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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday November 26, 2004

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, 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 Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Good morning. I would like to ask Mr. David Alagalak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. David Alagalak. Orders of the day for today: Item 2. Ministers' statements. Minister Kilabuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 033 – 2(2): Recognition of Community SAR Groups

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize and express my appreciation to the local search and rescue organizations across Nunavut. Search and rescue matters are a very high priority with this government and indeed, every community across the territory.

The search and rescue network involves resources and individuals at different levels of government and community, including the RCMP, the Canadian Coast Guard, and the Department of National Defence. But it is our community-based search and rescue groups who, because of their intimate knowledge of the land, are most involved and committed to those activities.

My department encourages and supports the development of those community-based search and rescue organizations by providing training and ongoing assistance as well as reimbursing incident-related expenses.

Searches, by their nature, are difficult and especially so when they do not end in a positive manner. For this reason it is important that we all recognize the contribution made by every member of these search and rescue organizations.

Please join me in expressing my sincerest gratitude and good wishes to search and rescue organizations and local RCMP members across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ministers' statements. Premier Okalik.

Minister's Statement 034 – 2(2): Pinasuaqtavut 2004 - 2009

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to see you here. I rise today to table *Pinasuaqtavut 2004-2009: Our Commitment to Building Nunavut's Future*. This mandate document outlines the goals and objectives of our government for the next five years. In this, our second mandate, our priorities as the government are to create a stronger cultural foundation based on Inuit societal values and to develop and expand our economy.

(interpretation ends) The government has developed a long-term plan based on four major goals: healthy communities; simplicity and unity; self reliance; and continuing learning.

Mr. Speaker, *Pinasuaqtavut* sets out guiding goals and specific objectives for the second five years of our government. As we move forward we will be guided by the values and vision adopted by the first government and, increasingly, by Inuit societal values applied through Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, which is essential to the way our government conducts its affairs.

(interpretation) We have reviewed the goals and evaluated the results achieved between 1999 and 2004. Much has been achieved, but there is still more to do. Nunavummiut have high expectations of their government. They want a government that reflects Inuit societal values, a government that is open, accountable, and effective. *Pinasuaqtavut* will provide a strong foundation for the work that needs to be done.

Mr. Speaker, in September, all members of the Legislative Assembly agreed that our government should give a new and greater emphasis to economic development and building a stronger cultural foundation based on Inuit societal values. These priorities are built into *Pinasuaqtavut*.

(interpretation ends) *Pinasuaqtavut* will help the government make its operations, programs, and services more responsive to the needs of the people. It will help keep government activities focused and it will assist us in reporting back to Nunavummiut on our progress.

(interpretation) As we move forward, we will continue to work with our land claims partners, and through open communications, I am confident that we will reach these objectives and our goals, goals that improve the lives of all Nunavummiut by strengthening our culture and expanding our economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Premier. Ministers' statements. Item 3. Members' statements. Mr. Alagalak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 064 – 2(2): Written Question

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The timing of fuel delivery can directly impact on the safety of the process, so I am posing the following written question on this important issue.

1. In 2002, 2003, and 2004, what were the scheduled dates for the fuel re-supply in each community in Nunavut?
2. In 2003 and 2004, what were the actual dates for fuel re-supply in each community in Nunavut?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak, when we get to item 7, you can pose your written question at that time. Members' statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 065 – 2(2): Environment Issues

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was recently in Sanikiluaq, yesterday, and it was good to see that my relatives are okay...

In my constituency, the environment is of growing concern to the people. They had a good meeting on the protection of the environment. The environment will remain important in the future and so the issue of the environment will have to be carefully considered.

I just would like to let the members and my constituents know that as long as I am member of the Legislative Assembly I will be talking about environmental issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Members' statements. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Member's Statement 066 – 2(2): Members' Fund Raising Hockey Game

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I'm a new member of this House, I'm doing my very best to become familiar with the rules, procedures, and traditions of this place.

Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected, I knew that I would have to spend many long hours getting acquainted with the complicated world of parliamentary procedure. What I didn't know was that I'd also have to learn to skate on the same team as the Member for Iqaluit East.

Mr. Speaker, in about 72 hours, a number of members of this House and their staff will put on their hockey equipment and take to the ice. I'm very pleased that "Team Nunavut" will be playing in a fundraising game for local charity.

Mr. Speaker, with the NHL still off the air, maybe this is the chance for us to get noticed by the major leagues, although I don't know if the world is ready yet for two Tootos on the same team.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage community leaders across Nunavut to get involved with local charity events. We have a lot of needs in our territory, and those of us fortunate enough to be able to make a contribution should do so.

Just for the record, I think we'll win by at least three goals, but that's only because Madam Minister for the Kitikmeot is our coach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Members' statements. Premier Okalik.

Member's Statement 067 – 2(2): Members' Hockey Fundraising

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Inuktitut, you would be called "uqaqtittiji". When we met with the elders last week, I was advised to let you know that you are the person who directs the members to talk and when to talk, so we can only speak through you, Mr. Speaker.

Next week we will be playing hockey for charity; we will be playing at 7:30 on Sunday at the arena, for the information of the members, and it will be a lot of fun. We will be playing against the fire fighters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Members' statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 068 – 2(2): Pangnirtung Constituents

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week on Wednesday, during the halibut fishing, fishermen have to wait until the weather is fine.

I want to send greetings to my constituents in Panniqtuuq, many of whom closely watch our debates. First, I want to say hello to my son in Qikiqtarjuaq, Kevin. Pauloosie Veevee and his wife also watch all the debates of the House, and Peter Qappik and his wife, and Peter Akpalialuk, Seemee Angmalik and his wife, Joanasie Qappik, and Joanasie Maniapik and his wife. The reason why I name these individuals is because they have a

Quick Stop, a coffee shop in Pangnirtung. They always sit in designated seating as we do here in the House. No one else is allowed to sit in their places. They always watch the debates of the legislature on TV, so I would like to send my regards to all the people in Pangnirtung, especially those who go to that coffee shop.

I would like them to know that I will not be coming home for the weekend because I have to go to Ottawa on other commitments. I will see them when we have finished this session in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Orders of the day. Item 4, Returns to oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 069 – 2(2): Members' Hockey Game

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My member's statement today is... . It's Friday, as we all know and as a couple of members have already pointed out.

We are going to be playing hockey on Sunday evening against the fire fighters and I am just hoping they don't get us flooded out or douse us with some hoses.

During this game, I look forward to seeing a stellar performance by Premier Okalik, who I understand is planning to wear #13 to follow his hero in hockey, Mr. Mats Sundin, during the game and I want to see that style of play coming from Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Picco, as the minister that is always all over the ice, I think we might get a GPS or a bungee cord hooked up to him somewhere so he sticks to his position on the ice.

I understand that that particular minister who claims to hail from Portugal Cove as one of their hockey stars is actually from another community located about on Route 80 approximately 15 km from the Trans Canada Highway whose name is thought to originally come from Spain or Portugal. I will send him a note on that after.

Also Minister Akesuk, his tougher type of performance, I look forward to seeing out there. Also they had indicated that they are going to be playing are Minister Brown and her husband Ron. I have heard that they are like the two towers on defence and I look forward to having fun watching anyone try and get by them or in between them.

As for myself, I know that I just calm people's nerves, because there's no use to get excited about watching a Tootoo play hockey???. My skills in hockey are nowhere near my cousin's or some of my other relatives on the ice.

Also, I sincerely hope that some of the other people that are playing, Mr. Bill Clay, , Ms. Lorianne White and Phil Boudreaux are not going to be shuttling their ministers around on the ice, that they are playing their positions.

So if the ministers are telling them to shuttle them around and make them look good on this ice, that it's after hours and their ministers are on their own.

So, I look forward to everybody coming out and raising some good money for the firefighting equipment and stuff and a very good time had by everybody. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We will make sure we have a bungee cord to tie from your hockey stick to Ed Picco. Members' statements. Mr. Curley.

Member's Statement 070 – 2(2): Members' Hockey Game

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not be able to participate in the hockey game, but I'm sure it will be televised. Please make sure that you play fairly. Whoever is going to be the coach of this game should set up a rule so that the Minister of Energy will be shadowed by the Member for Iqaluit Centre. I think that would be a good rule to follow. I just wanted to make that comment.

I would also like to send my regards to the people in my community and to wish them a good weekend. For those people who are going to be playing hockey, I'm sure you'll be able to make it in one day, after a rigorous game. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I have no other names on my list for members' statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to oral questions. Hon. Levinia Brown.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to OQ 036 – 2(2): Tabling of Coroner's Report

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me put my glasses on. (interpretation ends) I'd like to thank the member for being concerned about the safety of the elders. The member had asked me to table a coroner's report or a doctor's statement on a specific incident that took place.

In regards to tabling a coroner's report, I am not responsible for coroner's reports, these are the responsibility of the Department of Justice. In regards to tabling a doctor's statement, no, I cannot table a doctor's statement that will share any personal medical information in the House, because we need to protect the privacy of clients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Levinia Brown. Item 4. Hon. Peter Kilabuk.

