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**DAY 5**

**Monday November 22, 2004**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

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**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, November 22, 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): I would like to ask Mr. Netser to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please be seated. Orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Mr. Simailak.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 016 – 2(2): Iqaluit Airport Security Exercise**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to offer my congratulations to the agencies who were involved in an airport security exercise on October 28 in Iqaluit. Their simulation of a live hijacking was so well planned and executed that some members of the public and Government of Nunavut employees were alarmed by the hijacking at the airport.

In order to ensure compliance with Transport Canada's Canadian Aviation Security Regulations, the live hijacking scenario was exercised at Iqaluit's international airport on October 28, 2004.

This exercise was conducted in accordance with the Iqaluit International Airport Emergency Response Plan with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in charge of the simulated event.

Exercises such as these occur regularly; however, this one generated a great deal of public interest. The exercise was the result of five weeks of planning and involved over 40 personnel representing the Iqaluit International Airport, the RCMP, NAV Canada, the City of Iqaluit Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services and Bylaw Department and Air Nunavut.

All of the agencies who participated are to be commended for the energy, enthusiasm, leadership, and commitment which they brought to the conduct of this very important test

of the Iqaluit International Airport's emergency response plan. Inter-agency cooperation was tremendous.

I hope that we will never need to use this plan in reality, but it is good to know that if the need arises the people involved are trained and ready to respond. Again, my congratulations to all the agencies involved in this exercise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Minister's Statement 017 – 2(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation Pilot Project Update**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update members of this House on the progress that we are making with two of our housing pilot projects: the Sanikiluaq Special Housing Initiative and the Clyde River Seniors Project. I am pleased to report today that the projects are about 40 percent complete at this time.

The Sanikiluaq project is a joint effort of the Housing Corporation, the Department of Education, and a number of local groups. The project encourages youth to attend school, learn basic trade skills and gain valuable work experience through the construction of a three bedroom house. The house is now roof-tight and the insulation is in the process of being installed. I am very pleased to announce that the Sanikiluaq project is employing eleven students with an attendance rate of 88 percent. I encourage other high schools in Nunavut to consider a program like this one, as soon as possible and whenever they can.

Mr. Speaker, in Clyde River a pilot project of a different sort is under construction. The Clyde River Seniors four-plex is a 100 percent community-based construction project for seniors' independent living. This project has been totally embraced by the community, not only in terms of the construction of the building, but also in the ongoing operation of the facility. A business plan for the centre is now being created, which includes plans for the use of the common area in the facility as well as an Elders Society for Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to please join with me today in offering these two community-based groups our most sincere congratulations and good luck in the completion of these exciting projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Minister's Statement 018 – 2(2): Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation**



**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to offer our congratulations to the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation in their efforts to connect every Nunavut community to affordable broadband services.

As of today, satellite dishes and antennas have been installed in half of our communities. I understand that by the middle of December, weather permitting, every Nunavut community will have equipment installed. The satellite and wireless network that is being built by the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation's vendor, SSI Micro, is considered a state-of-the-art network that will make Nunavut the most connected jurisdiction in Canada.

I also want to congratulate NBDC on successfully training a community service provider in each Nunavut community. The community service providers are local residents who can help people get connected to broadband. They are now testing the network in their communities and are planning for a launch scheduled in mid-December.

The federal government has committed to \$7.5 million over ten years to provide a public benefits bandwidth subsidy to Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation so that the broadband services can be offered at a reasonable price in all our remote communities. Without this subsidy, the business case is not feasible and the network cannot launch.

I have written to the federal minister responsible for this initiative to encourage his office to complete the negotiations on a contribution agreement for the bandwidth subsidy so that the Nunavut network can be turned on by December 15, 2004.

Again, congratulations to the team of people in our communities involved in making broadband a reality in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' statements. Members' statements. Minister Brown.

### **Minister's Statement 019 – 2(2): The IIU Network Receives Two National Awards**

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce that the Ikajuruti Inungnik Ungasiktumi, IIU, Nunavut's telehealth network, recently received two national awards that recognize our innovative use of information and communication technologies to enhance our access to, and the quality of, care being delivered to Nunavummiut.

We received a Silver Award of Excellence from the 2004 Canadian Information Productivity Awards and an Award of Excellence from the Canadian Society of Telehealth, donated by the Digital Group of Telehealth Companies.

The IIU network offers programs such as family visitation, continuing medical education, learning closer to home, and care closer to home such as pediatrics and obstetrics. It improves the accessibility and quality of care delivered in the communities in a way that

is cost effective, by reducing the need to travel to other locations for medical and social care.

I would like to congratulate our Health and Social Services staff for their commitment to developing the IIU network, as well as Nunavummiut for using this innovative program. Together we are building healthy communities.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut has telehealth sites in every community, the first jurisdiction in Canada to achieve this distinction.

Telehealth is being used and delivered in Nunavut by Nunavummiut to give our people better access to health professionals outside their community. I believe that the IIU network is a key element of bringing care closer to home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Minister's Statement 020 – 2(2): Subsidy for Harvesters**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation ): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues and television viewers. I would like to talk about the selling of fur in Nunavut. The selling of fur has always been a key component of Inuit life. It ensured our survival, and later became an important part of the economy. Today trapping remains an important part of the land-based economy and puts much needed cash into the pockets of trappers.

Trapping, however, faces an uphill battle in the marketplace, and often furs are undervalued. This threatens the continuation of trapping as a part of our way of life and as part of our economy.

To assist this important industry, my department administers the Fur Pricing Program. This program provides financial and other assistance to fur sellers, particularly when the markets are down. One component is this program provides a fall payment for fur sellers who sold wolf and fox furs during the previous year.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise you that this month my department is sending cheques to over 200 fur sellers, totalling nearly \$60,000. I hope this assistance allows them to continue to earn a sustainable living from the land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

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

**Member's Statement 032 – 2(2): Shortage of Housing**

**Mr. Alagalak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address something which has been raised with me by a number of constituents in Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, one of the responsibilities of elected housing associations is to determine the allocation of available public housing units and manage the associated waiting lists. As all members are aware, the serious shortage of housing in Nunavut makes this a difficult job at the best of times.

Mr. Speaker, constituents have expressed concerns to me that the allocation of housing is being influenced by the actions of local Health and Social Services staff in the community. In some cases it appears that the people are being moved up the waiting list because they managed to get a recommendation from Health and Social Services that they need on an immediate basis.

Mr. Speaker, I know that there is frustration in the communities where this type of thing is practised, when people wait patiently, for years at a time, for a house to become available. It is frustrating to see other people jump ahead in line.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the local housing association must be allowed its job and be accountable to the community. I will have questions on this matter at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Evyagotailak

**Member's Statement 033 – 2(2): Providing Care Closer to Home**

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address a need in my constituency Kugluktuk for support to continue to provide care closer to home.

First of all I would like to congratulate the students that participated in a poster contest on Alcohol and Drug Awareness Week. They are: Gustin Adjun, Chantelle Avakanak, Suzanne Powers, Tanya Ongahak, Andrew Atatahak, Kathleen Hanak; congratulations to them.

Mr. Speaker, at this present time the women's shelter in Kugluktuk is unable to operate. A lack of funding has resulted in staff still waiting to get paid for their work. Bills for power, telephone, fuel, food, water and sewage are piling up. The facility itself is in urgent need of repairs, from frozen water pipes to the lack of a decent refrigerator and washing machine.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize the support and importance of providing care closer home, but we should also recognize that many home-based initiatives also need support and

assistance to get up and running and to be able to continue, especially in highly stressful and difficult situations.

Mr. Speaker, over the past few years we have seen a number of cases where municipalities have gotten into difficulties with their finances, with their accounting practices or with the auditing of their books. In those cases, the government steps in with assistance and support to help the municipalities to get back on their feet again.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the members if I can complete my statement. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Evyagotailak, please continue.

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those community organizations are not abandoned and left to sink on their own.

Mr. Speaker, there should not be any difficulty for other local groups to provide critical local services. If there is a true commitment to providing care closer to home, then our government should also be committed to providing assistance and support to the home-based organizations that provide the care.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage the Minister of Health and Social Services that her department's Care Closer to Home initiatives include providing support to community organizations such as the Kugluktuk women's shelter, to get back on their feet and continue providing an important local service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): You have to stick to one subject or one topic when you are making your member's statements. Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Arreak.

### **Member's Statement 034 – 2(2): Needs of Smaller Communities**

**Mr. Arreak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to highlight the need for decision makers to pay attention to the needs of our smaller communities, the have-not communities.

(interpretation) Earlier this year I had the pleasure of welcoming Nunavut's Premier and ministers to the community of Qikiqtarjuaq when they held a cabinet retreat there. This was an excellent opportunity for the cabinet to see first-hand the challenges and opportunities facing a small, decentralized community.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, during this past summer, our Prime Minister, Paul Martin, took the time to visit Nunavut and other Northern territories. Although it's good to see these visits take place, I would like to see more attention paid to smaller

communities and not just the usual stops in the larger places like Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit or in well-established tourist destinations like Pond Inlet and Pangnirtung.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, visiting a larger community such as this one only gives you one side of the story. When federal decision makers come to Iqaluit, they might assume that the rest of the territory looks the same; a community with lots of construction, economic growth, and job opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, communities like Clyde River and Kugaaruk and Grise Fjord also need attention. In these communities, people have ideas and energy but they often feel that they're being left behind.

If they did go to those smaller communities they would see that there are no breakwaters, and if they went to Broughton Island they would see students being taught in the hallway and the lack of job opportunities in the community. Communities like Clyde River and Grise Fjord are some of those communities.

I would like to ask my colleagues for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues.

The people in the smaller communities have ideas and are more than willing to make contributions. I am pleased that our cabinet recognizes the need to pay more attention to the needs of smaller communities.

I want to take this opportunity to say that the next time a federal minister plans to come here, to our communities, our government should strongly suggest that they spend some time in the smaller communities where there is a lack of opportunities and jobs.

Mr. Speaker, they will find an equally warm welcome and I know that they will learn much from this experience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Netser.

### **Member's Statement 035 – 2(2): Coral Harbour District Education Authority**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of the government to the needs expressed by the district education authority in Coral Harbour.

To date, those needs appear to have gone un-noticed. Mr. Speaker, the Coral Harbour District Education Authority has been writing letters, drawing up proposals, and meeting with other community representatives for many years now.

Recently Mr. Levy and his staff were in Coral Harbour to look at our school, only to say, “we have big plans but it’s not for Coral Harbour.” To date, the Coral Harbour District Education Authority has expressed a need for a high school for the community.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be tabling a series of documents that records this need in black and white. Unfortunately, education minister after education minister has failed to address these needs. It is time to change that.

The most recent challenge faced by the Coral Harbour DEA is a cutback in funds. Similar to the difficulties faced by the other community I represent, Chesterfield Inlet, the Coral Harbour DEA has less funding in its budget for the 2004-05 year.

The district education authorities need these funds to hire local program instructors. As I mentioned last week, these programs are very important to our culture and to our students. When we focus on academic issues, the Coral Harbour district education authority has expressed a need for a librarian and more classroom assistants and, Mr. Speaker, more space.

Mr. Speaker, how can the DEA meet increasing needs with less? The community of Coral Harbour is growing. Parents and students alike are facing greater and greater risks to their health and academic achievement as the resources allocated to providing for their education do not meet the needs.

Mr. Speaker, the district education authorities in both of the communities in my constituency are facing a very difficult situation. On the one hand they are asked to meet growing needs and demands, while on the other hand they are given less and less to do it with.

(interpretation) I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement; any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government has already dissolved one level of community representation with the dissolution of the education councils. The latest actions of the government make me wonder whether the role and authority of our community district education authorities will slowly be watered down until they, too, dissolve. At the appropriate time I will be posing questions to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. members’ statements, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Member's Statement 036 – 2(2): Charitable Contributions**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For a number of years now I've had the pleasure of rising annually in this House to highlight and pay tribute to the generosity of our territory's residents.

Although statistics can be a dry topic, they often reveal some important human truths about a situation. Statistics Canada recently released its annual figures on charitable giving and donations across the country. And once again Mr. Speaker, as it has every single year since 2000, Nunavut led the entire country with respect to the median charitable donation made. Nationally, the median donation was \$220; the median donation for Nunavut was \$410.

