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Wednesday December 1, 2004

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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Akulliq)

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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Elders and Youth; Minister of
Human Resources
Minister Responsible for
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday December 1, 2004

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Before we move on to the orders of the day, I would like to welcome the Premier, ministers, and members. I would like to ask Mr. Simailak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): To the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Minister Picco.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 043 – 2(2): Using Surveillance to Increase School Safety

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to advise members today of the steps taken by the Department of Education to enhance the safety and security of our schools, our students, and staff.

The last Assembly gave their support to take the initiatives required to protect school buildings from vandalism and worse. Phase I of the project is now complete. All five schools in Iqaluit have been equipped with cameras. Phase II is currently in progress; tenders are invited for the installation of cameras in schools in the Kivalliq region. This will be followed by Phase III, where seven schools in the Kitikmeot region will benefit from the same system.

>>*Applause*

The Department of Education intends to have surveillance systems in place in all our schools by 2006.

Mr. Speaker, the new surveillance system in Iqaluit schools has already proven its worth. In two separate incidents, the perpetrators have been identified thanks to the closed circuit system and appropriate action taken. The system is working.

The Department of Education is aware of the importance of respecting privacy. The new policy for surveillance was developed in consultation with lawyers, the government's Access to Information Privacy (ATIP) coordinator, along with the RCMP.

Our goal is to protect school property, deter vandalism and other criminal activities, and enhance the safety of people using our schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 044 – 2(2): World AIDS Day 2004

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to remind all Nunavummiut that this is World AIDS Day.

According to the United Nations HIV-AIDS programs, as of December 2003 there were 38 million people living with AIDS around the world. Also, in 2003, five million people acquired HIV, the greatest number in a given year since the epidemic started.

In Canada, approximately 56,000 Canadians are living with HIV-AIDS. The epidemic is concentrated in four jurisdictions: British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec. However, every jurisdiction has reported cases.

Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut there have been 12 reported HIV cases since 1987, two of these in recent years. Given our very high rate of sexually transmitted infections such as chlamydia, this is a strong indication that unsafe sexual practices continue, putting Nunavumiut at a very high risk for HIV infection.

World AIDS Day is a reminder to all of us that HIV is an issue for everyone. Every one of us needs to take action to ensure that this epidemic gets under control. HIV does not discriminate. We need to treat those living with HIV with the care and compassion they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services will continue to raise public awareness and to cooperate and partner with other government departments and organizations to focus on the issue of HIV-AIDS. We will strengthen health promotion activities to help prevent HIV and begin to break the cycle of blame and stigma for those living with HIV. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' statements. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 045 – 2(2): Status of Inuit Employment – Government of Nunavut

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide members of the Legislative Assembly with the latest staffing and Inuit employment statistics in the Government of Nunavut from April 1999 to September 2004.

Mr. Speaker, as of September 30, 2004, 2,639 out of 3,198 positions within the departments and boards of the Government of Nunavut were filled. Of the positions filled, beneficiaries occupied 1,213 positions.

What these figures show, Mr. Speaker, is that the rate of increase of Inuit employed in the government is higher than the rate of overall growth of the Nunavut public service.

Mr. Speaker, this increase in the representation of beneficiaries in the public service is due to the measures that our Government has taken: we have raised the awareness of Inuit about the available job opportunities within the Government; the Priority Hiring Policy is in place and is applied in all hiring; we look for a combination of education and relevant experience when we recruit; and we will be working very closely with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, NTI, to achieve the goals of Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

We have come a long way since April 1, 1999. We continue to build on our success stories and to learn from the experience of growing together. Yet much more has to be done to achieve the 85 percent representation by 2020. I am confident that together we can achieve the vision of Nunavut, “a government that is representative of the people it serves.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 081 – 2(2): General Rate Application Increase

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tell you that it's happening again.

Yesterday in this House, we addressed the issue of what numbers are out there in front of the public with respect to the General Rate Application.

Mr. Speaker, it has now come to light that commercial power rates in Iqaluit may now skyrocket by over 100 percent. I remain outraged that inaccurate and misleading numbers were before the public for some weeks before the corporation came clean and revealed what they had known internally for some time.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, when the government wishes to disclose numbers that are favourable to its image, it is quick to bombard us with announcements, news releases, communiqués, and all of the other tools of public relations.

However, when it wants to keep things under wrap, you'll hear an endless number of excuses, evasions, and disclaimers.

In the past, the government has been quick to issue news releases about the exact dollar figures awarded to specific companies for specific projects. Members who were sitting in this House during the first Assembly will recall that this information was eagerly disclosed for certain capital projects.

Other Members, including myself, have been calling for a long time for the government to regularly and transparently report to this House information on where our public dollars are going when it comes to contracts.

Every single dollar that is awarded as a contract should be disclosed, in my view. To say that the amount of a publicly-funded contract and that the identity of what company or individual is awarded the contract should be secret is completely wrong.

By contrast, our national government now publishes this kind of information on the Internet for the entire Canadian public to see. Mr. Speaker, this sort of transparency can go a long way to enhance confidence in the integrity of a government's practices. They call this practice proactive disclosure. Later today, I will table just such an example.

It is up to the government to make a case that the kind of information that I tabled yesterday should be kept secret. Mr. Speaker, there's really no case at all.

We'll be sitting again in a few short weeks, and I will continue to be a watchdog for the public's money and will continue to speak up in favour of giving accurate information to our constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 082 – 2(2): Southampton Island Caribou Harvest.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today regarding the Southampton Island caribou harvest.

Mr. Speaker, members will recall the GN's announcement in May 2003 that the harvest utilized the world's only European Union-certified portable abattoir.

Mr. Speaker, this was a good news story. The caribou harvest creates about 70 seasonal jobs and brings around \$700,000 into the local economy of Coral Harbour. In addition, the harvest also supports Kivalliq Arctic Foods in Rankin Inlet with permanent jobs situated over there.

I am concerned, however, that a balance be struck between Economic Development and ensuring that the harvest is sustainable. The harvest was originally planned to control the population of caribou on the island so that they didn't overpopulate and destroy their own habitat.

Mr. Speaker, in September of this year, the GN announced an agri-food agreement with the federal government that provides up to \$180,000 annually for commercial caribou and musk-ox harvests.

I understand that the GN has made a commitment to work with the community to undertake a count next spring to ensure that the harvest is sustainable.

Mr. Speaker, gaining EU certification was an expensive and difficult undertaking; it could take many years for the Coral Harbour Development Corporation to recover the capital costs of the abattoir and new cabins that were built for the harvest.

I urge the minister to work with the Coral Harbour Development Corporation to create more employment in the community by closely examining the viability of organized sports hunts and the development of processing facilities closer to home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 083 – 2(2): Last Day of Sitting – Constituency Meeting

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise this morning on the last day of this sitting.

Like other members of this House, I am looking forward to returning to my constituency very shortly. When I get back, I plan to meet with my constituents and local leaders to inform them of the work that we have done in this past session.

Mr. Speaker, during this session I have been very proud to have had the opportunity to vote in support of capital projects that will benefit my communities. A total of 25 new housing units are scheduled to be built in 2004-05 in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk. This will benefit many of my constituents.

I also want to add my voice to those who have made it clear that the coming year's construction must include real training and employment opportunities for local residents.

Mr. Speaker, as a member representing both a Kivalliq and a Kitikmeot community, I am in a unique position.

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

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

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that is the same in both communities is the need for economic growth and job creation.

Mr. Speaker, decentralization has not been the answer for my communities.

Over the past year, there has been significant mining exploration near Repulse, and I was very pleased to BHP Billiton and Committee Bay Resources make the effort to hire local residents.