Return to OQ 071 – 2(2): Update on the Condominium Units

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in response to the honourable Member for Iqaluit Centre's question regarding the decertification of the Parkdale Condominium Complex in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, the architect has withdrawn his certification of the building until such time as considerable deficiencies discovered through destructive testing carried out on the building, affecting items one and three of a signed declaration of January 28, 2004, have been corrected.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to report that these repairs are well underway and will be completed in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Peter Kilabuk. Going back to the orders of the day. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Alagalak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): I am not sure how the Premier said Speaker in Inuktitut, but I would like to recognize my wife who will be here for a little while. She is the sister of our Sergeant-at-Arms and I'm very pleased that she's here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also just like to recognize the individual that was just recognized. I think it was 32 years ago that Mr. and Mrs. Alagalak were in Salluit, and they were very receptive when my wife and I were there. She's still exactly the same; she's not aging at all. I remember their hospitality 32 years ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. I would also like to recognize Mrs. Alagalak and the Sergeant-at-Arms. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Hatti Alagalak who has made a huge contribution to the whole region of Kivalliq. Her husband and Hatti have contributed very much and I would also like to thank our Sergeant-at-Arms for working with us.

Thank you very much you are an elder from our region and we're very pleased that we are able to have an elder representative from our community. They went for a supper at our place and he brought his great-grandchild and it's something we are very fortunate to see. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Levinia Brown. (interpretation ends): Item Number 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to recognize the Sergeant-at-Arms and Hatti his sister. I'd like to make a very brief comment. I have known these two individuals when we were growing up in Coral Harbour and I can tell you that Hatti's brother was a very close friend of mine, he has since passed on but these two individuals are very close to me and her father made a huge contribution in helping the RCMP and the HBC's.

I think it was in the thirties when they went down to Newfoundland and he used to be an interpreter and then they moved to Arviat in the fifties and John Towtongie when Hatti was a very small child.

What I wanted to say is that John Towtongie is a very experienced hunter and he helped me through my young political career from the time that Inuit Taparitsat of Canada was established and he knows a lot more about me than I do myself.

We are establishing a history as Inuit. He just told me this recently that his father, Harry Gibbons was the store manager in Port Harrison, or what's known as Inukjuaq now. That was in the 1930's and you probably never thought why Port Harrison is now called Inukjuaq. The Sergeant-at-Arms, that's the name of the Sergeant-at-Arms' mother. That's the history that I got from Mr. Towtongie.

Port Harrison was named Inukjuaq after his mother and just recently our Sergeant-at-Arms went down there to the place where he grew up and where his mother's camp was. I would like to say thank you to our Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *Applause*

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item Number 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, Hon. Peter Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): I don't want to be misunderstood, but I'm going to say my namesake to recognize that although there is a Peter here, it really is not him. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my namesake, in Panniqtuuq his brother is my namesake because we have the same name, my attikuluk in Panniqtuuq has sisters and relatives and her mother and they all call me atikuluk, which is a namesake to the sister and to the mother. I would like to recognize Naimee Kilabuk-Bourassa and all the other interpreters. I would like to recognize them and thank them. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. We are on Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There are no more names on my list. Going back to the orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 092 – 2(2): Providing Financial Monthly or Quarterly Reports

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Energy. Yesterday and the day before the minister was very clear that he doesn't want to provide any information on the current status of the finances of the power corporation.

I know in May and again earlier this session, the Minister of Finance, in her budget address and her fiscal update address, made predictions on projections on how the government is going to do overall fiscally and I would assume that these things are done and kept track of by monthly variance reports.

My question for the Minister responsible for Energy is, as part of the new financial controls that are in place for the corporation, is it a requirement that they provide monthly or quarterly variance reports to the board of directors and to the minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Energy. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward for Sunday night in this great fundraising game that we will have an opportunity to play. It's too bad the member will be on the same team.

>> *Laughter*

Just kidding.

As I said, I think over the last couple of days as the member has pointed out, the process has always been that the government tabled audited financial statements of crown corporations and agencies of the government.

That is the process that we have in place and there's a reason for that process. That process is in place to provide verifiable facts and information to the House, not interim statements.

It's my understanding that the crown agency council of government, as well as the board of directors of the Power Corporation, are regularly updated as per instructions given through the Auditor General's report on the financial state of the power corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could say ditto to the minister on being on the same team, but I caution him that the first time we played a charity hockey game and I went on the other team for a little while, the honourable member was looking at me from flat on his back on the ice. So I would just like to remind him of that and it's a good thing that I am on the same team as him.

I guess my question for the minister then is, if they are getting this information from the Power Corporation, and as indicated earlier the government as a whole does make projections public, then why does the minister feel that it's not important to let that information be made public?

As I said, it's verifiable information that he is saying about the statements that they are getting from the corporation, doesn't he doesn't trust the information in there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. It must have been a whole other site from lying on the back. Mr. Picco.

>>*Laughter*

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I note that the member is trying to trip me up right now.

So, let me say again, very clearly, that the government provides accurate information within the contents of agencies, crown corporations, and boards of the government. It's not in the habit of providing interim financial statements and so on to the House for various reasons.

However, the member is misconstruing the main estimates in the House, the estimates that are in those documents, and is trying to link those with Crown Agencies and corporations.

There is a world of difference between the main estimates in the House and the financial statements of a corporation or board or agency. I can say, as the Minister of Energy, that the financial statements, income statements, and balance sheets of how the Crown corporation is doing on a regular basis is provided to the Crown Agency Council group as well as to the Department of Finance, to look at their revenue requirements.

The Minister of Finance stated, earlier in the session, that they are actually looking at the revenue requirements, so, Mr. Speaker, I am not in the position to table... . The member has asked why that was my opinion, why I am not doing that. I am just trying to explain the process that is in place in this House, that is not unique to this House, indeed it is the precedent that is set in most legislative assemblies in Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To clarify for the minister: I am not trying to trip him up. Last May, the Minister of Finance, in her budget address, was projecting a \$13 million deficit. As we heard earlier in this session, that will increase by \$5.6 million. That's overall government operation; that has nothing to do with the main estimates. Again, those are projections, followed up projections.

I am not asking him to table information, I am just asking whether given the close scrutiny that the corporation is under now in providing that financial information to himself and the Minister of Finance and the Crown Agency Council, and given the fact that we are not going to say he has misled the House, if it is just projections.

Why will he not provide that information as requested? What is the current situation? Where are they sitting at right now, based on the information that they are getting from the corporation? Why is it such a secret to do that? Do they not want the people to know the current situation of the corporation right now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I said that was your final question, but I made a mistake. I apologize. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance tables in the House the main estimates. An estimate is just that, it's an estimate. Projections are projections. They are the best estimates based on current data and projecting that information forward.

The Minister of Finance provides that estimate for a \$800 million budget. At the end of the day, if you are off by ten percent or five percent, that is not too bad when everything is considered; incidents occur. Under legislation, the Minister of Finance is authorized and requested and mandated to bring forward those projections so every member in the House can see them.

For the Crown Agency Council, the development corporation, the college, the requisite for assemblies in Canada and other jurisdictions is that you table the audited financial statements and so on.

Mr. Speaker, that is what I said I would do. Within two weeks, I will have the third audited financial statement from the corporation and I will be tabling that. If I get it before the House stops, I will bring it forward. If not, it will be there in February. That will be the process.

For me to stand up now and say that right now the cash flow situation of the corporation is X number of dollars and so on, I don't see what the point would be to do that. Because after December, after the next couple of weeks, the corporation, as the members know... . It gets colder, darker, and there is an increase in electrical rates. Indeed, the best season for the corporation that's providing energy is December, January, and February.

Their projections are based on how cold it is, what the weather is, and so on. If it is unseasonably mild like it is right now in Iqaluit, their load will drop and the projections are off.

Three months from now Mr. Tootoo will say to me, "Well, you said the projections in December were X number of dollars," and then I will have to try to explain why those projections are down. That is one of the reasons why you don't do that.

So, Mr. Speaker, very quickly, the main estimates of the government are projections. They are separate from projections or interim statements that are provided to the corporation. At the same time, the Crown Agency Council, an independent board of directors of the corporation itself, and the senior administration staff of the corporation review those financial statements, and if there's an issue that they've all of a sudden lost \$15 million or something, they would be contacting me immediately, and the Minister of Finance would know, because we'd have to be able to react to that.

I can tell the member and the people of Nunavut that, that has not occurred, and indeed it is my understanding from the corporation that the projections they have made are pretty well on target. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Ed Picco. Final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister does make a good point that he is required by legislation to table an annual report and the financial statements of the corporation, and I must say he hasn't received them yet. They're already five months late. We need current information.

If the projections are on target, as is outlined in the General Rate Application of what they will need for this fiscal year, what's the big deal about the minister providing that information? It seems like you'd think you'd want the people to have current information, not year-old information, not financial statements that are going to be coming forward that, he's talking about, are from last fiscal year.

We are looking at a situation right now where the URRC is looking at an application, and you'd think the government would want to ensure that they had current, accurate information to look at and evaluate. I understand that there is a clause that allows the URRC to obtain that current information from the minister.

Will the minister be providing... . If he doesn't want to provide it to us as the members of the assembly, or to the general public, will he make it available to the URRC so that they can properly evaluate and look at the current situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to pick up on two points. Again, I appreciate the member asking questions in the House so that we can bring some clarity and understanding to what is occurring here.

Number one: the annual report of the corporation is five months late, as the member has said, because the Auditor General has not signed off on the statement. I'm not going to come forward and table an annual statement of the corporation without having the Auditor General's information there, because then the members would come back and say, "Where is that information?" And they would be right to do that. So, that's the

reason why the statements are five months late; you can't do them until the Auditor General signs off, and we're still waiting for them.