Mr. Speaker, according to the figures that were released, more Nunavummiut were in a position to donate than in the previous year. Over 1,500 people made a charitable contribution of some sort, and over \$2 million found their way to worthy causes.

These figures, of course, don't take into account all the times people drop \$10 or \$20 into their local food bank collection; they don't quantify every occasion when someone sponsors a local student. They don't fully account for the heartfelt support that people extend to their fellow citizens and their communities.

We know that our residents are far from the richest in the land. For example, fewer than one out of ten Nunavut tax filers reported investment income in 2003 from such things as stock portfolios.

We know that our communities are faced with the challenges of unemployment and the lack of job opportunity; that is why Nunavut's generosity is particularly striking. Those who are fortunate enough to be in a position to give, do so.

As members on both sides of the House have observed over the past weeks, our prosperity depends on actions in those areas where we have the greatest potential. It depends on concentrated, strategic investment from our national government.

As study after study after study has demonstrated, increase economic prosperity for Nunavut and the North benefits the nation as a whole. The good news about our residents' generosity just goes to symbolize how true that is.

I would like to ask all members to join me in saluting the thousands of Nunavummiut who led the country in the giving spirit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas.

**Member's Statement 037 – 2(2): Fencing for the Arctic Bay Dump**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today about my constituents' concern that there is no fencing around the garbage dump, which means if I throw something out from my house, it goes to the dump then it scatters all over town. This is not acceptable. There are polar bears that come to our dump because the garbage, when there is no fencing around the dump, just blows with the wind.

For example, in Arctic Bay, we get the wind from the same direction most of the time, and the garbage that is blown around from the dump ends up in a reservoir. This is not acceptable.

I have visited other communities and their dumps have fencing around them; this should also be the case with the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

#### **Member's Statement 038 – 2(2): Ordination of Darren McCartney**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to let all of the members know, regarding the Anglican church in Pangnirtung... . As my colleague from Kugluktuk is aware, Darren McCartney went to Pangnirtung a little over a year ago from Ireland. Mr. Darren McCartney was ordained yesterday. His father, his wife, and his brother were there, all the way from Ireland. Our bishop Paul Idlout, Andrew Ataguttaaluk, and Roy Bellkit were also in attendance when he was ordained. There was also Ron McLean from Iqaluit and a Mr. Lacey from Northern Ireland, where Mr. McCartney is originally from.

The Anglican church was filled to its capacity, and I wanted to rise today to congratulate the Reverend Darren McCartney. Thank you.

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

#### **Member's Statement 039 – 2(2): National Child Day**

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Uqaqti, this past Saturday, parents, teachers, daycare staff, children, and the public joined in the National Child Day march here in Iqaliut.

Mr. Speaker, the marchers were joined by many residents and non-residents. I would like to point out that the Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Keith Peterson, was also an active participant. Although he fell behind at the beginning of the parade, he caught up near the end.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, the National Child Day event was also held across Canada. At the end of the walk, participants were treated to hot chocolate, treats, and prizes. In all seriousness, I



would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the participants of the walk and thank the member daycare organizers for organizing a good parade and for doing a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Curly.

**Member's Statement 040 – 2(2): Manitoba to Kivalliq Road**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in regards to the Kivalliq sea-lift.

We have encountered a lot of problems, especially this fall, with the ships. There has not been any improvement through government contracts where they contract out ships. This is a big concern for the Kivalliq residents; not just for the residents but also for the businesses.

We are not sure as to where we should order from. This is a big concern in the Keewatin. It was even shocking that the ship that has been going back and forth from Churchill for so many years has closed down. It doesn't sail from Churchill; we get ships now from Montreal. The point of destination is Montreal. This is not assisting Kivalliq residents with respect to its growth economic development. This is not assisting us.

It costs a lot more. It's scary now, especially where there are a lot of things that they're losing. So, can the government consider the growth of Kivalliq with respect to Manitoba. If we're going to get that, we're not going to grow from Montreal or from Quebec. I urge the department of transportation to realize that there is a big demand for assistance from Kivalliq. This is not a light issue. Thank you.

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

**Member's Statement 041 – 2(2): Taloyoak Visit**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the Assembly about an important event that occurred in Taloyoak. My colleagues chose Taloyoak as the location for the recent cabinet retreat, from October 18 to 22.

(interpretation ends) Cabinet members and their staff took advantage of their time to enjoy activities in Taloyoak: touring the community, taking part in a community feast, participating in the opening of the new fire hall, and enjoying some ice fishing.

Mr. Speaker, another important part of this visit was the opening of the elders' centre in the community. Minister Tapardjuk presented Bessie Ashevak with a plaque to celebrate the occasion, and we all had the opportunity to share lunch with the Taloyoak elders.

It was an especially important event as we also had the opportunity to meet with the elders as well as with Bibian Marqniq. Mr. Speaker, Bibian is one of the oldest living elders in Nunavut. It was a great honour for cabinet members and colleagues and their staff to meet her.

I would like to issue a special thank-you to Pat and Leah Lyall, and Christine Lyall, as well as the staff of the Boothia Inn, Chloe, Lydia and Moatie, for all of their assistance and for their kind hospitality.

I would also like to thank my constituency assistant Johnny Kootook, who went out of his way to ensure that everything went smoothly, and the hamlet council and staff for their assistance and for the excellent meeting we had between the cabinet and council members.

Finally, I would like to thank the people of Taloyoak for a wonderful time. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Premier and as well as to my cabinet colleagues for choosing one of the smaller communities to hold the cabinet retreat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Ms. Brown.

#### **Member's Statement 042 – 2(2): Opening of New Hotel in Rankin Inlet**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize that there was a recent opening of the Co-Op and now it has a hotel. This is very convenient; it is also a great benefit to the community as we all know once that when there is more than one store, and there is competition, the prices tend to go down.

We appreciate that fact, because a lot of people do food mail, but it is up to them. For those people who don't take advantage of the food mail, they now have the option of going to the Co-Op. And the hotel is excellent. Now people who travel to Rankin Inlet will have better breakfast in the hotel.

I ask all members to applaud with me for the new hotel in Rankin Inlet. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Mapsalak.

#### **Member's Statement 043 – 2(2): Winnipeg Boarding House**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to show my appreciation to the Minister of Health and Social Services in regards to inviting us to tour the Winnipeg boarding home.

I would also like to thank the Kivalliq members of the Legislative Assembly for being able to go with us, and Tony, who is the executive director. He was able to answer all of our questions. They gave us information as to what kind of policies they have at that boarding home. We collected more information and more understanding of the function of the boarding home, and this will benefit the people.

So, I would like to thank the minister of health, Minister Brown, on behalf of the Kivalliq members for providing us with the appropriate information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Don't forget, I am the Speaker. Thank you. Members' statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 4 Returns to Oral Questions. Return to Oral Question 013-2(2) Number of Grade 12 Academic Graduates. Mr. Picco.

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

##### **Return to OQ 013 – 2(2): Number of Grade 12 Academic Graduates**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Member of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly, on November 17, 2004.

It concerns a number of grade 12 academic graduates. In response to the member's question, I am pleased to provide the following information: the number of grade 12 graduates in Nunavut since 1998-99, I believe this is the answer I gave before, I was just naming that, is 786.

Now, this is a significant increase in the number of graduates who received a grade 12 diploma over the past five years, and it is very encouraging. We are going in the right direction, Mr. Speaker.

The community-based high school initiative has been a success. Of the 786 graduates, 259, or one third, of the graduating students studied and passed the English 30 course. English 30 is considered to meet the academic requirements for most post-secondary institutions in Canada.

Students enrolled in the high school may take a combination of general and academic courses in order to meet the graduation requirements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Kilabuk.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't usually receive a lot of visitors to the gallery. I'm happy to recognize, over there on my right, my wife

Rosie and Joseph, my son. There is also our daughter, but she is not here today. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to welcome Mr. Kilabuk's family. It's always good to see them in town.

I would also like to recognize a couple of family members here in the gallery. Over there, sitting in front of the CBC booth, is my uncle, Robert Hicks and his wife Martha; they recently relocated here. I would just like to welcome them to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize and to welcome Rosie and Joseph and also Robert and Martha Hicks. They recently had twin granddaughters, and they are related to my daughter. I have so many relatives now, Mr. Speaker.

I would also like to recognize John Towtongie, who is going to be our new Seargent-at-Arms; welcome John. He is also from Rankin Inlet. He's a real hunter and has a family here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

#### **Question 049 – 2(2): Utility Rate Review Council Extension**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly sure who to direct this question to. I'm sure that the Minister of Energy and the Minister Responsible for the Utility Rate Review Council will argue over who gets to answer the question.

Mr. Speaker, the minister responsible for the power corporation recently, last week, indicated that they granted an extension to the Utility Rate Review Council in order for it to file its report, to February 1.

I'm just wondering, does that mean, automatically, that the extension for intervenors to file their reports with the Utility Rate Review Council will also be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your request was asked and an extension was granted. As we've said all along, we're listening to the people of Nunavut and, indeed, the community at large on the request. So, the short answer to Mr. Tootoo's question is, yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know we all like it when the minister manages to give us short answers. I am just wondering if he has any indication... I think that the last deadline that was advertised was December 5 or 6. Does he have any idea when the new deadline for submissions will be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I sent the notification to the chair of the new URRC last week, and I got that right, Mr. Speaker. He hasn't come back to say exactly when that timeframe is; we know it's extended until February 3. That will also give them more time to write the report.

I would expect a rough time frame will be probably be up to the end of December, allowing for the intervener, for example, written submissions, if needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister commit to it as soon as he hears back from Mr. Mercer, the chair of the URRC? I'd like to congratulate the minister for getting it right this week.

Once he hears back from them, can he inform all members of this House of the plan if they are going to re-advertise or re-publish when those submissions will be received? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member makes a good point. I was hoping to be in a position very early this week to be able to confirm the actual dates and times, and I would hope by way of the media and so on, and this House, to be able to announce that.

So, I would hope to be in a position in the next couple of days to give the actual timeframe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Aside from announcements being made in the House here, I know that the deadline was something that was published in the media and the papers and on the radio, so that people throughout the territory would see when the deadline was. Is that something that the minister is going to make sure happens as well? Not just the people that are listening to the news on that particular day that he makes his statement or watching it that night on television, but so that everybody gets an opportunity to find out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This process has to be seen as accountable and transparent; I believe it is. I believe the government is listening. As an example, the URRC did add extra dates, for example here in Iqaluit, because of the issue, when they heard from the public at the first meetings that they had two weeks ago.

I would agree with the member; I think it's a good suggestion, and I think we will be able to facilitate that. So the answer, again, is, yes, to the members question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral questions, Mr. Alagalak.

#### **Question 050 – 2(2): Public Housing Allocations**

**Mr. Alagalak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Earlier today I raised the concern about the goal of the department and naming people to give priority treatment for its fluctuating list for public housing.

My question for the minister is this: what guidelines or policy does the department follow with respect to getting involved in decisions related to public housing allocation and waiting lists. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Health and Social Services, Hon. Levinia Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not seen the guidelines, and I don't have them with me in this House, but I will be able to look into that and reply to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Is that it? Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Peterson.

#### **Question 051 – 2(2): Utility Rate Review Council Recommendation Report**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for the power corporation... or the Energizer Bunny.

>> *Laughter*

After the URRC's recommendations have been received by cabinet, to makes its final decision, will members be formally consulted? Koana Uqaqti.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Energy. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the government wishes to be transparent on the whole process and be able to get a range of views, and so on.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, once the report has been made available to me, I will be making available to the cabinet at that time. When the report is made available to me, there is a process in place that is outlined under the regulations. That process, indeed, allows for interested people, communities, mayors, MLAs and so on.

I would take this opportunity to commit to the House that after I have briefed my cabinet colleagues, I would be very pleased to meet with the members of the House and brief them on the Utility Rates Review Council's recommendations at that time, and provide, as is outlined in the regulations, copies to the members and to the interested public at large. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Koana Uqaqti. I thank the minister for that commitment today. The Utility Rates Review Council is supposed to scrutinize the Qulliq Energy Corporation's General Rate Application.