Mr. Speaker, when we convene early next year for the budget session, I will be continuing to advocate for the needs of my constituents.

I wish everyone a good Christmas and holiday season, my colleagues and all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 084 – 2(2): Happy Christmas Holidays

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to represent my constituencies of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord and to wish them good holidays. It will be quite impossible to call other communities during the holidays. Christmas time is very important to families and friends. I am looking forward to going back home, and while I am there, at the same time I will hear from my constituents about what their concerns are, what their needs are, which I will be able to bring back to the House.

In closing, I want to wish all our interpreters, our staff, my colleagues and you, Mr. Speaker, a good Christmas. We are looking forward to our safe return. We'll be able to start fresh and we will proceed well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 085 – 2(2): Government of Nunavut Operations

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, my grandchild is not feeling well today. I wish for him to get well. They are watching, as well as my family and friends in Igloolik and Hall Beach.

I rise this morning as a member of this government, and ever since I have been here, I have promoted for Inuit to have their own government, whether they are hamlet councils, as long as the people know those bodies well.

In some communities there will be elections soon. I have heard that our present mayor, Elijah Evaluarjuk, is not running again. At this time I would like to inform my constituents in Igloolik and Hall Beach that I thank him and to say we have had an excellent working relationship. I also want say that I will welcome the next mayor.

Mr. Speaker, people can only participate if they understand the operation of their own governments.

I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues and Mr. Speaker. The reason I am saying this is that people have to understand, in particular, the students who will join service in the public as well as private sectors.

As elected officials we select the ministers or who the leaders will be. I have been fortunate to have been selected as a minister. A lot of people in my community ask why I don't raise many questions in the House. As a minister, if I were to ask another minister, that wouldn't look proper. I want to say that I work closely with the ministers, and I am able to bring to them concerns that I have. I want that to be understood.

Mr. Speaker, as we are developing, a lot of the time, as Inuit, we belittle ourselves all too much. We are very capable...

>> *Applause*

... if we work together and if we show the same determination as our forefathers, then we can be like them.

It should be like that in Nunavut. Elders' committees are especially important; if they have any suggestions to make our lives better and to be patient and persevere in our ways. We all know that during the Christmas holidays there will be a lot of families who will be missing their loved ones whom they have lost, and we want them to have a safe holiday.

Lastly I want to say to Ananakuluk and Sakik and our elders in Igloolik and my wife Rachel, I want to wish them a Merry Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 086 – 2(2): Youth Empowerment Workshop in Kugluktuk

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to say this today because this is our last day of sitting and Christmas is coming very fast. We won't be able to see each other during the holidays so I would like to wish everyone joyous Christmas holidays. Also, to all our relatives, have good holidays with your children and your relatives.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to share with the House a good news story from Kugluktuk.

Mr. Speaker, from November 15 to the 19, a Youth Empowerment Workshop was held in the community. Thanks to the efforts of numerous residents, youth in Kugluktuk had the opportunity to participate in a valuable workshop with respected elders and mentors.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Justice Committee, the RCMP, and educators worked together to select youth for this event. Guest speakers from different walks of life took the time to share their experiences and insights with the youth.

I want to recognize everyone who was involved in this event, especially Ernie Bernhardt of Kugluktuk Youth Empowerment. I also want to acknowledge the financial support from the different companies and individuals that made this event a success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 087 – 2(2): Holiday Season Wishes

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I want to say hi to my constituents in Arviat. (interpretation) They won't be able to see us on TV, but I wish them well. Since Christmas is coming, I hope they are preparing to make kamiks or mittens so we can all look well-dressed.

(interpretation ends) I want to say to you members that I will be remembering you during the Christmas season and in the new year. I really wanted to be with you at a dinner, or something like that, before we leave, but I guess really don't have the time for that kind of activity right now, because we are rushing to get home as Christmas is coming on pretty fast.

I am really, really pleased, especially you Iqalungmiut, that you have been welcoming my family and myself.

>>*Applause*

I felt at home here sometimes because having you as friends and working colleagues, I am very, very comfortable to be around the people of Iqaluit. It is just pleasing to be around you people.

(interpretation) Please look after yourselves. We will all go through difficult times, even at Christmas. There will be activities like dances and stuff, all those things. I want to see you again and I will look after myself, too, for the new year, so we can work together again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 088 – 2(2): Happy Holiday Wishes

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is our final sitting today and Christmas is rapidly approaching. A lot of Inuit in the communities will be having Christmas games, but in Sanikiluaq it might be slightly different, uniquely different, where the whole community is a team where there are eight rows of people. The ministers know how big our recreation center is. Maybe it's about this size. The space will be about this big in the middle because there will be people all around.

I want to wish everyone a safe, good Christmas. And to Santa Claus, to that member, I want him to have a good Christmas too. He will be coming around to round up some Sanikiluaq reindeer to pull his sleigh.

>>*Laughter*

I want everyone to have a safe and happy Christmas. We are close to some other communities; we are related to a lot of people outside of Nunavut.

For those people who have lost loved ones during the last year, even though it will be difficult at times, and I would like to personally mention Emily Epoo from Inukjuaq, I want her to have a safe, good holiday, even though you might not be feeling well.

We, too, have to look after ourselves. Qallunaaruluk, Alacie Epoo and my mother Annie, I will be seeing you. Alaralak, I believe it was in the 1970's he was my instructor in training hamlet councilors in Coral Harbour. I wish to give my greetings to Maniok and that Alacie wants to see you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 089 – 2(2): Merry Christmas Wishes

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to say hello to my constituents, to the RCMP member, who is probably watching the proceedings today, and also to all the little children of Nunavut and in my community and Broughton Island. I would like to wish them a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

I think it's a learning experience, watching the proceedings of the House. Since this is the last meeting in 2004, I am very pleased that everything has gone well. It's a learning experience for the new members of the Legislative Assembly. There have been some challenges.

I'm sure that I won't be able to see the members during the Christmas holidays, so I would like to wish them and the people of Northern Quebec a very merry Christmas.

During the Christmas holidays, there will be a lot of activities in all Nunavut communities. I wish everyone a safe holiday. Please make sure that you take care of all residents, especially the elders and the children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 090 – 2(2): Best Holiday Season

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said earlier this week that I will be hosting a constituency meeting in Apex. Mr. Speaker, that Apex meeting is at 7:30 tonight, and I look forward, as Mr. Tootoo commented earlier this week, to a good turnout.

Mr. Speaker, the work in the House as a minister, as a member of the Legislative Assembly, can be very stressful. You are in the public eye and so are your families. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members the very best for this holiday season as well as to our staff and to all of our constituents.

It has been said that in politics, you can't please everyone. In public life you have to ensure that families come first. They are really the foundation that we need to do our job in this House.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to take this opportunity to say, and if all the members would join with me in saying, that we wish the very best for Minister Kilabuk and his family over these last few trying days. And we say hi to him and wish him the very best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Okalik.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to OQ 079 – 2(2): Number of Probation Officers in the Communities

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to respond to the oral question asked by Member Peterson on the issue of probation officers in the communities: "Can the minister inform the House how many communities currently have community corrections personnel and how many do not?"

The following eight communities have the Department of Community Justice Corrections Officers: Iqaluit; Pangnirtung; Pond Inlet; Kugluktuk; Cambridge Bay; Baker Lake; Rankin Inlet; and Arviat.

Question two: "Could the minister clarify how many social workers currently also provide probation services in their communities?"