Mr. Speaker, on the information for the Utility Rate Review Council: the URRC has the right to request the current information from the corporation. They will have that information. Mr. Mercer and his team will have that information. Any information that they request will be provided to them so that the URRC can do the evaluation on the request that has been brought forth by the power corporation. I can assure the member and the people of Nunavut that that is indeed the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 093 – 2(2): Update on Nanisivik Mine Closure

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Wednesday, November 24, the Premier stated, and I'll say it in English, (interpretation ends) "We could look at Nanisivik, for instance, where the environment is in such poor state that we can't re-use the precious infrastructure in place because of what took place before" (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, hearing this, the residents of Arctic Bay and I wanted him to elaborate.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We tried to look for ways as to how we could re-use the mine, but as they were doing the studies on the infrastructure we were told they were full of contaminants and we would put people at risk if we tried to use that infrastructure. It would be ideal to use them again, but we can't. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe he can produce a report with regard to that so we can have a better understanding of the matter.

My constituents and I fail to understand how it can be dangerous; there are buildings that were built two years ago and that are very modern, more modern than the old ones we have, such as the matchbox houses.

We managed to move 11 units; they were retrofitted and they are still usable today. We fail to understand what the danger is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. From my understanding, the older units are hazardous. If we do more studies, then we might find out that some units are re-usable. If they are, then we are willing to give it a try. But this is not completed; we are

trying to do more research because we didn't want to terminate in the middle of it. We are trying to further the research in order to see if they are safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Question 094 – 2(2): Introduction of the Legislation on Child Advocate

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister of health. I have been consistent in my unwavering support of child advocacy for three or four years. I have already raised this issue a number of times in this House and elsewhere.

In June, I tabled a draft regarding the establishment of a children's advocate in Nunavut, and I asked the Minister of Health and Social Services to take action on this initiative.

Since then, the minister and I have talked many times about the positive benefits of a children's advocate for Nunavut. The question for my friend, the minister, is: will the minister introduce legislation in this House in 2005 to create an independent children's advocate for Nunavut, yes or no?

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I support the member. But we would need some assistance from the other departments. If it was just the Department of Health and Social Services, I would have to get others to help us out.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't sure or clear about the answer. Did the minister say yes, she will introduce legislation in 2005? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): If I get the support of the other departments; I would have to find out from the other departments first, before I introduce legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister support a strong, independent voice for the children of Nunavut: yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, of course I support the children's advocate, and also there's a child protection act in the legislation. I think it is part of what the member is asking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us when we can expect to see the establishment of an independent children's advocate for Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department believes that the children should be protected. There is also legislation in place at this time. I know that the children should not be forgotten and they should have their rights protected. There is already legislation in place. I'm not really sure about how the department would feel about child advocacy legislation, so I cannot really answer his question at this time, because there is already legislation in place.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Levinia Brown. Item 6. Oral questions, Mr. Curley.

Question 095 – 2(2): Plans for Alternative Energy Use

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to address the Minister of Energy. I think we have been talking about this; it's a concern for us. It's a concern in regards to no funding available for Nunavut Power Corporation.

I just wondered if any plans have been put in place so that Inuit who live in the cold climate should not just be using diesel fuel. I'm wondering if the minister can answer me whether there are any plans in place for an alternate energy source, rather than diesel. Can the minister respond to me about whether there are any plans in the future for a cheaper and safer energy source in Nunavut.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Energy, Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was moving too far to the left. Very quickly, the member is correct. There have been several initiatives undertaken by the Power Corporation since 2001, including work at looking at potential hydro sites in the Kivalliq region of Nunavut as well as some sites in other areas of Nunavut.

There is a fantastic example of work being undergone to increase the energy efficiency of the Power Corporation. Minister Nault, when he was a minister of DIAND, came forth and I met with him, and he contributed over \$100,000 at that time for a residual heat program. So, the new hospital, for example, will be heated by the residual heat from the Power Corporation plant up on the hill. One of the reasons why the hospital is being built where it is, is because it can use that residual heat.

There are other residual heat programs, like, for example, in Taloyoak. Mr. Speaker, we've also looked at the opportunities for wind power. Meeting with Environment Canada, Environment Canada put together a wind map that tells us what potential sites would be for actual wind power within Nunavut. So, there is quite a bit of work that has occurred, and is occurring, on the energy file when we look at energy alternatives to diesel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the other agencies, or federal government, may be considering other types of options for alternative energy, but what I'm really asking is: does this government have a plan that would provide incentives for people who may be interested in developing a type of technology that could work up here? I'm not interested in the wind-power mills that were already created; they were not designed for the Arctic.

But I believe this source, wind power, we do have. That is something that this government should be intimately interested in, and should make some plans or recommendations, even to the federal government.

I know for a fact that in the United States, the technology that they use does work, because it meets the environmental conditions of that country. But up here, I know we need a little more, an improved technology, so that this can be created and possibly be considered for the long term.

So, I am asking the minister: will you establish a committee in your government or team up with some other planners to come up with alternative plans for the people of Nunavut? Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Energy, Ed. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year, when I was the Minister of Energy, we, the Government of Nunavut and myself as minister, were the first jurisdiction in Canada to ratify, under the climate change program, with the federal government program, the Kyoto Accord legislation; we are the first ones to do that.

Subsequent to that we received the money from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs on the reheat project. At the same time, the Government of Nunavut has put together a Nunavut energy centre and we are working on that project right now.

The Nunavut energy centre... . Minister Kilabuk spoke earlier about some of the incentive things that have occurred, for example, Joamie School being more energy efficient and some of the programs through Housing.

We are doing a whole Nunavut-wide strategy in the next few months; we will be coming forward with the Nunavut energy centre on housing, on efficient units, and one of them would be looking at wind power.

There has been a lot of work already done on wind power. I actually had a meeting with Manitoba Hydro officials last year, with Minister Sale, to see if there were any economies of scale, because they were getting involved in wind turbines in a big way and could we piggy back on their coat tails?

The Manitoba Hydro people were very welcoming toward our suggestions and I will be following that up with the Minister of Energy.

I would suggest to you that in the next few months the people of Nunavut will see and hear of a lot of different programs within the government about energy efficiency as well as looking at other opportunities that may be more conducive to Nunavut, as the member has stated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last point, really, is that I think the Government of Nunavut and the Minister of Energy should be taking a lead role, not piggy-backing on someone's coat somewhere.

We have some tremendous challenges up here: we have possibly the harshest environment, and we need to develop expertise. I believe we have the will to succeed and that is the beginning.

So, I am asking the minister if he would he consider establishing a unit in his department that would seriously look at alternatives, to create incentives before the private sector is asked to carry the burden of investing in fuel and energy technology. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would agree, and I would commit to the member to follow through on some of the things I have talked about already under the Nunavut energy centre program idea.

I think the member has been out of the point. Everyone talks about winds and the member talks about the untried technology. For example, in other jurisdictions where they have windmills on a wind farm, there are 100 or 80 or 60 wind turbines. When the power is generated from those turbines, it is fed into a grid, five or six communities connected.

In our case, all of our communities are single communities. So, if you had 50 wind turbines going, you still need your diesel generators. There's an issue with technology

where the power sometimes fluctuates and the generators come on and off. There's an issue around how the power is regulated.

So, in many cases, in smaller jurisdictions like ours when you only have one community on a grid, there is an issue with the turbines. That's one of the issues that has occurred and that's why in some communities in Nunavut we see abandoned wind mills that are no longer working.

So, I will commit to the member that when we return to the House in February there will be an update on the Nunavut energy centre as well as initiatives and programs that we would hope to be able to bring about.

Again, I agree with the member. Right now, we are spending, I believe, almost 60 million litres of fuel a year to generate electricity in Nunavut. We have an awful addiction. The Government of Nunavut and the people of Nunavut are addicted to oil, and that's an awful addiction to have. We need to be able to alleviate that addiction and with the member's help, maybe we can move in the right direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

Question 096 – 2(2): Update on the Gun Registration

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address the Premier.

There is a lot of dissatisfaction in the Kivalliq region in regards to gun registration, even though this is not the responsibility of the Nunavut Government. I know, however, that there is not going to be a resolution of that if we fall silent on the issue.

The gun registration law is very strong and is getting stronger. We cannot obtain ammunition anymore for the hunters for Nunavut. Iqaluit had a gun registration office quite some time ago, and I'm not sure if it is still in existence now. It was better to have it. I would just like to ask the Premier if he can update us on what the situation is with the gun registration issue.

Has the Nunavut Government tried to assist the federal government in regards to the concerns of Nunavummiut about gun registration or gun acquisition? I would like to get an update from the Premier on whether he has any new information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we are doing is waiting for Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Our government has been working on the gun registration matter because it infringes upon the rights of Inuit hunters, because we don't need licenses to hunt.

The Supreme Court of Canada has said that they will not apply it to Inuit at this time; that's the way the supreme court is treating this, that Inuit do not have to follow the law. We are still in the supreme court stage, that the people of Nunavut will not be included in the gun registration program. There's not much that we can do, because with it being federal legislation what we are trying to do is go through the supreme court to get it resolved.

Deputy Speaker (Interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Paul Okalik. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with you completely. It's extremely hard to change the ruling that was made, but my question is: are you going to be reopening the office that was set up here in Iqaluit? Or is if it is going to remain closed, can the Nunavut government do anything to get it open again?

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a matter out of our jurisdiction. That office was set up by the federal government. I can look into the issue and see what plans they have, whether they are going to be reopening or keeping the office closed. I'll look into the matter and see what their plans are and respond to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Paul Okalik. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier, for your response. I would like the members of this House to know that there are a lot of people in Nunavut who don't have their guns registered; they are using other people's registration cards to access ammunition and rifles. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker: Mr. Tootoo.

Question 097 – 2(2): Signed Declaration by the Architect

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would love to ask the Minister of Energy another question, but I want him to conserve his energy for the hockey game on Sunday night.

