysis as to how we compare with other jurisdictions in the challenges that we face in recruiting nurses.

Once we have that information available to us, then we have to work with the Department of Human Resources and the union to deal with that next step part. You know we can't bargain outside the bargaining process. So respecting that process, what we certainly want to do though is find out where Nunavut stands as it relates to compensation levels for nurses and then using that information to make an informed decision on the next step.

Hopefully, that will also tie in with our committee that we have established with the nurses on the recruitment initiatives process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I don't think you would have to look too far at any of the nurses who are leaving or have left;

they'll probably tell you they're getting paid more somewhere else down south than they are up here, except for the agency nurses.

I'm just wondering, and I think that that's something that's long overdue to be done, if the minister could give me an indication as to how soon she feels that that will be done where you would be at the next step of approaching the union on the next steps to go forward if there's to be any changes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't say specifically when but what I can say is that we're going to be working with a group that's called the Hay Group and Associates to do the review across Canada. How long that will take them, we have to count that into consideration, and hopefully, sooner than later would be ideal, but we'll try and get as much of that information ready this year hopefully. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure all of the nurses and health professionals out there would encourage you to get it done quicker; the sooner the better. The minister has indicated that this could happen in the next year. Is that what you're targeting, to try and have it done within the next year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to try and get it done this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish you luck in doing that because I think it would really help retain some of the few people that we have left out there in that field this day.

Given that, if it's done in the next year, I just want to get a confirmation that this budget that we have before us doesn't reflect any possible increases that may come about as a result of those findings. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two things: the collective bargaining, as it is right now, is still going on. So any decisions from that are not reflected in here and we'll have to update that. Secondary to that question is: should our reviews result in a further review of compensation and eventually, down the road,

hopefully we'll include that additional funding should that be the next step. So this here does not reflect either of those at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (Mr. Barnabas): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I guess I can further echo the Minister of Finance's caution that it's not only legislative issues that we may have to worry about to eat up the little bit of surplus that we have there, that there are other issues that need to be taken into account as well.

Mr. Chairman, I know that this area deals with the Human Resource Division for the department which is in there and I'm just curious. I'll start off with something I mentioned in my opening comments. In the first two weeks of December, there were seven senior positions - two Executive Directors, four Directors, and an Assistant Deputy Minister - that were advertised I believe in the *Nunatsiaq News*. I would think that that's probably almost all of your senior management; I don't know how many directors would be left after those seven.

I'm just wondering if there was any reason why we have seen, in such a short period of time, such an exodus of people from the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As I indicated earlier, the department went through a bit of reorganization at the higher level just to refocus our program delivery and the services we provide to Nunavummiut. As part of that process, I had put some of the staffing actions on hold until we had this reorganization completed.

In that process as well, we had some unfortunate events as well of one of the executive directors that passed away and passed on, and then we had a resignation from the former ADM of Operations just before Christmas. So those are things I don't have any control over.

Before Christmas, as the member said, we had advertised for a Director of Human Resources. We have gone through the screening process and all of the necessary steps required to do that. We offered a position to somebody; they declined due to various reasons. We're back to square one. That particular job is going to appear in the paper again at some point.

We advertised for the Director of Clinical Services at the hospital. Again, this position has been advertised before. We advertised for the Director of Health and Social Services in Iqaluit; that's been filled. We advertised for the Director of Health Services at the Iqaluit hospital.

We advertised, as I said, for the Executive Director for Population Health. On that particular one, an offer has been made. The candidate is within the government and will be starting in the first week of April.

The Director of Finance position is currently in the recruiting process. The Manager for the Nunavut Women's Secretariat was advertised and was filled. We are currently recruiting for the ADM of Operations through an expression of interest.

We are managing that process and positions like that, and I do appreciate the observation. As I indicated, it was put on hold until the reorganization. There are still a number of key positions in the department that we are using through the Request for Proposal process and having consultants do some of our work for us.