The following 14 communities have social workers from the Department of Health and Social Services that provide probation services on behalf of its subjects: Qikiqtarjuaq; Cape Dorset; Sanikiluaq; Clyde River; Kimmirut; Repulse Bay; Whale Cove; Chesterfield Inlet; Igloolik; Hall Beach; Coral Harbour; Gjoa Haven; Taloyoak; and Kugaaruk.

The following four communities would normally be serviced by social workers as well, but those positions are currently vacant. Probation services in these communities are provided by the regional supervisor for correctional services, from my Department of Justice in Pond Inlet, and also by Department of Justice in Pond Inlet in conjunction with the local RCMP detachments: Arctic Bay; Nanisivik; Resolute Bay; and Grise Fiord.

Question three: "Can the minister describe the following working relationships between his department and the Department of Health and Social Services for the direction and compensation for social workers who are providing probation services?"

The social workers provide probation services in the communities where the volume of work would not justify the expense of a full-time probation officer.

There was an agreement set up, prior to division, between the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Justice for Health and Social Services to provide probation services through the social workers. The Department of Justice provides the probation training to all social worker-probation officers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Return to OQ 084 – 2(2): Government Hiring Practices

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question was asked by Mr. Curley on November 25, 2004. I am responding to a question that he raised regarding the competition for the shipper-receiver position with Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board.

The shipper-receiver position was advertised by e-mailing the full text to all Government of Nunavut employees in the Keewatin region, as well as faxing it to all Government of Nunavut departments, to the agencies, and Inuit organizations.

This position was also advertised the *Kivalliq News* and the competition closing date was October 29, 2004. The screening was performed on November 3, 2004. In total there were 48 applicants; 19 applicants were Nunavut Land Claims beneficiaries and 29 were non-beneficiaries, and 5 Inuit candidates were screened and invited for interviews.

The screening criteria for the position included the following: to have grade ten; one or two years' experience in the warehouse or transportation industry; experience in selecting and or packing related to waybill processing, invoicing, or other forms in a computerized environment; basic knowledge of Word and Excel; and the ability to work independently.

I don't have the Inuktitut words for Word and Excel.

The interviews were conducted on November 5, 2004. None of the five candidates passed the interview that requires a pass of 60 percent. The selection committee unanimously agreed to re-advertise the position at a later date in the hope that they would be able to recruit a qualified beneficiary.

Department of Human Resources staff have had discussions with several of the unsuccessful candidates and applicants who were screened out, to provide them with feedback on their resumes and interviews in general. This will allow them to better prepare for any future competitions.

In closing, I would like to provide you with current staffing statistics in the Kivalliq region for 2004. In this year, there were 30 competitions completed for 41 positions. Of the 41 positions, there were 32 Inuit, or 78 percent, hired; 4 non-Inuit Nunavummiut were hired, totaling 9.75 percent, and 5 non-Inuit from the South were hired, totaling 12 percent.

The Department of Human Resources will continue to work with the Government of Nunavut departments to facilitate job competitions to ensure a fair and unbiased hiring process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Ms. Brown.

Return to OQ 022 – 2(2): Renewing Eye Doctors' Contract

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize, I have a cold this morning.

(interpretation ends) This is a return to the oral question regarding the renewal on eye doctors' contracts, asked by Mr. Arreak on November 17, 2004. I thank the member for his question concerning the eye doctors' contracts.

It is important to know that the Government of Nunavut is responsible for delivering vision care services to beneficiaries under the non-insured health benefits contribution agreement with Health Canada. The current contracts for eye testing are with two providers: the Ottawa Eye Institute covers the Baffin Region and Stratton Region Health Authority covers the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq Regions. Both of these contracts have been extended to March 31, 2005.

There is a joint committee comprised of staff from Health and Social Services and Health Canada to deal with all aspects of the non-insured health benefits contribution agreement, including vision care services, to determine if a better service delivery model can be developed.

(interpretation) The next one is in regards to public housing allocations, asked by Mr. Alagalak on November 22, 2004.

(interpretation ends) The Department of Health and Social Services has no formal role in the establishment of waiting lists for the allocation of public housing units. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is responsible for public housing.

From time to time, Health and Social Services staff in communities have advocated on behalf of clients, but this is the extent of our involvement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Return to OQ 102 – 2(2): Clarification of Newspaper Article

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question was asked by Hunter Tootoo on November 29.

I rise today to respond to a question you raised in the House on November 29 regarding the contents of a letter that was sent to an individual that stated in part: "we are a representative government and have an obligation to hire on the basis of fairness and equity and if the community feels....this process is not fair, then we are obliged to ensure fairness and equity".

Since this is an internal matter between the individual and the employer, I cannot comment on the specific reference at this time.

However, I would like to outline the Government of Nunavut's obligations related to the hiring of staff. All hiring in the Government of Nunavut is guided by the Priority Hiring Policy that has been in place since 2000. The Department of Human Resources has developed guidelines and processes to ensure consistency and fairness. Managers in departments are required to comply with these staffing policies and procedures.

The Deputy Minister of Human Resources has delegated authority to appoint, through the competitive process, indeterminate, term and casual positions. There is an appeal process for current Government of Nunavut employees and all beneficiaries who apply for NEU positions.

The Deputy Minister of Human Resources has the authority to terminate an employee on the recommendation of the hiring department.

The Department of Human Resources administers the processing of casual staffing actions with the exception of teachers, Nunavut Arctic College and specialized health positions. Deputy Ministers in departments have authority to request a casual hire and forward it to the respective Human Resource office. Human Resources evaluates the job and provides a pay range.

Individuals wishing to be considered for casual employment register with the Department of Human Resources by providing a resume. Resumes are separated by Beneficiary and Non-Beneficiary status.

Managers requiring casual staff must consider Inuit beneficiary applicants already on file or they must post the vacancy. If no qualified Inuit beneficiaries are found through this process, then others can be considered. If the department has selected a non-beneficiary, they are expected to explain in writing, the reasons why a non-beneficiary is being hired, before Human Resources will approve the casual staffing action.

Deputy Ministers of hiring departments can terminate a casual employee. Casual employees may be terminated per the terms of the NEU collective agreement and may exercise their rights to the grievances process.

The Department of Human Resources will be conducting a review of delegated authorities in 2005 to ensure compliance with the Priority Hiring Policy. This policy continues to be a priority with the Government of Nunavut and supports our obligations under Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. If you can provide a copy of your Return to the Oral Question, because the table officers don't have a copy. Could you please send a copy to the table officers?

Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move that the returns to an oral question that the minister provided, which we don't have a copy of, and the return to oral question 084-2(2), be moved to the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Returns to oral questions can't be referred to the Committee of the Whole, but ministers' statements can be referred to the Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

Item 5 in the orders of the day. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Alagalak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my friend who has been a life-long friend of mine: Bill Lyall. Although he is from the Kitikmeot, I know that he has helped a lot of people. He tries to help everyone with their every need, so I want everyone to recognize him and welcome him to the gallery. Thank you.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also recognize Bill Lyall because we have been on the board of KIA.

Also, he has been the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Northwest Territories and also for the Coop Federation. He has been a very good representative for our people in the Northwest Territories and as well in our territory.

He has been a very good friend. When I go into the community of Cambridge Bay, he's always been a very good friend and welcomes us all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I didn't have my hand up fast enough.

I too, would like to welcome Mr. Lyall to the gallery. Bill is president of the local co-op. He brought a lot of Christmas cheer to the coop members of Cambridge Bay. On November 10, they declared \$247 thousand, which helped out a lot folks this year.

Also, Bill had a co-op resolution on the table earlier in this session on the GRA. The co-op has taken a leadership role on the GRA rate application. Welcome Bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to make a brief comment.