Who will physically write the Utility Rates Review Council's recommendations an independent Utility Rates Review Council member or our Government of Nunavut public servants? Koana Uqaqti.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been some confusion on the process to date, and for the record, again, I want to reiterate what I have been saying over the last couple of weeks: the General Rate Application that is before the Utility Rates Review Council has been put forward by the power corporation themselves. It didn't go to cabinet, we didn't look at it; it's what the power corporation feels they need to be solvent after April 1, 2005.

In that process itself, the Utility Rates Review Council has a utility rate expert with them on that committee, and I would suggest to you that Mr. Mercer and his team, along with the utility rate review experts, are very competent individuals. They are members of our community, they are from Nunavut, they will have an opportunity to scrutinize what they have heard, scrutinize the application brought forward by the power corporation, and it will be they who will write the report, not just some faceless bureaucrat within the

Government of Nunavut. It is a report that will be written by and for the Utility Rates Review Council on the General Rate Application. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Koana Uqaqti. It is good to hear that reassurance and that commitment, that he who holds the pen holds the controls the paper.

My supplementary question: will the minister tell the House how the cabinet itself will evaluate the merits of the Utility Rates Review Council's recommendations? Koana Uqaqti.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't say, I don't want to prejudge the position or the process that is occurring.

This is an independent process that has been put in place, and that is why we have the Utility Rates Review Council in place to review their proposal; then, at the end of the day, that comes through the cabinet, and then we will review it.

As I had said earlier, after we have received that, I brief my cabinet colleagues. I am prepared to brief the members and then copies will, of course, go out to the general public, and they will have an opportunity to see it at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Final supplementary. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Koana Uqaqti. I recall that previous Utility Rates Review Council recommendations were rejected by cabinet, and I think the public of Nunavut would like to know on what basis will the cabinet agree or not agree with the Utility Rates Review Council's recommendations. Koana Uqaqti.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was a different process, in that the power corporation had come for a fuel stabilization rider, not a general rate increase. At that time, Mr. Speaker, if you remember, we received the only financial statements that we had up to that time in December 2002; three weeks later in January, January 2 or 3, the power corporation asked for the fuel stabilization rider; they asked for 5 cents.

Mr. Speaker, within three weeks they had written me and said, "No, no, we want 10 cents." I brought those to the Utility Rate Review Council. The Utility Rate Review Council only had one set of financial statements to go by at that time. And at that time, they came back and said, "They don't know if they need 5 cents, and we don't know if you need 10 cents."



They suggested 7.5 cents. I held meetings with the business community and with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. I believe Mr. Peterson, at that time, was a member and probably the chair, if I remember correctly. In all regards, Mr. Speaker, the sentiment was, "How can you raise a fuel stabilization rider when you only have one financial statement?" So, in that case, we froze the rates for one year, from May 2003 to 2004, and now we're in the GRA process. We've done everything that we said we would do.

So, that process was a little bit different; that evaluation would have been different because it wasn't a general rate application, it was a fuel subsidy rider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Arreak.

**Question 052– 2(2): Polar Bears in the Species At Risk List**

**Mr. Arreak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, on October 23, 2004, the federal government announced a proposed order amending schedule 1-3 of the Species at Risk Act, indicating that 76 species be added to schedule 1-3.

Of the 76 species, the polar bear is being proposed to be added as a special concern. Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us what the position is of this government on this issue? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for posing that question.

In regards to the polar bear, the Government of Nunavut is following the wishes and the knowledge of Inuit. We have to work closely together with the organizations and Inuit in regards to polar bears. As the Department of Environment, we would like to put our facts together and make a decision at that point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If that's the case, what does it mean? Is it going to have an effect on the polar bear quota we have for Nunavut? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will have to make sure that we get a study done. We do have polar bear biologists. Usually we have an

international commission, and what I will do as the minister is make sure that they have the facts. There are increasing in number in the polar population, and we'll make sure that our counterparts know that there is an increase and not a decrease of the polar bear population in Nunavut.

We'll make sure that our international counterparts know exactly what's happening up here. We're going to have to work very closely together. Our polar bear big-game hunts are very popular internationally, and we'll make sure they have the facts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Have the Department of Environment and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board been working together on this issue? This letter is requesting that there be a response by November 24, 2004, and today is the date. Are you going to be submitting that letter? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. NTI and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board have had meetings with the Government of Nunavut to decide on what decisions they can make in regards to polar bears.

We will be working with them in the upcoming months and in the upcoming years to make decisions that will be most suitable for Nunavut. Of course, we try to respond to our letters by the deadline.

We have been working together with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in writing that letter. If it has to be done today, then it will be done before five o'clock. We do try to make sure that we don't go over a deadline. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Netser.

**Question 053 – 2(2): Amount of Funding Cut from the District Education Authority**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education in regards to the cuts that have been repeatedly made to the education authority organizations.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, for me and for the benefit of my constituents in Coral Harbour, exactly how much funding was cut from the Coral Harbour District Education Authority budget this year? And where are those dollars going now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After the member's questions in the House last week on the same issue, I responded at that time with the amount and so on. I will again, for the record, with the information that's been provided to me, state that the operations and maintenance for Chesterfield Inlet is the same as last time.

Mr. Speaker, the budget and the district education authority's salary has changed, based on the amounts paid to the janitorial staff. When I met with the DEA chairs in Baker Lake this past summer, we had some discussion on that. The decrease in the budget directly relates to the janitorial salary that is now being picked up by the Government of Nunavut. We've had to bring those salaries in line to what the collective agreement outlines.

So, those monies have been taken out of the budget, but are being paid by the government. So, the DEA isn't paying it anymore. We're paying it instead of having the DEA have those salaries in their budget to pay the custodial amounts.

It is my understanding that we have taken that money and we are paying it. So, in reality, there is no decrease in programming dollars for the district education authority. The decrease is in actual salary dollars for the janitorial staff, which is now being paid by the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you. What he seems to be saying is that the funds have been cut from the special needs program and put into the custodial worker's salary. Is that a correct understanding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, what has occurred in each base budget for each of the district education authorities, is that there are monies set aside for the different employees that a DEA will hire; in this case it is the janitorial staff.

The janitorial staff dollar amount had been withdrawn from the DEA because the Government of Nunavut is actually paying those salary dollars now.

So, that was the decrease. It doesn't affect the salary dollars that were available from the DEA, which is unconditional funding to the DEA, to pay for special needs or what have you.

However, Mr. Speaker, in his earlier statement, the member was correct in saying that there are pressures in Coral, and indeed across Nunavut, with our schools with the increased enrollment and so on, and I'm hoping to be in a position to be able to deal with that in the coming weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this department works towards developing a new Education Act for Nunavut, can the minister describe how he envisions the future role of the district education authority in Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's a slightly different question than in the ones on the funding, but I will try to answer the question. The district education authorities' central authority position within the Government of Nunavut changed after the amalgamation and integration of the education board.

Mr. Speaker, we would hope that when the consultation hearings are held on the new Education Act, after input from DEAs, hamlets, mayors, MLAs, and so on, that there will be a new direction and new powers, that are within their jurisdiction or within the legislation that is in place, brought forth for the DEAs.

I can't say what those will be right now, because that's the whole process of the new Education Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Last supplementary, Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to giving full consideration to the needs expressed and documented by the Coral Harbour District Education Authority since 1999 for a new high school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member has pointed out, I believe we had a very good meeting with Mr. Lorne Levy on October 13. When our capital planning team went to Coral Harbour, and again, I want to congratulate and thank the member, because the member was the catalyst that helped us bring our team into Coral Harbour because of his concerns, and he's written letters on the issue... I can confirm with member that we have, with the capital planning team, heard from the community and indeed there was an acknowledgement that there hadn't been any kind of written confirmation from any minister before that on the replacement of the school in Coral Harbour.

Indeed, that has occurred now, that we are actually looking at it. The school is in the supplemental capital plan, and I believe there's some work that needs to be carried out in the current year in the school.

That was discussed with the DEA during the October 13 meeting, and I can commit at this time that based on those discussions on October 13, we will be providing that operations and maintenance coverage in the new year, looking at some of those fixtures and at the same time reviewing the needs for the school in Coral Harbour.

Again, this is an issue that has been raised by the member and has been taken seriously, and that's why the capital planning team went in there on October 13. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 054 – 2(2): Status of Independent Body**

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

On Friday, I posed the same question to the minister but was not clearly answered, so I'll try again. On May 26 of this year the Minister of Energy told the House, and I quote in English:

“Nunavut Power will enhance its efforts in collection, and an independent body will be sought so that the customer can resolve disputes over billing. Independence will ensure that this process will be fair, confidential, and will provide timely responses to the customer concerned. The decisions of this body will be final and binding.”

Once again, my question to the minister is this: what is the status of the independent body, and when will it begin its work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Energy, Hon. Ed Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a copy of the statement that the member is reading from. I'm not questioning the veracity of the comments or indeed the statements that have been made.

It is my understanding from the corporation that they are still working on the independent review. So, I don't have that information with me, if it's set up or if it's in place, and what the current status of it is. But I can get that information for the member and provide it to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the willingness to provide me with that copy.

On Friday, I urged the minister about the Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program. He indicated that it was a good program, but not many people are aware of it. Can the minister tell us

today how his department will make seniors across Nunavut better aware of such programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his different question on the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program. The department will be putting in place and redoubling its efforts on the communications plan for the senior fuel subsidy.

I believe I indicated last week in the House there was less than 50 people who had an uptake on the program throughout Nunavut. There may be more Nunavummiut who are eligible for the program that may not be aware of it, and that is why we indicated the communicative strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 055 – 2(2): Status of the Kugluktuk Women's Shelter**

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister for Health and Social Services. (interpretation ends) Earlier today, I spoke of the current status of the Kugluktuk's women's shelter.

Can the minister update this House on what services are currently available for the Kugluktuk residents who find themselves in crisis situations and are in need of shelter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Health and Social Services. Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for asking the question. There are different people who look after these things. Within Nunavut they are operated differently. At this time, I can't answer the question. I will take the question as notice. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The minister has taken your question as notice. Please wait patiently. Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

#### **Question 056 – 2(2): Review of Shipping Supply Contracts**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address the Minister of Community and Government Services.

On March 10, 2003, the minister of public works indicated in this House that for the supplies that are shipped from down South to the Keewatin and Baffin, the shipping industry in the Keewatin and the people who order from down South had to get different suppliers. Before that, the Keewatin people used to order from Manitoba, and after March 10, 2003 everything is now ordered from Montreal.

At the time, a lot of people were opposed to this. Can the minister indicate in this House if there will be a comprehensive review with the contracts, and when do they anticipate that it will be finished.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for community government, Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The agreement was made with Public Works, and up to now the concerns have been directed to me. When the concerns come to me, I give them to Transportation; it is clear. I was informed recently, after the shipping season this summer, that the contract is until 2006. Due to the complaints we have, we can revisit this contract. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is usually brought up within the hamlet councils. I'd like to ask the minister again, before he indicated that we might be able to terminate the contract before 2006. Maybe can you agree to do more review. Can there be another review, because the business people cannot always attend meetings. Would you be available for that kind of consultation? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I applaud my colleague for posing this question. Even before 2006, I'd like to keep in mind that at the housing authority, the concerns that are brought up to me have been ongoing, from the mayors from Keewatin.

I have met personally with them, and as I indicated earlier, even before March 2006... . There won't be any delays; I am in full agreement that as we draw near that date we will be making plans for that. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 057 – 2(2): Community Centre**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the minister of community government: in the Commissioner's opening address, in regards to recreation... . As we all know, the community complexes in the communities are too small for the size of their populations. They are very good for the young people, for the health of the young people.

They are very beneficial, but in my constituency, the complex in our community, there is a growing concern, by the hamlet council and the recreation committee, that it is getting too small for the size of the community

The minister has seen this centre, the community hall, but my question is, what is the requirement of the government to accommodate the community with a community hall? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We also include the population for the needs of the community, but we also look at how in some communities they don't have such a luxury as a community hall or community centre, because there is a lack of recreation halls in Nunavut.

We appreciated the assistance that we got from the government, that the government provides us to assist the communities to build recreation centres. I will present that in due time, but at this time we also include the population, whether there is presently a complex already or if they need renovations.

Those are the factors that we take into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my community we only call it a meeting place where the people meet. They don't usually hold games and such. The funding was previously approved with the first government.