We want to eventually divert and stay away from using consultants and using indeterminate staff to provide these functions for us. Our capacity right now is running anywhere from I believe it was 37 percent at one point just before the session was opened.

We are having our challenges but we have to deal with these challenges through various contracting of some of the services we need to do immediately. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can imagine what a strain it's been on the few people that are still left there in light of, I would say, the majority of your senior management team being gone.

While we're on the topic of human resources and capacity... you just mentioned those positions and you had indicated that some of them were held back as a result of reorganization. I note in the department's Inuit employment numbers over the past few years, in 2004, the department, as a whole, was at 77 percent capacity. The same thing in 2005; they were at 77 percent. In 2006, they were at 77 percent. The last numbers that we have, that have been provided to us almost a year ago, dropped 11 percent down to 66 percent capacity.

To me, it seems it stayed fairly stable for a few years and then all of a sudden, it has just taken a big jump of 11 percent more people leaving. That just takes you down from 77 percent to 66 percent. I am just wondering if you have any idea of why we're seeing such a big decrease in capacity within the department in the last year, and mind you now that those numbers are almost a year old because the government still hadn't provided us with any new numbers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going to the IEP Report, March 31, 2007, of 940 positions within the Department of Health, we were at 68 percent capacity, or February 2008, that's about right; 940 positions, 68 percent capacity of which 53 percent were Inuit employees. On March 31, 2007, there were 915 positions, 66 percent capacity with 52 percent Inuit employees.

So the latest information I have to February this year is we're at 68 percent. Again, it fluctuates. Some of the numbers relate to increases in total positions related to increase in services we're working on through the hospital. As an example, we created 27-some positions the last few years and so on. Some of them relate to people leaving and some of them, as outlined by my deputy minister, relates to positions that we were keeping on hold until the reorganization was completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister certainly has information that's almost a year old that we don't even have yet because it hasn't even been tabled in the House. It's the February 2008 numbers I think she referred to.

The last numbers that we have been provided by the government were March 2007 and those are the numbers that I'm getting at. So that's in two years then it's gone down nine percent. Instead of 11, it has gone up two percent; a big drop of 11 percent from 2006-07.

Is there any indication as to what lead to that big decrease that one particular year where it seems to be a lot of people, 11 percent of the department, left? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madam Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information that I have and that I just spoke to was 940 positions and being at 68 percent. That's our internal tracking of our vacancies within the department. That may change by the time the Minister of Human Resources tables that report.

There is a change in the capacity part but we also increased the PYs. So we increased positions by 25 or 22 the last year for the hospital, for instance, using that as an example. In relation to the capacity, we should also keep in mind that we had some increases in PYs to address issues like the hospital's expanded services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that staffing for the department here in the community of Iqaluit pretty much consistently had the lowest levels of Inuit employment year after year. I'm just wondering if the minister knows of any indication as to why the Inuit employment level here in Iqaluit for the department always seems to be so low. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, as a department overall, I'm quite proud to report that we are at 53 percent of Inuit employed within the Department of Health. Compared to other departments, we're doing quite well in that.

Having said that, in the Iqaluit, it's a lot lower because a lot of the positions that are in Iqaluit are in the professional areas, such as the doctors, the technicians at the hospital, and the physiotherapists. There are a lot of specialized positions in Health and Social Services in the delivery of health care services, particularly within the hospital itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that traditionally, whether we like it or not, beneficiaries have been hired by the department usually into entry level positions, such as administration assistants, housekeepers, and support staff. I would assume that most of the positions that were allocated to the department to deal with the accreditation issues probably could have been filled by beneficiaries as well, or be considered, for the most part, for entry level positions.

I'm just wondering what efforts are being made to provide those individuals with training opportunities to be able to move them into some of the more skilled, or trained, or higher positions within the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One thing I would just like to add to our recruitment efforts is that we also hire our graduates out of the Nursing Program as an example and graduates of the Nursing Program are guaranteed employment.

