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Speaker: The Honourable Jobie Nutarak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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(Amittuq)
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, June 2, 2004**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning. Let us pray.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Orders of the day for today. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Mr. Tapardjuk

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 039 – 2(1): Inuit Societal Values in Government

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, the topic of incorporating the Inuit social values into our government is something very close to my heart and the hearts of many of my colleagues.

We must be able to see our culture and values reflected in the way we do our work everyday. It is important that we have the coordinated effort to integrate Inuit societal values into our programs and services to better serve Nunavut.

To work this, we have established the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit to provide advice and assistance to government. We also have an internal process in place to support the Katimajit.

Tuttarviit, an independent committee made up of representatives from each department, provides the crucial link between the government and the Katimajit. Tuttarviit meets regularly to discuss approaches to integrating Inuit societal values and culturally appropriate processes into the workplace. Members also look for opportunities to work on shared, culturally-based initiatives together.

Yesterday, I recognized some of the members of the Katimajit here in the House. They are here in Iqaluit this week to review recommendations of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit task force and discuss issues, such as the recognition of Inuit cultural skills, elders' advice, youth issues, and concerns about disabled people.

I am sure my colleagues agree with me that this group is doing very important work. The cabinet will meet with the Katimajit annually, and the minister will seek advice and counsel on government issues.

I would like to invite all members to lunch with the Katimajit on Thursday, June the 3, at 12:00 noon at the Discovery Lodge Hotel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 040 – 2(1): First Graduating Class of Journeyman Carpenters in Nunavut

Hon. Ed Picco: Good morning, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure this morning to do a minister's statement on the first class of journeyman carpenters in Nunavut.

As Minister of Education, I made a commitment in the House to deliver the Adult Learning Strategy this October of 2004. The Department of Education is building on this commitment and the multi-faceted approach to include trades training, a mine training strategy, and the pre-employment skills development program.

I am pleased to announce our first graduating class of journeymen carpenters in Nunavut. On completion of their program, they will also have an opportunity to write the Red Seal Inter-provincial ticket. This inter-provincial ticket entitles them to work anywhere in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to call their names and ask them to stand up when I say their names. The names of these graduating students are Jimmy Nattaq, of Iqaluit.

>> *Applause*

Lino Aqatsiaq, from Igloolik.

>> *Applause*

Alexander Alooq, from Rankin Inlet, originally from Baker Lake.

>> *Applause*

James Karetak from Iqaluit, originally from Arviat.

>> *Applause*

Jason Shingoose, from Baker Lake.

>> *Applause*

And finally, Christopher Lahure, from Baker Lake.

>> *Applause*

Also, in the gallery, our certified diesel mechanic and chair of Kakivak, our good friend, Mr. Johnny Mike.

>> *Applause*

Brian McLeod from the board of governors of Nunavut Arctic College, and also a Kakivak facilitator. The instructors Sandy Lenz and Lloyd Kendall. Welcome to the gallery.

This program's success is due to the partnership developed between Nunavut Arctic College, Kakivak Association, the Department of Education, and the private sector.

The students' success was built on these partnerships enabling them to remain in Nunavut for the technical training. The Department of Education is making trades training a reality in Nunavut. Our fellow citizens have worked hard over the past four years to prepare themselves for work as journeypeople in the trade of their choice.

These graduates are an inspiration to students who wish to pursue their dreams and aspirations through the trades.

Please join with me in congratulating our journeyperson carpenters as they graduate from Nunavut Arctic College in Iqaluit on June the 4, 2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Minister's Statement 041 – 2(1): Clarification on the Fuel Stabilization Subsidy

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to clarify the purpose of the \$10 million appropriation relating to the fuel stabilization rider subsidy contained in the Department of Finance main estimates.

QEC accumulated a \$14 million debt in its Fuel Stabilization Fund between April 1, 2001, and March 31, 2004. This debt accumulated because the current rate has not allowed them to recover excess costs related to higher fuel prices. This debt is only one of the financial challenges facing QEC, but it is one that the Government of Nunavut has decided to address immediately.

Over the past year, the QEC has been focused on the multiple challenge of establishing operations in Nunavut, reducing discretionary spending, improving capital project monitoring, correcting billing system problems, training new staff, and developing a general state application.

Subsequently, the utility sought approval from the minister responsible for the QEC for permission to implement a fuel rider or receive additional investments to pay the debt in the Fuel Stabilization Fund.

The Government of Nunavut decided to make an investment of \$4 million to QEC last fiscal year 2003-04. They directed that this investment be used for the estimated \$14 million debt in the Fuel Stabilization Fund.

Mr. Speaker, the QEC was then required to prepare proper financial statements and work to get their financial affairs in order prior to obtaining any additional funds. This was completed and substitutively documented prior to the setting of the additional \$10 million. The balance of the debt is being dealt with using the \$10 million amount included in the main estimates.

I want to confirm again for members that the combined effects of these two payments will pay the debt in the Fuel Stabilization Fund as of March 31, 2004.

I want to stress to members that there is no fuel rider in place at this time. The contribution agreement being developed between the Department of Finance and QEC will include a payment schedule of the \$10 million.

While I regret that this approach appears to be more complex than a cash transfer to QEC, the benefits of having increased financial accountability makes this a better way to proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' statements. Orders of the day. Item 3. Members' statements. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 140 – 2(1): Youth Meeting on Traditional Skills

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning to represent the people of Igloodik. There is an Inullarik committee comprised of elders. What they are going to do is speak to young children about survival skills, and they do that every spring. They will be inviting other people from the communities to learn how to assist with the teaching of survival skills to young people.

They have the full value of Inuit culture and traditions, so I stand today to congratulate them and to wish them a successful meeting, while they are teaching young people to be better people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Members' statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Member's Statement 141 – 2(1): Taloyoak Fishing Derby Winners

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I would like to share with the House an announcement of the winners of the Taloyoak fishing derby. Many Nattilingmiut individuals went to Taloyoak from Kugaaruk, as well as Gjoa Haven, to participate in the May 28, 29, 30 fishing derby.

There were seven winners. I would like to read out their names. For the first prize Mary Oogaq, from Gjoa Haven, caught the largest fish at 42 ½ inches and was awarded a Polaris 325 four-wheeler, first prize. The second prize, Davidee Igutsaq, third, Sam Akhaluk, fourth, Isaac Saittuq, Connie Poodlat, David Nanook, and Annie Akoak.

There is also an individual I had mentioned in this House before, Niviugaq Marqniq, a lady over a hundred and four years old. She also was out at the fishing derby and caught a 36 ¾ inch char. She was given an honorary prize of \$300. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Today is June 2, and there is a birthday. Today is the birthday of one of our colleagues, Mr. Kattuk. I don't know how old he is.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Orders of the day. Item 4. Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Premier.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to recognize these individuals in the back and congratulate them for completing their training. Some of them are my constituents. The last time he was here, I had forgotten to mention his name. He is always giving me advice, Johnny Mike, originally from Pangnirtung. He has moved to my constituency. I am so pleased that he could be my constituent.

The person sitting beside him is Brian McLeod, whom I have been happy with for quite some time. He has been living here in Iqaluit for a long time, and he is always supportive of me, so I am very thankful for and appreciative of him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At times we fight over the individuals we want to recognize. I do want to recognize this individual to the House; I also would like to welcome Johnny Mike, originally from Pangnirtung. He is also my cousin, and I do want to welcome him to the House. I also would like to congratulate the journeymen, the graduates. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize this individual from my constituency, Lino Aqatsiaq. He is also one of the graduates. I am very proud of him because we need to do capacity building. I am very proud of you, Lino, and I am very happy with you. Also, I would like to recognize Johnny Mike, with whom I have worked for quite some time. Welcome and thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Lino Aqatsiaq. He is the uncle of my wife, and my wife is so proud of him for completing his training. We congratulate him and recognize him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Evasa, who we call Mr. Karetak Evasa. I am very proud that he is a journeyman. He completed carpentry. He and his wife have been here in Iqaluit in training for two years. They left their family behind in our community, and I'm very proud of the fact that they have completed their training. They are very good role models, and I am very proud of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize fellow Baker Lakers Jason Shingoose and Chistopher Lahure and also a former Baker Laker, Alexander Alooq. Congratulations on becoming journeymen carpenters. Good work.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an old colleague of mine, Brian McLeod. Brian was my counterpart in Kakivak when I was with the Kitikmeot Economic Development Division in the Kitikmeot. I am very pleased to see that he is carrying on the fine tradition of community economic development organizations in Nunavut and Arctic College. Welcome, Brian. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to say right off the top that it wasn't a prerequisite for some of these carpenters to work on my house before they got their journeyman carpenters' certificate. I want to say that several of the gentlemen in the back have worked with me, for me, especially at my house, and I want to particularly recognize in the gallery Mr. Jimmy Nattaq. Jimmy is the son of our former Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Simon Nattaq, the city councillor.

Jimmy worked on my house a few years ago, installing doors and so on. James Karetak, of course, has had an opportunity to work at my house putting in doors and so on. I don't know why the doors keep breaking. It just happens.

I also wanted to take this opportunity on a personal note to welcome my old friend, Mr. Brian McLeod. Brian used to run a famous, famous tool store here in Iqaluit called Boreal Tools. And he used to have a sign there that read, "The tool gods are angry." I never knew what that meant, but he used to have that sign. I want to make a special note of Brian and welcome him to the gallery. He is also on the board of governors, as I said earlier.

Last, but not least, Sandy Lenz, and old friend of mine from way back, and Mr. Lloyd Kendall. Both of these gentlemen lived in Hall Beach with me and worked in construction, I believe Lloyd was a teacher at the school and moved with his family to Iqaluit, where he has been a resident for many years. He is also a constituent of mine, so I would like to take this opportunity to welcome those gentlemen to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, starting from the end, would like to recognize and welcome my cousin. I'm glad to see you here in the House, Johnny. My nephew, James, is here, too, and I am glad that you completed your training. I congratulate you.

Also, a person I have known for a long time, Mr. Nattaq's son, Jimmy Nattaq, from when I worked on constructing some of the government units. I am sure that you have seen some of those government furniture desks. Rather than purchasing furniture from the store, you can ask Jimmy to build you some furniture. He is very good at building furniture.

Lastly, I would like to advise the graduates. I am glad that you were able to complete your carpentry course. In the Nunavut labour market, there was a high shortage of certified individuals. You will be the workforce. Please don't apologize, but continue to work, and try to grab jobs because we need workers and contractors. Please try and fill up the 85 percent requirement. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Alexander Alomi, from Rankin Inlet. He is related to me through my mother. I am also very proud of the graduates. They got up every morning to complete their training, and I congratulate them. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Back to the orders of the day. Item 6. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral questions

Question 172 – 2(1): Question on Fuel Stabilization Subsidy

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Earlier today in the ministers' statements, the Minister of Finance clarified this. The subsidy for the Power Corporation is going to be in the form of a contribution agreement to subsidize some of the losses incurred by the Power Corporation over the last year or so.

My question for the minister is, how is this going to be implemented? Is there anything that is going to show up on the individual consumer's power bills, showing the subsidy on the form? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for Power Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I'm told it is not going to show up on the power bills at all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Question 173 – 2(1): Access Road in Rankin Inlet

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the same minister in regard to building access roads. I would like to direct my question to the minister responsible for transportation.

Last week, during the Chamber of Commerce meeting, a resolution was made that the access roads that are close to the river or streams are very unsafe, especially when the hunters try to cross the rivers. The hunters will try to cross the rivers when they are already flowing and when it is already too dangerous to cross.

I do want to thank the government for setting up the bridge in Baker Lake. But in Rankin Inlet, that is not the case. The river is very close, and they try to cross the Meliadine River. I think there was a resolution made on whether the government can focus on that before anybody loses his life.

Perhaps the minister can look into this and make sure it is put into the long-term review.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Transportation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I got a copy of the KCC motion or resolution, and yes, we are starting to consider this with our officials, as to how they can get some funding from the federal government.

Perhaps applying for federal funding is under consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do want to thank the minister for reading the resolution. One of the reasons, Mr. Speaker, that the roads, or the access roads, not just bridges, become very dangerous, especially in the fall, is that the ice starts to form, although they do help to keep the cost down on your groceries by shortening travel distance.

Many people on Hondas will try to cross the river. Perhaps you can get your cabinet colleagues to consider the fact that it is very important to go harvesting to subsidize the groceries that the communities have and also work with your colleagues.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my officials will set up the options, and I'm sure that we can give it to the cabinet level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 174 – 2(1): Update on the Grise Fiord Access Road

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

It has been approximately two years, in Grise Fiord, in a place called Nuvuk, that they had been trying to build an access road, but it was never completed because their funds depleted at that time.

I would like an update on what is going to be happening to that access road that was never completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of transportation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We regard this as very important. We regard the building of access roads as a high priority, and we will be providing funds that will be accessed by the communities. It has been placed as a high priority, and there will be money made available to build access roads. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Peterson.

Question 175 – 2(1): Statistics on Homicides

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, in the business plan we reviewed earlier this week, it noted that in Nunavut in 2002, there were 2,037 violent crimes reported, including homicides, sexual assaults, assaults, and robberies.

We've heard over the news over the last year that there have been a number of homicides that remain unsolved. In Cambridge Bay, we have a homicide that remains unsolved as of today.

We were pleased last week to hear the minister's comments announcing the Victims' Assistance Committee and various programs that his department is working on.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify whether his department, in cooperation with the RCMP, is keeping statistics on how many victims of these violent crimes are women,

how many victims are children, and how many victims are men? If you could clarify that for us, please. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, we just maintain general statistics of crimes, and I am not aware of the breakdown at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Concerning that, if homicides go unsolved, there are potential murderers walking among folks in the different communities.

I know the police are doing their best. In Cambridge Bay, it is quite complicated, but people are nervous. They probably have a couple of suspects, but it takes time to catch these folks, and sometimes it might take years. We would like to know what the police are doing in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the minister could update the House on what other initiatives his department is working on, perhaps with the Department of Health and Social Services, to address the specific needs of victims of violent crimes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a bit confused. It might have been a different section of the question I was focusing on. I apologize to the member. In terms of ongoing investigations, I cannot disclose where they are, but they take these issues very seriously, and they try to do the best that they can, but they do not want to risk having mistrials over procedures on suspects.

So, they take their roles very seriously and do the necessary work to see if there are charges warranted and in terms of murder investigations.

So, there has been some success, but some of these files are ongoing, and they have to make sure that there was foul play. Those things take time in some instances. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second supplementary. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At Christmas 2002, we had a young girl in Cambridge Bay who was sexually assaulted. They finally arrested someone, but it took six months. There was a holdup in DNA testing.

They had to do a DNA test, and it took six months. I think the current hold-up with the investigation in Cambridge Bay is due to DNA testing. It takes us two to three months now, and while they are waiting for DNA tests, they have some suspects in mind. They are walking among us, and there are no arrests made. That concerns a lot of people where these violent crimes occur.

Can the minister tell us if he could ask the officials in charge if there is a way to speed up the DNA testing when those samples are sent to southern Canada? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As to the process, I can say that we can request that these get expedited. I cannot refer to any particular situation, but I appreciate the member's recommendation. We will review this matter with the RCMP.