I will direct my question to the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Earlier today the minister replied to an oral question, and I must commend the minister and his staff for a finely crafted response here. He said that the architect had withdrawn certification of the building until such time as it's "considerable deficiencies..." And he also states that there was destructive testing going on there, that sounds interesting, affecting items one and three of the signed declaration.

I would assume that that signed declaration is the architect's signed declaration. I am just wondering if the minister can elaborate on exactly what those deficiencies were. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is right. It was the certificate of the architect. The items that are referred to in that lettered response are: item one is with the exterior building envelop, which includes the roofing assembly, exterior wall cladding, doors and windows, caulking and sealants which need to be water resistant. As required by the construction documents, all have to be completed in general conformity with the construction documents.

Also number three, Mr. Speaker, is, note, except as otherwise specified in the regulations, concealed deficiencies of the common elements excluding interior structural walls and columns in a unit, completed drywall, including taping and sanding, plaster, or other final coverage.

So, items one and three are where the deficiencies were found. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If one reads between the lines, it looks like there are some serious fire regulation deficiencies in there.

My question, I guess, is: was this something that was inspected, or was there a requirement for it to be inspected by the fire marshal, to be signed off prior to completion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, by all means. When the personnel is available, with the workload that they have, depending on the advancement of the construction. So, in answer to his question: yes, normally, the fire marshal would part of the inspections. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister had indicated "normally". Is he saying that the fire marshal did not sign off on this project or did he sign off on the project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the members' benefit I also want to add that the project started without having submitted plans to the office of the fire marshal; however, those plans were received by the fire marshal later on.

Nevertheless, when these deficiencies were found it was the architect that decertified, as I had indicated earlier, with the deficiencies that were found in the condominiums. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister didn't answer my question. I was just wondering if there was an inspection form signed off by the fire marshal on the project, which I understand is something that is required. So, did the fire marshal sign off on this project that it was certified to be alright or not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kilabuk

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to my colleague for not being clear on my response, but at the time the fire marshal received the plans, after reviewing and having some changes made to them, the plans proceeded with the request of changes from the fire marshal's office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, the minister is saying that the fire marshal never really even inspected the building to see whether it was actually done as it was supposed to. For whatever reason that happened, it is surprising.

I would like to just ask the minister: after discovering this, how much has that RFP that I referred to cost the corporation or the government, to do these renovations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was afraid that I may not have some figures to share with my colleague, but in August 2004, the Nunavut Housing Corporation issued an RFP to correct the deficiencies of the Parkdale. In September 2004 of this year, a time and material contract was awarded to Baffin Building Systems for an estimated \$750,000 in remedial construction work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 098 – 2(2): Bilingual Workers at the Elders' Facility

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government has a goal to hire Inuit and to use the Inuktitut language as the working language of the government. I will direct my question to the Minister of Human Resources.

When you are hiring staff for the 24-hour care facilities, why is it a requirement that they speak English?

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't quite get his question. But when it comes to the 24-hour care facilities, I would like to say, in regard to the comments that I made yesterday, that the Department of Human Resources is using Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Individuals who will be working for the Government of Nunavut for whatever position, usually are required to have skills or experience that are over and above the position that they are applying for.

We are currently reviewing this area, and in November 2004, we will be tabling a report identifying the changes that we're going to be proposing. At the current time, we are looking at how we can increase the number of Inuit employees within the government.

Mr. Speaker, if I could ask the member to reiterate which 24-hour care facility he was talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was talking about the 24-hour care facilities for the elders. One of the requirements was for staff to be bilingual. Why is that a requirement? There are capable people who don't speak English who can work in the facilities. Why is it that there are the nurses and other health professionals that are not required to speak Inuktitut and we provide them interpreters?

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Regarding these 24-hour care facilities, I'm not exactly sure why, but these facilities are usually manned by nurses and health professionals. It is very true that for manual labourers and other positions it is starting to be evident that they should be bilingual.

I can tell the House that we are currently reviewing the policies, and I can tell the House that the Minister of Health and Social Services and I are working together as departments to make changes to these policies. And, I can tell the House that it is incumbent upon Nunavut to make changes to make sure that we're not looking for over-qualifications in particular positions.

That is a problem in many communities. We will be reviewing this whole area. Of course the health centres have interpreters, and we'll factor everything in when we will be making recommendations for the changes.

We think that we will fix this problem. But at this present time, today, I can't tell you that we are not going to see any changes at here today on Friday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): At the present time, what is going to happen to the people who like to apply for those positions? If you're not bilingual, then you don't qualify for the positions even though you are competent and able to fill those positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I would urge people to apply for those positions even though they don't speak English. I would urge the people of Nunavut to apply for those positions that they feel they are competent enough to fill.

We'll try to make all those changes. This is a goal we have set as a government. And we are following Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement; the Nunavut government has agreed to implement that policy. So, once again I would like to urge those members or those people to apply for those positions.

I'm sure that we'll be informed if this type of problem comes up again. I'm sure that the Minister of Health and Social Services will also do her best to make changes and will do all she can.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 6. Mr. Peterson.

Question 099 – 2(2): Tabling of KPMG Report

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I asked the minister if she would commit to tabling the KPMG report this week.

The minister made that commitment to the House. My question for the minister: is the minister going to table the KPMG report today? If not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, your response.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I checked into this question and there is a bit of a problem, and you also received a copy of the letter. I will

not be able to table it in the House today because there will be have to be some amendments. And I'm not sure if the Inuktitut translation is completed. I haven't checked into all the details, but they require a lot of work, especially the reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I hear a statement like that, I have to wonder what's in the report that the bureaucracy doesn't want us to see. I first asked for the KPMG report six months ago during the Committee of the Whole on health and social services.

The deputy minister told me then that they were going to review the request. Again, that was six months ago, and it seems that the bureaucracy hoped I would forget. I don't forget these things; when people say they are going to do stuff, I don't forget to follow up. Can the minister assure the House that there will be no further delays and that this report will be made available to me before the next session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, I agree with you. I have made the commitment that the document will be tabled; I did that. Now there are other things that are being held up. So, as soon as possible, I will make sure that it's tabled in this House. Thank you.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister again for that commitment and assurances. Regular members have been asked to review budgets for many departments, including Health and Social Services. We all know health is a very troublesome department; they are constantly running a deficit. It was \$18 million, and with your projections maybe \$8 million this year; it could be higher, we don't know.

Most of the problems are related to travel. Had I known yesterday that the KPMG report would not be tabled today, I would have introduced a motion yesterday to defer a review of the Health and Social Services budget next week. I consider that the information in that report could be helpful to our discussion.

A question for the minister: can the minister assure me and the House that officials in her department have been directed to place the highest priority in providing timely financial information and reports to regular members when it is requested, not six months or eight months after it has been requested? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for bringing this up. Yes, I can do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Question 100 – 2(2): Licence to Obtain Fire Arms

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Premier. My colleague touched upon this question in regards to the how NTI and the territorial government have taken the federal government to court about firearms legislation. There is a major concern that this impacts the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement.

In some communities, even when people want to acquire guns, they need a firearms licence. I want to know if this is a licence for obtaining firearms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This licence is to acquire firearms and it can also be used to acquire ammunition.

A problem is many stores are run by non-Inuit and this law applies to non-native people. Even if I don't have a license, I can use a rifle, because I'm Inuk. That's why that law doesn't apply to me. I wanted to make that clear to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The firearms acquisition, do we need to use it today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Keep in mind that this is before the courts on whether this legislation will not apply to Inuit. But it applies to non-Inuit, and that could be one of the hindrances. We're trying to get away from that so that it doesn't apply to Inuit, so that Inuit can have easy access to obtaining rifles and what have you.

We're trying to get that taken out of the legislation; we are fully opposed to that legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, do I understand that if I go to the co-op store and they ask to see my license, I don't have to produce it? Can we do that? Is that how I understand it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to keep in mind that co-op employees or Northern stores employees have to abide by that legislation, so they have to have to ask for the license. But as an Inuk, if I want to borrow a rifle, I can borrow anybody's. But for non-Inuit, they have to have that license in order to borrow or use a rifle.

So, this doesn't apply to us, where we don't have to produce a license if we want to borrow a rifle from our fellow Inuit. So, it's possible like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 101 – 2(2): Signed Certification of Inspection

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and it goes back to that finely crafted return to an oral question that he provided. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that they are looking at about \$750,000 to do that work.

I guess the question that begs to be asked about these deficiencies in fire code regulations that for the most part that have been identified to be fixed. Did the project receive a signed-off certificate by the fire marshal prior the final inspection? Did he do an inspection? Did he sign a certificate saying that it was alright, that the building was okay and that it met the codes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, when the Nunavut Housing Corporation completed the purchase and sale agreement for the Parkdale, after obtaining the required approvals, it included the contract documents from the Office of the Fire Marshal, the city of Iqaluit, the Electrical and Safety Division of Public Works and Services, as well as compliance letters from consultants.

I remind you, Mr. Speaker, of what my colleague referred to earlier as, and which sounded so destructive, the constructive testing that they did. It was only at this time that, with the support and assistance of the tenants' observations regarding the building system, Nunavut Housing Corporation conducted the destructive testing, which led to the discovery of significant concealed construction deficiencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response. I have heard one of the problems that was there, again, was a fire code violation, in any type of common place, there has to be a sealed firewall between each unit, but that was not the case in these units.

So, I guess it is not just something that the Fire Marshal is supposed to be looking at prior to signing off on a project, saying that it is okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, in this case it was only after the barriers had been concealed and much after the deficiencies were found.