I shared, I think on Friday, statistics in Rankin Inlet. I believe we now have four Inuit nurses working at the health facility there and we're trying to continue to do that, not just in nursing but also in the other programs that we have been offering through Nunavut Arctic College in the midwifery area, in the area of x-ray technicians, mental health, and so on.

The Department of Health has a range of training programs that are being delivered through Nunavut Arctic College where we are trying to increase Inuit participation within the Department of Health, whether it be social workers, the enhancement of the Nursing Program in Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet, the Midwifery Program, x-ray technicians, mental health... I can't remember the other ones. So there are a number of programs we are trying to promote in Nunavut for careers for beneficiaries to take advantage of.



In terms of training internally through staff development and so on, individuals also have a choice whether to apply or not. How do we make our health care profession more attractive to individuals? I think our deputy minister spoke to some of those initiatives that we're trying to undertake by the RFP initiative that he outlined.

So there are a number of initiatives that the Department of Health has undertaken in conjunction with the Department of Human Resources' Training and Development Division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that, as the minister recalled and like I mentioned in my last question, the whole accreditation report, in which the hospital lost its accreditation, identified I think there was \$2 million or something like that that was given as, what they called "emergency funding" or a "special funding" to be able to address issues of accreditation.

In that, I don't know if the minister could remind us of how many positions were allocated to deal with that and out of all of those positions that were included as a result of the accreditation report, how many of them have been filled and how many of those have been filled by beneficiaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just looking for my briefing note on the accreditation. I believe there were 26 positions created at the hospital in Iqaluit for the expansion of services and to meet the accreditation requirements. How many of those have been filled? I will have to get back to the member on that; I can't find the briefing note just on how many positions have been filled and whether they're Inuit or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no problem waiting to get that information from the minister; I'm sure it's not too far off.

I know a whole lot has been said about this recruitment and retention strategy for health care professionals, and particularly with nurses. From what I have heard in the questions that are asked or have been asked here and the responses given is that a lot of the focus of this is going to be that we will see the benefits of the strategy in more of a longer term approach rather than seeing some immediate changes.

So maybe if I could just get an idea from the minister or her officials is: how quickly do they see any of the benefits of the strategy kicking into place to be able to attract and retain in particular the nurses into our territory in the short-term? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The approach we took with the nursing recruitment strategy was not to just deal with the immediate challenges that we had in filling the vacant positions within Nunavut; that was the first area.

The second part was to think long-term and to develop programs that would ensure that we are thinking long-term in trying to address the shortage in Nunavut, at the same time, recognizing the fact that this is a national issue. International shortage of nurses is a challenge for us as a small jurisdiction; we're competing in Canada for the same pool. So the approach we tried to take was training our own within our own territory along the concept of long-term.

The other approach we took in this was to design a Nursing Recruitment and Retention Strategy with nurses in Nunavut, in partnership with nurses in Nunavut, and hence, the formation of the working group to put forth recommendation on what can we do as a government that would make it easier for our nurses to do frontline work and what are some of the initiatives that we can address in challenges. So there are a number of different areas we try to focus in that and some of them I spoke of: reviewing job descriptions across Canada, training efforts, training our own, hiring our own graduates, and so on.

What can we see immediately? The proposal that we put forward to the union to take to the nurses, I think, if accepted, would be immediate results to our frontline nurses and our nurses in Nunavut. I can't speak to the details to respect the fact that there's a process in place, but that proposal, we tried to outline a number of areas that were identified by nurses that would make it attractive to stay and to recruit. That would be immediate, without... I feel limited that I can't share that information at this point in time.

The longer term, of course, will be working through our graduates, working through promoting staying in school, and working through the education system in trying to train our own is a long-term approach.