In some instances, some time needs to be spent in making sure all the evidence is replaced, for charges to be made, otherwise the issue could be thrown out of court. The issue is that the offender can walk away. Those are the potential pitfalls of the Charter and the legal requirements under which the RCMP has to operate. I appreciate the member's concern and will relay that to the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your last supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's reply to that. Anything we can do to speed up catching the offenders of these violent crimes is good. If you don't catch them, then they'll move onto another community or just move right out of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, recently the Qullit Status of Women's Council published this report *What Inuit Women Need in Order to Deal with Abuse and Violence*. It points to a lack of services, such as trained counsellors, an inadequate system for abused women and children to turn to. I'm wondering if the minister can inform the House if the government will be making any formal response to this report and taking any action in response to some of these recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have been taking steps. We do have a working group of interdepartmental officials within our government trying to find ways to respond to the recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 176 – 2(1): Summer Student Program – Beneficiaries or Non Beneficiaries

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Human Resources, and it's on something I know I raised and was aware of in these last couple of weeks. It has to do with the summer student program.

Mr. Speaker, my question is, if the sponsoring department wishes to hire, is looking for, someone with specific skills, and there is someone in the pool of students who meets those requirements, would it matter if he or she is a beneficiary or non-beneficiary in order to fill the offered position in that area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the agreement made in March by the cabinet, we identified two objectives which were to put a priority on the beneficiaries who would like to have a summer job with the department. Again, in the second category, they would be people from Nunavut who are not beneficiaries.

At this time, there are approximately five times more applicants this year, and again in Iqaluit there were 27 identified, 17 beneficiaries and 10 non-beneficiaries, all from Nunavut. And again, Mr. Speaker, to supplement further, starting from now, all the applicants were given a two-week waiting period that applies especially to Nunavummiut. To date, there are 53 positions filled, and in total there were 64 positions. We will be reviewing it again, but to date we are following the same categories and objectives, and we're going to follow through with the March decision that was made.

At this time we are more open to non-beneficiary applicants, as there are some unfilled positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated that there is a two-week waiting period for students, and as I mentioned before, some students have been waiting for over a month to get a job.

Just going back to my earlier question. For example, the department of health, if they had a couple of positions available, identified for summer student employment program, that needed required specific skills, there was a pool of applicants received, and there was a non-beneficiary Nunavut resident that had those skills, would that person be offered a position, or would the department be told not to hire that individual and hire a beneficiary instead? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The departments in the government exercise discretion on that. Human Resources is just giving direction to the department on what was agreed in March.

The departments have a discretion; \$680,000 has been identified to be used for the summer student program, but each department has the discretion of hiring who they consider to be the most qualified. Each department has that discretion. It will be up to the Department of Human Resources to report on what type of progress or action happens at that point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand and confirm what the minister is saying, that if the department wishes to hire an individual, whether they be a beneficiary or not, under the program, the Department of Human Resources would not say that they could or could not hire that individual they've identified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Human Resources has given direction to the departments to follow a criteria in hiring summer student programs.

These were directives that were given to the departments, because, of course, the directive was set, so the beneficiaries would be given a first priority. But of course, the departments have the discretion of hiring whom they would like to hire.

It is at their discretion, but from the Human Resources point of view, we have to provide the report after the program is over, and we have to be accountable to the government and for the funds that were used. I just wanted to make that clear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your last supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to hear that the departments have that discretion, and it is a message that should be sent out to the departments, so they are fully aware it. There seems to be some confusion out there.

Mr. Speaker, I guess I just want to confirm that in the event of the department identifying a position that requires a certain skill set, certain background, certain training, and it has been identified from the pool of applicants, the students looking for some employment to take part in the program, that the only qualified applicant is a non-beneficiary, is there any reason why that individual would not be offered that position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I apologize. I would like the member to rephrase his question because I didn't quite understand it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo. Please rephrase.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think he said there were 64 positions, or say there are 100 applicants, just for an example, just throwing a number out there.

And out of those 100 applicants one of the positions that a sponsoring department wants to fill over the summer student requires a certain set of training or experience or qualifications to perform those duties. If the only person, the only student who has applied under the program, is a non-beneficiary with those skills, is there any reason why that person would not be offered that position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hopefully, that clarifies it.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): The government departments, it is up to them to hire who they would like to hire to fill that position. But as I keep saying, there is a Nunavut Claims Agreement, Article 23, that was agreed to by the parties, and we have to follow it through.

We have given every opportunity to beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, and the departments will have to decide who they would like to hire through that summer student program. We can't tell them that they cannot hire non-beneficiaries, but we can say that we have a set of references that they can apply.

It is up to each department. Each department has the discretion. There is Article 23 that they will have to keep in mind, also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 177 – 2(1): Vacant Wildlife Officers

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to Minister Akesuk.

Mr. Speaker, the renewable resources officer position in Arctic Bay has been vacant for over a month, and the position is not yet filled. When the hunters and trappers are out on the land again, and when the whaling season is going to be coming pretty soon, I'd like to ask the minister what they are doing about filling the position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say "Happy Birthday" to Peter.

In regard to the question of the member, in the first Nunavut government, I was the Minister of Sustainable Development, and we wanted to have those wildlife officers positions filled at that time. We're doing the same thing today.

We will look at it very carefully to make sure that position is filled in Arctic Bay.

What we do now is bring in wildlife officers to those areas in the communities that do not have wildlife officers, and the positions are advertised by Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not seen any ads in the newspaper for that position. When will that be opened as a competition?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into that and see what is happening, whether it has been put out for competition through the media, and I will let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Peterson.

Question 178 – 2(1): Update on Diamond Strategy Conference

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Last week there was a National Diamond Strategy round table held in Yellowknife, May 26 and 27. All provinces and territories were invited.

The stakeholders were to convey their vision concerning regulation, security, taxation, finance, human resources development, training technology, domestic marketing, and development of diamond export markets.

I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, did we have a representative there and if we did, what input did we provide to the discussions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I am not aware at the moment if we had any representation at this conference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that candid answer. There is a national diamond strategy being developed, and the national mine ministers' conference is being held here in Iqaluit from July 18 to 20 to make recommendations on this national strategy.

I am wondering if we will have some input on this strategy. Diamonds are going to be a very big part of our economic future with Tahera Corporation coming in a couple of years.

I am sure people would be very interested. I noticed that we are going to be providing some input into this national strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for economic development. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I myself will be attending that conference with energy and mines ministers, and I am sure we are providing input, ongoing input, into developing that strategy, but I can confirm that with my staff and inform the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second supplementary. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The other day, the minister indicated that we will have a Nunavut mining strategy by the end of this year, December 2004.

I am wondering if perhaps we will have a Nunavut diamond strategy or some section included in that Nunavut mining strategy. Could the minister confirm that will occur? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Yes, the diamond section should be in that strategy. I am sure it will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Question 179 – 2(1): Inuit Employment

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Human Resources. The members are aware that the cabinet has a policy whereby Inuit employment has to be 85 percent in a certain year. There are only about 40 to 45 percent employed at present in the Government of Nunavut.

I would like to tell the minister that some of the departments are not very receptive to Inuit people who are trying to gain employment. Some Inuit like to take on a position in a certain field, but they are not comfortable with the people working in a certain department. I have seen this in Rankin Inlet.

The only reason why they're not trying to get a job in the government is that they are not very receptive in every department. Perhaps the minister can eliminate that feeling in each department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are looking at this at this time, including how Inuit can be employed in the Nunavut government. We will be looking at this issue of a department not being very receptive to Inuit people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, we have been aware that if there is one position open, when the spouse of the individual comes into town, they hire the spouse for casual positions. Sometimes, there have been many direct appointments, although it should be done through competition and hiring priorities because there are a lot of people, lots of Inuit, who don't get jobs because of some departments hiring casuals.

There are a lot of Inuit people who could... I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister or direct the minister to ask the people working at Human Resources to tell applicants that they are either not qualified, or after the interview, to make them aware that they are either qualified or not qualified. Can the minister do that?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we are doing now is looking at the concern of the member. There is a division that just got created, the Inuit Employment Division, and I feel the question of the member is very relevant to the position we have just opened. We want to find out how Inuit could be welcomed to the Nunavut government departments to gain employment, and I will pass on that concern to the Inuit Employment Division of Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): That is it for now. I will be asking more questions later on.

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry, I thought you had your hand up, Mr. Curley. Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Alagalak.

Question 180 – 2(1): Employment Training

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of it was touched upon earlier on during questioning. I know that there are a lot of advertisements for employment within the Government of Nunavut.

When the competition opens, people apply for that position, but if a certain person is hired, then the spouse is usually given a casual position. This is not the right way to do it. I would like to address the Minister of Human Resources, especially on behalf of the decentralized communities. There are a lot of Nunavut beneficiaries who could be hired.

There are a lot of people who come into the communities to take training, and the government does not even consider them.

I'm asking the minister if there are any reports out there on who provides the training to gain employment within the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I'm not exactly sure whether there has been any collection of people who took some training to be in employment with the Government of Nunavut. We are notified of open government positions, how many jobs have been taken, and how many are open.

What we have done for the cancelled positions is find out whether the applicant can go on casual employment or not. Then, whoever wants to work casual is eligible for hiring. What we're doing now is finding out all that information, so that Inuit people, under Article 23, have the first priority to be hired. That's what we are looking at right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 181 – 2(1): Update on Employment Cuts

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for the Power Corporation. There was a lot of debate yesterday on the financial woes, as you may want to put it, of the corporation since it's inception.

I'm just wondering if, as a result of the financial situation that the corporation is in, there have been any changes in hiring practices? Are they taking any measures, like cutting positions, cutting casuals, changing summer hiring practices to make up for some of those losses incurred by the corporation to try and save some money? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Power Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of any casual positions having been cut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary question, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that there are a lot of people looking for casual work, not only here in Iqaluit but in the communities, over the summer, especially students. I'd just like to ask the minister if there are any guidelines or hiring practices that the corporation follows in filling those positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the corporation follows the Government of Nunavut hiring guidelines as established by the Department of Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister if, in fact, an individual is hired as a casual for a certain time period, and everything is signed off and done, would there be any specific reasons why, on short notice, something like that would be terminated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: I don't think anything like that has happened recently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One would assume that when someone is assigned employment for a term position over a certain length of time, some cause would be required in order for the corporation to end that employment.

I am just wondering if, in fact, it would only be the case that someone employed on a casual basis by the corporation would be terminated from that position for a good cause and not for no reason at all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I could ask the member that, if he is referring to a specific case, he might write me a letter on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Question 182 – 2(1): Co-op Eligible to Apply for Funding

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say happy birthday to all the individuals from Sanikiluaq who have the same birthday as I. The question that I wanted to pose yesterday, although we agreed to it for Economic Development and Transportation, is in regard to the main estimates, which were approved yesterday for the Nunavut Development Corporation, \$3,888,000.

In the smaller communities, co-ops are owned by local Inuit community residents. I am asking about the co-op stores. Can they also apply for funding from there because they

hire many Inuit beneficiaries and also purchase Inuit carvings. Are the co-ops eligible to apply for funding? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy birthday, Peter. The Nunavut Development Corporation... . They are part of nine business owners who own the Development Corporation.

In the other communities, they can partner with the smaller businesses in the communities, but the community businesses have to apply for funding. They can apply for funding from the Nunavut Development Corporation. To apply for funding from other entities and with the Nunavut Development Corporation, they can partner with each other, but there are other sets of funding outside Nunavut Development Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary question. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The co-ops have heard about these programs from Nunavut government programs, but they complain that there is not enough support given to the co-op for opportunities in my constituency. Those are our constituents, the co-op members. The government does not provide support or benefits to co-ops. Do I understand correctly that the co-ops can apply for funding through the government programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, you have a community economic development officer in your community. That officer, I'm sure, knows what kinds of assistance or funding is available through applications for the co-ops. If the co-ops can write a letter, I will ask my officials to look into that, to look into how they be provided with some assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very good answer, so I don't have any more comments to make, but I do want to thank him for his response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Question 183 – 2(1): Hiring Practices – Summer Student Program

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct this question to the Minister of Human Resources. As we all know, students will be looking for jobs in the summer. This is about the summer student program.

We all know that students who are very lucky to get the jobs are the ones who have relatives and also families who work in the department. The students who don't get jobs are the ones who don't have relatives. We should really think of the others, too.

I'd like to know what the minister is going to do with the hiring of students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I am sorry again, but I did not get your question. I cannot provide you with an adequate response, so please ask your question again.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is the minister going to do with hiring, because most of the students who don't get the jobs are not related to the people working in the department. What are you going to do, as the minister, about the hiring? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a policy or guidelines for summer students, and we follow the guidelines. The regional departments are responsible for their own regions.

For example, if they are going to hire a summer student, the regional headquarters are responsible, while the Department of Human Resources is responsible for the inventory numbers. That's how we have set up the casual employment for summer students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there is no doubt of this because every summer we see the same students working in the department. I'd like to see different students work also and not only favour students in departments where families hire their relatives.

I hope that you can tell the departments not to exercise any favouritism on the hiring of the students because other students don't even get a chance to get the summer jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I not only hear what you have said, but I am going to ask my officials to look into this and be sensitive to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Question 184 – 2(1): Graduation Ceremony Dates

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. Starting today, there are more and more students graduating from high school, and we are going to see that in the next month or so.

In Rankin Inlet, there was going to be a graduation ceremony on August 20, and I think I know the reason why, but each community has its own dates. Is it possible to have the graduation ceremonies about the same time all over Nunavut?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The graduation dates or the dates of the ceremony itself, the physical ceremony, is dependent on each high school, in this case, upon reflection by the staff and students.

Those dates are not arbitrary but picked in accordance with the wishes of the students and faculty. It may be contingent, for example, on issues regarding the date upon which results of an exam may be known and so on. It depends on the school, but it is something, Mr. Speaker, that we could follow up.

It would not be appropriate if the Department of Education sent out a request that each school in Nunavut should have graduation in the same week or on the same date. Having flexible dates allows people to be able to attend different types of events. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I understand exactly where the minister is coming from, and I was anticipating that it would be that type of a response.

I think their graduation day is so late because of the Alberta curriculum. I think the Alberta curriculum has something to do with it. In Alberta, they graduate in the spring, and some of the high schools follow the Alberta curriculum.

I think that is the reason why it takes so long for the results to come in and, because of the lateness of the results, they have to delay the whole process. I think the minister has the discretion of setting the standards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Specifically on graduations, what normally occurs is that the exams are written. In many cases, even though the exams are written, the marks may not be forwarded to the students, but the students still go through the official graduation ceremony.

In cases where public exams are written, those results may not be known until July or August, but usually if the graduation ceremony is held in June, for example, Mr. Speaker, those students can attend the ceremony with their classmates.

What occurs in August, for example, Mr. Speaker, when the results come back and particular students were not successful, then they would not be at the graduation ceremony as a participant.

That is something we need to iron out. That is not unique to Nunavut, Mr. Speaker, but something occurring in most jurisdictions that I am aware of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 185 – 2(1): Income Support Training

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Education. Just this past winter, the income support workers in the communities completed their training, but in one of my communities, Grise Fiord, there was one individual who wasn't accepted into the program because of the high costs of transportation and so on. Is that the case, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ongoing training occurs with the income support workers in our communities in Nunavut by region. I am not aware of specific incidents where income support workers were told they were not able to attend a training session because of the cost difficulties.

I appreciate the member bringing this issue forward. I will have to follow that up because I am not aware of one person being turned away from the training session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government officials should not be doing that to the people out there, and I don't think that the high costs of transportation and everything else should be factored in. We have to treat everybody equally, especially the individuals from the decentralized communities. What type of action would you take if there is such an incident? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister of Education. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It depends on what program or what training was offered them. I am not sure what the course was. Was it an optional program, for example? Does the person have an option to go or not go? How many people attended? Had this person already taken the course being offered, and that is why it did not occur, those types of issues.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I agree with the member that someone should not be prohibited from taking a training program in the Department of Education under income support, if they are an income support worker, because they happen to be living farther away than other employees. That would not be acceptable.