But normally, as I referred to earlier, the office of the fire marshal would have somebody inspect during construction, if they had the personnel at the time. But because they did not have the personnel at the time of construction at these specific locations, it was only after the fact that the deficiencies were found. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the minister is alluding to the fact that the Fire Marshal didn't have enough time to do the inspection before signing off saying that it was alright.

I know members and, I am sure, the ministers are aware of, previous years, how there has been quotes from the Fire Marshal saying that he didn't have a travel budget to go around and travel to the communities and do inspections. Maybe that is something that came out after the fire in Joamie School.

So, given the fact that he doesn't have the budget to go travelling around buildings within a kilometre of his office, this is why this was not inspected when it should have been? It could have saved this government \$750,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand my colleague's concern about how this money could have possibly been saved.

I also want to go back to my earlier comments about the Fire Marshal not wanting to take the time to do the inspections. The reason that the Fire Marshal was not there to be present at the inspections during the construction of those specific locations, as I said earlier, was because they didn't have the personnel at the time of construction for those specific locations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I am a little confused. If the Fire Marshal had signed off the certificate, isn't he the one that does the inspections, or if he doesn't have any staff to do the inspections for him, does he just sign off the certificate at face value?

So, I guess my question to the minister is: how many other certificates has the Fire Marshal signed without inspections being done? We don't want to see other buildings throughout the territory that may be in the same situation as this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague is very good at this.

I want to assure the House, and also my colleague, that this is the only one of immediate concern that has been brought to my attention regarding such deficiencies and regarding the fire prevention requirements.

So, at this time, I don't know if there are any other deficiencies that would be of concern due to a lack of personnel to be able to do the inspections, as we have seen here with the condominiums in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is over. Item 7. Written questions. Mr. Peterson.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 021 – 2(2): Medical Travel Costs

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is for the Hon. Levinia Brown, Minister of Health and Social Services. It's concerning medical travel costs. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the medical travel costs are one of the highest costs to our government, \$50-80 million a year, depending on what numbers are being given to you.

1. For each fiscal year indicated below, how much was expended on airline tickets for patients traveling for medical treatment.
 - a) 2000-2001
 - b) 2001-2002
 - c) 2002-2003
 - d) 2003-2004

2. For each fiscal year indicated below, what percentage of medical travel for patients traveling for medical treatment was by charter aircraft, and what percentage by scheduled airline service:
 - a) 2000-2001
 - b) 2001-2002
 - c) 2002-2003
 - d) 2003-2004

3. For each fiscal year indicated below, how much was expended on airline tickets for escorts for patients traveling for medical treatment:
 - a) 2000-2001
 - b) 2001-2002
 - c) 2002-2003
 - d) 2003-2004

4. For each fiscal year indicated below, how much was expended on air ambulances for patients traveling emergency medical treatment:
 - a) 2000-2001
 - b) 2001-2002
 - c) 2002-2003
 - d) 2003-2004

5. For each fiscal year indicated below, how much was expended on accommodation and boarding homes, broken down by boarding home, for patients traveling for medical treatment:
 - a) 2000-2001
 - b) 2001-2002
 - c) 2002-2003
 - d) 2003-2004

6. For each fiscal year indicated below, how much was expended on accommodation and hotels or other commercial facilities for patients traveling medical treatment:
 - a) 2000-2001
 - b) 2001-2002
 - c) 2002-2003
 - d) 2003-2004

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item number 7, Written questions, Mr. Alagalak.

Written Question 022 – 2(2): Fuel Delivery

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry I picked this up during the Members' Statements. This is the written questions that I have, I will read it. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the timing of fuel delivery can directly impact on the safety of the process. So I'm posing the following written questions on this important issue.

1. In 2002-2003-2004, what were the scheduled dates for fuel re-supply in each community in Nunavut.
2. In 2002-2003-2004 what were the actual dates for fuel re-supply in each community in Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Written questions, going back to the orders of the day, Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13, Tabling of documents. Mr. Government Leader.

Item 13: Tabled Documents**Tabled Document 032 – 2(2): Pinasuaqtavut 2004-2009**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document entitled *Pinasuaqtavut 2004-2009*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Government Leader. Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 033 – 2(2): Convention on the Rights of the Child

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document titled, *United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child*. On October 2003, a committee on the rights of a child recommendations that recommends child advocates also be established in the provinces that have not done so, and in the three territories where a high proportion of vulnerable children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Tabling of documents, Mr. Kilabuk.

Tabled Document 034 – 2(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation's "A Tenant's Handbook"

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation's Tenants' Handbook.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There are no more tabling of documents. Number 14. Item 15. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Miss Aglukkaq.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three, so bear with me on this one.

Bill 1 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2003/04 – Notice

I give notice on Monday, November 29, 2004 that Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation, Operation and Maintenance, Act Number 4, 2003-04, be read for the first time. I will seek consent to deal with my motions today.

Bill 2 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2004/05 – Notice

I have another here. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, November 29, 2004 that Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance, Number 2, 2004-05 be read for the first time. I will also seek consent to deal with my motion today.

Bill 3 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2004/05 – Notice

Lastly Mr. Speaker, I give notice on Monday, November 29, 2004 that Bill 3, Supplementary Appropriation for Capital Act 2004-05 be read for the first time. Again, I will seek consent to deal with that motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Miss Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): There are no more notices of motions for first reading of bills.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Miss Aglukkaq. Item 16. Item 17. First reading of bills. Miss Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request the consent of this Assembly to waive the two day notice requirements for first reading of Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation, Operation and Maintenance Act, Number 4, 2003-04. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: The Minister is seeking consent to 62(1) so that bill number one could have first reading today. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Please proceed Minister.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills**Bill 1 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2003/04 – First Reading**

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With this consent Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq that Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation, Operation and Maintenance, 2003-04 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. Abstentions. Nothing. The motion is carried. Bill 1 has had first reading.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent, again, of this assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement of first reading of Bill 2. Supplementary Appropriation Operation and Maintenance Act #2 2004-05. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The minister is seeking consent to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 2 can have the first reading today. Are there any nays? There are no nays, please proceed Minister.

Bill 2 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2004/05 – First Reading

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Pangnirtung that Bill 2. Supplementary Appropriation Operation and Maintenance Act #2 2004-05 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Madam. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. Abstentions. Nothing. The motion is carried and Bill 2 has had its first reading.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Ms Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request, again, the consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement for first reading of Bill 3, Supplementary Appropriation Capital Act #2 2004-05. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: The minister is seeking consent to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 3 can have its first reading today. Are there any nays? There are no nays, please proceed, minister.

Bill 3 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2004/05 – First Reading

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West that Bill 3, Supplementary Appropriation Capital Act #2, 2004-05 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. Any abstentions? Nothing. The motion is carried and Bill 3 has had its first reading.

(interpretation) Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 18. (interpretation ends)
Second Reading of Bills. Minister Aglukkaq.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**Bill 1 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2003/04 – Second Reading**

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq that Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance Act #4, 2003-04 be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order to the principle of the Bill. A question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried, Bill 1 has had second reading and accordingly, the bill stands referred to Committee of the Whole.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Ms. Minister.

Bill 2 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2004/05 – Second Reading

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Pangnirtung that Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Operations and Maintenance Act #2 2004-05 be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order to the principle of the bill. A question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 2 has had second reading and accordingly, the bill stands referred to the committee of the whole.

Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 18. Ms. Minister.

Bill 3 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2004/05 – Second Reading

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West that Bill 3, Supplementary Appropriation Capital Act #2, 2004-05 be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order to the principle of the Bill. A question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 3 has had second reading. Accordingly, the bill stands referred to the committee of the whole.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters; Bill 4, Appropriation and Capital Act 2005-2006; Bills 1, 2, 3 and 4, with Mr. Evyagotailak in the chair. Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will break for lunch until 13:00. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:50 and resumed at 13:07*

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

Chairman: I would like to call the Committee meeting to order. In the Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bill 4, Appropriation Capital Act 2005-2006. Bill 1. Bill 2. Bill 3. What is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 4, and commence the review of the Capital Estimates for the Department of Education. Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Are we in agreement we deal with education?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Picco for the Department of Education to make his opening remarks. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. I'm very pleased to be here today to discuss the proposed 2005-2006 Department of Education Capital Project budget.

As stated in the original Bathurst Mandate and reflected in this budget, the Department of Education remains a priority, a priority of this government. The Department of Education's 2005-2006 Capital Budget, a strong budget with proposed expenditures of \$19,093,000. This budget allows this department to undertake 15 projects including 2 new projects at the planning stage.

Mr. Chairman, over the past 5 years, the department has developed a comprehensive school and facility database which enables us to set the priority for each project based on the rankings on the current facilities' condition, utilization as well as the program requirements. You may recall, Mr. Chairman, that they had an opportunity to unveil that new piece of technology in the committee hearings last month.

As well the department continues to gather information from Hamlets, District Education Authorities, School Operations, Nunavut Arctic College, and Community and Government Services as a fundamental part of developing, managing and refining our capital plan.

Mr. Chairman, this Department is moving forward. This proposed capital plan includes two new schools and six school additions, two new Nunavut Arctic College facilities as well as sprinkler upgrades to several schools. I believe this plan provides residents of Nunavut with the best affordable educational facilities this government can offer. Construction will begin, continue or be completed in the communities of Arviat, Cambridge Bay, Iqaluit, Sanikiluaq and Whale Cove during the 2005/06 fiscal year.

We are proposing, Mr. Chairman, continued vigorous planning and design work for future projects in Cape Dorset, Iqaluit, Gjoa Haven and Qikiqtarjuaq. We have emphasized principles of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in our planning and design, as well as supporting multi-purpose facilities, partnerships, and student training as fundamental elements in our construction contracts.