The second and final point is: we wanted a working group to keep the process working in addressing those challenges as we go along and making improvements along the way, which is why we formed a working group to oversee the implementation of this current plan but also to continue to update it as we go along as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We're on H-4. (interpretation ends) Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$24,175,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page H-5. Branch Summary. Health and Social Services. Social Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$29,112,000. (interpretation) Do you agree? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this Social Services area, there's Child Protection Services where they're looking at seeing a decrease of a little over \$500,000 from last year. I'm just wondering if I can get an indication as to why there's been a decrease in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** I'll get my ADM to speak to the decrease in that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. Sorry.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Downe

**Ms. Downe:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This again is a result of the realignment of all the various branches within Health and Social Services. So this is a result of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Downe. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the business plan itself indicates that those social services' workers provide essential services in our communities and the business plan also indicates that the need for child protection services is increasing.

I'm just wondering, if something has been taken out of here and taken somewhere else, what kind of assurances do we have to feel comfortable that the same, or more level, or quality of service will be continued even with the \$500,000 decrease in that funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Downe.

**Ms. Downe:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will not reduce any level of service. If the level of service is required, we provide that service. There won't be any reduction in service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe you've got an explanation as to what got taken out of there with that \$500,000. What was that \$500,000 that was taken out, or

transferred somewhere else, or whatever happened to it and what was it for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Downe.

**Ms. Downe:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had the details as follows: we had added one position as a Social Worker position, and then there were pay step increases as well where there was a \$4,000 difference in the reallocation of funds in Grants and Contributions, Travel and Transportation. There was a reallocation of \$152,000 into programs. In the Materials and Supplies, there was a difference of \$45,000. In the Purchased Services, there was a reallocation of \$359,000.

What we are doing is we had tried to separate the Social Services Program and the Mental Health Program. So some of the funding reallocation is related to that; trying to more clearly identify where the funding should be allocated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Downe. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that response. I think you said it was a reallocation in programs. I didn't catch it; I was too busy trying to write something else down and missed the amount there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** I'll get Ms. Downe to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Downe.

**Ms. Downe:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Previously, as part of the Mental Health Treatment Program, for example, if somebody was in a mental health centre down south, all of that funding was included under the big umbrella of Social Services. So since we have created a Social Services Branch, we have taken some of that funding and it is reflected in the Treatment Program which is later on page H-7, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Downe. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That \$359,000, is that what that was part of? Sorry, I was trying to keep track of everything and couldn't catch everything, so I would just like to get clarification there. You had mentioned \$359,000 being transferred to somewhere for something and I just didn't catch it. I would just like clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Raj to respond to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Downe.

**Ms. Downe:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$359,000 is Purchased Services, which is related to residential care removed from Social Services and moved to Mental Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Downe. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if there was any increase to the numbers of social service workers providing those frontline services in the communities. Is there any increase in their numbers over last year's? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going through the notes, there was a reclassification of the social worker positions and an increase of \$67,000 in classification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just looking at PYs. How many community social service workers are throughout the territory compared to last year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

**Mr. Campbell (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The number of social workers will not increase. If anything, at some point in time, we will be making recommendations to increase the number of social workers in the communities.

Currently, we have 37 social workers; 22 of those positions are filled, 15 are vacant, and 10 of those positions are occupied by beneficiaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Directorate, we're seeing increases of senior management positions and an area where the need is increasing; they are probably a little over half filled. I would assume that the demand there is pretty high.

How can the department justify increasing, I think it was my colleague from Rankin Inlet that was saying before that it was a top-heavy department, the senior management positions when the people who are actually doing the work on the ground are being overloaded? It's not only the social workers, but I talked about earlier, the mental health workers and the nurses. There never seems to be an increase in PYs in those areas because they're at the bottom of the food chain and not at the top.

So I'm just wondering how the department and the minister can justify not increasing at the higher end of the department and not down at the lower end, where it's the people that are providing those services on the ground to the people aren't getting any increases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll start off and then I'll pass it on to the deputy minister.