I am not aware of the particulars of this case, but, as I said to the member, I appreciate him raising the issue in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are incidences that happen, especially in the smaller communities, and especially Sanikiluaq and Grise Fiord, because they are in extreme locations. What is going to be happening if such a thing occurred? Would this individual be given the opportunity to attend that training program?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When training sessions are planned, there is a budget put into place by the department, and training sessions could be for renewable resource officers, for income support workers, for nurses, or whatever that training program is for. A budget is set up, people who need that training are usually brought into a central community, and the training is delivered.

I am not aware of anything within the Department of Education where someone who has had an opportunity to take training was told they could not because they lived too far away, or because they were from an isolated community and it cost too much to send them.

I am suggesting to the member that, if he has information in that regard, I would be more than happy to entertain it and then review it to see what has occurred. It is not the policy of the Government of Nunavut to exclude employees from a training program because they're more isolated or further away from a central location.

Again, each case is dependent on the case itself, and there may be a number of factors, as I said earlier. Had the person already taken the training? Do they need that training? Maybe those are the reasons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your last supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have attended workshops and training programs. I am well aware that after you have completed a program or get certified, your wages get raised. What's going to be happening with these individuals' wages? Are they going to stay the same, or are they going to be increased?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would suggest, too, that there are different types of training you can take. First of all, you can take academic training that enhances your step or pay level on a grid, and therefore your pay will go up.

The training, if I understand what the member is speaking about, may be just professional development training within the job context, so they are actually doing their job better. I would not assume that their pay would increase because they have taken requisite training to do their job. Again, I'm not aware of the case in particular, and I would appreciate the member providing that information to me, and the department would review it, because we take the member's concern seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is now over. Going back to the orders of the day, Item 7. Item 8. Returns to written questions, Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the return to written question 4-2(1) and written question 5-2(1) on behalf of the Minister of Health and Social Services and the return to written question 6-2(1) on behalf of the Minister of Energy. Thank you.

Return to Written Question 004 – 2(1): Kitikmeot Health Centre

1. Once the Cambridge Bay health facility is operational, what specific services will be offered and provided by this facility?
 - Continuation of current care of Public Health and disease surveillance
 - Regular Clinical appointments.
 - Rehabilitation Services
 - Diagnostic Services
 - Laboratory Service
 - In Patient
 - Palliative Care
 - Mental Health Service
 - Special Neonatal Observation
 - Psychiatric Patient observation room
 - Special Procedures room to perform complicated diagnostic tests
 - Audiometry

- Specialty Physician Services.
 - Nutritional Services
2. What staffing requirements will there be in order to be able to offer these services? Specifically,
 - a. How many nursing staff will be required?
 - Nineteen including community health nurses
 - b. How many physicians will be required?
 - Six on site, plus specialist visits
 - c. How many support staff will be required?
 - Eleven point five
 - d. How many clerical staff will be required?
 - Nine
 - e. How many interpreter-translator staff will be required?
 - Two
 3. What recruiting strategies will be employed to fill these staff positions?
 - The department has implemented a steering committee to review, identify and implement long term retention and recruitment initiatives.
 4. What accommodation arrangements are being made to house individuals hired to fill these staff positions?
 - We have potentially seven - ten units as of September 2004 depending on the sales of the condominium units and GN staff move out of GN housing. Should none of the units sell, they will be turned into dedicated staff housing for the new Health Facility. Ten more housing units will be coming on line April 2005. *There are no other capital planning dollars allocated through the Housing Corporation for forced growth housing needs.
 5. When will the construction on the Kitikmeot health centre in Cambridge Bay be completed?
 - August 2004

6. When will the Kitikmeot health centre in Cambridge Bay be operational?

- Program implementation will begin in December 2004.

Return to Written Question 005 – 2(1): Kitikmeot Health Centre

1. What are the results of the GN's Request for Proposals (RFP) issued on February 23, 2004 for design services for the medical boarding home in Cambridge Bay?

- Results of GN RFP: The response to the publicly advertised RFP was good and resulted in a contract with an Architectural firm for the design.

2. How many proposals were received in response to this RFP and from whom?

- Three proposals were received: Calnitsky Associates Architects (Winnipeg), David Wong Architect Ltd. (Edmonton) and PSAV Architects Ltd. (Yellowknife). PSAV designed the new Health Facility in Cambridge Bay.

3. Has the contract for this RFP been awarded?

- Yes.

4. What entity received the contracts for this RFP?

- PSAV.

5. What is the value of the contract?

- \$156,100.

6. How many beds will be available for patients from out of town at the medical boarding home in Cambridge Bay?

- 14 beds.

7. When will construction of the medical boarding home Cambridge Bay be completed?

- October, 2004.

8. When will the medical boarding home in Cambridge Bay be operational?

- It will be available for operation in October, 2004.

Return to Written Question 006 – 2(1): Qulliq Energy Corporation

1. As of May 13, 2004, who are the members of the board of directors of the Qulliq Energy Corporation?
 - The Nunavut Power Utilities Act as amended by the Qulliq Energy Corporation Act stipulates the Board will be not less than six and not more than 10 directors. Presently there are eight directors. The directors are:

Simon Merkosak – Chairman
Dennis Lyall
Ryan St. John
John Holmes
Elisapee Sheutiapik
Ross Mrazek
Jimmy Kilabuk
Anne Crawford
2. From January 1, 2003 to May 13, 2004, how many meetings took place between members of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's Board of Directors and members of the Government of Nunavut's Crown Agency Council?
 - The Board of Directors of Qulliq Energy Corporation did not meet with the Government of Nunavut's Crown Agency Council between January 1, 2003 and May 13, 2004.
3. From January 1, 2003 to May 13, 2004, what ministerial directives were issued to the Qulliq Energy Corporation?
 - On May 29, 2003, the Minister directed the Corporation to:
 - freeze power rates until April 1, 2004
 - provide accurate and verifiable financial information on a quarterly basis
 - freeze all discretionary capital and operating commitments and expenditures
 - develop a General Rate Application proposal for Cabinet consideration
 - ensure the financial health and independence of the utility
 - research and implement measures for energy conservation and reducing dependence on diesel fuel generation
 - maximize efficiencies in the deliveries of services
 - develop an employee pay and benefits package consistent with the GN
 - develop and implement a public communication and education plan
4. As of May 1, 2004, how much has the Government of Nunavut spent in relation to the pending transfer of the functions and personnel of the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services to the Qulliq Energy

Corporation's subsidiary known as the Qulliq Fuel Corporation in each of the following areas:

- i. Relocation and removal costs for employees;
 - Zero
 - ii. Settlements and other compensation for employees;
 - Zero
 - iii. Advertising and recruitment;
 - Zero
 - iv. Office renovations, equipment purchase and other capital expenditures;
 - QEC constructed a computer server room in the PPD office in Rankin Inlet and installed communication cable between the NPC regional office and the PPD office.
 - v. Legal services costs;
 - Zero
 - vi. Consulting services;
 - Zero
 - vii. Administrative costs; and
 - Zero
 - viii. Other expenses?
 - \$4,672.25: travel to transition committee meeting. Additional trips to Iqaluit coincided with PW and S business and came out of the PW and S budget.
5. What specific factors account for the deferral until April 1, 2005, of the functions and personnel of the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services to the Qulliq Energy Corporation's subsidiary known as the Qulliq Fuel Corporation?
- The general rate review to determine the level of fuel prices that would enable the QFC to operate at a profit, repay debt and obtain an acceptable return on

- investment was not complete. From this review, the government will decide on the extent to which fuel prices increases will be passed on the public and how much will be met through a subsidy.
- Prepare legislation to establish the QFC as a subsidiary of the QEC.
 - Detailed financial plans for the QEC and each of its subsidiaries to determine the potential impact on fuel and electricity prices and the subsidy provided by the GN were not complete. The budgetary implications of the transfer of assets and operations from GN departments and agencies.
 - The agreement between the GN and the QEC on how the working capital and fixed assets were to be transferred was not finalized. This will require consultation with the Auditor General's office.
6. As of April 1, 2004, how many persons, broken down by community and position, are employed by the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services on a full- and part-time basis?
- There are presently 26 persons in total, 16 at PPD Headquarters, Rankin Inlet, 3 at the Kivalliq Regional Office, Rankin Inlet, 3 at the Kitikmeot Regional Office, Cambridge Bay and 4 at the Baffin Regional Office, Pond Inlet. All of these persons have full-time positions.
7. As of April 1, 2005, how many persons, broken down by community and position, are planned to be employed by the Qulliq Fuel Corporation on a full- and part-time basis?
- It is anticipated that the same level of staff will be employed by the Qulliq Fuel Corporation as are employed by the Petroleum Products Division.
8. From April 1, 2004, to April 1, 2005, what expenditures are planned by the Government of Nunavut in relation to the transfer of functions and personnel of the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services to the Qulliq Energy Corporation's subsidiary known as the Qulliq Fuel Corporation in each of the following areas:
- ix. Relocation and removal costs for employees;
- Zero
- x. Settlements and other compensation for employees;
- Zero
- xi. Advertising and recruitment;

- Zero
- xii. Office renovations, equipment purchase and other capital expenditures;
 - Zero
- xiii. Legal services costs;
 - Zero
- xiv. Consulting services;
 - Zero
- xv. Administrative costs; and
 - Zero
- xvi. Other expenses?
 - A total of \$500,000 has been identified in the CGS budget related to the PPD transfer to QEC. That is intended to fund environmental site assessments related to liability issues, computer hardware and software, and legal fees associated with the transfer. A contribution agreement is currently being negotiated for the use of these funds.
 - As it is anticipated that the current staff and physical offices will be transferred, no funds have been allocated for relocation, severance, recruitment or office renovation.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Tabling of documents, Mr. Picco.

Item 9: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 029 – 2(1): Response to Petition 002 – 2(1)

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to table the response to petition 2-2(1) Training Courses for Taloyoak. This is in response to the petition for more training courses, tabled by the Member for Natsiliq.

Nunavut Arctic College's adult educator conducted a community- needs assessment by consulting with key stakeholders in the community over the past few weeks. The college will be working proactively with various partners and funding agencies to deliver

programs identified in the report in the community of Taloyoak and other communities in the Kitikmeot region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of documents, Mr. Curley.

Tabled Document 030 – 2(1): Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting Resolutions 2004

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document, the *Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce Annual Report* from their March annual general meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 14. Item 15. Item 16. Item 17. Item 18. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 2 – Appropriations (O&M) Act, 2004-2005, with Mr. Netser in the chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 11-2(1), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

We'll take a 10-minute break and resume at 1:30 after lunch.

Sergeant- at- arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:28 and resumed at 11:39*

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

Chairman: Thank you. In the Committee of the Whole, we have Bill 2 to deal with, you all know it now. Mr. Akesuk, please proceed with your opening comments.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before proceeding with my opening comments, I would like to talk about the main estimates and total for the Department of Environment, which is a total of \$16,168,000.

(Interpretation ends.) The Department of Environment was given the lead responsibility for the protection, promotion, enhancement, and sustainable use of Nunavut's environment and renewable resources. Our department is responsible for a wide range of regulatory and program functions, including a number of the legal and statutory obligations of the Government of Nunavut.

In order to achieve this, we have structured the program delivery component of the department to concentrate on four areas:

- Wildlife Management
- Environmental Protection,
- Fisheries and Sealing, and
- Parks and Conservation Areas

One of the major challenges facing my department in 2004-05 will be to deliver on our existing mandatory management, regulatory, and land claim responsibilities and obligations, and yet still provide needed support to Nunavut harvesters.

In order to ensure that the funding we have provides real benefits to Nunavummiut, our main estimates and business plan for 2004-05 focus on two key areas:

- Delivering on our mandatory obligations and responsibilities
- Supporting partnerships within strategic areas of our operations

Obligations and Responsibilities:

The Department of Environment has a number of specific obligations and areas of responsibility under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement that are directly related to the management of Nunavut's resources.

Among other things, this includes ongoing responsibility for the co- management of all wildlife in Nunavut, land use planning, environmental regulatory functions, and responsibility for the implementation of the Territorial Parks Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement. As you can see, a significant portion of our overall budget goes to ensuring that we meet those obligations.

Focus on Partnerships:

Where possible, by partnering with other organizations and institutions, the department will maximize the impact of our dollars to increase or supplement our internal capacity.

For example, all funding provided under our Fisheries Development and Diversification Program is on a cost- shared basis, which increases the funds available to support the development of Nunavut's emerging fishing industry.

Last year, a total of \$350,000 in funding was available through this program, and we were successful in leveraging more than twice that amount from other sources, which was injected directly into the development and diversification of Nunavut's fishing industry. We will continue to fund this program at the same level in 2004-05.

Another example is the creation of the Nunavut Energy Centre. The department is working in partnership with Qulliq Energy Corporation, NTI, and other stakeholders to establish a hands-on vehicle for reducing Nunavut's energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as developing local alternative energy technologies. A relatively small investment on the part of the department will support the development of this much-needed enterprise and help us deliver on our climate change commitments. Throughout our budgeting and planning for 2004-05, in all cases we have attempted to support partnerships as the most efficient and cost-effective approach to getting things done.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment is committed to fiscal responsibility and will do our best to work within existing fiscal restraints, but I do want to let you know that we will require ongoing supplementary funding linked directly to the creation of the new Department of Environment. Without this support, significant operational decisions regarding program delivery and support will have to be made.

Closing Remarks:

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to point out that the Department of Environment's 2004-05 main estimates and business plan are based on a considered and well-focused strategy that clearly supports the obligations and priorities of the Government of Nunavut as well as the needs of Nunavummiut.

I am confident that my department will provide Nunavummiut with the highest standard of performance and accountability.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time, I would like to get the chair of the Standing Committee, Mr. Mapsalak, to do his opening remarks.

A reminder that the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development is to meet in the Tuktu Room at noontime to review the bill with the minister responsible. The Committee of the Whole is now on a break until 1:30. Please, be back at 1:30, and have a good lunch. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed at 11:46 and resumed at 13:22*

Chairman: The committee will come to order. Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening remarks? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be able to give the committee's opening remarks as we begin debate on the 2004-05 main estimates for the Department of Environment. Later on, members will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding these estimates.

The Standing Committee Ajauqtiit has had the opportunity to meet with the minister and his staff. The minister was able to give an update on his department's proposed expenditures.

Members were pleased to hear that 2004 federal budget will be provided over 10 years for a major multi-year cleanup of federal contaminated sites, 60 percent of which is expected to occur in the North.

Members wish to be kept informed by the minister on any meetings with his federal counterparts, especially with respect to the schedule and budget for cleanups, once the funding has been finalized.

Members are of the view that there are a number of contaminated sites on the land that only community residents and hunters are aware of. Communities should be consulted in identifying priorities.

Members expressed great concern with respect to MOUs for polar bear quotas. HTOs in communities continue to express concern that these agreements are out of date. The current MOUs being used were signed almost a decade ago.

Some of the communities have asked for increases in their quotas because the polar bear population appears to have risen in some areas. This is very evident by the number of nuisance polar bears breaking into caches and dumps.

Members have been told that the department has prepared the final drafts of a number of MOUs for polar bear quotas. Members look forward to reviewing them once they have been signed by the minister. This area is a prime example of where Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit should be relied upon in government decision-making.

On a related issue, the committee noted that this is the only department that refers to Inuit Qaujimagangit rather than Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in its business plan and commends the department for giving genuine, careful thought to these concepts.