With the first Assembly, I was more concerned about marine infrastructure, but this time it is the community hall, so even when we are not sitting in the House, I would like to be able to work with the minister. This is just an information item and not a question. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague. Keep in mind the five-year capital plan and the priorities in the communities that the communities want to see.

I welcome his suggestion that he is willing to meet with me, and if he wants assistance I can let my officials meet with him also. I encourage him to ask me for their assistance. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Question 058 – 2(2): Board of Directors' Direction on the Rate Rider**

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for energy, and it relates to some of the comments that he mentioned earlier, in responding to my colleague Mr. Peterson's questions. It had to deal with the whole process of the



General Rate Application as put forward by the Power Corporation's board of directors, also about how the whole fuel stabilization rider process ended up. I want to tie my question to his response earlier.

I know that the minister had indicated that it was the power corporation's board of directors that developed the General Rate Application and put it forward. I just want to have the minister confirm that the board of directors was not given any direction at all by either the minister responsible at the time or any other member of the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process that has occurred, as I tried to explain earlier to Mr. Peterson, is exactly what we said we would do as a government.

Last May when we had the debate on the power corporation in the Legislative Assembly in Baker Lake, when the sitting was held, we said that we would freeze the rates, at that time, for one year. And the direction that we gave the power corporation a year ago was to bring forward a General Rate Application in 2004. So, that is where we are at right now and that is the process that is in place.

As I said earlier, the cabinet did not review the application before it came forward; that is the process that was put forward by the power corporation.

It's a proposal so that the corporation, for those two test years, April 1, 2005 to April 1, 2006 and on, for those first two test years they are to be solvent and see what their rate of return would be to provide that. That is why the General Rate Application is in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to go back to that freeze in a moment, but my question for the minister is: in the General Rate Application, the option that is put forward by the board of directors was for a uniform rate for the territory.

I just want to ask the minister to confirm that neither he nor any other previous minister nor any other minister in this government directed anyone on the board of directors or the president on what options to put forward in their General Rate Application. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say, having been intimately involved in the process from day one, that there were no directions given by any cabinet meeting that I attended or by cabinet in any direction whatsoever to the power corporation to come forward with what we would call a postage stamp rate.

The board of directors looked at their options and they put together the proposal to the Utility Rates Review Council for a General Rate Application. They came up with that option; it did not come to the cabinet, we did not vote on it and say that is what should be brought forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to hear that, because I know it's a small territory, things get around, and rumours of interference run rampant out there. So I just wanted the minister to clarify that for the public.

This is another rumour that I would like him to clarify, and it deals with his response earlier, as he mentioned that the government decided to freeze the rate after the fuel stabilization rider was requested when we were at our sitting in Baker Lake.

A rumour that I heard, and I would like to ask the minister to dispel that rumour, is that one of the reasons that it was frozen and put off was because there was no money to pay for it.

I would like to ask the minister and if he could clarify or dispel that rumour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Usually in this House, we are not supposed to be in the process of answering innuendo and responding to rumours, but the member has asked a pertinent question and I appreciate him asking the question.

So, I hope that I can give a distinct answer to his question, an answer that is very honestly and serious. A year ago when we reviewed the Utility Rates Review Council report, as I said earlier, the Utility Rates Review Council came forward and said, "Look, you have asked for five cents and within a six-week timeframe, they changed and then they asked for ten cents." The Utility Rates Review Council took all of the information that was available from the power corporation. There was only one financial statement; we didn't know, at that time, if the problem of the corporation was a revenue problem or an expense problem, so we said we would freeze the rates for one year.

Based on the 7.5 cents that the corporation had asked for at that time, it would have cost millions of dollars to the government, because at the end of the day, 80 percent of all revenue that comes from the power corporation comes from the government. It is a direct transfer to the hamlets, a direct transfer to the housing associations, schools, Legislative Assembly buildings, the Brown Building, the hospital, and so on and so forth. So, at the end of the day, any increase that the power corporation or from a fuel stabilization rider then, and now, would be borne by the government.

The real reason that the rates were frozen after a review by the government, I think, were two: they were logistical as well as financial, but most importantly, probably, they were administrative, because we didn't have the information, we felt, at that time.

Indeed, that was the consensus of the business community at the time. I don't make this stuff up. A year ago they all said they applauded us; in the June 13 edition of the Nunatsiaq News, the chamber of commerce president said they thought it was a good move by the government to hold the rates for one year, to freeze them, so we could ascertain what the situation was. So we didn't know at the time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you and many members in this House know, one thing I've stood up for in this House, and argued for, is openness and transparency from the government to the people of Nunavut.

The minister just indicated that the government said the reason they froze the rates is because they didn't have enough information. Now he just said it's because they didn't have the money, as well as another reason. Maybe I'd just like to ask the minister for whatever reason there is that they make decisions on whatever is going to happen, that they give all the reasons why out there, so that people aren't led to believe it's one thing and not something else. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I gave three reasons for that rejection of the URRC recommendations on the fuel subsidization rider; it wasn't a rate application, a fuel subsidy rider. Those were logistic, administrative, and financial. The financial rate is where we didn't have the financial statements, we only had one set of financial statements. I didn't say it was because we didn't have enough money. I believe if you look at the answer tomorrow it will confirm it and say that.

What I said is that it would have cost us millions of dollars. Yes, that is true, because 80 percent of every cent that the power corporation generates comes directly or indirectly from our government. So, if I increase the rates tomorrow by 100 percent the Government of Nunavut would be paying 80 percent of that. So, it goes to say, without fair contradiction, that if you increase the rates by 100 percent then 80 percent of that will come from the government. That means we will have to transfer money to the Department of Health and Social Services, to Department of Education, to Public Works to pay the light bill.

I didn't say that was the reason why we didn't do it. I said the reason why we didn't do it, Mr. Speaker, for the record, was based on the following three that I had just outlined: the administrative, financial and logistics.

Mr. Speaker, the financial was the lack of financial statements; we only had one statement. Mr. Speaker, if the members would review the Hansard from Baker Lake from a year ago, they are on the public record. I sat in the Committee of the Whole by myself and answered the questions on why we didn't move forward on that recommendation.

So, it wasn't because we didn't have the money in our pockets, because we never got to that point, but it would have cost us at that time millions of dollars.

At the end of the day, like we said a year ago, we would freeze the rates for one year, go forward with a GRA. That's what we are doing right now. We haven't told the power corporation what kind of power rates to put forward. It didn't go to cabinet first; it's a position taken by the power corporation board of directors and so on, to be solvent. I'm not arguing with that.

We had to let the URRC process go forward; it's a transparent process, and Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day we will receive their report, we'll have an opportunity to do an analysis of it, I've already committed to the members to sit down with the members and go through what the report says, and then look at the recommendations made by the URRC at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 059 – 2(2): Amount of General Rate Application**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Energy. I'll follow the line of questioning my colleague Mr. Tootoo just had. Without prejudging the work of the URRC, can the Minister of Energy reveal to us what revenue projections has Qulliq Energy Corporation developed in relation to this general rate application. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Energy, Hon. Ed Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding from going through the GRA application by the power corporation, there are over 100 pages, 200 pages I've had an opportunity to read through, the projection they're making is to do a rate of return for the power corporation itself, to ensure the financial viability of the corporation itself, for the first two test years: 2005-06, and 2006-07.

At the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, I don't, as the member has just said, want to preach or propose what the URRC will come up with in its recommendation. We have to wait until those come forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the corporation is not expected to break even until a later year, I think I heard maybe 2007, given that the corporation has already

exceeded its legal debt limit, does this mean that the Government of Nunavut will have to bail out the Qulliq Energy Corporation again with a direct cash infusion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I didn't say that. What I said was the projection of the GRA application process is one: for the test years 2005-06; and two, for 2006-07, the two year program for the GRA application. That is what it is covering, first of all, to make the corporation financially solvent. It has no indication after April 1, 2005 that the Government of Nunavut would bail it out.

Mr. Speaker, as I had just said earlier, 80 percent of all revenue generated by the power corporation comes from the Government of Nunavut, directly. If I had increased the rates by 20 percent, 40 percent in 2001 or 2002 or 2003, it would have been this government that would have transferred the money to pay for it, 80 percent of it.

So, Mr. Speaker, this process that we are looking at right now is an independent process of the Utility Rate Review Council; they will look at the financial stability of the corporation based on the numbers that are put forward by the power corporation. They will review the two financial statements that are available, because that is all that we have again, two financial statements that are available, as of today. They will look at those. They will look at projections and the corporation has said that a postage stamp rate application, which is what they are bringing forward, will make them financially viable as of April 1, 2005 onwards, for that two year period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for the answer, Mr. Minister. I think this year, so far, we have put \$14 million into the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I think that I read somewhere that 297 page document where it looked at maybe another \$8 million before the end of March, so there is a significant amount of money that we were talking about here.

I am wondering if the minister could tell us what level of profit is the corporation expected to generate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The power corporation, I believe this statement shows on operating costs in the first financial statement, was \$5.2 million; the second year that we have the financial statement for had indicated \$7 million. We don't have the third year statement yet, so it is a \$12 million on the operating year on each of the first two years of operations. The next year... . I was asked the question last week, and I can't pre-disclose what that amount would be.

I can say, Mr. Speaker, that there is no bail-out. If we had put the money next month, or next year, or if we put it in two years ago, we would have paid 80 percent of it.

So before you throw good money into bad, you have to be able to get, like we said a year ago, your financial house in order. Get copies of the audited financial statements to see what the real problem is, see where you are hemorrhaging, where the losses are occurring. The Auditor General pointed out \$1.2 million last year, in the statements that they attributed to, on loose terms, what would be mismanagement, at the corporation level.

That is less than one percent of the total revenue generated at the corporation. The big issue here, Mr. Speaker, is that the rates have not increased since 1998, and no one in this House or the public denies that there has to be an increase; the question is how much should we increase. And that is the job of the Utility Rate Review Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Final supplementary. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister keeps talking about that 80 percent of the money comes from the Government of Nunavut, but there is 20 percent coming from somewhere else. There is somebody out there that has to pay and we ought to be concerned about them as well.

During our standing committee meeting last summer, about the Auditor General, we talked extensively about the power corporation and the problems that they have had. We are aware that the power corporation had been mismanaged; some senior managers, executives, made off in the middle of the night with some generous severance packages, but during that standing committee meeting, Mr. Speaker, we asked the government officials if they would present us with a recovery business plan that we could review. I am talking about a business plan, a recovery business plan that can analyze all areas of the corporation and see where things would be more efficient or effective, streamlined, and save money internally.

I wonder if the minister could commit today that they will give us members of the Legislative Assembly copies of the recovery business plan for March 31. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The General Rate Application itself outlines the process that the power corporation is trying to take to be solvent. So, I think, as I said earlier, that 298 page document outlines what processes it has taken to prove that.

Mr. Simailak also outlined earlier some of the processes the power corporation has already done; they hired new staff, they are using the financial administration manual of

the Government of Nunavut, they put new accountants in place, there has been changes in senior management, and a new CEO has been brought in.

So, a lot of things have occurred to shore up, we think, the administrative and logistic needs of the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Netser.

**Question 060 – 2(2): Coral Harbour Caribou Harvest Program Funding**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Coral Harbour are going to be starting their caribou harvesting program, but they have to ask for money every year.

My question is: is the Coral Harbour caribou harvest program going to be receiving any funds from the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are currently negotiating on where this money is going to be coming from and how much it's going to be. It is currently in the works, and we will be giving you the information very shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 061 – 2(2): Income Assessment for Homeowners**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of the Housing Corporation.

When I was visiting my communities, I was asked questions by homeowners. Every six months they have an assessment done on their incomes. Why is it that this not concurrent with the present housing tenant agreement that they have?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize. I didn't get the question. If he would rephrase it please.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I am trying to say is that every six months there has to be an income assessment of each tenant in the public housing units. Why is it that this is not consistent across the board? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to look into this issue and see what is happening in the communities. It is not in front of me. And, I don't know which community he is referring to. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is over. We still have time tomorrow. Going back to orders of the day. Item 7. Written questions, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Item 7: Written Questions**

#### **Written Question 015 – 2(2): Overtime Costs Incurred by the Government of Nunavut**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I pose my written question today, I would like to very briefly draw the attention of the House to the fact that on June 18 of this year, during our standing committee's recent public hearings, the Government of Nunavut's lead witness made the following public commitment with respect to providing the committee with overtime costs incurred by the government. He said, and I will quote: "We should be able to get that off the free-balance systems fairly quickly for the committee, and we will provide it as soon as we get it."