Mr. Chairman, while this proposed capital plan does not reflect a Trade Centre for Folk School, my department will also conduct feasibility studies for both projects within our operational budget in the upcoming year. While there is great interest in a Folk School and the Vocational School, it is essential we define the program requirements before developing facility project budgets that we will bring forward at a future date.

Mr. Chairman, as strong as our capital budget is, the challenges facing education in Nunavut are equally demanding. This government has been supportive and aggressive in meeting these challenges. My department's capital plan for the next five years will continue to make a great difference in provision of educational infrastructure across Nunavut.

I want to emphasize, Mr. Chairman, the delivery of the capital programming remains focused on delivering projects and not budgets to a community. My department, as with all Nunavut departments, manages the capital program to best utilize the total capital budget.

With limitations on funding, it is important we all understand this fundamental management approach that best delivers the greatest project value to the largest number of communities in the most efficient manner. I am very grateful to my colleagues sitting here today and I would like to conclude by saying very carefully, Mr. Chairman, I look forward to the comments of the standing committee on the capital estimates of 2005/06 for the Department of Education. I look forward to the discussion and debate over the coming days in our capital budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Minister Picco, I would like to remind you that I am not Mr. Speaker. You can call me Mr. Chairman, and I will be happy with that, thank you.

Do you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like my witnesses to go to the table. And I will join them at that table. Thank you.

Chairman: Does the Committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please escort the witnesses in.

For the record, Minister Picco, please introduce your witnesses...

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, on my immediate right is the indelible, fantastic Deputy Minister of the Department of Education, leading the way in both vocational and academic program, Ms. Pam Hine. And on my immediate left is Mr. Lorne Levy, long term public servant as well as resident of Nunavut with a great deal of experience and is doing an excellent yeoman's service on our capital plan for and on behalf of the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: She also looks a lot better than you, Mr. Minister.

>>*Laughter*

Does the chair of the standing committee have any comments, Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will proceed.

Chairman (interpretation): Yes, you may.

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the chair of the Standing Committee of Health and Education, I am pleased to have this opportunity to make some introductory remarks as we begin deliberation on capital estimates of the Department of Education which has a capital budget of over \$19 million for the coming fiscal year.

A number of projects in the department's capital plan during finding or design stage, the committee encourages the Minister and his department to give full consideration to communities on project design.

Members have noted that community recommendations relating to the size and state of a new facility often don't appear to be taken into consideration when it comes to construction.

In a number of cases, new facilities required expensive additions very soon after they are built. This is the case where the Iqaluit Aqsarniit Middle School was already too small when it opened just five years ago.

Continued construction of additional class space accounts for over \$5 million of the 2005-06 capital plan.

Renovations to Iqaluit's Inuksuk High School are projected to take place over a number of years. While members understand that this long-term planning is intended to reduce the amount of disruption to students, it is also the case that budgets are only approved one year at a time which makes the plan vulnerable to changes in budgeting priorities.

Committee members are pleased to note the department's initiative to provide greater protection to schools with the installation of sprinkler systems and talk of installing security cameras in schools across Nunavut.

In the past, this standing committee has recommended that the department establish partnerships with communities and other departments to expand on existing projects to cover multiple community needs.

While it appears that the department has acted on this recommendation, it is not always clear what the final agreements will be. Mr. Chairman, the committee supports the department's plans to provide accommodations to students enrolling in post-secondary programs at Nunavut Arctic College.

The lack of housing often means that students are unable to take advantage of opportunities to upgrade their skills and improve their chances of employment. Mr. Chairman, I am confident that all members will recall from our recent Arviat Caucus Retreat that our collective goals included supporting the opening of a Nunavut Trades School by the end of the Second Assembly and finalizing plans for a Nunavut Cultural School.

Members were disappointed to note that neither of these projects have been included in this year's five year plan and expect to see them in future plans. Another goal agreed to by all members at the Arviat Caucus retreat was the finalizing of plans for a Nunavut Cultural School.

Members look forward to regular updates from the Minister on this important initiative

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I'm sure that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Before we proceed I would like to remind all members of the following:

According to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to the matter under discussion, but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

Members, wherever possible, ask your detailed questions during the page by page review of the estimates on education capital.

Do members have any general comments on education? Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the rock star for being able to set up the witness table and his officials. I am very pleased that we are going to be discussing the issue of education.

It seems clear and I am sure that it took a while to come up with an aggressive plan like this. I have also seen what your department is doing at the community level. In my community, over the summer, I saw some possible problems because of the location of the schools. We have a lot of mobile equipment in the community, and I think that it is essential to think about the parking lots in the communities, and to make the schools accessible to all people, including the handicapped.

The school is not completed yet, but when you are looking through the facility, you can tell that there is a difference the old schools that have been built in the past and what is being built today. I also like the idea of the facilities being built up, and larger rooms.

School kids usually come in from recess tired and because of the high ceilings the air is better circulated in the schools. Again, with the capital projects and because of the restraints in the amount of the monies, we will still have to find funds for transportation.

I wanted to make those general comments because I am sure that it took more than a year to come up with this capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Nunavut, the education issue, we will be dealing with that. The schools in the communities are not big enough. Looking at the population growth and with the communities growing and the population increasing, we seem to be going through a very rapid change.

In Sanikiluaq, my constituency, last week I was told that the population of my community, I almost fell down with the numbers that I was given.

In the early '80's the population was about 300 ,but today it's gone up to 775 people. The community is growing at a rapid rate. The district education authority, what they have given me, the concerns that they have towards our school in 2005/06, there will be 16 new students.

I should mention that up to today there are 293 students in Sanikiluaq, but in 2005/06, there will be 16 new students, and in 2006/07, 19 new students and in 2007/08, 12 new students, and 2008/09, 25 new students and 2009/10, 15 new students.

And looking at those rates, in total that's 380, and that's what they are predicting according to their records. Looking at the capital estimates for the renovation for the Sanikiluaq School was delayed but, I was happy that there were officials that came down to explain why this had to be delayed and I'm also happy to see the capital estimates 2005/06, that it is now included in the capital estimates. My constituents are able to hear what the plans are but after this I will be able to explain to them.

I just wanted to point out that many schools are getting too small for the size of the community, especially when they are always short on money, something we are experiencing within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Kattuk. I was a little too excited to say that your deputy was looking better than you and I had forgotten about Mr. Levy, don't be left out. So welcome to the witness table, and also you, Mrs. Pam Hine, Deputy Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (Interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I visited my communities I was often told that the Education Act should be enforced because in a lot of communities some students, even though they may not even be at the exact grade level, they just seem to just pass them. A lot of times we find that when they apply for a job even people who have grade 12 are not qualified because their grade level is lower.

When you are representing smaller communities, we are being built elementary and high schools under one building. Not too many people like the idea for the fact that the elementary students look up to the older students.

In bigger communities, like for example, here in Iqaluit, they have elementary schools and high schools that are separate. The elementary students are not in the same schools as high schools and it should be like that in the smaller communities.

In Resolute Bay, there is no community learning centre. They don't have a building as a such and this has to be resolved. There was also a concern; students who have graduated from grade 12, some of them can't even sew. They can't make clothing. And they should be able to do that.

So the instruction of classes, that should include Inuit to teach how to make kamiks for women, and different things for male students. I don't think we'll see a real Inuktitut school, or university physically, and that kind of instruction should be included in the schools.

I'll have questions later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I have no more names on my list for general comments. Turn to page G-5 of your capital estimates book. Are there any questions on page G-5. Any questions.

Turn the page to G-5 of your capital estimates book. Any questions on page G-5. Any questions. G-6. Education. Detail and Capital. Corporate Service. Tangible Assets. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're on page G-6. I want to thank the minister and his officials, Mr. Levy, and Ms. Hine, for coming today.

I wanted to ask the minister if he could describe for us or outline for us the formula that they use to project the size of schools that will be needed in our Nunavut communities over the next, say, 15 to 20 years.

My colleague just alluded to it earlier in his comments that his community is growing very quickly. There are other communities that are growing very quickly and perhaps the population growth is four or five times faster than the formula that you use to design schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, good afternoon to the Committee and good afternoon to Mr. Keith Peterson. I look forward to seeing Keith on the ice on Monday night also.

Mr. Peterson raises a great piece of information here on how the standards and criteria are put into place for schools and how that's designated. So, very quickly, for example, Mr. Peterson, and anyone else in the listening public, they can go onto our website and they can see the standards and criteria that are put in place for schools.

Also, there is a priority placed on the schools by utilization. The magic number I believe is 90 percent. So, when the school reaches 90 percent, then this planning done on the utilization aspect of when a new school should be planned and needed for. That is also evaluated, at that time, under priority rating, for example, on the utilization as well as the age of the school. Then you try to look at when the last renovation or upgrade to the school had been done and so on.

So there are several different of ways of indicating the signs. Some of the general comments that have occurred this afternoon have been that when the school is being built, within in two years it's redundant because we didn't do a good job of forecasting the utilization of the student enrolment.

Some people have pointed out I have joined a committee, for example, Aqsarniit as an example. First of all, Aqsarniit School, as an example, was actually planned by the federal government, an incremental infrastructure program.

What we try to do as a department, I know Mr. Levy later might want to speak to it at a greater detail.

But it is my understanding that by basing the standards and criteria that we just spoke about, as well as the priority by utilization, and then doing the demographic or population we can actually project to see what the intended enrolment would be and then you try to design your school based on that.

Again, it is something that we have talked about and actually debated in the House, but that's the estimate or projection that you can make. In most cases, it is my understanding, is that utilization numbers and those projections are usually pretty close, but again, sometimes you may be off.