Members understand that the department is now working on drafting regulations for the new Wildlife Act and will be consulting with communities. Members wish to be kept fully informed on progress in this area and have the opportunity to review draft regulations prior to their final approval.

There has been significant media coverage recently with respect to fisheries in Nunavut. Members understand that the MOUs that formed the Baffin Fisheries Coalition expired at the end of May, and a new MOU will be required.

The committee is committed to the development of Nunavut's fishing industry as this will create much-needed employment for Nunavummiut. Members eagerly look forward to reviewing the new fisheries strategy.

Members note with approval that the prices and sales of sealskins have stabilized somewhat and commend the department's efforts to revitalize sealing in Nunavut through its fur pricing program and support for marketing campaigns that highlight the sustainable harvesting practices used by Inuit.

Members wish to be kept informed on the status of the establishment of the joint planning and management committees for all territorial parks in Nunavut and the final negotiation of outstanding Inuit Impact Benefits Agreements for conservation areas.

Members realize that this is a new department with new structure. There may be some overlap in the area of economic development, and the committee will be monitoring the department's progress closely over its first year of existence.

This concludes my opening remarks, and I anticipate that individual members will raise their own comments and concerns on the department's 2004-05 main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Will the minister go to the witness table? Will you need your officials over there, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I wish to bring my witnesses.

Chairman: Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

Could you please introduce your witnesses, Mr. Akasuk?

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Yes, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Deputy Minister Simon Awa. To my left is Mr. Trevor Jarrett, Manager of Financial Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Welcome, Mr. Minister, and your officials. I would like to recognize Ben Kovic, who is the chairman of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Welcome, Mr. Kovic.

>> *Applause*

As the members know, we have been going through this daily. General comments are open to the members. Nobody? Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't be using my ten-minute allotment, but I will be speaking my own concerns.

Inuit people have always thought about using wildlife in the best way that they feel that they could. For many years, we have thought of wildlife as precious to our community. At times, we have concerns when we see television programs where the animals are mistreated and when there are Greenpeace people. It impacts on the people of Nunavut.

Sometimes, there are people out there who don't want fish and other wildlife abandoned, which is the case for us here in Nunavut. To us, the Inuit, it's our culture, our way of doing things, not to waste any fish. When there's fishing on television, you can see them throw away some of the fish.

I can use myself as an example because I have to live by breathing in air, and if I stayed in the water for too long I would drown. It's the same thing that could happen to the fish caught in the net. Whenever the fish are in the water they are okay, but as soon as you bring them into the air, they can't breathe anymore. That really bothers me.

It's just the way I grew up as an Inuk. I'm not exactly sure what happens here in Nunavut about the fisheries in Nunavut. I'm not sure if they have the same kind of thing as the southern fishermen.

There are a lot of people hungry out there in the communities of Nunavut who could survive on the amount that is wasted elsewhere. Some of them go fishing, when you see the southerners on television they do catch and release... . As long as I am living in Nunavut, I'm going to be in support of the Inuit way of doing things, and I will not tolerate those people that are like animal activists and Greenpeace organizations.

Our way of sustenance is seals, it is the way of life here in Nunavut. The animal rights activists and the Greenpeace people, I do not agree with their way of doing things.

I just wanted to be able to mention this because I am always proud of it, and it has always been a concern of mine, especially when I see, on television, people fishing and pulling

them out of the water and just leaving them to die. I just wanted to mention that, Mr. Chairman. That is it. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This has always been a concern, especially in my constituency, at the Polaris mine and Nanisivik, and I would like to talk about it..

In regard to the review or study of pollutants and contaminants, we do not know today exactly what the pollutants will do to the people from those abandoned mining sites, and we have not been told how dangerous it is for the unborn fetus or for the health of the public living close by. This has been a great concern for the people of my constituency. I think that there has to be a cleanup done in those abandoned mine sites. It is evident that it is all over the place and has been around for a number of years.

Quite a few years ago, it seemed like the top of the snow was just like in the summertime, and it was a concern because there are children playing out on top of the contaminated snow.

In 1945 and 1954, the American armed forces did a lot of work at Melville Island, and they abandoned some contaminants. I am sure that they have not been cleaned up to date, such as the barrels that are still not empty. There have not been any regulations made or any study done to make sure that they are not spilled into the ground. We thought that there was going to be some asbestos removed from the old buildings up in my constituency. Now, all the remains of those old building sites have to be cleaned up.

Also, the magnetic North Pole and the true North Pole are visited by a lot of tourists. I feel that it should be cleaned up. The Polaris mine has not been cleaned up yet, and it seems like they did a review on it to find out how much it would cost, and the cost was getting higher all the time.

I feel that there should be a cleanup of contaminated diesel fuel out there on the land. It is very expensive to clean up. I feel that the old abandoned mine sites, especially with uranium contaminants, must be cleaned up.

Wildlife out on the land is always migrating, and we have to make sure they are in a healthy state. The fish in the sea are also worse off for those things, and as well, there are airborne contaminants everywhere. Sometimes those substances end up being eaten by cod and other fish in the sea. It takes a long time for studies to be done on wildlife to determine if they are not carrying contaminants from abandoned mine sites and other contaminated sites. I think that should be done regularly. That's what I wanted to talk about, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I have Mr. Arreak's name, but he's not here, so who had a hand up? There's a point of order. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): During Committee of the Whole, do we need to wear proper attire? Can you clarify before too long?

Chairman (interpretation): The rules state that we have to wear proper attire, although we don't need our jackets on during the Committee of the Whole. You need to wear a tie. (Interpretation ends.) That's the rule. I'm sorry. Mr. Evyagotailak, did you want to make your general comments? Go ahead.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Interpretation ends.) I just wanted to say to the Minister of Environment that this time of year is a family time where a lot of people in Nunavut are camping out. We are all concerned about garbage going all over when the campers don't bring their garbage back. There are grizzly bears, polar bears, foxes that can make a lot of mess with the garbage.

I'd like to see the Minister of Environment get some posters out to the communities, so that next year, in springtime, or even in the summertime, when a lot of people go out camping a lot of garbage will be brought back into the communities.

I would like to see that the minister get a poster out to make sure that the campers and the hunters bring all their garbage back. Nunavut is a very clean country. We need clean land, and once you start walking where there's a lot of garbage in all camping areas, it's not nice to see, especially for tourists coming from down south, come to see the nice environment. That's about it, Mr. Chairman, Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): I'm going to make my general comments short. The Department of Environment is important to the communities because we grew up with hunting lifestyles, and usually that was our way of life. I'm sure that the public of Nunavut will be going out hunting.

The HTOs are very beneficial to the communities, and they have to work with Article 5 in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. The HTOs also work with the directives of the government, and other entities give directives to the HTOs. Yet, they are not provided with adequate resources and are provided with insufficient funding at the local level. It seems like the funding for HTOs is never increased.

At times they have difficulty hiring secretary managers, especially in Clyde River. I'm sure it is like that in all the communities. I would urge the minister to look into this, if he has not already do so. They need to be provided with additional funding.

We have heard that the polar bear memorandum of understanding is outdated, and we are still using the MOU. The polar bear quota has not been changed for approximately 10 years. We've been using it without any amendments.

I have heard that they're working on the amendments, but one thing that is needed in the community when the polar bear comes into the community... . When they shoot the bear, when they harvest the polar bear, they used to deduct them from the quota. Previously, they had red tags for nuisance polar bears.

Every time we harvest bears, when they come into the communities and are harvested off season, they take tag out of the quota after it is harvested for safety purposes. Looking at the past four years, perhaps Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will apply in the new MOUs.

I do not see any extra Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in memorandums of understanding, although they are mentioned in there. Every time Inuit talk about their knowledge to officials visiting them, and try to negotiate with the officials, they don't really believe in Inuit knowledge when they start talking about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

It seems like the number of polar bears coming into the community has increased, and the population has increased. When the wildlife or any form of species become over-populated, they don't get scared of human beings, so, if the quota could be increased, there would be less disturbance in the community.

I'll conclude with that for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. I have no more names on my list for general comments. We're on page I-4. We'll start off with I-5.

Environment branch summary. Total, operations and maintenance, \$3,348,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his staff to our meeting.

Can the minister update me on the establishment of the Department of Environment in the Kitikmeot? Do you have any staff out there or any offices? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we have to look into what is happening around Nunavut communities in order to have an appropriate set-up in all the regions. Although we have decided not to deal regionally, my officials went to attend a meeting of the environmental senior officials to look at environmental issues and their work to date.

We have an office in Kugluktuk. They attended a meeting for environmental strategic issues, and it went well. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister explain to me the reporting structure in terms of the Kitikmeot staff? Do they report to someone in the Kitikmeot, or do they have to report to someone here at headquarters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you. I will get my deputy to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the new department was established back in March, we had to do some rearranging of the HTOs at the local level, as the minister stated. Although he stated that he really does not want to use regional, but that is the case in our operations.

The regional Kitikmeot had headquarters in Kugluktuk. The Regional Wildlife Division has an office in Kugluktuk, and they have administrative assistants and a finance controller, too.

The regional wildlife manager in Kugluktuk reports to the director of wildlife in Igloolik. That is the reporting system. The HTO's headquarters is Kugluktuk, and the Kugluktuk Wildlife Division reports to the Igloolik Division Office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Any more, Mr. Peterson?

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that answer. How many staff do you have based in the Kitikmeot under this structure?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Awa?

Mr. Awa (interpretation): At this time, I can only say that the majority of the communities have HTOs, including the headquarters in Kugluktuk. I am just estimating. I apologize, I am giving you a guestimate, perhaps close to 10. It might be a little bit over 10, including the biologists. We do have biologists over there, so it is close to 10-12 staff in the Kitikmeot. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Awa. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to point out that a few years ago there was a concern that when folks in Kitikmeot wanted to deal with an issue, they

called the regional staff based in Kugluktuk, but they weren't really regional staff. They reported to someone here in Iqaluit. That complicated things. It took a lot of effort and time to get regional issues dealt with or concerns listened to.

What I am hearing is that you have one biologist, but then you have hunters and trappers organizations, but the biologist is the one who actually works for the Department of Environment. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, all the biologists work for us. At the local level, we usually we want HTOs to work closely with the biologists, so that they can recognize Inuit Qaujimagatunangit and incorporate them. We have asked them to work with the biologists. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You have one biologist, but do you have any other plans in the future to hire any other experts involved with wildlife? You have companies in the Kitikmeot, mining companies, the DEW Line cleanup, the companies that do DEW Line cleanups.

It is the sort of organization that would require expertise in your department based in the Kitikmeot, to get some timely advice and help with the policies they are working on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are going to work extremely hard and do all we can. Of course, we are representing the Inuit of Nunavut, the people of Nunavut, and we will keep a close on eye on it.

The reason why the Department of Sustainable Development was split was to deal with the concerns in a more appropriate manner and, to us, it is extremely important in regard to the environment and to the cleanup. We have to have properly skilled or experienced people to work in our department. I think that we will have to be more diligent in that regard. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question regarding the MOUs on polar bears. When are you going to be approving the MOUs on polar bears? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They have not been given to us from Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. I think there are two or three signatures still required, but after it has been approved by Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, it will be up to me to review it further and then approve it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you. Of course, we want to understand what is happening and be kept up- to- date on all of those issues. There are some communities that have fewer quotas for bears. Is your department thinking about increasing the quotas for these communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have had some increases in some communities, but of course, it has to go through the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board prior to coming back to me.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, the Department of Environment, and the regional wildlife officers worked on this agreement, and we have consulted with the hunters and trappers organizations. That is where we are at this point.

Chairman: Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The problem we have is McClintock Channel. Could you give us an update on whether you are going to be lifting that moratorium in the McClintock Channel?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I do not think it is in here, but I will let you go ahead. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): In regard to the McClintock Channel, there is going to be a meeting around the middle of June, and we are going to be inviting all of the stakeholders in regard to McClintock Channel. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, there is also another agreement with the government of Greenland, with the Home Rule Government, on polar bears. Has this agreement been signed by the parties?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not signed any agreements to date, but we are having ongoing discussions in regard to polar bears in the environment.

Chairman (interpretation): That's it? Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to give a preamble and ask a question afterwards.

The HTOs and the NWMB have a lot more contributions to make in regard to keeping the environment clean. The hunters and trappers organizations apply for the CIP grant in order to clean up the campsites. Minister Tapardjuk stated that there was \$680,000 that would be used for the summer student program and that could be accessed by agencies at the community level.

I think that we are all aware that there are campsites out there, outside of our community, and that we cannot use government assets to go out there. I think that we could utilize the summer student program to get the environment cleaned and also to advertise or show pamphlets or posters out there by accessing these monies made available by the government.

Today governments, different agencies, and the aboriginal organizations sign agreements. I believe it is doable to keep the environment clean. There could be a working relationship with the governments, private agencies, aboriginal groups on keeping our environment clean. Your department could also have the communities use four-wheeled vehicles, boats, and so on belonging to the government, so that they could go out there and clean up the environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the member for his brilliant suggestion for keeping the environment clean. If that should be initiated by our government, because, of course, we signed an agreement with NTI, we could include that agreement, so that there would be a working relationship between the two bodies.

We're also concerned about one of the clauses of Bill 35, about keeping the environment and campsites clean. This has been an ongoing concern of the communities, and I think that suggestion would be an excellent way of taking care of that problem.

We could have discussions with private agencies, the hamlets, and the stakeholders in order to get this initiative going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Anything else, Mr. Alagalak?

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): I'll have additional questions afterwards, once we go on to the appropriate page. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on I-4. Can the minister provide an update on the other outside funding initiatives currently being accessed, negotiated, or pursued by the department?

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayok Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Is your question in relation to the source of outside funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): My question is in regard to the base funding estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayok Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We are going to be looking at accessing possibly 20 percent more funding. Thank you.

Chairman Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What kind of goals has your department set in regard to increasing the number of wildlife officer positions in Igloolik? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayok Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman. I'll have my deputy respond to your question.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Igloolik, we had been working on these positions for a long time, and one of the difficulties that we are having is that they have to be specialized and technical people. The main problem we have is the lack of housing in Igloolik.

Currently, the government has identified five units for staff housing for our purposes. Although there are people over there, we haven't filled all the positions yet. At this time, we are identifying the positions to be filled, and they will be moved up there as the

positions are filled. The major problem we have is the lack of public housing, but they will be going up to Igloolik starting this month. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you. The department conducted community consultations on the Wildlife Act with every community in Nunavut. How many communities will be consulted in the development of the regulations?

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayok Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Environment, along with NTI, the RWOs, and the HTAs, have agreed that they are going to start looking at the Wildlife Act, and, of course, we'll be including the HTOs at the community level. When we set up the wildlife regulations, we will involve all stakeholders.

I don't know exactly how many communities we are going to be going to, but what I can say is that the stakeholders will be involved and consulted when we are putting together the regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When are the regulations going to be tabled at the House? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayok Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. In order to implement Bill 35 before the regulations, I don't know exactly when they going to start writing or drafting the regulations. I'm sure that members of the Legislative Assembly will be involved and that entities out there will be coming to you to voice their concerns.

I can't tell you exactly when they are going to be completed, but we will want to implement it by January.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): What new regulations are we going to see? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayok Akesuk (interpretation): As I said, the RWOs, NTI, NWMB, and HTOs are going to be getting together to draft the regulations. Once they are complete, we will

consult with you to make sure that it is Nunavut- made, just the same way that we processed Bill 35.