Mr. Speaker, it's been almost 160 days since that commitment was made, and it's never been honoured.

Perhaps I will help to clarify for some people why members on this side of the House are determined to exercise our right under item seven of the orders of the day as written questions and perhaps the witnesses' comments will help to explain why there should be no excuse why this kind of information should not be publicly disclosed at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of Finance is with regard to overtime costs incurred by the Government of Nunavut.

When broken down by department and Crown corporation, what was the total amount of overtime costs incurred by the Government of Nunavut for the following fiscal years: 2002-03; 2003-04; and from this current fiscal year 2004 until September 30? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Written questions. Mr. Curley.

#### **Written Question 016 – 2(2): Salary Ranges for Nunavut Government Senior Executives and Crown Corporations**



**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): My question is for the Premier, the minister responsible for the Senior Personnel Secretariat. It's in regards to the senior executive and Crown corporations. (interpretation ends)

1. As of November 1, 2004 what is the salary range for presidents and vice presidents of the:
  - a) Qulliq Energy Corporation;
  - b) Qulliq Fuel Corporation;
  - c) Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
  - d) Nunavut Development Corporation;
  - e) Nunavut Arctic College?
  
2. As of November 1, 2004 what is the annual value of entertainment and vehicle allowances provided to the presidents and the vice presidents of the:
  - a) Qulliq Energy Corporation;
  - b) Qulliq Fuel Corporation;
  - c) Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
  - d) Nunavut Development Corporation;
  - e) Nunavut Arctic College?
  
3. As of November 1, 2004 what is the annual value of the supplementary pension provided to the presidents and vice presidents of the:
  - a) Qudliq Energy Corporation;
  - b) Qudliq Fuel Corporation;
  - c) Nunavut Business Credit Corporation;
  - d) Nunavut Development Corporation;
  - e) Nunavut Arctic College?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Written questions. Mr. Peterson.

**Written Question 017 – 2(2): Water Sewer Services Subsidy Policy**

**Mr. Peterson:** My question is for the Hon. Peter Kilabuk, Minister of Department of Community and Government Services. It's regarding the water-sewer services subsidy policy.

1. For each fiscal year since April 1, 1999, what amount of funding was provided to each community under the water-sewer services subsidy policy?
  
2. How are is the subsidy calculated?

3. If the calculation of the subsidy has changed since April 1, 1999, when and how did it change?
4. As of November 18, 2004 what is the status of the review of the water-sewer services subsidy policy that the Minister of Department of Community and Government Services referred to May 20, 2004?
5. When will the results of the reviews be tabled in the House?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): If you have written questions, please make sure they go to the Clerk. Written questions. Orders of the day. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Mapsalak.

### **Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees**

#### **Committee Report 001 – 2(2): Appointment of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut**

**Mr. Mapsalak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the chair of the standing committee Ajauqtiit, I would like to report to the House on the appointment of the Language Commissioner of Nunavut.

As members are aware, the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit has been undertaking a selection process for this important position. Mr. Speaker, all five members of the committee conducted the interviews and selection process for the language commissioner.

We conducted in-person interviews with two of the strongest candidates, each of which were over two hours long. We also received written submissions from each candidate detailing the candidates' vision for languages in the territory and the role of the office.

After careful consideration and assessment of the applications, the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit unanimously recommended the re-appointment of Ms. Eva Aariak.

*>>Applause*

Unfortunately, after the committee conducted a thorough selection process to identify her as the most appropriate candidate, Ms. Aariak's informed the standing committee that she will be taking on new challenges in the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, we would like to warmly thank Ms. Aariak for serving as Nunavut's first languages commissioner and wish her the very best in this new challenge. She has left the office in a strong position to carry on its important work.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Aariak is sitting behind me, and I ask that all members take this moment to applaud her for the excellent job she has done while in this position and in the establishment of the Office of the Language Commissioner.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, the languages commissioner must be a strong, committed voice for the promotion and preservation of Nunavut's official languages and dialect. At the same time, he or she must have the diplomacy to mediate solutions, have sensitivity to the aspirations of different language groups, and possess the integrity and administrative competence to deal with matters in a fair and timely manner.

Above all, he or she must be a leader in the Inuit tradition, able to hold the respect and confidence of all Inuit, elders, and youth, as well as French- and English-speaking residents of Nunavut.

The standing committee will shortly be re-advertising this position. I would ask and encourage all members to inform suitable candidates in their home communities of the vacancy and encourage them to apply for this position. The standing committee understands that the Management and Services Board will be exploring the option of identifying an acting appointee until such time as the position is filled on a permanent basis.

I move that the report of the standing committee be received and adopted by the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): There is a motion that the report of the standing committee be received and adopted. Are we agreed? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion is carried.

Orders of the day. Item 12. Item 13. Tabling of documents. Mr. Kilabuk.

### **Item 13: Tabled Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 019 – 2(2): Nunavut Ten-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, the *Nunavut Ten-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan*. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of documents. Mr. Netser.

#### **Tabled Document 020 – 2(2): Coral Harbour District Education Authority**

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my member's statement, I noted a number of concerns related to the problems currently faced by the district education authority in Coral Harbour.

Mr. Speaker, today I am tabling a number of letters and documents dating back to 1999. These documents show Coral Harbour's need for a new school as well as other issues that have been expressed continuously over the last several years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of documents. Ms. Aglukkaq.

#### **Tabled Document 021 – 2(2): Clarification on the Fiscal Update**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document to clarify a section of the fiscal update I presented on Wednesday, November 17. For the record, I'm going to read it out. On page 6, paragraph 4, the last sentence reads, "\$6.4 million has been allocated for modernization and an improvement retrofit, of which \$4.3 million will be recovered from Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation."

Mr. Speaker, the paragraph should read as follows, "In addition, \$6.3 has been allocated for modernization and improvements retrofits, to be supplemented by \$4.13 million from the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of documents. Mr. Peterson.

#### **Tabled Document 022 – 2(2): Letter from the Kitikmeot Corporation Head Office**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document from the Kitikmeot Corporation. It was their presentation to the Utility Rate Review Council public meeting in Cambridge Bay last week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 14. Item 15. Item 16. Item 17. Item 18. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters. Bill 4 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2005-06, with Mr. Evyagotailak in the chair.

We'll take a 20-minute break.

>>*House recessed at 15:36 and resumed at 16:07*

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

**Chairman** (Evyagotailak): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In the Committee of the Whole we have to deal with the following items: Bill 4 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2005-06.

What is the wish of the committee, Mr. Mapsalak?

**Mr. Mapsalak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to proceed with the review of the capital estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation followed by the review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Are we in agreement that we first deal with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation?

**Some members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Simailak, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Yes I do, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Sergeant-at-arms, please escort the witnesses in. Mr. Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have on my left, Alex Campbell, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. On my right, Methuselah Kunuk, Assistant Deputy Minister specifically for Transportation. In case the three of us don't know any of the answers, we have standing by Irene Adams there, Acting Director of Corporate and Strategic Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Please turn to page K-5 in your capital estimates book.

Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the chairman, a member may speak more than once to the matter under discussion, but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the department estimates. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the minister and his officials for coming. I will keep my comments short. I believe the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation has a huge, huge, huge job ahead of him. I am thinking of all of the infrastructure development we are going to need for economic development if we want to get things going in Nunavut, and that is the state of priority.

So, I think I would like to hear some discussion on the idea of public-private partnerships, otherwise known as P-3s. The minister talked about, since September, how they were working on an infrastructure policy.

So, I would like to hear some more on that, and I would like to hear a little bit about how the minister and his department are going to attract infrastructure funds or investments in Nunavut, because I think that is going to be very, very important in the next three to four years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to also state my general comments. I would like to thank the minister and his officials in dealing with his Department of Economic Development and Transportation, and I would like to welcome Mr. Campbell and Mr. Kunuk.

The comments that you made, Mr. Minister, about the airport terminals in Pond Inlet, Gjoa Haven, and Coral Harbour... I would like for them to be successfully renovated or extended.

What I wanted to say was that the federal government's strategic infrastructure fund for Nunavut... I wonder why they are nickel and diming us in Nunavut. The Yukon government and the Northwest Territories government, while they have so many millions and millions of dollars yet they are asking for infrastructure funding, but in Nunavut, even where there is an infrastructure fund, they just seem to be giving us nickels and dimes.

Only the 35 groups, I don't know who they are, are the ones that are benefiting from the infrastructure fund. They have not been doing any consultations in all of the communities or in all of the territories; I wonder if there could be something done better.

What I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, is that I have seen them. I have seen what I am talking about. I can't table them. They have so much money for the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. They're on the mainland, but in communities such as Nunavut, there has to be an interlocking system; \$50 million in Rankin Inlet, but we have to get support in order for us to get it.

That's good as far as I'm concerned. That's what we need to do, but I think we have to really be vigorous with the federal government because some of them don't have any bridges over the rivers. When trying to cross them with four-wheelers, especially in Baker Lake and Coral Harbour, there are bridges there, but that's just the beginning.

In the summertime, it's very hard to get from one location to another. I wanted to find out about the strategic planning. We have to get a little bit stronger with the federal government and request the terminals and other things that we have to build in Nunavut.

I know, in regards to docking facilities, we're doing them bit-by-bit and not all at once, but if we can get them all at once, it would be a lot better. Those are the comments that I have at this time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister and his officials. There is not a lot of funding for this department. They're going to have to do a lot of work. I would also like to briefly make the comment, like Mr. Curley mentioned, that we have to be able to request more funding from the strategic infrastructure funding, because the federal government makes available to aboriginal people funding for infrastructure for highways and roads and stuff like that.

I think there was about \$6 million allotted to them but we did not get one penny of that. Like Mr. Curley said, we are just getting nickels and dimes. We need a lot more money than that because the population of Nunavut is growing and we need more of those deep-sea facilities, too, for fisheries, because there are a lot more fisheries than before.

We have no infrastructure such as those things. If we want to see economic development in Nunavut, we have to ask for more funding. Even the community docking facilities that are used for canoes and boats and other stuff, we cannot even access them because we don't have a safe harbour.

The thing is that especially within the past five years, there have been some Peterheads that have been banned from transporting materials from down South because of the restricted regulations and stuff.

There are all kinds of things, such as the Nunavut-Manitoba road, that could benefit the people of Nunavut in regards to transportation. We don't have any funding for such things. We requested funding from the federal government and we never see it.

For those kinds of things, I think we have to have more ideas and be able to rigorously ask the federal government to be equal to those other two territories, because they get a lot more and they're in the highway system.

I think the minister should vigorously ask his federal counterparts for this funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Mr. Minister and your officials. The business of economic development in Nunavut has to be heard for people that would like to have their business. They need to start developing their own economy in Nunavut.

Some of the people that request that funding are unilingual, in Inuktitut, and they can't really make an appeal or they can't fill out an application because they don't read English. Then, when they get denied their request and asked to go to another person, they just start to give up.

We also need some deep-sea facilities because I found out, last summer, when there were people that went to my community that had a difficult time, that when the ship comes in they can't really unload; they have to go Greenland in order to unload their cargo. Those deep-sea facilities should be available here in Nunavut. It would really avoid the high cost of flying from one community to another in Nunavut.

As well, the minister talked about the \$90 million that is coming to Nunavut, but 10 percent of that is already spoken for by the federal government to do something else. I think we have to really stress to the federal government that we need this; even though the \$9 million is not much, it helps out a great deal.

Like my good friend said, in order to have more ideas to achieve our dreams, we need to get more funding from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to welcome the minister and his officials. Mr. Curley briefly mentioned, and I would like to support him in saying... I know that in the western arctic they are making roads up to Tuktuyaktuk.

I think that we have to start making a road network to and from the communities. This way, we wouldn't have to pay high prices for all the merchandise that comes into our communities because of the high cost of flying in and out of the communities.