I support Mr. Alagalak to welcome and recognize Bill Lyall because I'm very appreciative and I'm very proud that you are one of the uncles. And also I would like to recognize Manitok Thompson from my home riding.

I would like to welcome her. Manitok, you're very capable and welcome to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Netser.

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

I would also like to recognize my wife's older sister, Manitok. As younger people, don't practice traditional kinship. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Bill Lyall to the gallery. Not like Mr. Alagalak, I haven't known Bill all my life, but all my life back in North River, 10 years now, I've known Bill.

I've worked with him. I've learned a lot from him over the years in my involvement with the cooperative movement. Mr. Lyall has been an excellent advocate for Inuit throughout the territory in the Coop movement.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, he is here in our fine capital and made a presentation as an intervenor to the Utility Rate Review Council's public hearing last night on behalf of all of the member Coops throughout the territory and I'd like to just very formally welcome him to the gallery and I appreciate the work that he's done on behalf of Nunavummiut across the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Barnabas.

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

I too would like to recognize Manitok Thompson. She's been very supportive during the division of Nunavut. And also, she has been very supportive of the Inuit Womens' Association so that they could be up and running in Nunavut.

I also would like to recognize Bill Lyall. During the Northwest Territories sessions, he was very instrumental in the division. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome to the gallery Ms. Manitok Thompson. When Ms. Thompson was a minister in the Northwest Territories Government in 1995 to 1999, she remembers very well that on many, many occasions this member used to get up and ask for all copies of sole sourced negotiated contracts to be tabled. Over the last couple days I am having a déjà vu with some of the other comments from other members.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Thompson is now going to working as the Legislative Coordinator for Department of Education, facilitating the new *Education Act*, so we would like to take this opportunity and welcome Ms. Thompson in the House. I am sure that Nunavummiut will see much of Ms. Thompson over the coming months.

Also Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lyall has been introduced several times and he has been complimented with glowing returns. I just want to say to Mr. Bill Lyall, whom I have known for about 21 years, that his presentation at the Utility Rate Review Council did go over quite well.

My understanding that it was probably one of the better presentations, as usual, when a Lyall says something it usually turns out to be true. I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that we welcome that at the Utility Rate Review Council hearings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize the interpreter/translators that have been working with us the last few weeks, and to thank them for their service and to also wish them a Merry Christmas. They are all sitting in the back, Blandina, Mary, Mikle. I also want to recognize Bill Lyall, he is from the Kitikmeot and well known to many individuals in the north, at the same time I also want to wish everyone in this House, a very Merry Christmas.

(interpretation) I also want to recognize my constituency, since this is our last day, Merry Christmas to all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize, I have worked with Bill Lyall for a long time, as the population was growing and there were more capable Inuit. He has been involved. I was fortunate enough to work with Arctic Co-ops.

I can say that Ms. Thompson already knows that there were very few Inuit who worked for the government, but nowadays there are a lot of capable Inuit and this has helped the people and a lot of us started off with Coops. That is where we learned our experience.

I want to recognize both Bill Lyall and Manitok Thompson for their help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery, Mr. Lyall and Ms. Thompson. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Going back to our Orders of the Day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 124 – 2(2): Proposed General Rate Application

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Energy. Mr. Speaker, my constituencies of Arctic Bay and Resolute Bay were some of the first communities that were visited by the panel of Qulliq Energy Corporation.

My question is: at that hearing in November about the proposal for the General Rate Application, was the information presented true or not true? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has been discussed in this House over the last day.

Some information that was provided by the power corporation under the GRA proposal did contain errors. It was picked up, and I guess the good news is the municipalities will be asked to pay slightly, marginally, less than what the original proposal was putting in case.

It's my understanding, again, from the information provided to me by the analysts at the corporation, that the difference will be 19 cents. So, Mr. Speaker, we're talking about an amount, here, of less than 2 cents per kilowatt hour.

I would take this opportunity to say an apology from me, as Minister of Energy, responsible for the corporation, that the information that was provided in the original GRA was wrong.

They should have caught it earlier, Mr. Speaker, but this is a process. It's no different than the environmental process, for example, that mines go through. They go forward and they say, "This is what our mine is going to do." Environmentalists will come forward and say, "Based on our information that is not correct." And the information goes back and forth.

That's the process of the Utility Rate Review Council. That's why you have that check and balance. I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that the intervenors... I think Mr. Harper was one of them, and we thank him for his good work, that he did find that there was a mistake.

Now we move forward. All that information has to be collated and that's what the recommendations will be based on. So, Mr. Speaker, to clarify the record, the change results in a 19 cents for a commercial customer, for example, here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have looked at the first set of figures done by the corporation and the revised set which was revealed on November 29.

In the first set of figures, Arctic Bay is listed as having the residency rate increased by 8.5 percent. According to the revised figures, the increase is listed as being 12.4 percent. My question is this: what message does the minister have for the residents in Arctic Bay in light of this change? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've said over the last couple of weeks in this House that when we proposed the rate for the 2003, we asked the power corporation to bring forward a GRA application in 2004.

That's what they have done. The government has not endorsed the proposals made by the power corporation. It is their proposal as a board of directors and as a corporation, as an entity, to come forward; this is their proposal.

The Utility Rate Review Council's job is to look at it. At the end of the day, the Utility Rate Review Council can reject the proposal, they can accept it, or they can modify it. And then those recommendations come to me as Minister of Energy, and then we review it.

So, I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, I would tell the people of Arctic Bay, that again, this is a process. There is a proposal on the board. It's not written in stone. This is what they'd like to do. This is what they're saying. And that's why we have that check and balance, so the Utility Rate Review Council has the opportunity to review all that information.

I don't think the people should feel panicked. Again, that's why the rate proposal application is out there. And that's why when information comes forward, whether it's correct information or wrong information, the Utility Rates Review Council has an opportunity to review that.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, over the next couple of weeks before December 17, that there will be more information that will be coming forward that the URRC will have to take into account.

So, I don't think that people should be panicking that the rates are going to go to 90 percent or 100 percent. There's a proposal out there. As the minister responsible, I am not in a position, the government is not in a position, to say what the rates will be on April 1, 2005.

I do know there will be a change in the rates. Everyone realizes that the rates have to change because they have not changed since 1998, and the fundamental issue with the Power Corporation is that the rates are too low. However, what those amounts will be and what the increase will be, of the subsidy rates and so on, that has to be discussed between now and February 1 when the URRC makes their report known to us.

I have committed to the members of the House that I will come back and explain what has occurred, and so on, to the people of Nunavut. So, I don't think people should get overly stressed-out over a proposal being made by the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Anybody could misunderstand, if they can plan a change from 8 percent to 12 percent. If we were to look at that figure, we would panic,

I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker, is the minister in agreement that they go back to Arctic Bay to explain those changes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, as I said earlier, the Power Corporation has made a proposal and I think the misconception is that somehow that the Utility Rates Review Council is going to rubber-stamp everything that they have asked for, and that's not the case.

Mr. Speaker, if I allowed, and I am not the minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council, it's the Premier, if I said go out and redo this again, then Mr. Speaker, you are three weeks away from Christmas; you probably would not get a report back until after April 1.

So, there is a timeline here under the legislation and so on, and the process needs to go forward. People have until December 17 to make submissions.

If the URRC goes to more communities and the process continues by revisiting different locations and so on, then the process for the new rates to come forward could be in the spring sometime; it could be in May, it could be in June.

So, Mr. Speaker, that type of request has to be made to the URRC and then the URRC will look at the logistic as well as the administrative issues in making that type of trip. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Final supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Inuit, we are not used to writing letters like this. Christmas is approaching fast and we will have our other concerns. Can this be delayed, if people had wanted to submit something for December 17? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot of work has been put into the General Rate Application proposal by the Power Corporation.