All stakeholders will be involved because we want to have this a Nunavut- made act, along with Nunavummiut regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you. My last question: Why have they cut PYs in the wildlife management and the wildlife research budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: I don't think we have cut down any PYs from our department, and we're even trying to increase our PYs because we have to do our very best job to make sure we represent Nunavummiut. I don't think we have cut down any jobs, on our PYs.

We've split the Department of Sustainable Development into two, and we took what we had to take. I believe we still need employees in our department. I don't think we ever cut down our PYs in the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. You said there were no further questions. We are on page I-5. Environment branch summary. Management. Total, operations and maintenance, \$3,348,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I-7. Environment branch summary. Program development. Total, operations and maintenance, \$10,800,000. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to make some comments about the sealing strategy. I just want to ask the minister if that has been started, or whether it is just being considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a framework in place at this time, and it has been written. We will begin that process, which includes fishing. The framework is now completed. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, will there be consultations in the communities? Did you use consultants, or did you use your own staff? If you haven't

done so already, during the community consultations, are you going to be using consultants? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not going to be using consultants but will be doing community consultations, although we're not exactly sure which communities will be consulted. We will be going to the communities during that process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the minister. I just want to say that I am in support of this process that your department will be dealing with. A lot of people in Rankin Inlet have had some concerns because of the closure of the exporting of sealskins. It is a concern of ours, the people of Nunavut.

But it is very important for the people who use it as an economic development, not just because of the price but because there is assistance to the people selling sealskins. I think one of them is \$170,000 for a full package program.

What I wanted to say, too, is a few years ago, there were more people hunting seal when the price of sealskin was a lot more, but today, the price of sealskins is not very viable because there are not enough sealskin preparers.

When you are talking about the sealing strategy, I would like to ask if it is going to be a package. I think some of the communities do not really want to deal with orders to try to make money in regard to producing sealskins. There should be a facility in the communities in partnership with some kind of a developing agency. That would be very good to help the people.

There are a lot of people taught out on the land, say for instance, the people who go to the outpost camps from the correctional facilities, who could do that. There also are a lot of young people who want to learn to hunt and seal, but they do not get the opportunity to do that. They could be taught in an area like this. Some of the hunters can teach young people to do all of those things, like their own tanning. That has been my idea because we know that we are not going to make that much money just with sealskins. We have to be able to have a facility in place for it to be sustainable.

I just wondered what the thoughts of the minister are on that issue.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for his suggestions on sealskin products for the people of Nunavut. During the consultations, we will consider the comments made by the member, and it will all be

included in the report. We will have the suggestions made by the member on young people, including this suggestion of having a facility. I know that the people are not much into selling their sealskin products because of the low price of skins.

What we can do is to try to promote this sealskin production again to the people of Nunavut. When we have that strategy that we are talking about, it would be good to include the member's comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman I would like to thank the minister for his response. It is going to be very easy to do the drafting with the strategy, but what I would like to say, what I understood is, selling sealskins itself cannot be viable or sustainable. There have to be other things in place, like training young people and families.

We have to have a package program. You cannot just start thinking you can do this, you can do that, but it should be put together to make it more viable and for them to make more money. It would be a lot better for the people of Nunavut if the minister had the initiative to do so. It is expected by the people of Nunavut.

I would like to thank the minister for considering my comments. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will consider the comments of the member. We would like to be able to try to help the people of Nunavut in any way we can in regard to economic development. I myself, as a minister, will make sure those kinds of things and comments will be put in the strategy report. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to ask another question of the minister. Do you have some kind of an idea about polar bear sports hunting in Nunavut, since the time of the Northwest Territories, and now that we have Nunavut. Do we have kind of an idea how many sports hunters come here to hunt polar bears yearly?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): In the communities, Hunters and Trappers usually reports to us and gives us an idea how many tags are going to be used for sport hunters and how many for other hunters. In line with their quota, they write down how many are taken by sports hunters and how many are taken by regular hunters, so that we will know from their report.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if you can include in your report or information item, and bring the information to the House, on how many tags were used for commercial purposes, and from which states, or wherever the sports hunters are coming from. I would also like to hear about the caribou that sport hunters take and the number of sport hunters there are in a year.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure that there are a few sport hunters that come up north to hunt commercially musk ox, polar bear, and caribou. For the members of this House, I can have the data written down on how many caribou have been taken for commercial purposes, how many polar bears and caribou have been taken by sport hunters. I could report that to the House. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I think it would be very good information for the members of this House, and if possible, if the regulations were to be written down, so that the Americans are prohibited from hunting polar bears in the North. Is there a possibility of doing that?.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): It is up to members of the communities, according to the numbers of sports hunters. The hunters and trappers organizations have the data in place on how much sports hunting was done in each community and where those individuals come from.

It is a very good venture for the community, especially the hunters and trappers organizations, and they would lose out quite a bit of money if they were to ban or to stop the Americans from big-game hunting in the communities. I think it would be best if we could hear from the communities themselves.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is just my own view. I do not think that we should really thank the Americans because they have banned some trade in regard to sealskins and ivory products, so we cannot send any of these products from here.

People, like outfitters and hunters, do not really gain too much from American sports hunters. We would be a lot better off if we were able to send those products down to the States, but because now it is banned, I think we should just forget about the Americans. It is not really just them who are not assisting us. I just want you to hear that. I do not think we should feel sorry for the Americans.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes. We will consider the wish of the member or members because we would like to be able to sell sealskin products to the States.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister about parks. In Cambridge Bay, we are trying to develop the Owayok Park, and I noted on your business plan on page I-12 that your funds are decreasing by \$241,000 over last year.

I am wondering if the minister could explain if the funding decrease will impact the completion of the Owayok Park in Cambridge Bay this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question that the member asks has to do with spending money in the capital budget, but we will continue to develop products in the communities, outside the communities, in the surrounding communities.

We will have to develop them and to make sure that they continue for the benefit of the tourists who come to the community because those products are of great interest to the tourists. We will continue to develop them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure if that is in your capital fund. We have a committee in Cambridge Bay that includes the elders, the hunters and trappers organization, the hamlet, and a number of other individuals and groups, and they were doing a lot of hard work over the last year-and-a-half.

Some concern was expressed to me earlier this year that the department might be running out of money, and this work would be left uncompleted. That park is something that has been on the books for 15 to 20 years, and the folks are hoping that it will be completed this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date, in our business plan, it states that we will be working on this. Perhaps we'll complete it. We're not going to just neglect it. We just want to deal with it properly. We are committed to completing it and to completing the park near Cambridge Bay by working with the community. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is good to hear that the minister is committed. I want to touch on environmental protection now. During the meeting last month or in April in the regular member caucus, I raised the issue of the department working with hamlets completing an environmental inventory of contaminated areas, or environmentally dangerous areas, within the community. I'm wondering if all 25 or 26 communities in Nunavut are having similar problems.

A few years ago, the mayors identified that it would probably cost \$30- 35,000 just to have that work done per community. I wonder how the minister's department would work with the community to get that important work completed and possibly keep the cost down. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have been reviewing all the communities, or the majority of the communities, if not all of them, to find out what kind of work has been done on environmental assessment.

We're assessing the communities to find out whether there are contaminants in the communities. Once all of the communities have been assessed, then the next step will be to figure out how to clean up the contaminants in the communities. We'll then have to make funding requirements and budget them. That is what we have agreed to, but first of all we must complete the assessment of the contaminants in all the communities before figuring out the financing of cleaning up the contaminants in all the communities of Nunavut.

Once the assessment is done, then we're going to the next step. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to hear that you are making that a priority, and I hope you will involve the hamlets because they make it a priority as well.

My second question on environmental protection relates to a comment in your business plan on page I-11. It refers to orphaned sites owned and managed by the Government of Nunavut. I wonder if you could describe to us what you meant when you mentioned orphaned sites owned and managed by the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There, in our business plans, we've also listed the contaminated sites, and we will work on them with the

Nunavut government because some members of the Legislative Assembly have had concerns in regard to contaminated sites.

These will fall under Nunavut's responsibilities. No matter where they are, the Nunavut government will work to clean up all the contaminated areas. If it is the federal government that contaminated the sites, we are responsible for cleaning them, although we do want complete responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We raised that issue of orphaned dump sites. In Cambridge Bay, we had identified three orphaned dump sites, and on one particular orphaned dump site, we eventually were successful in getting some funds from Environment Canada. They put us through hoops and hurdles and red tape, and they wanted us to identify who used the orphaned dumpsites over the last 40-50 years. It's very difficult, as you can appreciate, for us to do that. But eventually they did give us some funding.

It is a huge job to access money from the federal government to clean up orphaned dumpsites when we don't know who the previous owners or the people who dumped on those sites were. The hamlets need some help from the government. Maybe at a ministerial or Premier level, you should talk to the federal government officials and tell them that municipal bodies just don't have the capacity to identify who the owners were, who used the orphaned dumpsites within their municipal boundaries over the last 40-50-60 years. I wanted to offer that comment, that it's going to be a difficult job. There are some very messy sites around our communities. That was the comment, Mr. Chairman.

My last question is on wildlife management related to hunters and trappers organizations. As the minister indicates on I-9, HTOs get \$317,000. I want to ask the minister about hunters and trappers organizations that have business arms which take sports hunters and other adventure type folks out on the land.

Sometimes, accidents happen, and I'm wondering if the business arm takes people out and an accident happens and someone gets injured or killed, is there a liability to the hunters and trappers organizations there because they are the parent organization of the business arm? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayok Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We give \$317,000 to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, so that they can distribute it on behalf of the government. They put more money in than we do to the hunters and trappers organizations, and I believe each HTO gets about \$10-12,000 from this pot. The individual's insurance would cover the injuries or accidents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister aware of any cases in Nunavut where the business arms of hunters and trappers organizations are being sued by families or businesses related to accidents that occurred in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayok Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not aware of any lawsuits like that. The last incident that I remember was covered by WCB. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was touched upon by other members here, but I do want to ask a few other questions in regard to memorandums of understanding. It's been dealt with for quite some time now, and I've also been involved in dealing with MOUs. I've been the chair of the town with the HTO. We've been dealing with this MOU for a long time. Perhaps the minister would know whether the population of polar bears is increasing or fluctuating.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The polar bear population is increasing according to the reports of the communities; we have committed to using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and recognize the fact that the population of polar bears is on the rise. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the response. I am sure the public is very interested in hearing it. The reason I asked this question is in regard to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, the knowledge of the Inuit.

They state that they have noticed that the polar bear population is increasing. Many people keep stating that the polar bear population is increasing. The polar bear biologists could not believe Inuit people, and yet cases of nuisance bears are increasing.

One of the reasons given is the climate change, which is causing bears to go into the community. In all of the communities of Nunavut, the communities have been complaining about nuisance bears increasing.

This is just a comment, but since it is evident now that all of the communities in Nunavut report increased polar bear populations, will you be increasing the polar bear quota in all of the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, and I am sure the quota will increase in some communities, but we have not put the figure in for the number of polar bears. I am sure that there is going to be an increase in the polar bear quota, but we still do not know the figure as yet. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are you finished? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you for the response. It is very interesting to hear. I will ask my last question on another topic: lakes. They are very beneficial to seal hunters, especially to the elders.

During the summer, when they start seal hunting, there is a lot of potential for economic ventures. Do you have any idea whether the price of sealskins is going to go down or not? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to wait until the microphone is turned on, even though we want to respond right away. The price of sealskins varies at the auction annually.

We purchase the sealskins from the hunters. When we purchase the sealskin from you, we give you a \$50 to \$60 dollar advance. Then it is sent down to the North Bay auction to be sold. The average is between \$40 and \$60 per skin.

The price of sealskin fluctuates annually. I have stated to Mr. Curley that we want to do some guidelines on sealing and fishing, but in regard to sealskin, personally, I will work hard to promote sealskins, the marketing of sealskin, and the prices that follow the auction price. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Are you finished? Before we go to Mr. Evyagotailak, I would like to recognize an elder from Pangnirtung, Joanasi Manniapik, who is in the gallery. He is the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit person for Peter Kilabuk. Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like the minister said, sometimes we have to wait for the light to go on before we say anything. On fisheries, I would like to ask a question. A lot of us are from close to the coast. We love seafood. The Newfoundlander Minister of Education probably likes seafood too.

What effort is the minister going to be making to lobby the federal government for funding for a test fishery?

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this review by our department, and as I said earlier, we are looking at setting some money aside for fisheries. We have accessed \$1.8 million from the federal government that would be used for a fisheries program. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question will be on the Kugluktuk and the Pangnirtung test fisheries. Before I ask this question, I would like to let your deputy know that the name of Kugluktuk is not Kugluktuuk. It is Kugluktuk. They named it for the falls there.

What is the next step for the Kugluktuk and Pangnirtung test fisheries?.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: We are going to be working on this further. The results were positive in regard to quantity of cod, crab, and flounder being found, so it looks pretty promising right now.

We are going to do a test fishery in the Coronation Gulf region, which I think is pretty good. I think that my colleague, Mr. Kilabuk, is very happy that you asked that question because we are always doing our very best to bring up fisheries in Pangnirtung, where it is pretty successful. I believe we will continue to support the fisheries in Nunavut in order to help out our economy for the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you. Thanks for answering that question. On conservation and park areas, I know that some of the regions are still negotiating on the IIBA. What exactly is the park program and testing plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order to complete the negotiations, we have completed the IIBAs and are going to be working with the communities to conclude the IIBAs under tourism. We would like to conclude them for those communities affected. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much will the Impact Benefits Agreement cost the government?

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: We still don't have the fees, but once we finish the IIBA agreement with the respective communities or organizations, we'll find out. I think the money will also be coming from NTI or NFCA, so I think it is important for us to finish IIBAs and make sure that we benefit the Inuit affected by the IIBA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the delay time on IIBAs have any impacts on the development of the park?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that it will have an effect on the communities. We don't know exactly what type of effect it will have, but I think that it will be better to take it slowly instead of trying to rush through and get them signed.

I know it will have a financial impact, but we will want to have a good agreement.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, another question here. When will the negotiations be completed, and also when will those IIBAs be signed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have the dates or the year that we're going to be finishing these, although it will be several more years, but we will certainly be working on our IIBAs to make sure that we finish them sooner than later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What impact does the lack of IIBA have on conservation areas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is very important that we work with the communities affected on conservation areas because they are the people who know more about the impacts of the conservation areas not signing the IIBAs.

I believe that the best way to answer your question is to tell you that that we must work closely with the communities in order for us to have conservation noted and not forgotten. We're very careful with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to be present at the signing of IIBA in the Kitikmeot area because I was a board member of KIA when the negotiations started, and I would like to be notified when the time will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: I certainly hope the MLAs for Kitikmeot invite me to the signing so that we'll be happy with the IIBA. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Anything else? We are on page I-7. Environment branch summary. Program development. Total, operations and maintenance, \$10,863,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. For information, the following pages after page I-12 are information items. I-15. We will go back to page I-1. The floor is open at this time. Do you have any further questions? Back to page I-4. It is like we are playing bingo; whether Peter would be a good bingo caller, I do not know. Environment department summary. Detail of expenditures. Total, operations and maintenance, \$14,211,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee for the Department of Environment concur?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman(interpretation): Thank you. If you have closing remarks, the floor is yours, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for posing those questions. I would also like to thank my officials for being here with me.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Simon Awa and Trevor Jarrett for appearing before the committee. Now, I would like to ask the Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Tapardjuk, to make his opening remarks.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good day. I am pleased today to present the 2004-05 main estimates and business plan of the Department of Human Resources.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Human Resources has been allocated a budget of \$18.1 million. We have a compliment of 85.5 staff, including 14 interim management in various positions.