Also, all of the communities in Nunavut should have a docking facility, especially the two communities that I represent. One of them has a docking facility, but it is being used by a company and cannot be used by the local residents. It creates a problem for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to echo some of the issues raised by some of my colleagues. This department has a tremendous challenge that they have to face over the next few years, not only in economic development and transportation. I think we are on the eve of a boom in development for mining and gas and exploration, that whole sector, and I believe we need to make sure that we're ready in Nunavut to benefit from that. That goes in the way of infrastructure. A road link was mentioned, maybe a rail link, improved port facilities. Things like that, I think, would allow us to capitalize more on opportunities that are going to be made available in the next five to ten years.

As acknowledged before from my other members here, those types of mega projects, we cannot afford to do them on our own. I think we need to work collectively to try and find a way to convince our counterparts in the South and in Ottawa to see it as a sound investment for them.

I think one way of doing that is to get support from our provincial counterparts, as well, in lobbying for these things. As our economy grows, their economy grows. Everything that we have up here comes from down South, either Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, Ontario, Newfoundland, everything that we have comes from down there. If we grow and prosper, it only stands to reason that the economies in those jurisdictions will grow and prosper as well. I think that would be a good angle to use in soliciting support from your counterparts at that level.

Having good transportation links, and one of the things that I've heard over the last number of years up here is the incredibly high cost of construction. I think if you had better facilities for the unloading of ships and sealift supplies, and a quicker turn-around time, you also open up the potential for backhaul stuff that could greatly reduce the transportation costs incurred by government and the homeowners and everybody. If they have something that they can haul out, then they're getting revenues both ways, and if they can do it twice as quickly, then their costs are cut in half as well.

So, I think that that's something that we need to look at, as well, and take into consideration when we're looking at different options and arguments to our counterparts in the South to put in some money, because I know we can't do it by ourselves.

I guess having said that, Mr. Chairman, that's pretty much it for now. I will have a couple of questions that I'll be asking at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I have no more names on my list. Are you ready to go line by line? Thank you.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. K-6, Economic Development and Transportation. Details of capital. Grants and contributions. Total, headquarters region, \$ 25,000. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley (interpretation):** In this division and in the headquarters and as part of your responsibilities, when the funding proposals are made by the federal government, I'm sure that you've applied for the strategic infrastructure funding.

In the federal contributions ratio, could you give us an idea of how or what the ratio is? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak (interpretation):** At this time, we have an agreement with the federal government, and it's 66.6 percent for the strategic infrastructure fund and 50 percent for the communications fund. That is the agreement we have with the federal government.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. I am sorry, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Kunuk, welcome. (interpretation ends) Details of Capital. Grants and contributions. Total, headquarters region, \$25,000. Total, grants and contributions, \$25,00. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Page K-7, Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Details of capital. Tangible assets. Total, headquarters region, \$75,000. Total, tangible assets, \$75,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Page K-8, Department of Economic Development and Transportation, grants summary. Transportation, go to K-9. (interpretation) Any questions? Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak:** I want to ask a short little question here on K-8 and K-5. Over the last year, there have not been any funds available for upgrades of computers and hardware and so forth. What do you have for equipment, is that through your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is part of our operations and maintenance budget for the main estimates of 2005-06.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Are you satisfied with the answer? Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. K-9, do you agree? Sorry. (interpretation ends) Grants and

contributions. Total, Kitikmeot region, \$100,000, total, grants and contributions, \$100,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This part is of great importance in the Kitikmeot region. I don't know if the members have heard the numbers being tossed about in the work that the Kitikmeot corporation and the department is doing, but we are talking about a \$168 million infrastructure project, a deep-sea port and road, and it's probably in the regulatory process before Nunavut Impact Review Board.

One hundred thousand dollars doesn't seem like a lot of money. It is. I am sure the Kitikmeot really appreciates it, but the bigger issue is going to come down the road when the Kitikmeot tries to find or raise \$168 million.

This is where I wanted to ask the minister if he has given any thought to private-public partnerships and how the Kitikmeot, not only the Kitikmeot, but the other regions who are working on similar projects, are going to be able to raise the financing to move ahead with these projects, since we are putting a lot of investment at the front end, study money. If the minister could answer that question, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, P3s are definitely one very good possibility for what you want to do in Nunavut. There is no way that we could come up with the money ourselves to do what we need to do. There is no way that the federal government is going to fund all that we need to do in Nunavut.

The private sector is going to have to come up with the lot of the money. Whether we borrow that money from the private sector or not is, again, something we're going to have to take a very serious look at. But the whole infrastructure proposal that you're putting together right now is based on the premise that the private sector is going to really help us along on developing that infrastructure.

We're looking very seriously at a joint ventureship between the Government of Canada, the Government of Nunavut, and the private sector; the Bathurst Inlet road and port, just as an example.

But for the infrastructure that we're looking at for all of Nunavut, P3s are definitely one possibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The minister commented on the infrastructure proposal that the department is working on. Could you shed some more light on the work you're doing on that proposal and how your discussions are going in Ottawa to ensure there is support for infrastructure projects in Nunavut and the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** The proposal that we're working on right now is looking at all the infrastructure needs for Nunavut over the next five years. Let me say that we're going to need to build to support in the various industries, be it mining or fishing or whatever the industry is, be it tourism or the arts and crafts industry. Let's say, look at a five year window. And no, discussions have not yet started with the federal government on that five year proposal, but we'll be starting up very soon, as soon as we finalize the proposal that we're rapidly working on. We are working on it as quickly as we can, because it is top priority, as far as I'm concerned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back 1998-99, the Kitikmeot Corporation retained the services of two internationally renowned economists to develop a model to project the benefits of major infrastructure projects like this in Nunavut.

They cost-evaluated mainly on the Bathurst Inlet road and port project, and their work shows that if this included an IDOT project, which was just used for Lupin, that there could 17,000 person years employment generated over 15-20 years, not just for Nunavummiut but for all of Canada. And they're projecting that it'll be a \$2 billion increase to the GDP of Nunavut and Canada, so it will be a significant impact on all of Canada.

I was listening to the federal throne speech earlier this fall, when it was mentioned that Ottawa wanted to help folks in the North develop their economic development potential. These are the kinds of things, as my colleague Hunter Tootoo mentioned earlier in his comments, that we have to show that Nunavut can have a significant impact and can contribute greatly to not only to our economy but to the economies of the southern provinces. I'm sure Alberta gets a great amount of business from the Kitikmeot, Manitoba gets a lot from the Kivalliq Region, and Quebec gets a lot of business from the Baffin.

So, we have to show, through this kind of work models and proposals, that Nunavut can have a huge impact on the rest of Canada, and I encourage the minister to keep up that work. We have to raise our profile and keep hammering away and making that point with the decision makers in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Chairman....

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to comment on that, I agree with you totally on what you're saying there.

That is actually a very strong message that we sent to Ottawa from the Northern Development Minister's Annual Conference that we just had in Chibougamou, Quebec, just a few short weeks ago, because every northern jurisdiction knows and has proven time and time again, that what's good for the North is good for the rest of Canada.

As was mentioned earlier, everything we have in Nunavut comes from the South. Any money that comes into Nunavut, we know most of it ends up back in the South. What we need to do is to find a way for that dollar to go around Nunavut a few times before it heads south.

So, yes, I agree totally with everything you said there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To make a supplementary to my colleague's comments, in regards to the throne speech... . It seemed like in the throne speech, they said that it was over and above. It was economic, social, and all aspects where they would be giving more support financially, over and above what is required.

Did your department look into this? It's obvious that we have to. I don't think that this government should just focus on a five-year plan. We have to look at transportation. We have to look at mining development. Then, if we talk about transportation, there is so much potential in the Keewatin.

It's not only the Manitoba-Keewatin road, and because of that, when we're talking about the strategic plan, I think we have to do something else, like consultations for the economic forum. I don't even know who those people are.

We have to have an entity that will focus all their time and have the freedom to focus on what's going to be happening 10, 20, 30 years from now. We have to look at a long-term plan and see what the road network is going to be up in Nunavut.

We have to look at the road network because of the extremely high cost of living and the ever-increasing airfare. We can't rely solely on that anymore. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is placed as a high priority in our department, and we are having ongoing discussions with the mining developers on the Keewatin-Manitoba road. This week I will be having a meeting with the Cumberland representatives to talk about a road that has to be built outside of Baker Lake in order to provide services to the developers.

In the Keewatin, there is the shipping route and these roads, but they are ongoing discussions in developing infrastructure and transportation requirements in Nunavut. We will need the support of the members of the Legislative Assembly.

At the current time our staff and the required personnel are available to make sure that whatever was announced at that meeting is implemented. I am very hopeful that we will see those major developments coming out in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. Go back to K-9, details of capital. Grants and contributions. Total for the Kitikmeot region, \$100,000. Total, grants and contributions, \$100,000. Do members agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. K-10. Details of Capital. Tangible assets. Headquarters region, \$580,000. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask Minister Simailak about access roads. It seems that figure has never changed for Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet; that figure remains the same. It is not sufficient. So, we can't make an access road that goes further. It limits our ability to extend the access roads. If we had more funding, we would be able to extend the access roads.

I am wondering if there can be increases made to this figure, or is this is the maximum figure, because it definitely is not sufficient. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The access road program, the \$150,000, is definitely not enough. Ever since Nunavut was formed we have been accessing funds for access roads. There were more communities that requested funding for access roads and we have used up the \$150,000. Ideally, we would like to use more.

The Department of Transportation definitely requires more funding because we have to support those programs. Before this is increased, we have to stick with that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The infrastructure program, is that where the work for the airports come into play, or is that through a different program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** The Strategic Housing Infrastructure Program is a partnership program with the federal department of transport, and that is the money that we used to build the three terminals buildings that we are building right now: one in Pond Inlet, one in Coral Harbour, and one in Gjoa Haven.

This is the final year of a five-year agreement that we have with them. We have just started discussions to re-negotiate the agreement for another five years. We are hoping that we will be able to negotiate a lot more than what we've been getting in the last five years.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was last spring I asked some questions about the work that was supposed to be done to the airport here in Iqaluit. There was a master plan, and it had all kinds of safety concerns. With all the new regulations that are coming in, there are also a lot more regulatory requirements that our terminal doesn't meet. We found out today they can handle terrorists in town here, no problem.

I'm just wondering, is there a listing? I was told at that time that the work here was supposed to be coming up next year, and I'm just wondering if and when we can expect to see that work being done here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kunuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. It's true, and it would be substantially expensive. We had asked the federal government for an airport strategic plan and it was included, Iqaluit was included in there. So, at this time I don't know exactly how much funding will be made available.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could just add to that. Yes, there are new security regulations that have come in, and we have to enhance the security at the airport to meet the Canadian Transport Air Security Authority Class II requirements.

There is a whole new security system that has to be installed, including x-raying all luggage going south, and that includes any luggage that comes in from outside Iqaluit that is also going south.

All of that work has to be completed by October, 2005. I've just had a full briefing on it a couple of days ago at the airport, and it looks like we will be able to do it. But all of that upgrading will be funded entirely by CATSA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the master plan identified a number of safety concerns, including the size of the apron. I remember a few years back when a plane came in here and its wing clipped off the fuel line on one of the pumps out there. There's just not enough room anymore.

Given the fact that the government has been made aware of this, is there at the airport, in the event of a disaster, or an unfortunate incident as they call them in the airline business, and given the fact that the government was aware of these conditions, is there any possibility for any liability to be flung towards the government? Are we going to be on the hook because these things aren't done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** There are two issues that we are discussing here. I think there is, first of all, the immediate need to upgrade the security system, when it comes to luggage, that we have to have installed by October 2005. That's one issue that we are working on right now and that will be funded entirely by CAPSA.

The other is the Iqaluit airport master plan itself. That's a project that's going to cost over \$40 million. The terminal, where it is located right now, with the buildings that are located around it right now, was designed to have only one jet aircraft parked outside the terminal at any given time.

There are times at our airport when we find as many as five or six jet aircraft around the terminal building, and that's totally against regulations. That's a whole different issue that we have been struggling with. That's an issue I raised with the federal minister of transport when I met with him a few weeks ago, again, from a security issue, again, from the number of international flights that use the Iqaluit airport as an alternate.