We have just dealt with the Directorate and a lot of the increases in the Directorate, I think we tried to explain, had a lot to do with restructuring the Department of Health and many of those positions that transferred to the Directorate came from other divisions of the Department of Health.

Having said that, in terms of increases, we have increased some frontline, for example, 26 at the hospital here in Iqaluit, we have increased 12 more in this budget proposed for the delivery of frontline nurses, and so on. We're also looking at the whole issue around mental health workers at the community level, building capacity there, building capacity with our community health committees at the community level as well. So we are trying to address the community frontline piece.

Having said that, there's also the need to do an assessment on the social work file, and I have said this for some time now, within the department, that there is a requirement to determine PY allocations based on caseloads at the community level. That review is not completed for social workers and it varies.

The allocation of PYs; there is a social worker in every community, but how we allocate PYs based on workload increases, and so on, is one that needs to be done within the Department of Health.

I'll just pass it on to the deputy to speak to some of the thinking behind that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I assure the committee that there's not going to be a decrease in social workers, and likely, we will be proposing an increase, at some point in time, in the number of social workers in our communities. We will be developing, again, that's for the next main estimates, to get into the process next fall and identifying it from that perspective.

We are trying to identify some of our priority areas for the department. Nurses have been a priority for the past several years. We have done something: proposed a lot of nurses. We're going to be doing the same thing on social service workers. We're going to be doing the same thing for dental therapists which is another area where we're lacking our numbers.

So we're just taking the sectors as we proceed on a priority-by-priority process from the department's perspective. I fully appreciate that we don't have all of the resources to allocate money to these initiatives from a shotgun perspective when we have to increment some of these processes.

I do appreciate and apologize for not moving our files fast enough for the members, but we are, at this point, doing things in a planned way, and it's just a matter of doing our internal assessments and doing external assessments to make these business cases for the department to proceed with our main estimates next fall for social workers.

Again, the next priority area will be dental therapists; another area that needs to be addressed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks, Mr. Campbell, for that. I think next fall will be the capital budget; it won't have anything to do with O&M. Social workers, from what I'm hearing, are saying that they're out of luck for another year. The minister indicated, Mr. Chairman, that they have a social worker in every community. They don't have one in every community; they have one maybe allocated for every community, but as they pointed out, right now, there are 15 vacancies out there.

So I'm just wondering if the minister or the department could give us some kind of an indication: in the areas where the vacancy rate is over the last little while to see what kind of a trend; has it always been and for the last how long has it been 15 vacant positions? Has it been more than that in the past; has it been less?

I would assume, when you talk about looking at the workload of those individuals, the 22 that are there that are trying to do the work of 37, who stays for very long. You're going to see some of those 22 who are going to be leaving too because they don't imagine that it's not a fun area to work in at all times. I would imagine the 22 trying to do the work of 37, either things get missed or people get burnt out.

I don't imagine that the minister or her officials have that information here, but would they be able to provide us with some kind of historical numbers say over the last couple of years of where the vacancies are, what the rates have been and where over the last little while. I think that could be interesting information to have a look at and see. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the member and we'll try and get that information. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. H-5. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister and we discussed this before: how many social workers are currently doubling as probation officers for the Department of Justice? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the bigger centres, they are separate; I believe here is the only one where they're separate. In all of the other communities, they do probations as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the answer. We have raised this couple of times in the past, but when you have the social workers performing the duties of probation officers it puts them in some conflict with their primary duties. I'm wondering if the minister could indicate if she's had any discussions with the Department of Justice with respect to separating those functions so that social workers don't have to perform the duties of probation officers that could lead them into conflict with some of their clients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I know, there have been some preliminary discussions with my colleague's department and Justice is committed to gradually assuming some of this role but we're not there yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Could the minister indicate to us when she expects to make some significant progress in separating those two functions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Mr. Chairman, I can only say that, at this point in time, the discussions are very preliminary and we are not there yet.