To fulfill our obligations to Pinasuaqtavut, the Inuit Employment Plan will continue to be our main priority. The plan incorporates guiding principles of the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, and all divisions of the human resources department will continue to focus initiatives and programs on its implementation.

The Government of Nunavut Employment Division will coordinate and monitor the plan's implementation across the government. We will work with all departments on the numerical targets and communicate broadly about the plan's objectives.

Staffing will strengthen outreach to Inuit by conducting job fairs, résumé writing and interview clinics with a regular review of hiring policies.

Mr. Chairman, the training and development division will conduct a training study to review the government's investment in training and development with a view to increasing learning and development programs.

The job evaluation division will continue its audit of job descriptions to eliminate artificial barriers and will include knowledge of Inuit culture and, where possible, the Inuit language in government positions.

Mr. Chairman, to further reflect the government's commitment to Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, we will be working with the Nunavut Employee's Union and Tuttaqvik to develop a dispute resolution model that reflects Inuit cultural values.

Human Resources with the Department of Finance will implement the human resources component of the human resources information and payroll systems. The new system will assist us in our progress towards a representative public service.

The Department of Human Resources is committed to excellence in the management of the public service and to providing efficient and effective services to the other departments, Nunavut Arctic College, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

To that end, we will be implementing the performance management program within the department. We will learn from and share with our colleagues in the other departments.

With the Inuit Employment Plan as a blueprint, we will continue to develop strategies and deliver programs to build a strong, stable, and representative workforce. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Do you have any witnesses you would like to go to the table?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I do.

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

Sergeant-at-arms, could you escort the witnesses, please?.

Minister Tapardjuk, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me today on my left is Kathy Okpik, Deputy Minister. And on my right is Tom Thompson, Assistant Deputy Minister, who deals with the regional government.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Does the co-chair of the standing committee have comments, Mr. Peterson?

Mr. Peterson: Yes, I do Mr. Chair.

Chairman (interpretation): Please proceed.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials. First of all, I would like to apologize. Hunter Tootoo, our regular terror, has to send his regrets; otherwise, he'd be here with us.

I am pleased to provide you with the committee's comments on the 2004-05 main estimates and business plan of the Department of Human Resources.

The committee notes that the proposed 2004-05 budget for the department is \$18,098,000. This represents a 67 percent increase over the department's initial 1999-2000 budget allocation of \$10,836,000.

The committee has noted that the GN's overall vacancy rate remains around the 20 percent level. In other words, almost one out of every five jobs in the GN stands vacant. Members remain unclear as to when, if ever, we can expect to see the capacity rate reach 90 percent or better.

In Iqaluit, for example, the number of vacant positions has remained around 230 for well over a year. Although the department's most recent public service annual report indicates that the turnover rate in government has improved, it is clear that retention of employees remains a significant issue. It is noteworthy, for example, that the department's budget for relocation of employees is actually projected to increase in 2004-05 to \$3.851 million. This suggests that the rate of departures from the public service is still a concern.

Members also note that the Inuit employment rate remains static at approximately 40 percent to 45 percent. Members note with particular concern the fact that the Inuit employment rate for headquarters positions in Iqaluit is barely 30 percent. In other words, only three out of every ten GN jobs in Iqaluit is filled with a beneficiary.

Members noted that the department's business plan indicates that work will be undertaken to review the Public Service Act and bring forward amendments to the statute.

The committee was surprised at the apparent lack of a clear vision on the part of the department itself as to what specific changes to this major piece of legislation are needed. The committee does not want to see this undertaking be a consultant-driven process and would be very disappointed to learn that neither the Nunavut Employees Union nor the Federation of Nunavut Teachers were consulted during the review.

The idea of re-introducing binding arbitration into the legislation was raised during the minister's appearance, and members note that the idea was not dismissed out-of-hand by the minister.

Members continue to note with concern the striking gap between the number of beneficiary males and the number of beneficiary females employed by the GN. According to the most recent public service annual report, although almost 700 female beneficiaries were employed as of March 2003, fewer than 300 male beneficiaries were employed. It is disturbing that so few male beneficiaries are having success entering and staying in the public service. Members noted with interest the department's intention to consider actions to address this issue in relation to the priority hiring policy.

Mr. Chairman, the committee has noted with approval the departmental business plan's focus on the Inuit Employment Plan. Members await with interest the tabling of the *Seeking Balance* IEP strategy document. Members urge the department to continue its efforts to work in partnership with other entities to secure training investments from the federal government in order to help us achieve our long-term Article 23 goals and build a representative and professional public service. Members look to such excellent programs as Nunavut Youth Abroad and Nunavut Sivuniksavut as being the source of many of our future employees.

On a related topic, the committee noted with interest that a training audit is to be undertaken with respect to quantifying the amount of investment in training across the public service. Members look forward to that audit providing sound information on which to build meaningful training initiatives that enable our employees to succeed and grow.

Members wish to see training opportunities designed and delivered in Nunavut in order to minimize the costs associated with sending our employees out of the territory for courses and to maximize the relevancy of the training for our circumstances.

Suggestions have been made in the past that the department explore the concept of establishing some sort of ombudsman-like position within the GN to whom employees can go to for assistance, especially for those employees without access to the formal grievance process. We have not seen any movement on this suggestion or on the issue of whistleblower protection.

The committee was pleased to see the department's business plan identify the development of a revised code of conduct and revised conflict of interest policy for GN employees as being a priority. Members look forward to these being tabled in the House and would suggest that the department avail itself of the advice of the integrity commissioner on this initiative, as some of his annual reports have addressed this issue.

Members also look forward to the finalization and tabling of the long-awaited language incentive policy. Members encourage this policy to support the government's goal of expanding the use of Inuktitut and Innuinaqtun in the public service.

The department's annual report on the public service provides a range of useful information. However, there are some areas not covered in the report which would provide even more insight into the health of the public service.

For example, although the department's business plan explicitly identifies a high employee absenteeism rate as being a problem, there is no information in the public service annual report to make a determination on which departments are facing the greatest challenges in this area. It is also impossible to find any information on how many employees have been terminated from the GN to date.

Members noted with interest the reference in the department's business plan to the cabinet giving direction to the department to review the GN's priority hiring policy. During the minister's appearance, the idea of using this policy to address the problems to which I referred earlier, with respect to the gender gap, was discussed. The committee also wishes to see the department give consideration to modifying the policy with respect to long-term Northerners and the disabled.

The committee supports such valuable initiatives as the summer student employment program. However, concerns have been raised with respect to the treatment of some categories of students under this program.

Members have noted with approval that the department is making efforts to reduce overuse and abuse of the government's casual hiring policies. Members would caution the mMinister with respect to the risk of public confidence in the government's employment practices being undermined by perceptions of favouritism, especially in regard to the hiring of employees' spouses or partners.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. It has been a long two minutes, so we will take a 15-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 15:13 and resumed at 15:55

Chairman: Thank you. The cCommittee will now come to order. Before we proceed, I would like to remind the members of the following. According to Rule 77(1), you have ten minutes to make your general comments. According to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the chair, a member can speak more than once to a matter under discussion, but not until every member who wishes to speak has spoken. I suggest to members that whenever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page- by- page review of the department estimates. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We already talked about some of the things that I would like to talk about today. In April we met with the deputy minister and his ADM. I would just like to elaborate again that we could see that there are a lot more Inuit employees in the Nunavut government, especially in Iqaluit, where the numbers are growing.

Whoever wants to work in the Nunavut government can do so, but in some communities it is not the same. The managers don't realize that. They don't seem to want hire Inuit people but want to keep jobs for the non-Inuit. It is not very receptive in Rankin Inlet. For example, there are a lot of Inuit people who want to work in Rankin Inlet, but according to their hiring practices, a lot of people don't want to work for the government because the environment is not very receptive and has to change.

I am pleased to hear that the minister would like to rectify that problem. We want to be able to hire more Inuit people, and whenever there is a directive, then the department has no choice but to follow it. If nobody is doing anything about it, and if there is no directive, then the Department of Human Resources hires whomever they want to hire and not Inuit people. The Inuit could say we wanted to have the Inuktitut Inuit government, and they shouldn't be hiring too many non-Inuit people. It could go both ways. Also, in the private sectors that provide housing and other services, the Inuit are assisted a lot more now. It could go either way.

For that reason, Mr. Chairman, I would like to let the minister know that there have to be more openings for Inuit employment and that there should be a directive to hire more Inuit people. That would be appreciated in the communities.

I was very surprised when I was told by two individuals that, when they applied for jobs, they did not get hired because non-Inuit persons got them. They said that the one with a degree, an Inuk, did not even get an interview. I do not want to name any names, but I just want to urge the government that it should have directives to hire more Inuit.

When the Inuit are not comfortable, they will not even try to apply for a job. Some give up, knowing they will not be hired, even though they are capable of doing the job.

Perhaps the senior officials could be replaced as often as possible and their positions filled with Inuk individuals. The human resources department is not very receptive, and I wanted to say that for the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. General comments. I have no more names on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to a page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page D-5. Human resources. Branch summary. Directorate. Total, operations and maintenance... . Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I have another question for the minister. We are pleased to see that this department is following Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. With that, I would like the minister to give us a briefing on exactly what his plans are for the coming years. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is very obvious in our department that we do have problems in recruiting. One of the main challenges we have is the shortage of staff housing, especially when we are recruiting more and more Inuit for government positions. Mr. Chairman, we are going to work diligently on the Inuit Employment Plan.

It now has its own director, and we believe that we can open up more jobs to the Inuit and to the recruiting and hiring of Inuit. We would like to be more friendly to the people of Nunavut and to the Inuit, and issue a report including the statistics on Inuit and non-Inuit, the number of staff positions, and the summer student program, which is one of our priorities in our department.

We are going to monitor these programs in the Inuit Employment Division, and we will also be looking out to see what training programs will have to be made available to upgrade the present employees that we have. When we hire new employees, they are oriented on the values and traditions of the Inuit, and that is effective government-wide. If that's the case, Mr. Chairman, we will be looking at promoting or enhancing Inuit employment.

We want to be receptive to the Inuit and also have the information out there by way of communication links like radios and tapes and so on. But today we are in the negotiation process on the retention of employees and the Inuktitut language.

So, we are putting all that together and making a plan to increase Inuit employment within the Nunavut government. Retention is also a priority of this government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be going into the Inuit employment strategy. I would just like to thank you and your department for looking, taking a holistic approach.

We see Nunavut from a global perspective, and like I said, everybody should be treated fairly, of course. We are a public government, but I think that we have to open up the door to give a realistic picture and work together to get more Inuit into the government to reflect the population.

We hear of a lot of negative things; they feel uncomfortable in the work environment. We have to try something, hold more seminars and have orientation programs for the new employees. I hear that the orientation programs are very well liked by the new employees because they learn the history of the Inuit and so on.

With the cabinet, the department, and the ministers, we definitely have to have a partnership to promote culture and language because we have to work together as Inuit and non-Inuit.

I would like this mentioned because once some people have this idea they have to get this job at any cost, they'll get the wife or the husband to get a position and forget everybody else. It's a dog-eat-dog world, but we don't have that kind of a concept, and I think that should be understood by the people out there. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Curley. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): The Departments of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and Human Resources are working together to put together an orientation program on the important parts of the Inuktitut culture and values.

We have a sheet going around that gives you an overview of how Nunavut was created, the Inuit perspectives and values, and for upcoming years, the cabinet identified the need to have it mandatory to have those orientation programs available to the new employees.

This was fully implemented at this stage, and Mr. Chairman, I can say, too, that this is our priority. I think it is in July or June we will have a training or orientation program for all departments in Apex. We are going to keep working on the promotion of this.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Curley, any further questions? Thank you. Questions on D-5. If there are no questions... (Interpretation ends.) Human resources branch summary. Directorate. Total, operations and maintenance, \$1,971,000. "Naamagiviuk?"

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: D-6. Human resources. Branch summary. Staffing. Total, operations and maintenance... Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): First of all, I would like to know what kind of benefit package the bilingual employees have, or is it the same across the board? That is my first question.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. I will have Tom Thompson respond to your question.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would expect the member is referring to the bilingual bonus, which is \$1,500 annually paid to Government of Nunavut employees capable of speaking the language. Currently, their job requires that they speak that language if they have direct involvement with the public.

We have a committee to review bilingual bonuses to ensure that we can expand that program, and that committee will be meeting in the fall to look further into expanding the bilingual bonus to employees who speak the language at all times. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. In regard to the bilingual bonus, does it apply to all languages and not just Inuktitut and English?

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): The bilingual bonus applies only to the Inuktitut language.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. My next question is about the official bilingual bonus, which I believe is totally different. Do they get a bonus, or what happens with the other languages?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): French and English are not included. It is just the Inuktitut language that earns the \$1,500 bonus.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I think I got that. Are you saying that even if they speak French and English, they don't get a bilingual bonus? Is that what you are saying?

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): It doesn't apply to French and English. It only applies to English and Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. My next question is in regard to when we were in a committee meeting in April and had a discussion on government employees. Some of them get staff housing right away, and their rents stay stable, even when they have more than one person in the house.

If both members of a couple work for the government, their rent scale does not change. Right?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer this question to my deputy or to my assistant deputy minister.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to housing or government staff housing, it doesn't apply, it is not the same. It is a different scale from other housing types. No matter how many people are working in the same house, the rent stays the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for your response. So it is totally different from the situation of tenants using public housing. That is one of the reasons why people do not apply for jobs, because there is a sudden hike in their rent when there is more than one person working in the house.

Are people eligible to get staff housing if they are not locally hired?

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I will refer that question to my deputy.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. I've got a cold. At this time, we have a shortage of government staff housing, and at times when we are putting out the advertisements, we make sure that we let them know whether there is housing available or not.

If there is housing available, the locals hired are also eligible for staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I think we are all coughing. With my first question, I'd like to know if there will be a change, or if you have any plans to make a change, on upping the rent scale if more than one person is working. Are you planning to make any changes to the rent and the number of people who are working in that same household?

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Housing is the responsibility of the Housing Corporation, and I think that they would be able to answer your question better than we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. It is not going to be in the employment policy. For example, if you are in government staff housing, there wouldn't be any changes to the hiring policy.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): The Nunavut Housing Corporation is dealing with this, so I cannot really answer, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Perhaps I should rephrase my question. When one spouse who works has staff accommodations and then the spouse gets a job with the government, the rent will not change?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Premier, to this question, I believe.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to my knowledge, we are now reviewing this. We had made changes to public housing, and we wanted the staff accommodations to be aligned with that. We are in the process of reviewing the rent scale for staff accommodations.

Some staff members, even though they can afford to own homes, stay in the staff housing. We have a shortage of housing. Perhaps some of the staff could be encouraged to own their own homes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Premier. To the question on page D-6. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to ask another question. When do you expect to see that policy implemented?.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot respond to that question about when it could be completed. It is in the process of review. Perhaps I will ask the appropriate minister to make a report to the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Premier Okalik. Is that it? Questions on page D-6. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to apologize in regard to the question. I did not appropriately respond. Therefore, I would like to apologize to members in the House. I would like to advise the member that there is a bilingual bonus if you speak French for the services that require French, like school curriculum and other programs that require French services. For those, there is a French bilingual bonus.

I just wanted to state that for the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you for the explanation and the clarification. Then the bilingual bonus, the amount \$1,500 is the same as the other languages?