All of that work is ongoing. Discussions are ongoing with the federal department of transport to make them realize that this has become a major issue and one that we want to fast-track as much as possible.

On your specific question about whether we are liable or not, if I could turn that over to either Mr. Campbell or Mr. Kunuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Simailak. Assistant Deputy Minister Kunuk.

**Mr. Kunuk** (interpretation): What they are asking is if we would be liable. At this time, I don't think I can give you a definite answer because we wouldn't know until an actual situation; the airlines know who is responsible for what. Maybe we would not be liable if we keep them informed about security and all of the group matters.

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



**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to offer and let the minister and his officials know if there is anything I can do... I think we need to do, as a capital city, as an international airport, what we can to make sure that we have a safe facility before something does happen. If there is anything I can do to help, just let us know. If it means doing some hollering with your counterparts down in Ottawa, then I am sure that there would be no problem for members of this House to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a number of questions. Some of the members have already asked those questions, but I am looking at the Qikiqtaaluk region, the Kitikmeot region, and the Kivalliq region.

There is over \$1.88 million for airport services. The department of transportation should be more worried about having money available for doing that. I am not exactly sure how much money they provide in regards to economic development. There has not been a dollar given to us, by looking at the estimates. It's mostly to do with access-road building and other stuff, but it has nothing to do with economic development.

I know that under grants and contributions, you can get at some money, but it is under the department. Each region gets so much money allotted to them, but for economic development there is nothing in there under transportation. It is embarrassing that there is no funding.

Looking at the capital estimates, there is nothing to do with economic development. There are a lot of things for transportation, but there is nothing in the agreement for economic development. There is no money for economic development, but under the infrastructure program money funding that we get from the federal government, there is nothing in there.

We have heard about Iqaluit that the airport terminal is not big enough. Whenever there is a lot of traffic here Iqaluit there is not enough room at the terminal for all the people coming in and out. In places such as Pangnirtung and Arviat and other communities of Nunavut, there are a lot of airplanes there. Is there some danger, or is there a safety issue that we should be looking at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): There is \$2.8 million for transportation and things such as loaders and snow blowers and stuff like that. There is some funding to purchase those items. If the airports do not get those things, we have to close down the airport. In Grise Fiord there was an emergency to do something at the airport. At this time, the \$2.8 million is the only funding that is available under Department of Transportation. So, those are the only things that we have funding for.

For the smaller communities that have a lot of airplanes in July and August, and in Baker Lake, where they have lot of helicopters going in and out from the airstrips, and they were landing in between the houses, those are the types of safety concerns that we have. We have to know that how many aircraft are coming in and out of our communities. Those are the types of things that we have to be able to be aware of all the time.

As to how we can have better safety protection, we also have grants and contributions that the communities can apply for, and also the Nunavut Business Development Corporation is that one that people can ask for money from; those places as well as CIBC and banking institutions, and also from the community initiative programs. They are not under "Capital" but they are under "Operations and Maintenance". That's the only answer that I can provide the member at this time, but I really understand his concerns and I have the same concerns as well.

We do our best to try to get funding as much as we can from the federal government for the use of these items. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to read something from the government's document called the *Nunavut Transportation Strategy: 2001*. It says, "Strategic Airport Upgrade Program." I won't read it all, only key parts. It says, "Strategic Airport Improvement Program for Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Resolute Bay airports that needed to address six objectives for Nunavut and for Canada..." And they list the six objectives. It is on page 419 of the strategy.

The extent of the Strategic Airport Upgrade Program would normally include selective expansion to the rehabilitation of runways, taxi-ways, aprons and terminal facilities and related infrastructure of the four airports.

So, this strategy identifies those four airports as key ones, and my question for the minister is: it is still a priority of the Government of Nunavut, this strategy to upgrade these four airports? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** They are very definitely a part of an updated strategy that we are working on right now. Those are a very, very high priority right now.

**Chairman:** Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Probably, I think that it was three years ago when there was a plan in place to put to the Department of Community Government and Transportation's Arctic Airports Division to undertake a 900-foot extension to the runway in Cambridge Bay, and I know when we were in discussions as the hamlet

council with some of the officials from that department, it quietly died and never materialized.

I am wondering when and if your officials could update us on whether there had been any discussions lately, or in the last six months, with respect to continuing that 900-foot upgrade? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Assistant Deputy Minister Kunuk.

**Mr. Kunuk** (interpretation): Just to respond to the member. Yes, there has been a request for an extension of the airport that the member is talking about. The minister stated earlier that because of the lack of funding the ones that were supposed to be extended have been deferred because of no funding. For that reason there has been a delay on those projects that we were supposed to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Assistant Deputy Minister Kunuk. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think that the runway in Cambridge Bay is approximately 5,000 feet long, and that limits the size of the aircraft that could land there. The amount of passengers and cargo configuration that the 737s have, over the years the airlines have talked about if they could bring in a more efficient aircraft to carry a lot more passengers and freight if they had a longer runway.

I think that they are talking about a 727. You can't land those kinds of planes in Cambridge Bay, or you could with great difficulty. You can land 737s in Cambridge Bay, as well, with great difficulty, and as anyone who has ever traveled to Cambridge Bay knows, when you land, the pilot doesn't have much room for error; he slams on those reverse thrusters real quick and everybody is suddenly thrust forward in the passenger cabins. It is very difficult for pilots to land big aircraft.

I think that with the expansion that is going on in the Kitkmeot in the next five to ten years, that would support the industries over there: tourism, mining. We are going to require a longer runway in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** I agree, totally. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. K-10. Details of capital. Tangible assets. Total. Headquarters, regions, \$580,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. K-11. Tangible assets. Total, Qikiqtaaluk region, \$1,194,000. Do you agree? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm really happy to see \$100,000 in there for the deep port study that the minister and his staff committed to last year, to finding a way to come up with funding for the study.

I would just like to ask the minister: I know that the city is starting up and looking at that idea as well. Will the department work in collaboration with the city on this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The city of Iqaluit is sort of taking the lead on that whole study right now, and we will be doing whatever we can to support that whole process to make sure that the study gets completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if in that study... . I don't know if in that study the idea of looking at some of the spin-off benefits of having a port here like as the turn-around time, like the potential for frozen processed fish that is caught outside of our quotas that someone else is catching... .

We can force them to unload it here and have a backhaul rate of stuff that could potentially be hauled out as well, the turn-around. I think there's a ship out there right now. There's too much snow. I can't see it. There was yesterday. I don't think it went anywhere.

In times like that, when it would cost money for any vessel to be sitting out there due to weather, they could be hooked up to, tied up to a dock and unloading, regardless of the conditions that are out there. That's got to save money. It's quicker, cheaper, and everything like that that will be taken into account in a study like this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'm sure that any of our officials that are involved with that study will be pushing for that kind of information to be looked at. They will be examining water depth, ice, logistics, and land tender issues, as an example of the kinds of stuff that we're looking at having done through that study right now.

I'm sure the rest of the ideas that you've presented will be raised to the committee that's struck. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if the minister would commit to assisting... . He had indicated earlier that the city was taking the lead on this project, but to work with the city in any way possible to try and help them achieve... . I think it's a very hefty goal and if the city, with very little help from the government, can try and do this, if they can find the money somewhere, then that frees up other money that they can spend on other things.

So, I think the more help we give them when they want to go look for the funding themselves... . Let's help them out and let's get it done and save our money, our Government of Nunavut money, to spend it in other places; that's definitely needed as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I am sure that my department would be willing to provide any resources that we have to the city staff, or otherwise, to give any resources in terms of technical advice or technical assistance that the committee would need.

A very good suggestion you made is the committee looking elsewhere for money, and we will support that totally, of course. We will do whatever we can to support the committee in any way that we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. K-11, K-10. Tangible assets. Total, Qikiqtaaluk region, \$1,194,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total, Kivalliq region, \$700,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** K-12. Details of capital. Total, Kitikmeot region, \$200,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Total tangible assets, \$2,674,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** K-4. Economic Development and Transportation. Department summary. Total, capital expenditures, \$2,874,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Are members agreed that this department is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to thank the minister and his officials. Do you have any closing remarks, Mr. Minister?

**Hon. David Simailak:** No. I just want to thank my officials for the assistance they have given me and the committee as we went through this work and thank the committee for providing me with all these suggestions and recommendations and their questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister Simailak. Do members agree that we proceed with the next department, Nunavut Housing Corporation?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kilabuk, to make his opening remarks.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During my appearance before the committee, I will be joined by Peter Scott; the president, and also Abraham Tagalik, Vice-President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I am pleased to be here this afternoon to discuss the capital estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation for the fiscal years 2005-06.

Mr. Chairman, including funding of \$4,300,000 from the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation for the public housing modernization and improvement program, and \$10,000,000 from Infrastructure Canada for public housing new construction, the corporation's capital estimates for 2005-06 is \$35,430,000. The Government of Nunavut's contribution will be \$21,193,000.

This amount is divided between our normal capital project lines: the fire damage replacement fund, homeowner programs, modernization improvements, mobile equipment, and public housing new construction.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, this year we have included a new line: modernization and improvements for corporation-owned staff housing units.

The fire damage replacement fund is currently set at \$1,000,000. It is self-funded insurance for the single family dwellings owned by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Multiplexes are insured through the Government of Nunavut's risk management department.

Mr. Chairman, previously, this fund was set at \$600,000 per year. But due to rising costs and increasing numbers of fires, we have had to increase the value of the fund over the

last couple of years. For the fiscal year 2004-05 the fund is fully committed. Although at present, we do not have any claims against the 2005 and 2006 fund.

I am pleased to inform the committee that the homeowners program has been increased from \$2 million to \$3 million for 2005. The additional \$1 million is specifically targeted to the home repair program. Although we do not expect that we will be able to address all of the yearly demand, we are sure that we will be able to provide a good level of service to our home repair clients.

Home ownership programs also include emergency repair, senior citizens home repair, and the Nunavut down payment assistant program, all of which will remain available during 2005.

In addition Mr. Chairman, we have revised some components of these programs for 2005-06 to make them more responsive to the needs of Nunavummiut. The income ceiling for program eligibility has been raised to \$125,000 plus \$6,500 for each additional family member for all programs.

We have increased the maximum contributions in the home repair programs from \$33,750 to \$50,000, and we have also removed the sliding scale for contributions.

Mr. Chairman, homeowners will now be able to complete the renovations they need to ensure a suitable and adequate home.

Mr. Chairman, at a total of \$10.583 million, the public housing modernization and improvement for NNI programs will result in 147 projects. These projects will in turn affect 1,331 units; 50 percent of our units are at least 25 years old today. Over 90 percents of them will turn 25 over the next ten years.

And there is no question, Mr. Chairman, that an aggressive NNI plan is critical to the continuing success of the public housing program. Severe overcrowding makes it necessary to keep every house that we can in the portfolio.

Mr. Chairman, we must also make sure that all of our units meet basic health and safety requirements. The mobile improvement fund remains constant at \$400,000. These funds are used to assist local housing organizations in sustaining the keep-up that they need for the maintenance duties of our housing units.

2005-06 will be our second year, Mr. Chairman, of the delivery of a cost shared program with Infrastructure Canada to construct public housing units.

As we sit here this afternoon discussing construction for the next year, the first 80 houses under this program are currently being built all over Nunavut. Next construction season, at least another 80 units will be delivered to Nunavut communities.

And once complete, \$40 million will have been spent on this project; \$20 million dollars from each of Nunavut and the federal government, and Nunavummiut will have at least 160 additional units in its public housing portfolio.

Mr. Chairman, much has been said regarding the community allocations for public housing, and over the past couple of years, new construction has been allocated based on a some-for-all approach.

But since I have become responsible for the housing corporation, I have heard from almost all stakeholders and most members in this House that this approach does not work.

Mr. Chairman, building one multiplex in every community realistically does very little to meet the housing needs in any community. By concentrating our construction in the communities where the housing need is the greatest, we can make a real difference to people's lives.

We will also create some savings by concentrating our construction activities. I am pleased, therefore, to announce that in the fiscal 2005-06, the Nunavut Housing Corporation plans to construct 15 public housing units in each of Kugaaruk and Arviat, and also ten units in each of Hall Beach, Sanikiluaq, Clyde River, Repulse Bay and Igloolik.