The issue of carrying on the work of a probation officer and so on has been one that has been raised, I admit to the member for that, and we need to look at that and have committed to it. In terms of when that will be, I don't know what the outcome of those discussions will result in at this point in time, but it is an area that we need to examine collectively with Health and Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister indicate: have any social workers' lives been endangered or threatened as a result of performing their duties of Probation Officers for the Department of Justice? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't say for certain that that's what's happened but I can only assume that it may have occurred in the past. Currently, I don't know if it's a direct result of the probation function or not, or other functions that they carry out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the answer. When you recruit social workers, are they aware that it's part of their duties that they may have to perform the function of a probation officer in which it will put them in conflict with their primary duties as a social worker? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's in the job description. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask the minister about the custom adoption. In my riding of Cambridge Bay, I've had several constituents, over the years, who have encountered delays in processing their custom adoption paperwork. I'm wondering if the minister could tell me if her department has made any strides in improving the processing of paperwork with respect to custom adoption and the issues in the Cambridge Bay riding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In every community, there's a Custom Adoption Commissioner that's appointed to assist individuals who have adopted through custom adoption, and that process is there to speed up the process by filling out the paperwork with the support of a Custom Adoptions Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I'm aware of that process. I know the ladies in Cambridge Bay who do that work. After they do the paperwork, then it goes off to Rankin Inlet, and whatever happens after that could take a year or longer to process the paper. And then, of course, some of my constituents get quite worried that the birth mother or parents of the baby that they have adopted may want the baby back. So they would like to have the paper processed as quickly as possible.

Can the minister tell me, after it gets past the commissioner, what is the process to expedite the paperwork in a timely fashion; shorter than six months, not 12 months to two years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess as a point of clarification, the whole paperwork process in custom adoption is not required to validate the custom adoption. The paperwork process is the birth certificates and so on. The custom adoption is to practice custom adoption, and that's valid as is, recognizing our traditional practices.

If the issue is around custom adoption finishing off their paperwork and the hold-up is with vital stats, then I would have to follow that up with the Vital Statistics Division in Rankin Inlet to see why the paperwork's taking a year to complete. I would only have to find out first how much backlog they have and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I appreciate the minister's offer because I believe the hold-up may be not so much in Rankin Inlet but possibly in Inuvik where birth certificates and other paperwork for babies born in the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, from the Kitikmeot are processed. I think the delay may be there and I would appreciate it if you could investigate at least, and then find a way to expedite that process.

My next question is on these Foster Care Associations. I noted on page H-18 of your business plan, you indicate that one of your priorities for 2008-09 is to "Assist with the

creation of foster parent associations within all communities and regions in order to form a Nunavut Foster Parent Association...” Can the minister tell the House why she believes that it’s important to have foster parent associations within all communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some communities, there may be no need to form a foster parent association because there may be no foster children in care. The idea here was where there is interest in communities to form a foster parent association that we would provide the support to participate in that process.

The idea is basically to have foster parents provide a network of support among other foster parents, but at the same time, to also promote the interest in individuals wanting to become foster parents and then to have that information shared by foster parents to potential foster parents, and so on. The idea there is to support that idea at the community level by supporting individual foster parents who want to form an association. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that explanation. You indicated in your business plan that there are four community foster parent associations currently in operation. Can you tell us where those four associations are located? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, and Cambridge Bay. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are they incorporated as societies and do they receive any funding from the department for their operations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It’s a volunteer association from what I understand and they don’t receive funding to operate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for clarifying that. Can the minister tell us if the Department of Health provides them with any support in terms of

meetings, disseminating information to their memberships, and so on and so forth? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** The deputy minister, please. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Campbell** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) The answer is yes. Part of our role as a department is to provide any organization with advice, support, and ongoing information sharing on some of these associations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Campbell for that answer. In your priorities, you state that "... to form a Nunavut Foster Parent Association that can later be linked to the Canadian Foster Parent Association." Obviously, you see there's a great need for a territorial type of organization. How close are you to forming a Nunavut Foster Parent Association? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that is still a work in progress.