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, they are exactly the same, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. D-6, Human Resources. Branch summary. Staffing. Total, operations and maintenance, \$5,898,000. (Interpretation.) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page D-7, Human Resources. Branch summary. Assistant deputy minister, community operations. Any questions? Total, operations and maintenance, \$2,504,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. D-8. Human Resources. Branch summary. Job evaluation and organizational design. Any questions? Total, operations and maintenance, \$678,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. D-9. Human Resources. Branch summary. Inuit Employment Plan. Questions? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I know that this is almost complete, but perhaps the minister can state where you have annual targets. Do you have that information, or are you in the process of working on that? Perhaps I just have not seen it.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member is right. The information on the Inuit Employment Plan *Seeking Balance* has been made available to the cabinet members, but it needs to be amended. Once it has been amended, we will provide the information to the members, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reviewing those reports, Mr. Minister Tapardjuk, there are many staff working here in Iqaluit. Looking at the employment opportunities and the filled positions, the number of beneficiaries of Nunavut Land Claims Agreement is really low. They were very low in the beginning when the Nunavut government was just created.

Do you have any plans in place, or do you expect to make plans, to give more support to Iqaluit residents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. (Interpretation ends.) Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The employment opportunities in the communities were decentralized, and that's why employment opportunities have gone down in Iqaluit. It has benefited the communities, however.

But at this time, there's a management training program. At headquarters that's what we are working on, as well as *Seeking Balance*, and we have provided information to the cabinet members.

Once it has been approved, we will be able to provide information, as I stated in the beginning in my opening comments. We would like to provide more support to Inuit, provide them more assistance in résumé writing, interview skills.

In view of that we are thinking, to enhance it, even though the number of Inuit beneficiaries is increasing here in Iqaluit, we are still working on it, but we are expecting to improve as we go on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very pleased, therefore I'm going to have expectations and believe that I will keep on top of that because we've been staying in Iqaluit for quite some time during session, and we see individuals requiring assistance, who would like us to ask for support.

In regard to your statement, I want you to know that we are going to keep on top of that and going to keep managing it, so if you ever need assistance in any form or any way, we are available to give it to you.

We can provide more employment opportunities to the beneficiaries because we need to increase the percentage of Inuit employed in the government. Of 1133 positions, 900 positions have been filled, and only 266 positions by beneficiaries. That needs to improve, I just want to comment on that. It's not a question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Please turn to page B-9, Inuit Employment Plan. Questions. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know my question might be out of line, but when you don't work for the government it is hard to know which package goes where in regards to your plans.

I know it's very difficult. The staff needs to be educated. Of Government of Nunavut staff, 85 percent are in services and staff delivering services should speak Inuktitut. Are you working on that plan?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The employment opportunity ads state the qualifications required. Some are over-qualified for the new positions. I could say that the job qualifications and descriptions are being reviewed, and the systemic barriers are being looked at to make sure they're being removed.

Also, we are concerned about that because it is stated in the Land Claims Agreement that we have to hire Inuit, and the qualifications specified at times go beyond what the actual qualifications should be for that position.

Once these are done and completed, we can perhaps get more Inuit in the workforce.

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

Questions? Human resources. Branch summary. Inuit Employment Plan. Total, operations and maintenance, \$4,205,000. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. D-10. Human resources. Branch summary. Training and development. Any questions? Total, operations and maintenance, \$1,129,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. D-12. Human resources. Branch summary. Employee relations. Questions? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was reading the 2002-03 public service annual report. They had 96 grievances at the end of last year. I wonder if the minister could tell us how many grievances there are as of March 2004. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have no numbers at this time to the end of March 2004. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also noticed in the report that there is no indication of numbers of employees terminated at the end of 2003. I wonder if that information should be contained in this kind of report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will consider putting it into the report as well. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We hear as legislators that one of the problems we have in the government is high absenteeism rate. Can the minister tell us what the main reasons are for the absenteeism rate, which departments have the worst absenteeism rate, and which ones have the best, if there is such a thing as the best. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my member's statement... We are compiling them by the computer to find out all the reasons behind absenteeism and why they are late.

We are going to compile those along with the Department of Finance, and after we put them together we will be able to report. Because they are compiling them at this time, we don't have the numbers yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: I often asked these questions when I was an appeals chairman in Cambridge Bay. There used to be a lot of interesting appeals, and people had complaints about the government. It was interesting to hear about some of the things people had to say. A lot of people are getting better employment, but they have problems with the department that they cannot resolve. Then they end up leaving the government. You know, we invest a lot of money in training and retaining employees.

That should be a high priority with the government, to find out why people are missing work, since we invest so much money in our workforce. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was just a comment.

Chairman (interpretation): That is not a question but a comment. I have no more names. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister and his officials about the collective agreement. I think there is one for the Nunavut Federation of Teachers, but is there one for the Crown corporations? Are they included in the Nunavut Employees' Union, or do the Crown corporations have a different union? Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Tom Thompson to respond to the question.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson: Mr. Chairman, there are three collective agreements, the Nunavut Employees' Union, the Federation of Nunavut Teachers, and the Power Corporation Agreement. Power Corporation employees currently have their own collective agreement. Arctic College employees fall under the any-new and-or the excluded handbooks, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Thompson. (Interpretation.) Any more, Mr. Curley?

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I appreciate the responses of Tom Thompson. In regard to the benefit package and compensation, are the rates similar? Are the compensation and benefits similar for people qualified for those benefits according to what they do? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson: That is a very complex question, Mr. Curley. The agreements are negotiated separately, so there are some similarities, but also some differences. Because they are negotiated at different times, they end up having some minor differences.

The pay rate for the Nunavut Employees' Union is the rate for all Crown corporation employees not covered by the Power Corporation Agreement.

I understand from an analysis I did a couple of years ago that there were some additional benefits in the Power Corporation Agreement that were exceptional to the Nunavut Employees' Union and the Federation of Nunavut Teachers, but most of the benefits contained between the teachers' agreement and the union agreement are very similar.

Pay rates are different because teachers are evaluated differently with respect to their experience and education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Curley. I do not have any more names for questions. We are on (interpretation ends) human resources. Branch summary. Employee relations. Total, operations and maintenance, \$1,640,000. (Interpretation.) Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: D-12, Information item. (Interpretation.) D-13 is just an information item, as well, D-14 is an information item. Go back to page D-4. Details of expenditures. Total, operations and maintenance, \$18,035,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Agreed that the Department of Human Resources is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk and your officials for appearing before Committee of the Whole. If you have any final comments to make, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank the members. During the discussion of the Department of Human Resources, thank you for approving my department's main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. At this time, we will be dealing with a different department. I would now like to ask the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to make opening comments. We will wait a few minutes.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee of the Whole, the department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth deals with issues that are very important to the preservation and future development of Nunavut's cultural and linguistic character.

We promote the development of sport, recreation, and leisure opportunities across the territory of Nunavut. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's business plan reflects the work the department has done this year to restructure and build capacity, which will allow us to move forward with developing and implementing the long-term strategies required to achieve our mandate.

It also reflects the priority we placed on Inuit societal values and how we incorporate the Inuktitut language and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as a government.

As a result of the Government of Nunavut's recent restructuring, Culture, Language, Elders and Youth now has six major branches, including Official Languages, Community Programs, Culture and Heritage, Sport Nunavut, Recreation and Leisure, and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

The Official Languages Division leads the department's effort to promote and protect Nunavut languages. The division is coordinating development and made-in-Nunavut language legislation that will protect our Inuktitut language while guaranteeing the rights of Nunavut French and English speakers.

The future of Inuktitut will depend on Nunavummiut using it as a central part of their daily lives. This division provides an essential service in the promotion and protection of our languages.

Mr. Chairman, the Community program division is the department's direct link to Nunavut's communities and provides single-window access for communities to place \$4.6 million in grants and contributions. This funding is made available to projects that contribute to community capacity building in the areas of culture, heritage, language, communications, such as radio and other communication, the arts, sports, recreation, and leisure.

The Community Programs Division is also responsible for supporting elders and youth. An increase of \$150,000 in youth programs will allow the department to develop concrete

programs for youth that support suicide prevention by instilling pride and building leadership skills through a connection with our elders.

This year we will also develop an elder strategy that will help CLEY focus on the creation of linguistics culture programs for those two very important elements of our society. As you are aware, Mr. Chairman, one of the priorities for this government is to establish a territorial heritage facility. Such a facility is needed to house Nunavut's heritage collection and make our rich cultural legacy accessible to all Nunavummiut.

The department is exploring funding opportunities with key shareholders. In our communities, participation in community life has always been important to the well-being of Nunavummiut. For that reason, Sport Nunavut and our Recreation and Leisure Division support wellness through the promotion of active, healthy lifestyles.

Mr. Chairman, Culture, Language, Elders and Youth works to incorporate Inuit social values and knowledge across all areas of our mandate. If the Government of Nunavut is ever to truly belong to the people of Nunavut, it must reflect the people it serves.

(Interpretation.) To show our commitment to our lead role in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, the department has increased funding in its Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Branch by \$122,000 in 2004-05 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, members of Committee of the Whole, this is just an overview of the initiatives that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is working on.

We believe that with the department's reorganization and increased capacity we are better prepared to develop initiatives that will contribute to the promotion of Nunavut's culture and language and towards active healthy lifestyles in communities.

I would be pleased to answer any questions the members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Would you please go the witness table with your officials?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk: Yes, please.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses. Mr. Minister, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Deputy Minister David Akeegok, and to my right is another David, David Kolot, Policy Analyst.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the chair of the standing committee have any comments? (Interpretation ends.) Please proceed, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Interpretation ends.) I am pleased to be able to give the committee's opening remarks as we begin debate on the 2004-05 main estimates for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Later on, members will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding these estimates. The Standing Committee Ajauqtiit has had the opportunity to meet with the minister and his staff.

The minister was able to give an update on his department's proposed expenditures. Members consider this department to be extremely important, as it deals with things deeply valued by Inuit: our culture, our language, our elders, and our youth.

Members are concerned that funding for this department only represents one percent of the government's entire budget. Members feel that this is not enough and are hopeful that the department's budget will be increased in the future.

Members have concerns regarding the lack of facilities for our elders and youth in Nunavut. Where possible, these facilities should be combined, so that our elders can pass down to our youth Inuit values and Inuit culture.

Members look forward to hearing more about the department's plans on developing the elders and youth capital programs. Members are pleased that the department is now responsible for sports and leisure as a result of the March 2004 Government of Nunavut re-organization. It is fitting to incorporate them in this department, as we need to involve our youth in sports as much as possible and encourage them to live healthy lifestyles.

Members are concerned that the main estimates for youth and elder initiatives have increased very little since 2001-02. Members were pleased that the department has now increased its funding for youth programs by \$115,000. Members wish to see the same increase for elder initiatives.

Nunavut has an extremely young population vulnerable to such serious issues as suicide. The government should do all it can to support our youth. They must be given the opportunity to live actively and follow good role models.

Oral history has also been and continues to be very important to Inuit. Members are therefore happy to learn that the department has started collecting oral history from our elders.

Members were initially excited to learn that the department would be working on a new Official Languages Act. However, members have now learned that yet another working group has been formed in order to develop this new act. Members feel that the groundwork already exists to begin this important work and want to see real progress made.

All too often, we say we are losing our language. We need to start addressing this very serious issue, and the new act will help us do that. Members believe that once the new act is in place, it will increase opportunities to obtain funding from the federal government for language initiatives. In order to achieve our goal to have Inuktitut the working language of this government by 2020, we must move beyond studies and reviews and achieve action and results.

Members were pleased to see the minister is willing to listen to the Cambridge Bay elders and use their recommended name change for Grenier Lake, to Ekaloktotiak, using the old way of spelling as requested. I am sure that the elders will be pleased as they have been trying to change the name of this lake for a long time now.

Members look forward to the new minister continuing the practice of tabling annual reports on the department's grants and contributions, as this is transparency.

Members noted that the department is not short of strategies and various groups such as Youth Identity Development Strategy, the Elders Strategy, Active Living Communications Campaign, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit, Tuttarviit, the Elders and Youth Capital Program and now, the Official Language Working Group. Members would like to be kept informed on the results of these strategies and groups.

This concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that the individual members will raise their own comments and concerns on the department's 2004-05 main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. I am sure that everybody knows Rule 77(2) applies. The floor is now open for general comments. The members have ten minutes.

The floor is now open. If there are no general comments, we will then move onto questions. We are on page F-5. Culture, language, elders and youth. Branch summary. Directorate. Total, operations and maintenance, \$2,822,000. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a question regarding the government departments and this implementation of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

We see more and more Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit coordinators in the government departments. Who pays for the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit coordinators? Is it your department?

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. The departments have Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit coordinators, and they pay out of their own budget.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I only wanted to ask that question because I believe it is a need when you are in front of the committee, when you are going to be teaching the departments about the Inuit culture, language, and values.

I don't understand what Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is. We can go back a long ways. You'd have to go through university-type of school to learn what Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is. I think that we have to make a change in the wording because this was a concept that was brought up by people who didn't know Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

If we are using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, I don't think there's anybody around anymore who knows Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, so maybe we should update it a bit. One individual alone does not know Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. It has to be a group that has specialties in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

It seems like it's an excellent idea when we talk about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit but don't know much about Inuit values, traditions, or cultures. Can you give us a better idea of what Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is?

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time with this present government they're focusing more on the Inuktitut language and societal values. Those are going to be the foundation when we are talking about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

If you talk about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, you have to go thousands of years back, but what we have said is that this department is going to focus on societal values. I would like that understood out there. This is the foundation we are focusing on. There are a lot of things that fall under Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, so it becomes a big word when you are trying to figure the whole thing out, but we can do our own interpretation of it.

We will be focusing on the Inuit societal values, and if we were to interpret, I would envision, for example, that my boss or a subordinate would help me to have a focus and I believe that this person will help me to gain a purpose. If we had employees, we would have to say it is QQ, Qallunaat Qaujimajatuqangit.

These two are totally, totally different, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and QQ, and that is the concept that I am trying to get at. The Department of Human Resources and the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth are working together to see how they can get the true meaning of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, focus on the societal values; we are looking at the Inuit employees.

If they had problems in the workforce, we would use Inuit societal values to overcome those problems. That is just an example of what we are trying to do and how we are trying to implement it within the government.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, it has helped me to get a better grasp of it. It is one of the things that I have been concerned about, and I often think about how it is going to be resolved. I have not considered it, and it is not within my mandate.

When you are talking about Inuit lives, we must keep our values alive, our language, our writing system, or if they read the history books a hundred years from now, my comments could not be read by Inuit until the English is translated into Inuktitut.

Although we say we value the Inuit traditions, we are not actually using them. What I am saying today is that the government is going to be sensitive through the union bargaining, and we do not want Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in there just like that. It cannot be shown in black and white.

Inuit traditionally have always had a consensus style lifestyle, and we do want to retain that. Inuit people say is it in the best interest of the public. Although we are not using the American system, it is pretty close to it, but Inuit people ask why don't they do it this way, the Inuit way, when you talk about values, so that we can consider it further. Please focus on that for negotiations and for consensus. I hope, Mr. Minister, you can understand me.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand you clearly. For that reason, we have Inuit Traditional Knowledge Katimajit, which we recognized yesterday and which will be very supportive and beneficial to us, the government staff. Managers in the department at the senior level, we have an interdepartmental committee called Tuttarvik, and they look at how we can utilize Inuit values and traditions in the workforce.

The Inuit Traditional Knowledge Council are the ones, the Tunngaviksaluaqtut Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit task force... . When they were reviewing what we are looking at now... . If we try to mix European culture and Inuit culture, it's pretty hard.

In the future Nunavut government, we need a foundation using Inuit traditional or societal values. We need to bridge the gap between our current way of life and our objective slowly.