The Auditor General has pointed out and the members have talked about it here that there is a need for a major revenue requirement of the corporation and that's the process we bring forward. I guess the concern would be, if we delay this process, what will happen on April 1 is that the corporation will still be in need of more resources and they will not be in a position to do that, because the application process has been slowed down.

So, Mr. Speaker, the URRC would have an opportunity to review all of the information and if they believe they need more time, they will be able to come back to us. Mr. Speaker, the URRC is made up of people from Nunavut. They are Northerners, they are long-term residents of Nunavut. So, Mr. Speaker, they will have an opportunity to look at all the information, and then if there is a need for more time, they would make that request to the minister responsible, who is the Premier.

At this time, I can't second guess what their proposal may be, but it is my understanding that they have visited several communities and they have written responses, and that's why from December 17 onward they'll have the opportunity to review that analytical information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 125 – 2(2): Providing Accurate Information

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also for the Minister of Energy. I'm sure he's not surprised.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I raised and tabled the document that pointed out that there was inaccurate information provided throughout the community consultation tours. I understand that it's been reported that the accurate information was formulated at the beginning, I believe October 18, to be exact, by the Power Corporation.

My question to the minister is: why did the corporation not provide the accurate information to the general public and to the minister, as it appears the minister wasn't even aware of it. Why? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. It's only in the last 24 hours that this information has come to light. As I said yesterday in the House when I was made aware of it, I immediately called the acting president of the corporation to come and meet with me and discuss the issue around the information that had been provided.

It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, again, that this is a process: intervenors bring forth new information. It's either accurate, not accurate, inaccurate, correct, and in this case, there was a correction needed.

The corporation did not change its communications packages that they sent out to people. They never kept up with that process where new information was coming forward. Mr. Speaker, again, as I said earlier, they should have been able to do that. They didn't.

Mr. Hawker was on the radio, for example, this morning saying that they should have kept up with that and they never. So, the answer why... I guess it was a logistical or an administrative problem with the corporation.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, that information, now, is known and is out there and again, I think that the URRC will be, if nothing else, crossing their t's and dotting their i's in a bigger fashion to make sure that the information is accurate.

So, again, I publicly thank Mr. Harper and the intervenors for bringing this information forward and indeed, Mr. Speaker, the Utility Rate Review Council will have this information and be able to use it.

At the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, again, although the amounts are miniscule and it means that municipalities would pay marginally less, based on the proposal, it's very

important to remember that this is only a proposal from the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister makes a very good point that it is a proposal, and thank goodness for that.

The minister also pointed out earlier that the difference here was going to be a 0.19 cent increase because of that error. I just wanted to pass some maybe-new information on to the minister. I understand that the president and CEO of the Qulliq Energy Corporation had indicated publicly to the minister's friend, Mr. Harper, that there was actually 1.5 cents as an increase. So, he may want to double check those figures.

Mr. Speaker, my question to him is: why is it that the Power Corporation and you could say the government is the Crown corporation, why do they feel that it's only necessary to give the URRC accurate information and not the public, had they known and they did know, well ahead of time, of the public hearings.

How hard would it have been to print off a one-page insert to stick into their public relations material that they were handing out? That's my question: why did they feel that the public and the members of this Assembly don't have a right to know the accurate information, yet an appointed board that is looking at it does? It's the public that is making, or wanted to and have made, numerous interventions based on that information.

I think that the corporation would want to ensure that people have all the information to make adequate interventions based on that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Usually in the House, the rules are that the minister is not supposed to comment on how someone feels, and may answer a hypothetical question what if and so on.

But I think the member has raised a point, so I will try to answer the question. I don't know why, when they received the information, it was not put into the communications packages, as I stated earlier. I believe all concerned realized that it should have been.

If I were to take a guess, and I am not making a guess, I think when they looked at the amount of 0.019, less than two cents, that they probably felt it was not a big deal or a big issue. I guess that's the reason, when they saw that.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I can't comment on why they made that decision. I can only say, as the member has pointed out, that it did happen. And, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that if they had their time back, they would have included the difference of less than 2 cents so that the public would have been aware.

Mr. Speaker, again, the good news was that the municipalities, indeed all municipalities, would be paying marginally less, based on a proposal. Again, as the member said, it's just a proposal. It's a proposal by the corporation. It did not go to cabinet; we didn't look at it. It's a proposal made independently by our corporation to the regulating bodies, so that's why you have a check and balance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I am going to go back to my member's statement on looking for the silver lining in a thunder cloud of bad storm weather. The minister is doing very well at that, pointing out the little good thing that may have come out of this huge mistake made by the corporation.

But, Mr. Speaker, the minister had indicated that the management felt that a 6 percent variance in the rate was insignificant; it was not important. Would the minister concur with that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The only thing I can concur with is I think maybe now the member, and maybe some other people in Nunavut, would get the feeling that maybe some of these are things I was dealing with earlier as minister.

That's the reason why in December of 2002 we didn't put the rates up at that time; we froze it for one year because we wanted to make sure that we had verifiable information. Mr. Speaker, at that time, we had to wait until we had the Auditor General's audited financial statement for 2002.

Mr. Speaker, the information that the corporation is putting together... They are trying to do it to the very best ability that they have. I don't know why they didn't include it, and again, I would suggest to you that probably, and then again it's just a hypothetical thing, that maybe they didn't think the difference of less than two cents matters. But, when you put percentages into it, it all depends. I could say six percent of 6,000 is two. Is that a very big number? I don't know; it depends on how you do the analysis.

Again, as the member pointed out, it's a proposal. Mr. Speaker, they are saying this is what they would like to do. This is their best guesstimate. That's why you have a check and balance in place, and again, the process is continuing.

I think the process is working in that information is being found and uncovered, and that process has to go forward. That's an honest process, and at the end of the day, we will have an opportunity, when the URRC reports back, to review and analyze it. At the same time, the government will analyze all of the recommendations that are being made. It has been stated by the Premier and by the finance minister and other members of the cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, another perfect example of evasive answering. The minister still didn't confirm whether he agreed that that was insignificant or not. My final question for the minister, and it's another thing that has come out through the public hearings, is that there seems to be some manipulation of the numbers and in the differences in the rates that are presented in the General Rate Application.

Mr. Speaker, it was pointed out that the increase in the rates, the new rate from the average rate, would be, for example, here in the initial application, it was just around 92 percent.

It appears that the actual rate paid by commercial consumers here in Iqaluit is less than the average rate that's listed in the application. So, again, it's another example where not the full accurate information is provided to the people that are being affected by these increases, because they're not being told the full extent of the increase that they're going to be looking at.

I'd like to ask the minister if he would comment on that and if he will ensure that all the pertinent and accurate information is provided to those people. It's not only for here. It may be for every other community too. I think it's important to know that people have the real information, what the real differences are going to be, not based on an average rate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to try to be as clear as I possibly can.

The Power Corporation has brought forward a proposal to have their rates increase so that they meet their revenue requirements and so that they can actually balance their book so that they won't lose money like they have over the last few years.

That's something that everyone in Nunavut would like to see happen, including the members in this House. Based on that proposal, they're saying here's what the percentage increases will be: 90 percent, 100 percent, and so on.

It's a proposal. There is no increase. It's a proposal. They're saying if this all went through, and we all accepted it, this is what would happen. I'm telling you, Mr. Speaker, the House, and the people of Nunavut: this is a process.