So I hope that helps answer the question by Mr. Peterson. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that answer, Mr. Minister.

Could you tell us, across Nunavut, how many of our existing elementary and high schools are need of replacement or expansion due to the population growth in the communities among the school-aged children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we review the status of the schools within the committee, I pointed out at that time that under the priority by utilization and enrolment figures as well as the known capacity of the school, we try to then include plans for designing a new school for that community.

It is around eight schools I believe that have reached that threshold. Out of those eight, I believe, they are in planning stages or underway, except for one school.

So, if you are looking at about one out of the eight that have reached that threshold of 90 percent or more where you actually do your planning and indeed, we are actually doing seven out of eight of those at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. There seems to be a common practice that the Department of Education either renovates a school or builds a new school.

I was looking at the Inuksuk High School renovations, and it looks like over the next seven or eight years up to 2006-2010 to spend close to \$19,000,000 on renovations. In other pages throughout the capital plan, new schools are going to be costing \$8 to 9,000,000.

So I am wondering, Mr. Minister, you have built high schools in places like Arviat or Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay as well, for less than \$19,000,000 each.

Can the minister tell us what benefits result from renovating an existing school that would make it more beneficial than building a new high school or elementary school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, on renovations and construction of new schools, when we look at the total amount of dollar values that we've spent, we

have to be able to factor in what would be the best usage of those dollar value, whether it is to build or renovate.

In the case of Inuksuk High School, it is 33 years old. The utilization rate right now is 100 percent and the replacement cost of Inuksuk High School is estimated in 2004 dollars at \$26 million dollars.

So, to go back into the structure, which is a sound structure, and make to request and required changes and this case it would be cheaper to renovate the current facility then go and spend \$26 million on a new school.

When you look at the enrollment, this is another good one. Inuksuk High School has over 520 students. It is the highest enrollment of any school in Nunavut. It is at a 100 percent.

It's a long term plan because of the scope of the work that needs to be done. But in the long run, it is easier to facilitate the renovation then to spend 26 million for the construction of a new school.

Plus, Mr. Levy just pointed out to me too, I believe it would also cost about 1.5 million dollars to extensively get rid of the current structure if we built a new one. So, you wouldn't need that structure then.

So, long and short, Mr. Chairman, in this case, it would be better to renovate than build. And that's what basis, either building or renovating is based on. So, if you have a school in place that you can renovate and add on to, if you can still facilitate the same plan that you want to do, then that is the way to proceed.

If you can't renovate a current facility or you can't add on to it, then you would build a new building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a scary thing. Yesterday, I was reading Minister Kilabuk's mind and today Minister Picco is reading my mind.

My next question, Mr. Chairman, what happens when a department does decide to build a new high school or an elementary school? Is that, you know that there is a structure facility that exists to other government departments, or offered to hamlets? Do you try to utilize it for some other purpose within the community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it depends on a case by case as need basis. For example, if the school is redundant and that we are building a new school and we didn't need the old school.

A good example would be Baker Lake. At the end of the day, it was actually because some of the concern with the product of school itself, the structure, the viability of the building, it was decided that we would actually tear the building down. It wasn't a surplus to the community.

It would depend on each individual space, the condition of the facility. If you're moving out the facility and building a new facility you couldn't add on to it, then the building through the usual policy process of the government, the building would be surplus and then it would be offered, first, to the government departments of the Government and then to the, for example, to the hamlets and so on.

So, that is the process that usually takes place in the surplus of assets of the Government, when we look at physical assets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Any questions on page G6? Questions to G6, page G6? Education. Detail of Capital. Corporate Service. Tangible Assets. Total Headquarters Region. \$300,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Any questions on G7? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have question on sprinkler upgrades. It looks like you are spending \$3 million for sprinkler upgrades on schools throughout Nunavut.. That is one of ways to prevent serious damage to our valuable assets.

What other security type initiatives has the department undertaken to protect our schools from fire damages, arson and things like that? Are you planning to install security cameras in some of the schools throughout Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a result of the Joamie School fire, an investigation was carried out in our schools throughout Nunavut because of the issue around the crawl space, and so on, that is why the money was put in the sprinkler. So I think, as the member pointed out, that has been a good move by the government to be able to complete the sprinkler systems and ensure safety within the schools from fire.

The other issue was the school surveillance system, security cameras. The previous standing committee in the House recommended to install the security systems within our schools.

We are currently proceeding with a tender for installation in the Kivalliq region, which will be followed by the Kitikmeot, and then we will complete the Qikiqtani region for full installation.

It depends on the installation, we would hope to have it all completed by the year end of 2005/06. Then we would have the system fully tested at that time, for example, here in Iqaluit.

Currently, Mr. Chairman, it is important to point out that almost every school across Nunavut has indicated the desire to have the surveillance cameras in place. We believe that it is, as the member has pointed out, a good initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that in Cambridge Bay the water supply to elementary or high schools are tied into the water line, so it keeps a continuous supply of water in the reservoirs but I am not sure how it works in other communities. Perhaps they have to be filled by water trucks.

How reliable are the sprinkler systems if you have a situation where water supply is decreased and you have a fire and then you have a blizzard, on top of that, in terms of protecting the schools? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the issue around the freeze ups, the tornadoes, the blizzards, the hurricanes and the other acts of God that are caused through the weather and climatic conditions of the north, I have been assured that the recent additions of the sprinkler systems throughout Nunavut, are up to code. They meet the standards for the today, and indeed, would be in place to be able to assist in the quenching of any fire that occurred within the infrastructure where the sprinkler system was placed.

I am pretty confident and based on the latest technology and information that indeed that is the case. We would be able to look after that eventuality, however, Mr. Chairman; I am not in the position to say that given any eventuality that would work. I would say to you that 99 percent of what would be covered based on the current condition of the sprinklers would indeed be in place.

It is also my understanding that sprinkler tanks are separate areas than the water tanks in the schools, that gives us a little bit of an assurance. Also in many of our schools, we have an emergency generator system in place, as you know, so when the lights or power goes off, the generator actually comes on and keeps the school operating.

In many cases and in many communities, Mr. Chairman, our schools are actually the place for an emergency evacuation. So if there was an emergency in a given community, it is the school where you would actually bring people because it is an emergency shelter and having that generator in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Being from Cambridge Bay, I'm very familiar with what happens when worse case scenario occurs. Our high school burned down in August and it was perfect weather that day.

When we were setting up the Nunavut Reciprocal Insurance Program for municipalities, we learned about a term called maximum probable loss. That was your worse case scenario where you don't think a disaster will occur, but it's possible.

In Cambridge Bay, for us to lose our hamlet building, our ice arena, our fire hall, our three-bay garage, our swimming pool, our office building next door and a few other buildings in close proximity, that would be like 25 or \$40 million in damages.

It's a wake up call to us and municipalities that we have to work together with the hamlets, the fire departments across in every community, the Department of Community and Government Services to ensure that our buildings are protected, to the best of our abilities.

I'm not sure how it works in your department. Are you working closely with the fire department, Department of Community and Government Services and municipalities to come up with local community emergency measure type plans to protect those valuable facilities.

I wonder if, Mr. Minister could comment at all. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we think about the maximum probable loss of titanic proportions, then we look at the operation between the government and it's different departments. For example, in this case, Community and Government Services are one of our major partners when we're planning schools.

When we just recently did the tour of Joamie School, myself as Minister and some of the staff a couple of weeks ago, one of the questions I asked at that time what the school set up as an emergency shelter situation.

That coordination is set up through Community and Government Services. So, I can confirm with the member that there is considerable inter-agency and interdepartmental work in planning a school so that the maximum probable loss of titanic proportions are indeed dealt with at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't know that our high school in Cambridge Bay was compared to the Titanic. That's good to know.

I have no more questions on that page. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Any questions on page G-7. Page G-7. Tangible Assets. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region, \$10,867,000. Do you agree?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Kivalliq Region. Total Kivalliq Region, \$4 million 835 thousand. Do you agree?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page G-8, Tangible assets. Sorry, any questions to page G-8. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Arctic College is building a student accommodation in Cambridge Bay. That's great for our community and great for our region and the community appreciates it.

I want to ask the minister what the plans are for a new campus in Cambridge Bay. The existing facility is about 30 or 35 years old.

I think it's originally, well it is, it's a bunch of trailers tied to together. If you go up in the crawl space in the ceiling there, monkeys would enjoy swinging through the cables and wires there. It's 30 or 40 years old.

I'm wondering if the Minister and his officials could tell me if they have any plans for a new campus in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The board of governors at the college, as well as the senior administration, have been trying to concentrate over the last couple of years on dealing with the immediate capital needs that includes building new community learning centres, looking at some of the additions as well as putting in student accommodations.

There is a plan identified later on within the supplemental capital plan for many years out to look at that facility. Over the next couple of days, I will have an opportunity to meet with the board of governors of the college, Mr. Lynn, he is coming into town.

So, I will have a discussion with him then on the priorities setting exercise of the capital plan for the college. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer, Mr. Minister. It may seem strange that we have a new residence and of course that is going to attract a lot of students to want to come to Cambridge Bay because housing has been a problem in the past.

But now we are going to have the opposite problem. We are not going to have adequate classrooms or suitable facilities to provide different classroom instructions, practical instructions.

So I think the new facility with new classrooms, new modern classrooms, and equipment there would be really enhance our facilities in Cambridge Bay.

I want to ask a question about the elementary school renovation within Gjoa Haven. During our standing committee hearings in late September, I had an opportunity to drop in on the standing committee. I just heard from the Community and Government Services hearings where they were talking about building, with the hamlet, a new community or hamlet complex and they wanted a community gym.