We set up the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit council to help with this. I know this is a very difficult, challenging job, and it takes a considerable amount of consideration, so we have selected the people whom we believe in to be the members of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit committee.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last, I would like to state that you seem to recognize that, and I do like the fact that you understand this. As a government, we thank the elders. We are starting to utilize our elders' knowledge.

There are many issues out there or many things that we still don't know, and they have to be recorded. I know that the elders cannot write on their own. Please record all their legends and oral histories. We are now starting to utilize the schools. I feel it's very important for our schools.

I am encouraging you during this computer age. We will write our history, but back then we only had oral history, some of which has not been documented yet. I'm encouraging you, Mr. Minister. The summer job students can do this, also. Thank you, Mr. Minister, and you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I did not hear a question. I do not have any more names on my list for questions. We are on page F-5. (Interpretation ends.) Branch summary. Directorate. Total, operations and maintenance, \$2,822,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Wait a minute. Thank you. I have a question in regard to this page, in regard to language. The Inuktitut language should become an official language.

As I have stated earlier, a hundred years from now, if it's read at all, they will be reading our history in English, and if they wanted to read Inuktitut, they would have to read the Inuktitut translated version.

For that reason, the Inuktitut language should become official, so it can be used within the schools. As Inuit people, if we are not going to become Qallunaat people, there's no other way around. I believe that it's easier for Inuit to become Qallunaat people, and it's harder to get into Inuit societal values.

With your statement during the standing committee stage and during the oral question

period your responses as to how the language is going to be utilized within the government workforce... I'm sure you'll have more opportunity to make a report this coming fall. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. We have not gone to F-6 yet. We did not approve F-5 yet. Directorate. Total, operations and maintenance, \$2,822,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We will go to F-6. Culture, language, elders, and youth. Branch summary. Official languages. Grants and contributions go all the way up to F-7. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps you can respond to the questions I posed earlier.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our officials are going to be reviewing to March 2005 in our business plan. The reviewing working group will have to make a report at that time. We will keep the members abreast of the progress of that, and also we have asked to consult with the public and the stakeholders of Nunavut in regard to the Official Languages Act.

We have to consider the language and writing system. We will be approaching the municipalities and others and the stakeholders. We will consult with all those people. I am sure I will be able to make a consultation report once that is completed. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Last, in regard to your statement to the reviewing working group, I am pleased that you will be receiving some assistance in the review process, although I have not been able to ask the question yet. You stated that you would work with NTI.

I would also ask you to consider if you can ask Josie Kusugak, although I have not approached it. You know that he has been dealing with the issue of language and the writing system, and he understands the Greenland culture and writing system. I am sure that he will be able to provide you with some assistance if you can involve him during the process. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. That was not a question. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): We will be requesting two representatives to be part of the working group. The working group has not been filled yet, but we are doing it as an urgent case. I want you to know that we are working on it.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I don't have anymore names on my list. (Interpretation ends.) Culture, language, elders, and youth. Branch summary. Official languages. Total, operations and maintenance, \$1,850,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving on. F-8. Grants and contributions information is on F-9 and F-10. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the standing committee stage when we were reviewing the estimates in April, you showed us a report on the the development of the museum, although you were not a minister at the previous Assembly. I would like to know what the status of the recommendations is now, if any of them are being implemented, and what you are going to do with the report once it is finished?

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my deputy minister to speak on that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The report at this time is being supported by our department, and there has been some funding in the range of \$55 million that has to be given to our department, but what we are doing now we have the report is trying to get some funding from the federal government. We have talked with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, as well, to try to get funding, as well as the Inuit Heritage Fund.

That is in the works right now because we were in the discussion stage with those organizations. At this time, that is where we are with the report, seeing where we can get that \$55 million funding from besides the Nunavut government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have the report with me, but there is also the *Ikuma II* report, and the recommendations contained in there sound like they have been approved by the government, but it shouldn't be that way because we have to get a consultant to make sure that the report is within the mandate of the department. Have they been approved? Do you have an interdepartmental committee on those?

We figured that they were not quite complete, and I just wonder whether the recommendations should not be approved as yet because they have not been agreed to by whoever is doing the work.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my deputy minister to respond to the question.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Akeeagok.

Mr. Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not had any response to the recommendations. For each recommendation, and we are looking at them right now, the priority is that we would like at least \$55 million. If we are able to get the \$55 million, we have to look at the recommendations again because they will state where the facility will be located, and we have not agreed to or approved any of the recommendations as yet.

We will table the document or the report and the recommendations. We have to try to get some funding from the government or the federal government and the other organizations, and the report, as it is right now, cost about \$300,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we are going to be hearing about the report, perhaps in the fall session of the Legislative Assembly, and thank you for the correction.

You spent about \$300,000 by using consultants on that report, and you informed me that you will have to try to get some funding from the federal government or Nunavut government and other organizations. Thank you. That is it for now, thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. I have no more names at this time. We are on Culture, language, elders, and youth. Culture and heritage. Total, operations and maintenance, \$3,533,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. F-11. Grants and contributions. On F-12, there is a breakdown. Community programs. Total, operations and maintenance, \$1,623,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Culture, language, elders, and youth. Branch summary. Sport Nunavut. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This past winter, they had the Arctic Winter Games, and we are very proud of our athletes who went, but it was during the elections. While we were campaigning, the problem that I had myself was that the coaches who go to the Arctic Winter Games, especially for hockey, soccer, and volleyball, pick out their own children. I feel that the ones who are better athletes than the children of coaches should be attending the Arctic Winter Games.

They seem to be more athletic than the ones selected. I think this should be looked at again for the next Arctic Winter Games. I just wondered if the department had any complaints about picking the athletes to go to the Arctic Winter Games for the next Arctic Winter Games.

I'd like to ask the minister if they have had any complaints on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a committee on the Arctic Winter Games. The athletes who went to the Arctic Winter Games were selected with the selection process of the committee, which has to follow the guidelines for selection of athletes. There is already a guideline that they have to follow, and they have to look at the ability of the athletes, as well as the sport that they're in. That's the way the selection process is done.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Apparently they are organized properly, but if that is the case, I wonder why they don't follow the guidelines set for them. Perhaps if I could ask the minister, maybe they should be told again that they have to follow the guidelines.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under F-13, it states that Sport Nunavut had their budget reduced. Is it because that it is there wasn't enough sports last year? Last year it was \$1,720,000. It is now \$1,500,000.

I just wondered why there is a reduction in the budget. Thank you.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): In 2004-05 the reason for the reduction is because there is no Arctic Winter Games being held. If there is going to be an Arctic Winter Games, there has to be staff hired.

The reason for this year is that we are not going to be spending as much money because there are no Arctic Winter Games coming. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Alagalak. We are on culture, language, elders, and youth. (Interpretation ends.) Sport Nunavut. Total, operations and maintenance, \$2,318,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Going back to F-16. Grants and contributions. There's a breakdown of it on F-16.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the other minister of the recreation and leisure department what the reason is for the reduction in that as well.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask the person on my right, David, to answer that question.

Mr. Kolot: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been a reduction in grants and contributions in 2004-05 due to streamlining activities that the department has done with its programs.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. (Interpretation ends.) Branch summary. Recreation and leisure. Total, operations and maintenance, \$4,743,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): F-17. Information item for F-17 and F-18. Going back to Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question before the vote is done.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. F-4. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. The question that I have here, it's not in the budget, but I haven't seen it, is about the status of women. Who looks after it? Which department looks after the status of women?. Did we finish already? Okay. That's okay then. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Curley. That's been completed already. (Interpretation ends.) Department summary. Details of expenditures. Total, operations and maintenance, \$13,889,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): The committee agrees that the department is concluded. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the minister and his officials. Do you have any more final comments, Mr. Minister?.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman and the members of this House for approving the budget for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

I would like to say thank you very much and remind the members of the Legislative Assembly that at 12 noon the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit working group will be meeting with us and having lunch with us at the Discovery Lodge.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time we will take a supper break for 30 minutes.

>>Committee recessed at 17:20 and resumed at 18:00

Chairman (interpretation): Welcome Mr. Speaker. You can proceed with your opening comments.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a pleasure for me to appear before the Committee of the Whole today to present the 2004-05 business plan and main estimates for the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

The 2004-05 budget will be the sixth budget since Nunavut began and the new government took office. In 1999-2000, our very first set of main estimates budgeted a total of \$13,151,000 for the Legislative Assembly.

Now, six years later, our 2004-05 main estimates project total expenditures of \$12,529,000. Although the budgets of several GN departments have increased since 1999, I am proud that we have been able to reduce costs and demonstrate restraint.

As this is my first time appearing before you to present the budget and business plan, I would like to make a few comments on the mandate and structure of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

The Office of the Legislative Assembly is established pursuant to the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and supports Nunavut's elected MLAs in the conduct of their duties. The Assembly's budget and business plan details three main lines of business which the Office of the Legislative Assembly is mandated to provide:

1. Assembly operations includes the Office of the Speaker and the Office of the Clerk. This budget area supports the holding of sessions and meetings of standing committees. In addition, the budget provides for the support services of the Legislative Assembly, including research, library, and financial services for members.
2. The second budget area is for the expenditures for members. This includes the budgets for members' pay and remuneration, the budget for travel for constituency business, and budgets for operating constituency offices and paying constituency staff.
3. The final budget area is support to independent officers of the Assembly. When we speak of the independent officers, we include the integrity commissioner, the information and privacy commissioner, and the languages commissioner. In addition, funding is provided to Elections Nunavut from this budget area.

I would like to draw your attention to a few highlights from our expenditure plans for 2004-05. You will note that our estimates have dropped from 2003-04, primarily because the one-time costs associated with the funding of the general election have now been paid.

Minor adjustments have been made throughout the overall budget to streamline operations and to better fund programs for MLA and Assembly business. Constituency staff, for example, are now compensated with a northern allowance, and at least once through the constituency assistant's term, they are provided an opportunity to attend training in Iqaluit, specific to their duties in support of their elected members.

It should be noted as well that we have been able to provide relatively high levels of Inuit employment in keeping with our obligations to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and in providing support to elected members in their language of preference. Currently the Office of the Clerk has a 50 percent Inuit employment rate with current staff.

In addition, the Office of the Clerk has been dedicated to training and development opportunities for beneficiaries in the workplace. Currently, four positions are targeted for trainee opportunities with two positions finished or in the final stages of being successfully integrated into the office environment.

That concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank members for their support, and I welcome your comments and suggestions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would you like to invite your officials to come to the witness stand?

Speaker (interpretation): We have the Clerk of the Assembly and the director of corporate services.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses in. Mr. Speaker, would you introduce your officials?

Speaker (interpretation): On my left is Steve Pollock, Director of Corporate Services, and on my right is John Quirke, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we begin, I now open up the floor for general comments; you have ten minutes allotted. Any general comments? I have no names on my list. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make one general comment on the office of the Clerk; I just wanted to say publicly in this forum, for the record in Hansard, that I appreciate the support of the Assembly and the Clerk's office during a very difficult time with our family this past year. I can say, without fear of contradiction, that it was a very difficult time, and the Clerk's office was very supportive, something that is not acknowledged very often publicly.

I would like to take this opportunity as a member to acknowledge the professional services of the Clerk and the professional way that they were supporting me with my family. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Clerk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Any other comments? I have no names. We will move on to A-5. (Interpretation ends.) Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch summary. Office of the Clerk. Total, operations and maintenance, \$6,149,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: A-6. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch summary. Expenditures on behalf of members. Total, operations and maintenance... Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I have a question, Mr. Chairman, to the Speaker and to his officials. I know that we have not been here very long, but we do have a receptionist on the first floor. I don't believe that we have a permanent secretary or receptionist. As chairmen of the standing committees, there is an increasing number of papers piling up in our offices.

Are you going to be able to provide more support services on the first floor, or even have a part time receptionist? I think that we do need more support services down on the first floor.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I will refer your question to the Clerk.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman We will look at either a full-time or part-time position. We had it in 1999 for a while. It didn't quite work out, but we will be more than pleased to do that again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Any other questions? Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We never have a chance to ask the Office of the Clerk questions, so I take this opportunity.

I would like to see constituency assistants in every community, particularly the smaller communities, and especially for those ridings where there is more than one community. I would like to see Nunavut communities have constituency assistants. Is it possible to do that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will again refer this question to Mr. Clerk.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Clerk.

Clerk: The answer would be, yes. If a member wishes to set up an initial office if he is serving more than one or two or three communities, he just has to ask for it. If there is a funding difficulty, we will take it to the board and recommend additional funding for that office. It is up to the member to approach us, but the short answer is, yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you have another question, Mr. Okalik? I don't have any other names on my list. We are on page A-6. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch summary. Expenditures on behalf of members. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to thank the Office of the Clerk. When we first came here, we all had computers and modern technology but not laptops. When we had to have committee meetings... We were not connected to the Internet.

I would like to thank his staff for putting everything together with our laptops, and I wish you the very best over the summer. Please relay our gratitude to the staff. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch summary. Expenditures on behalf of members. Total, operations and maintenance, \$4,920,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: A-7. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch summary. Office of the Speaker. Total, operations and maintenance, \$210,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: A-8. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch summary. Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. Total, operations and maintenance, \$600,000. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a question. I don't know whether this office has one or two positions. Does it have one or two positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): They have two positions in the office.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are for the general elections every four years. What do they do in between? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We need a chief electoral officer who works for the Government of Nunavut on a permanent basis. The Nunavut Government has to have a chief electoral officer. I would like the Clerk to supplement my response.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Quirke.

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The chief electoral officer still has responsibilities. She has to file a report on the conduct of the last election, which is due this summer. She will be a key part on behalf of the Legislative Assembly when the Boundaries Commission is formed in the next two years. That will keep her busy.

She also has to be on a standby basis in case there's an unfortunate event that causes the by-election of a member. She also serves on behalf of the Government of Nunavut as a plebiscite officer.

Those activities alone would keep that office busy over the next four years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): The Speaker has responded to my question, therefore I have no more further questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. I have no more names on my list for questions (interpretation ends). The Legislative Assembly. Branch summary. Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. Total, operations and maintenance, \$600,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page to A-9. (Interpretation ends.) Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch summary. Office of independent commissioners. Total, operations and maintenance, \$650,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: A-10, information page. Go back to A-4. Legislative Assembly. Department summary. Details of expenditures. Total, operations and maintenance, \$12,529,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Legislative Assembly is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and your officials. Do you have any closing remarks?.

Speaker (interpretation): I would like to thank all the members; we will be issuing all the indemnities again now that you have agreed to this.

>>*Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Go to your white binder. Bill 2 (interpretation ends). It's in your white binder under your desk. (Interpretation.) I'm sure you've got Bill 2 in front of you. Operations and maintenance, 2004-05. Definitions. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Applications. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to schedule 2 on page 2. Sorry. Total, operations and maintenance, \$742,812,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total, operations and maintenance, \$742,812,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go back to Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Loss of appropriation. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Accounting. Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Commencement. Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed for Bill 2, Committee of the Whole? Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Bill 2 for third and final reading. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

>>*Applause*

Chairman: What is the wish of the committee. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Item 20 in our orders of the day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman. Arreak.

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole

Chairman (Mr. Arreak): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee has been considering Bill 2 and we would like to report that Bill 2 is immediately ready for third reading and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report with Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Who is the seconder? Mr. Netser. Mr. Netser seconds the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried. Item 21. Third reading of bills. Item 22. Ms. Nooshoota.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Ms. Nooshoota (interpretation): Orders of the Day for Thursday, June 3:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 2
20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. With the authority vested in me by Motion 011 – 2(1), the House will stay adjourned until Thursday, June 3, when we will commence the meeting at 10:00 in the morning.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:28*