The Utility Rates Review Council hearing is a public process. This is not the first time it's happened in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, we remember the hearings in 1994 to 1996, by the Public Utilities Board for the Northwest Territories. I was involved in the 1996, -97, -98 hearings that, again, caused all kinds of awful gnashing of teeth and a tempest in the teapot.

So, the member wants me to comment on the accuracy of numbers that are put in a proposed document. It's a proposal. They said they would like this amount put forward. The information that the member is talking about, and again I'll read it into the record to be precise, the information that has been provided me this morning, and I only have this to go on, is that the original table 12.7.1 indicated that the residential rate on line 25 of the commercial rate, on line 26, under the territorial rate-structure proposal, would be .5333 and .4983 respectively.

The revised table, after the information was brought forward 24 hours ago, the revised table of 12.7.1 indicates that the residential rate on line 25 and the commercial rate on line 26, under the territorial rate-structure proposed, Mr. Speaker, proposed, which means they're saying this is what we'd like to see, would be .5524 and .5134 respectively.

Mr. Speaker, that's a difference of 0.019 cents. It's 2 cents. I know that's a lot. It could be an increase of 6 percent if everything went forward that they asked for. This is a proposal. That's why we have the check and balance of the URRC, to uncover inaccuracies and to make sure that whatever rate that comes forward is there for all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, as the member and everyone in this House knows, if the rates went up by 10 percent, then 80 percent of that, or 8 out of every 10 cents, would be paid by the Government of Nunavut.

Of course the Government of Nunavut and our own financial people are also doing an analysis of the information that is being brought forward, because it would have a huge impact for this government on how we spend our money for education, for health, and other services. We are also monitoring that and that provides, again, the check and balance process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 126 – 2(2): AGRI-Food Fund

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Can the minister inform the House as to how the funds from the Nunavut-Canada AGRI-Food Agreement will be used? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The five elements of the agreement include: business risk management; food safety and food quality; the science of innovation; environment; and renewal.

The funds are provided on a 60-40 cost-shared basis, with Canada providing 60 percent and Nunavut supplying 40 percent, up to an agreed upon maximum. Canada has agreed to provide up to \$180,000 annually, for five years. And Nunavut is required to expend at least \$120,000 annually.

We have also signed an agreement with AGRI-Food Canada; it is called the Nunavut Implementation Agreement. The key elements for Nunavut would be that the NIA definition of producer has been expanded to include harvesters, which means that we can now use the funds to support commercial caribou and musk-ox harvests. The administration would be overseen by a management committee made up of representatives of AGRI-Food Canada and our own department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies to the minister for catching him off guard. My other question is, will a portion of the funds be used specifically for the Southampton Island caribou harvest or for the CDC? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are presently looking at using part of that money for the Southampton Island caribou harvest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question. We were told that we were going to be informed about the funding, if it's going to be allocated. I would like to get more information on whether the funds are going to be allocated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the application for funding from Coral Harbour, the Nunavut government, by itself, cannot fund that wholly, because it is too expensive. So, I have been asking if the federal government can cost-share this. They have not responded. Once they respond, I will inform my colleague and Member for Coral Harbour. Thank you.

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

Question 127 – 2(2): 10% Elimination of Tax

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question, too, is for the Minister of Economic Development.

Yesterday I read a story in the CBC about the private member's bill in Ottawa that calls for the elimination of a ten percent excise tax on Canadian jewelry.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut diamond industry is set to take off in 2006, when the Tahera Diamond Mine opens in the Kitikmeot. We consider the secondary diamond industry to be a valuable industry. It could provide huge opportunities in terms of creating employment for jewelers and artisans.

My question to the minister is: does the Government of Nunavut support the elimination of a 10 percent excise tax on jewelry manufactured and sold in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Responsible for Economic Development, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are in the process of developing an exploration and mining strategy for Nunavut, and any and all options are being considered right now and will be considered further.

The industry will be consulted on the proposed strategy once it's completed. I would hope by the end of this month they will complete that strategy, but all options are being considered and that is one that we would consider very seriously also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that reply. I was going to ask the minister about the status of the mining strategy for Nunavut... I think he called it a Nunavut mining strategy in May, and now he mentioned the Nunavut exploration strategy; I don't know if it's the same document.

Could the minister update the House on who is being consulted on the mining strategy and whether there could be some policy statements included in the strategy pertaining to the diamond industry? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we were calling it the Nunavut Mining Strategy in May and we are, at present, calling it an exploration and mining strategy. The title could change again, but it is a mining strategy and it includes exploration.

The plan right now is that I would hope the proposal will be completed by the end of this month. Then I would look at it and then we would look at how much consultation we would want to go through with and how that consultation would be done with

stakeholders from the industry or hamlets or individuals or MLA's. We would look at all of that in very early January. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Several years ago, the government of the Northwest Territories established a policy that required diamond mines to sell a minimum percentage of their rough diamonds to cutting and polishing companies in the Northwest Territories. As we've read in the media over the last year or so, it has not met with a lot of success.

So, my question for the minister: is the Government of Nunavut considering a similar policy for Nunavut when the diamond mines go into production in the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department is still looking at the action plan that was for the National Diamond Strategy that was approved by Premiers earlier this summer.

We are still looking at those recommendations that include the supply of Canadian rough diamonds, demand for diamonds processed in Canada, regulation of the markets. So, we are still looking at all of that. The strategy that he is asking about is one of the things that you are looking at, but nothing seriously, no final decisions or even recommendations, has been made on that yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. The federal government requires a Canadian government diamond evaluator to value the rough diamonds before they leave the territory or province and then leave Canada to be sent to Antwerp for further valuation. That's done for royalty purposes so that Canada gets a share of the value of the diamonds.

My question for the minister: will the Government of Nunavut be negotiating with the Canadian government to retain a larger share of the royalties that come from Nunavut diamonds when they leave the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are looking at all areas of mining our diamonds, our gold, or any mining that goes on, to maximize benefits to the people of Nunavut and to the territory of Nunavut and to the Government of Nunavut.

I would certainly approach my staff about how much discussion has gone on about the idea that the member is presenting, and we will certainly look at it as a department if we have not been looking at it already. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 128 – 2(2): Economic Impact Study

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, given that the Minister of Energy seems to be putting very little faith in the information provided by the Power Corporation through the GRA application, and that Economic Development is one of the top priorities of this government as a whole, as decided by all members of this House, would the minister commit to doing an economic impact study of any proposed rates to the economy of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did in fact receive a letter from the Iqaluit Chamber of Commerce asking for almost exactly that.

That impacts a number of departments within the government, that request. I've been discussing this with colleagues and it's also being discussed at the bureaucratic level. I should be responding to the Iqaluit Chamber of Commerce literally within days, the next two or three days, to try to find ways of the helping them do the study that they're asking to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's willingness to work with the chamber of commerce here to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I guess what I'm asking is, as the minister responsible for economic development, would he commit to have his department undertake to do that economic impact study, as it would affect the total economy of Nunavut and not just the city of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are prepared to work with industry and with stakeholders to support whatever work is necessary, and that's what we're looking at right now with the Iqaluit Chamber of Commerce and with the business community as a whole, because the whole of the business community would be very interested in the study that the chamber would do.

In terms of the department itself doing that, I had not considered that. But I'll certainly discuss it with my staff to see what we can do with a suggestion like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would strongly urge the minister to look at undertaking such an undertaking, as I'd see that could be, as the Minister of Energy pointed out... . A recommendation comes from the Utility Rate Review Council to the responsible minister who then brings it to his cabinet colleagues, and they have the final say.

Information outlined in that economic impact study could be very valuable information in assisting the cabinet with how to deal with any recommendation that comes forward. So, again, I would strongly urge the minister to do that and if he could get back to me, before the end of our sitting day, after discussing it with his cabinet colleagues or his departmental officials.