In our staff housing portfolio, Mr. Chairman, we have 80 owned units left over from the sell-off of staff housing during the 1990s. Mr. Chairman, if they were not marketable then, you can certainly imagine their condition now, about ten years later.

For 2005-06, we have allocated \$500,000 to begin to address health and safety concerns in these units. Six units in five communities will be renovated next year. The Nunavut Housing Corporation appreciates the government's recognition of importance of housing in the territory through this capital appropriation.

We also appreciate the confidence you have shown in the corporation to deliver these much needed housing capital services.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, I look forward to continuing our process of discussions regarding the provision of housing services in Nunavut and to answering any questions you may have regarding the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2005-06 capital estimates. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Do you have any witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Yes I do, Mr. Chairman.

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



Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witness in.

Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Peter Scott, President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. On my right, who just came in this afternoon, is the vice-president, Abraham Tagalik. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Welcome to the witness table, Mr. Scott, Mr. Tagalik.

Does the chair of the standing committee have any comments? Please proceed, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Mr. Minister and your officials. Thank you for making an appearance.

Mr. Chairman, members are aware of the challenges facing the corporation. Our territory continues to endure a housing crisis. Housing and the numerous social and health problems associated with inadequate housing may well be one of the most pressing issues that our government is facing.

Committee members noted that the corporation has allocated units only to those communities experiencing the highest level of overcrowding. Members recognize that all communities require more public housing units and look forward to reviewing the impact of these allocations on waiting lists in these communities.

Members are concerned that public housing construction projects in some communities are not proceeding because bids from construction companies are coming in over budget. The committee urges the minister to work with his colleague responsible for the NNI policy to identify and address the perceived challenges construction companies face as a result of the policy.

Mr. Chairman, committee members support the corporation's efforts to provide training for Nunavut residents through their partnership with Nunavut Arctic College for the construction of housing units in Sanikiluaq. The standing committee urges the minister to continue entering into partnerships such as this to increase the number of skilled workers in Nunavut and to ensure that the maximum possible number of units is being constructed within the corporation's limited budget.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, members recognize that high land development costs are also an issue. Not only do they increase the cost of providing public housing, they are a disincentive to homeownership. Committee members recognize that the minister responsible for the corporation is also the Minister of Community and Government Services and urges him to continue investigating ways to reduce costs associated with land development.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, members remain concerned that the designs being used to construct public housing units do not always meet the needs of individual communities. Members applaud the corporation's cooperative approach on the Clyde River seniors' four-plex project and urge the minister to continue working with hamlets, LHOs and local construction companies to complete locally-designed and locally-delivered projects across Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, members are concerned that the Housing Corporation continues to require \$1 million each fiscal year for fire damage replacement. Members encourage the corporation to continue developing educational materials regarding fire prevention for public housing tenants.

Mr. Chairman, members recognize the need to encourage home ownership in Nunavut. However, Mr. Chairman, members are concerned that the corporation may be unnecessarily risking its investments in grants for home ownership. The standing committee urges the minister to ensure that any investment in homeownership via funding programs such as the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program is secured so that the corporation is able to recover those funds if a homeowner is unable to maintain their home.

The standing committee strongly recommends that the Nunavut Housing Corporation consult with the Department of Finance's Risk Management Division regarding available options for protecting this funding, such as forgivable loans. Committee members encourage the minister to undertake a review of the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program with the goal of recovering investments in the event that a homeowner defaults on their mortgage.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, members urge the minister to undertake a complete review of homeownership programs. The review should revisit past home ownership programs such as the HAP and Access programs; they were two programs available through the corporation, as well as evaluating current qualification requirements.

The standing committee looks forward to reviewing and commenting on any proposed changes to the corporation's home ownership programs prior to final decisions being made.

(interpretation ends) Members also encourage the minister to review current qualification requirements for the home repair program. Members understand that criteria must align with Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation guidelines to ensure that Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation funding can be used for the projects.

However, members are of the view that the criteria should not be based solely on the applicant's gross annual income. As all members are aware, it is costly to raise a family; therefore, members would like the income threshold for funding to be linked to the size of the family actually living in the home.

My opening comments... . I believe the minister has comment on that, and I thank him for his opening statement. (interpretation) Committee members are concerned that there is inadequate staff housing available in the communities, especially for health and education workers. Members recognize that the staff condominium program is too new to fully evaluate its effectiveness. However, the committee urges the minister to consider a guaranteed buyback option for Government of Nunavut staff who own their own home.

(interpretation ends) Committee members are not convinced that Government of Nunavut-owned staff housing is the best option for staff housing. Members recognize that the majority of staff housing units in the territory are currently leased.

Members noted that the Housing Corporation has begun constructing staff housing units. Members urge the minister to continue to investigate leasing as an option for staff housing in all communities.

Finally, members were pleased to note the recent release of the Nunavut Ten-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan. Committee members urge the minister to continue working in close cooperation with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to present a united position when lobbying the federal government on housing needs in Nunavut.

That concludes my comments on the 2005-06 capital estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. (interpretation) Individual members may wish to raise questions or make comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members that according to Rule 77(1) you have ten minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the chair, a member may speak more than once to the matter under discussion, but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

General comments. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister and his officials for coming.

I was keeping track of the department. There are two departments that are running in my riding that are the hot spots, and that would be the Housing Corporation and the Department of Health.

I think they get as many issues, every week, concerned with the Housing Corporation as with health, and I think there is a link. People come to my office, and in fact, earlier today I got a couple of e-mails from people in Cambridge Bay who are pleading for help from the mayor, myself, to get them moved up on the list.

I was just reading your statistics here, your rating sheets and that, and if I was to go by your statistics, by your criteria, you would think that Cambridge Bay didn't have a housing problem.

I beg to disagree. I would be interested, later in our question period, in asking how you guys allocate the housing in Nunavut. You get four or five different ranking systems here, so I would be interested to know about that.

I want to assure the minister and his officials that in Cambridge Bay there is a big housing shortage. People are desperate, elders are desperate, young families are desperate. There is overcrowding.

People need help in housing, and I appreciate that the minister has a difficult job ahead of him to find all the housing. I keep hearing the statistics; we can throw them out ourselves: 3,000 houses are needed immediately in Nunavut, and \$1.5 billion over the next 20 years, and I'm very happy that the minister is working with NTI to lobby the federal government.

I think during our standing committee meetings earlier this fall that we also suggested that he use the mayors in the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to beef up the lobby efforts, because those guys and the ladies have a lot of influence in Ottawa. They have the Federation of Municipalities who could bring a lot of support to our cause up here and it is going to be a daunting challenge, for people in Nunavut are depending on you being successful.

I can't tell you how serious and desperate the people in Cambridge Bay are. They're pleading for help. I'm sure it's like that in every community. So, if Cambridge Bay is listed as number 23, I can only imagine how serious and desperate the people are in Kugaaruk and Arviat.

I know in Arviat, this fall, I saw that there is a huge population explosion. There are a lot of kids under the age of 15 there, so the kids move along, they all get older, they all have families, they have kids as well. You better look out in one, five, ten years.

I appreciate that the minister is working on it; he's got quite a challenge ahead of him. I look forward to questioning him during the question session here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. General comments. I don't have any more names on my list. Go to L-6. Nunavut Housing Corporation branch summary.

Detail of capital. Grants and contributions. Total, headquarters region, \$1, 038,000. All agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Opposed? L-7, L-8, L-9, L-10. All in the same page, on L10. Any questions on L-7, L-8, L-9, L-10? Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask the minister how the corporation decided on allocation of NNI retro-fit funds by community? If he can answer that question, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In most cases with this list, the priorities are identified to us by the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

**Chairman:** Any questions to L-7, L-8, L-9, L-10? Any questions? Grants and contributions. L-10. Qitiktaaluk regional. Total, Qitiktaaluk region, \$10,287,000. Do you agree? Thank you.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** L-11, L-12. Any questions? Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask the minister how the various ranking systems were applied to rank their communities from 1–23. If he could clarify that for me, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was re-visited. They were mainly going by the need from the community, but there was something missing, so we added on the ranking systems. We are mainly going by the fastest growing aboriginal population, and if they have more than one person per room and people with the most children and people per dwelling. So, those are the four that are used to rank the communities. Not just going by one, but by those factors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we talked to the minister's officials in September during the standing committee we asked about the methodology that the Housing Corporation used in the past. That was like three houses per community, or two houses, and at that time the minister commented that the community allocations had not been finalized as of date, and I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, between then and now, how

did you decide on the methodology to use the type that they have here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand your question correctly, I don't remember too well what I said, I might have said that, but at this time we prioritize as if it is the fastest growing aboriginal population. We ranked it from one to twenty-three. It is the same way. If more than one person per room, we also rank it like that. We rank it down by the communities. We also consider most children, from the most from one to the least.

So, people-per-dwelling rank one, down to the last number. We have to consider these factors in order to come up with a comprehensive ranking system without omitting any factors, so that is what we are presenting here today. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, did your officials consult with the local housing organizations and hamlet councils in each community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way it is run, we didn't consult with the communities, but we mainly went by the statistics that we had from the Housing Associations. In 2001 there was a survey done throughout Canada and we used those stats too on that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Curley. Sorry, I thought that you were done. Go ahead, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just kind of wondering if... . The minister seems to be telling us that there was a desktop calculation here in Iqaluit, but people didn't actually go out into the communities and meet with the housing authorities and the hamlets to get some frontline, current information. Is that correct, Mr. Minister?

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will let Mr. Scott explain further how they produced this, because he was one of the leading men in this.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. President Scott.

**Mr. Scott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is essentially us, Mr. Peterson, because it was essentially a desktop operation. We looked at information and data that was available

from two national surveys that were done: the 2001 Canada Census; and the National Aboriginal Housing Survey, I believe that was in 2003. We looked at the various categories, statistical categories, in both of those surveys that would indicate the worst overcrowded situation in the communities in Nunavut.

The four categories were chosen from all that statistical data that was compiled from national surveys. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. President for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Scott. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister tell us if this is going to be the methodology that will be used in future years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that I can answer this in two parts. First is that it is definitely the method that we are using at this time, in the last year of the assistance we are getting from the federal government to be able to build this many houses.

This is based on the critical situation that the top seven communities in Nunavut are facing. Again, we will most definitely use this ranking with our future populations, but I will advise the members that the support that we've been getting from the federal government will be in its last year. We will have less dollars to work with during the following year and may not be able to deliver the same number of houses, but again, not knowing what our current efforts will lead to, I can advise the member that the present ranking system that we've used now seems to be the most complete form that we've had available, as of yet.

Then, looking at this year and also future years, we're also willing to listen to any suggestions that members or the public may have. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Thank you, Mr. Peterson. One more, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, Minister for that answer. I think I heard you say that the federal government might not be helping us in the future despite your lobbying efforts. I think that this is a program, whose sun is setting in the near future, that contributes significantly to housing in Nunavut.

I think that's something that we have to lobby on, but when these communities get houses in the next fiscal year, are they going to be taken out of the equation in future years so that these other communities that are ranked further down, go up. Will that be something that will be factored into your methodology? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe; however, I just want to be a little more specific to the assistance we're getting as to from which department we're getting the assistance right now.

The money that we're getting from Infrastructure Canada is in its final year. So, that same amount of money will not be available to us, while we have more than welcomed it, despite being a matching dollar amount.

Now, Mr. Chairman, this is not to say that we no longer have any efforts with the federal government. As all members know, we have just submitted our Ten-Year Inuit Housing Strategy, and we have meetings set with the federal government on that action plan. Like I said, I look forward to updating the members on both meetings which will happen over the next few weeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** I have no more questions, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Mr. Chairman, at this time I move that we report progress.

**Chairman:** We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favor of the motion?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** All those opposed. The motion is carried.

I will now rise to report progress. Minister Kilabuk, I'm sorry. I would like to thank you and your officials for coming here. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please be seated. Orders of the Day for today, Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Evyagotailak.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 4 and the capital estimates and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I moved that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): There is a motion on the Floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Netser. The motion is in order. All those in favour?



**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Opposed? Abstentions? The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. The Orders of the Day, Mr. Clerk.

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

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the day for Tuesday, November 23:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statement
3. Members' Statement
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of visitors from 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 for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 4
20. Report to Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 23, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:03*