From what I understand, there have also been some representatives from Nunavut that attended the Canadian Foster Parent Association's conference in the past for information sharing, and so on, in the merit of forming a national or a territorial one, we're part of that learning process, and ways to also identify developing and sustaining local groups. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I look forward to hearing more about this association as you go forward. I think foster parent associations are a good idea. I have several constituents who are always looking for support in my riding. It's not an easy job and a lot of foster kids have issues that come with them, so parents need support.

With that in mind, my question for the minister is on the nitty-gritty of foster care: is there a maximum number of children that a foster care family can accommodate if they include their own children? For example, if I had four children already in my house, I have a three-bedroom house, how many more children could I take in under the Foster Care Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Prior to foster children being placed, I believe that the social workers are required to do home visits and home inspections, and determine some of those types of questions along with the overall foster parent suitability assessment before placing a child in foster care. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I want to follow-up on that answer; the minister had indicated that there is a screening process. What does a social worker look at when they're screening for an adequate foster parent family so that the child or children that are going to be placed in their care will be safe from harm? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's a whole process that is followed in determining the suitability of foster parents before children are placed in care. Some of it relates to security clearance, medical, and so on, but I don't have that whole guideline in front of me to discuss the details of assessing individuals for whether they're suitable foster parents or not. There is a procedure that is followed by our social workers before children can be placed in foster care. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I've had constituents come to me in my office and complained to me that some foster parents are mistreating the children. So, of course, it's incumbent upon me to report that to the social worker whether it's true or not. I don't want to possibly sit on some information that might lead to putting the child at harm.

So when I receive that information as a MLA and I report it to the social worker, what steps does the social worker implement or follow to check out the foster parents to make sure that the child is, in fact, not in harm? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One would assume that the social worker would investigate those issues and complaints as a social worker to follow-up and ensure that the foster children are in a safe place. If there are issues of that nature that are being raised, I would also suggest that they be raised with the executive director of each region to follow-up as well.

Having said that, I'm going to have to get the Director of Social Services to give me an outline of what steps are followed, perhaps for tomorrow to provide to the Members of the House when complaints of that nature come, what steps do they take to investigate the scenario and what steps are taken and what's evaluated to determine a foster parent in more detail.

I can't respond to the level of program information that the member is asking for today in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I'd appreciate that information; I think it would be useful to all Members of this House because I'm sure every one of us here has had constituents who come in who have an interest in the safety of children and report their suspicions about foster parents.

Can the minister provide some information on what the daily fees are for a foster child and then would all of the expenses be covered for a foster parent to provide clothing, travel, and food for a foster kid? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought I tabled that report in the House that outlines what's covered and what's not covered through foster parents' per diems. I'll just see if I have it here with me but I don't know if I have that information here with me. I believe that report was tabled in the legislature that outlines the fees, and recently, we had done a supplementary in the Budget Address to also increase the foster parents' per diem rates.

In terms of what's covered under payments, it would include a number of areas related to food, shelter, household, personal care, clothing, some recreation costs, there's other costs related to the other additional needs that a child may need as it relates to health and so on, there's additional funding that's also provided to the foster parents to provide support to the foster child. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I would appreciate it if she could just clarify if that information was tabled, and then we'll look for it. But she's reading from a page there, is it possible to get that information from the minister? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will table, if I have not already tabled, the foster parent rates for the Members in the House but I believe I have. I will

double-check that, and if I didn't, I will provide that information to the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Mr. Chairman, recognizing the clock, I would like to make a motion to report progress.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. There's a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Thank you. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. 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** (interpretation): 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, Member for Amittuq, Mr. Tapardjuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. 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 Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* at ten o'clock tomorrow morning in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for February 26:

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. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 26, at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:14*