I think that's something that if they're going to do it, they can work in conjunction with any chambers of commerce that are looking at it instead of doing a duplication of efforts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will discuss it with my staff and we will consider his recommendation very seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 129 – 2(2): Support an Independent Child Advocate

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education this morning.

I was pleased to hear the Minister of Education speak so eloquently a couple of Fridays ago, in his minister's statement, about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

As the minister is probably aware from reading the document I tabled the other day, the UN committee recommends that an independent children's advocate be established in the provinces that have not done so, as well as in the three territories where a high proportion of vulnerable children live.

My question for the minister: since the minister is so eager to quote from the United Nations, can he confirm to this House that he supports the establishment of an independent children's advocate for Nunavut, yes, or no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to compliment the member on his crusade for a children's advocate.

Mr. Speaker, three years ago, when I was in Cambridge Bay, a constituent of Cambridge Bay asked me, as the minister of health at that time, did I endorse the proposal for a children's advocate. Mr. Speaker, it was the first time that it had been raised in a public domain and indeed, Mr. Peterson may have made a motion in May of 2004 asking for one, I believe. So, the member has been anything but inconsistent on this file. He has indeed been consistent.

I did quote from the United Nations proposal on the children's advocacy. Mr. Speaker, we all know that in Nunavut, there are issues around our children and poverty. We have put in place, as the Premier said earlier, extra officials, for example, probation, we have social workers and so on. I guess what the government needs to be able to look at... I heard Minister Brown's commitment to you that over the next few months, she'll have an opportunity to look at what's available for a children's advocate: is the work load there? Can we ascertain what the total scope of that position would be and so on.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that I, as the Minister of Education, would work with the minister of health and her department as well as with the Minister of CLEY to see what opportunities are there for the position that's being advocated for by the member. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that reply. I asked for a yes or no answer. I don't know if I got that.

Mr. Speaker, last week I had to help a lady in a tough situation with a child that the government was planning to take away. If we had a children's advocate in Nunavut, they would have been able to step in and be a voice for that child. I had to step in with the help of my minister colleague, the minister of health; we sorted it out temporarily. A child advocate would have been a great asset.

So, my question again, for the Minister of Education: does he support an independent children's advocate for Nunavut? Yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government has moved from the last three years to look at what options are out there for the needs of children and youth.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, we do have an intergovernmental departmental plan, which includes Education, Health and CLEY, to look at these responses.

I said I heard the minister of health's response. At the same time Mr. Speaker, we need to be able to see what the logistics are, including the administrative and financial needs that need to be put forward, for a children's advocate position and to see what that recommendation is.

So, Mr. Speaker, the short answer is, we'll have to look at it again in the next couple of months. I know that the minister of health has been working on it with her departmental staff, and again, we have to ascertain the logistical, administrative, and the financial aspects of that position.

I'm not trying to stonewall the member. But it would be no good for me to make some kind of position or promise or something here when there aren't any resources and when there are other issues that need to be addressed in place.

So, I would just ask the member to be patient and give the minister of health an opportunity to review the situation and see if we can answer those logistical, administrative, and financial aspects of that position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Peterson

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to get an answer out of the minister, so I will keep asking. The Government of Nunavut has had three or four or five years to do all the work that the minister is saying they want to do.

All the stonewalling tactics that the government use... . They take things into committee, they had interdepartmental meetings. With senior-level officials, they generate reports and recommendations to the ministers, and then they tell the regular members that we don't have the resources.

We know that they have the resources. Children are more than 50 percent of the population of Nunavut. So, if we can't find some resources from the Government of Nunavut to help out the children of Nunavut, I have to question the spirit of the Bathurst Mandate.

I am going to ask the minister again: does he support the establishment of an independent children's advocate for Nunavut? Yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I'm trying to be clear here. There are a lot of outstanding issues. There is an interdepartmental group and they are bringing a

discussion paper forward so that cabinet can review it. Then we have to look at what the needs are based on that.

I said that part of that is to answer some of the administrative as well as the financial and logistical questions that would entail with the children's advocate proposal. It is something that other jurisdictions have put in place; not every jurisdiction has a children's advocate position.

We have to look at some of the other factors around the issues of children. Are they being addressed through the Child and Family Services Act that we have in place? Are the issues being facilitated by some of the outreach positions that we have put out in place, and so on.

So, we need to ascertain all of those things first. Like I said, we would hope to be in the position to look at this in the departments of Health and CLEY in the coming months. I guess that would be the short answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I asked for a yes or no answer. In October 2002, the former health minister's staff had developed a legislative proposal that they were planning to table in the House. It didn't go anywhere because they said that government didn't have enough time in its legislative agenda to deal with it.

I presume that a lot of work had gone into that, otherwise that department wouldn't have put together a legislative proposal. There are children's advocates in eight provinces. New Brunswick is coming on stream soon and Yukon territory is making progress. Prince Edward Island may be working on something.

The only place that I don't see any action happening on a children's advocate is Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. It would be a disgrace if we didn't have a children's advocate for Nunavut. An independent child advocate reports to you, Mr. Speaker, as a representative of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

I ask the minister again: does he support the establishment of an independent child advocate for Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I am trying to say, as the Minister of Education, is that we are trying to look at what has been done in other jurisdictions. There is an interdepartmental group working on it, so for the member to say that there is nothing happening, that is a little bit disingenuous. There has been a lot of foot work, a lot of ground-level work, a lot of administrative work that has been put into the proposal. That is where we are moving forward at that point.

It is very difficult for me to say that I support or do not support a program or a proposal until we have actually looked at the logistic, administrative, and the financial issues that it entails.

That is what I am trying to say to the member, and we will be in the position in the next couple of months. As I said earlier, the minister of health answered your question on this earlier, last week. I am sure that we stand by what the minister of health said at that time. We will move forward from that position and maybe be in a better position in the coming weeks to look at it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Try to make your preamble short. Mr. Kattuk.

Question 130 – 2(2): Assistance from the Federal Government

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Energy.

We hear how the Auditor General... I am speaking as an Inuk, but the Auditor General doesn't know the residents of Sanikiluaq. Most Nunavut communities only go by what the minister is told by the Auditor General, or from the public service, because there are recommendations that we have to follow, but that Auditor General has never seen Inuit.

We live in Nunavut. So, for that matter, I can state: if you are going to set up a community we should not have to pay for a thing.

I would like to ask the minister: has the minister made this clear or has the minister asked the federal government for assistance in the hardship we face over energy? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The beginning of Nunavut, the genesis of Nunavut, in 1968, started with the creation of the Government of the Northwest Territories, and of course, the land claim facilitated the government in setting up a territory in 1993, when that was signed.

We have not consulted the federal government on the rate application that is being put forward by the Power Corporation to the Utility Rates Review Council. As a legislative jurisdiction, we have the right and the authority to work with and within the framework of our own processes to determine our own direction. That's why we have an independent legislative assembly and 19 elected members.

So, Mr. Speaker, the answer is no. I have not contacted the federal government in regards to this proposal being put forward by the Power Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. His response was, no, he has not contacted the federal government. Can the minister go to the federal government and try to get them to support us? Is he at least going to try? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I know what the members is trying to imply and that the point he is trying to make is that before the Government of Nunavut and before 1968, when people had to move in off the land into communities, there was some understanding that the federal government at that time, and this is my understanding of it, told the people that they would not have to pay rent and they would not have to pay bills and so on.

Now, we are in a position, 30 years on: should we go back to the federal government and ask them to cover the costs, the incremental costs, of being a territory, for housing, for rent, for utilities and so on?