So there has been some discussion with planning with the Community and Government Services working on a gym facility for the hamlet, but also for the school.

I am wondering if the minister and his officials could give us an update on how the negotiations or discussions are going with the hamlet council of Gjoa Haven in terms of what do they want for their community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct and indeed, Mr. Levy has had an opportunity to travel to Gjoa Haven. If we finish in time today for Mr. Levy to meet his plane, he will be going directly into Gjoa Haven to continue those discussions on the capital planning process for the school renovation there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have known Lorne for many, many years, in fact, I played on his Education broomball team one year. I was warned by my wife not to play against my brothers after that.

But I am sure that he is an official that I think the people of Gjoa Haven would respect highly in helping them find a solution to how to work this problem out.

Just before we end on this page, I want to have an opportunity to ask the minister if he could tell us how he sees the Nunavut trades school project unfolding for the next three to four years.

I know it is not in the capital planning but it came out in our priority planning exercise and it was a stated priority for the Government of Nunavut, if the minister could make a few comments on that. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. The vocational training school as well as the folks school are both projects that have had the ringing endorsement of the full caucus and indeed, the cabinet.

We brought forward in the Operations and Maintenance Budget to be presented this spring in the Department of Education will have monies in there identified to look at the next steps for the folks school as well as the vocational training school.

In the meantime and at the same time, last month I met with several federal ministers in Ottawa to discuss opportunities for the pre-vocational training school. I spoke with the Prime Minister, Mr. Martin and he wrote me back on the vocational training school and told me to bring it up with the Minister Scott of DIAND.

I followed that up with a meeting with Mr. Scott last month, Mr. Andy Scott. We just followed up again with Mr. Scott on the priority setting on the pre-vocational training school for Nunavut.

Mr. Martin indicated during our meeting this past summer, that when he was here in Iqaluit, he was quite interested in seeing the progress on this file. And indeed, it was subsequently endorsed by the caucus in Arviat in September and again being brought forward again in the speech of the throne by the finance minister.

So, there has been quite a bit of movement on the file with our federal partner. We're hoping to be able to access and leverage funds from our federal partner.

At the same time, next week, we'll be releasing our Adult Learning Strategy, which plays a role in the vocational and training program that the school would be intending to meet the needs of. So I hope that helps facilitate the question. Thank you, and answer, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's great to hear that there's some progress being made on that initiative.

When does the minister foresee the initiative being included in the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, the first step now as the government, is we have to identify the funds within the operations and maintenance budget this spring in our new business plan to study both the folk school as well as the pre-vocational training school.

So, depending how that goes, I would hope to have something in the capital plan for the next fiscal year, at the same time, continue our negotiations and discussion with our federal partner on the opportunities within their budget to help us with the prevocational training school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's come up a couple of times during this session, private/public partnerships, the P3's as it's commonly known. I don't know if the Government of Nunavut has a policy, a P3 policy.

I believe it was discussed way back in 1999 or 2000, somewhere I read in a media report that the Department of Finance or the Financial Management Board as I think it's called was working on a P3 policy.

Would the minister consider a private/public partnership to be a viable operation for a Nunavut Trades School in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. I mean, that will be one of the options that we would look at when we bring forward the study on the prevocational training school this coming spring in our main budget as well as both the folk school at the same time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to hear. As I've mentioned to the minister a few times and other members of this House that the folks in Kitikmeot are working on an arrangement or deal with owners of the Lupine Mine, Kinross Mine, to perhaps secure their mine facilities at that site, which includes classrooms, shops, accommodations, everything that you would require for a trades school.

I believe that they are working diligently to do a business case and explore the options. They will be approaching the Government of Nunavut with that idea within the next three to six months.

I hoping that the minister and his officials will be receptive to them when the approach the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there has been some discussion I know on the proposal in the Kitikmeot on the facility.

Again, when we do the, put the money in the budget to study on the next option on the PVT that we've just talked about, then they will be looking at all the options and that would be part of the framework when we review the framework of the project in scope.

So, we would actually look at all opportunities within the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no more questions.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Any questions on page G8? Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no questions, but we had wanted to report progress at 2 o'clock. I would like to report progress after we complete the Department of Education.

And once we've completed that, possibly what we can do is to start with the opening comments and then conclude the day from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. G8. Tangible Assets. Total, Kitikmeot Region. \$3,091,000. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman: Thank you. Total tangible assets. \$19,093.00. Does the committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go back to G4. Education department. Total of expenditures. Education department summary. Total detail of expenditure. Total capital expenditures, \$90,093,000. Are you agreed that this is concluded.

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman: Okay. Thank you. I would like to thank the minister and his officials. Do the members agree that. Does the minister have any comments.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just very quickly, I would just like to thank the members for their due diligence on this file and look forward to seeing them on the ice on Sunday night, I look forward to seeing some members more than others. But that is the way it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Thank you, Miss Hine. Thank you, Mr. Levy.

I would now like to ask the Minister of Justice to make his opening remarks.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the committee to present the Department of Justice, 2005-06 capital budget.

The Department of Justice is pleased to announce that the project to construct a new justice centre in Iqaluit is underway. The total funding for this project is \$17,120,000 for both architectural design and construction.

An extensive consultative process was conducted over the last year to gain a better understanding of the requirements for Nunavut Justice Centre and to investigate opportunities in incorporating Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in the design of the facility.

On October 18, 2004, a ceremony was held to formally launch Nunavut Justice Centre and view the architectural drawings of the centre to mark the occasion and it was open for anybody to see.

The site preparation has been completed and construction of the foundation and field structure will be completed by mid-December. The remaining construction will take place over the next year and one half with anticipation completed in the spring of 2006. Currently, the Baffin Correctional Centre is above capacity and there is a significant cost in housing inmates outside of Nunavut.

Additional appropriate corrections facilities are required for all Nunavumiut in custody of Nunavut justice corrections. This is because correctional facilities in Nunavut do not meet current needs and are not able to handle future growth.

The population of the territory is projected to rise as abruptly in the future as it has been in the past. So the limitations imposed by the current facilities will become much worse.

There is no short-term additional solution to this serious problem of overcrowding caused by a severe shortage of appropriate facilities. The longer term resolution is proposed by the department's seven-year plan.

Currently, a project to open a healing focus correctional centre is being undertaken in Kugluktuk. The Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre will serve offenders from the Kitikmeot area of Nunavut.

This facility will eventually be able to take in between 12 and 20 territorial inmates, either currently housed in the overcrowded Baffin Correctional Centre in Iqaluit or inmates being held in facilities outside of Nunavut.

The goal of this new facility is to offer inmates culturally sensitive healing programming in their own language. That will make it easier for inmates to reintegrate into their communities after their release.

Nunavut's institutional needs include the construction of another such healing facility outside of Iqaluit during the term of this government as well as reconfiguration and renovation of the Baffin Correctional Centre.

Also, included in this current capital plan is funding to begin the planning design for a women's centre because we don't have one here.

These capital programs are intended to improve the services that the Department of Justice offers Nunavumiut and to increase the effectiveness of the department's healing programs for inmates, improving the facility to deal effectively with the inmates to benefit all Nunavumiut.

Those are my comments. I will be pleased to respond to any questions that members may have.

Chairman: Thank you, Premier Okalik. Does the chair of the standing committee Ajauqtiit have opening comments? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) As the Chair of the standing committee Ajauqtiit, I am pleased to have this opportunity to make opening remarks as we begin deliberations on the 2005-06 capital estimates for the Department of Justice.

The Department of Justice has a capital of \$8,832,000 representing 8.7 percent of the government's overall capital budget. The majority of this budget, \$7,850,000 is allocated to the new justice centre for Nunavut.

Members applaud this project and were pleased to note that this facility will be owned by the government and not leased.

Members are also pleased that for the installation of required fittings this center that involves the skills development program that will be developed for inmates.

The committee is of the view that more programs should be offered to inmates so that they can obtain skills to enter the workforce when we leave. This may help inmates avoid re-offending.

Mr. Chairman, members have expressed concern in the past with respect to the lack of facilities for female offenders in Nunavut. Although we are fortunate that Nunavut does not have many female offenders, a remand facility for female offenders is still much needed. Members are therefore pleased to note plans are in place for a future remand facility for women.

Members are of the view that young offenders will benefit greatly from this program.

Mr. Chairman, Members would wish to see Young Offenders utilize outpost camp based programs more regularly. Members are of the view that young offenders will benefit greatly from such programs.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, members look forward to the opening of the Kugluktuk Men's Healing Facility. This will help Kitikmeot inmates be closer to home, allow some inmates to be repatriated from the NWT, and free up much-needed space at the Baffin Correctional Centre.

Members expect to be kept fully informed on the developments of other proposed healing centres for Nunavut and when the locations for these centres have been identified.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, members continue to support efforts to expand on the land program and outpost camp facilities for offenders.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chair: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

Chair: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favor of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Abstentions, I'm sorry.

Abstentions. The motion is carried. I will now rise and report progress.

Deputy Speaker: Please be seated. Orders of the day, item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): The committee has considered Bill 4 and the capital estimates and would like to report progress.

I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Evygotailak. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Kilabuk.

The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Item 21, Third reading of bills. Item 22. Orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a reminder to the members there is a meeting at the regular caucus at 10 o'clock Monday morning in the Nanuk boardroom, with the Minister of Finance and the speaker.

Orders for the day for Monday, November 29.

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 1
 - Bill 2
 - Bill 3
 - Bill 4
20. Report to Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Deputy Speaker (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This house stands adjourned until Monday, November 29, 2004 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 14:24*