I am not in a position to ask that question to the federal government. Things have superceded that argument in the Assembly. We are an independent assembly and for the decisions we take here at the Assembly, we don't have to check with the federal government unless there's decisions we make that overlay or infringe federal legislation and the law, because the federal law supercedes our legislation in the law.

So, I guess the short answer, again, would be that there would be no requirement for us to go to the federal government to get permission for the rates.

The bigger issue that I think the member is asking, maybe he could clarify it, is because of the commitment that people are understanding was made by the federal government about housing and utilities, maybe the Government of Nunavut should make that known to the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister keeps referring to 1968, but it was around 1964 that the people moved in to the established communities.

I'm sure the minister can respond to my question regarding the rates that we pay for power. I believe that it's 700 kilowatt hours that we get for free. Are you going to be increasing that 700 kilowatt hours so that it will compensate for the increased rate that the rate payers will be paying? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are, I believe... . At some point I read where there's almost 100 different subsidies and rates across Nunavut with the power.

Mr. Speaker, part of the recommendations that will come forward on the proposal by the Power Corporation to the URRC will be to look at the rate structures and to see how that will be affected by subsidies and so on.

So, Mr. Speaker, that is an ongoing process and we should have that information when the Utility Rate Review Council finishes their work and tables their report to the minister around February 1.

The second point, Mr. Speaker: when I said 1968, I was referring to when the government moved out of Ottawa to Yellowknife and really became the Government of the Northwest Territories around that period of time.

I would wish, Mr. Speaker, as I think most members in this House and as the Premier had said earlier, that the federal government would pick up paying for our utility expenses and costs. I don't think they would want to do that. I think Intergovernmental Affairs may have to look at that. The Premier's office, I'm sure, will be very useful in the consideration of those types of issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if Mr. Kattuk has already had his last supplementary, so maybe just check on that first and then we'll go on.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. He didn't want to ask another question, but I will give him another opportunity.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reference to my last question, my question to the minister was if he was going to be increasing the 700 kilowatt hours.

I would like to ask the minister again about the community consultations that took place. My question is: is the minister going to be increasing the 700 free kilowatt hours that we get? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 700 kilowatt hours that appears on bills across Nunavut, for the customers, that was part of the process that was in place since 1998.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not in a position right now to say how much that will increase by, because, Mr. Speaker, that process is underway

The Power Corporation has made a proposal, and at the end of the day we need to be able to, as a government, when the URRC reports back, balance off what they have asked for with the affordability factor, but at the same time, the issue on the subsidy of the 700

kilowatt hours, that would be contained within the recommendations from the Utility Rates Review Council.

So, Mr. Speaker, again, we should be in a better to know that sometime in February. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The question period is over. We will take a brief break for 55 minutes. We will take a lunch break and at 1:00 we will resume.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House recessed at 12:06 and resumed at 13:06*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much for coming back

Going back to orders of the day, Item 7. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to WQ 009 – 2(2): Administration of the Liquor Act and Other Matters
Return to WQ 015 – 2(2): Overtime Costs Incurred by Government of Nunavut Crown Corporations

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to inform members that Returns to Written Question 009 - 2 (2) and Returns to Written Question 015 - 2 (2) has been filed with the clerk by the Minister of Finance. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 051 – 2(2): 24-Hour Elders' Facility for Arctic Bay

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the past two weeks, we have heard that the government has a goal to set up a 24 hour care facility for elders in Nunavut.

From what I understand, the Minister for Health and Social Services has indicated that they will be doing a review on these facilities. At this time, I would like to table a document supporting the establishment for a 24 hour care facility in Arctic Bay.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

Tabled Document 052 – 2(2): Return to OQ 084 – 2(2): Government Hiring Practices**Tabled Document 053 – 2(2): Return to OQ 102 – 2(2): Explanation of Newspaper Article**

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table two responses to returns to oral questions, Oral question number 102-2 (2) and return to Oral question 084-2 (2). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Simailak.

Tabled Document 054 – 2(2): Transportation of Dangerous Goods Annual Report 2003/04

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document; Transportation of dangerous goods annual report 2003-04. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

Tabled Document 055 – 2(2): Disclosure of Contracts – Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As promised in my member's statement earlier today, I would like to table this list of disclosures' contracts from the Federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this document shows the date, the vendor's name, the description of what the contract was for, and the value of what the contract is for, and Mr. Speaker, this is done on a quarterly basis by all federal government departments and it's available on the internet for all Canadians to see.

Tabled Document 056 – 2(2): Online Information on Government of Canada Contracts for Goods & Services Over \$10,000

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to add to that, a list or article from the treasury board website, a news release dated November 1. It says that they are tabling the publicly disclosed contracts, except for those the only restrictions on disclosure are security related contracts.

I assume that our government doesn't have any security contracts in place and I would just like to note that there is also a note in here that this initiative is part of the government's plan in strengthening the public sector management. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 057 – 2(2): Who Controls Canada's Arctic

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table an article from a Canadian magazine called 'The Walrus'. It's from December of 2004 magazine, entitled: Who Controls Canada's Arctic? The subtitle is: Spies, submarines, and foreign ships may signal that our claim to the North is melting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 14: Notices of Motions**Motion 005 – 2(2): Referral of Tabled Document 052 – 2(2) to the Committee of the Whole – Notice**

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, February 22, 2005, I will move the following motion; now therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that Tabled Document 052 – 2(2) be referred to the Committee of the Whole for discussions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 006 – 2(2): Request for Comprehensive Audit of QEC and its Subsidiaries – Notice

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give notice that on Tuesday, February 22, 2005, I will move the following motion; now therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Quttituuq, that the Executive Council of Nunavut, pursuant to Section 47 of the Nunavut Act, advise the Commissioner of Nunavut to request the Auditor General of Canada to conduct a comprehensive audit of Qulliq Energy Corporation and its subsidiaries and to report its findings to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Notices of Motions. Item 15. Item 16. Item 17. Item 18. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance Act Number 2, 2004-05; Bill 3, Supplementary Appropriation Capital Act Number 2, 2004-05, with Mr. Arreak in the chair.

Following Motion 3-2 (2) we will stay in Committee of the Whole until we report ourselves out.

Sergeant-at-arms.

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

Chairman: Thank you. In committee of the whole we have Bill 2 and Bill 3. What is the wish of the committee. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with our reviews of Bill 2 and the supporting documents starting at page 23, and then proceed to reviewing Bill 3 and the support documents.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. (interpretation): Do you agree that we deal with Bill 2. Thank you.

Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq, please proceed to the witness table with your officials. Please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Mr. Robert Vardy, the Deputy Minister of Finance and to my left is Paul Reddy, Director of Expenditure Management. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Okay, turn to page 23. Supplementary Appropriation. Operations and Maintenance number 2, 2004-05. Page 23.

Do you have any questions on page 23. Health and Social Services, Operations and Maintenance Branch. Not previously authorized. Directorate. Total directorate. \$2 million 183 thousand. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this page there is \$1 million 437 thousand is being requested by the government for continued investment in telehealth network, 15 types. Is this one time funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is one time funding for this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: What is this specifically needed for. Why does each site need almost \$100 thousand more than remain optional. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the member repeat the question. I didn't catch it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Barnabas, can you repeat your question.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is it specifically needed for. Why does each site need almost \$100 thousand more than remain optional. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Telehealth network was jointly funded between Health Canada and the Government of Nunavut and the installation was completed on March 31, 2003.

As it stands now, it is also jointly funded as well through Community and Government Services, as well as the Department of Health. To install the system in the communities, it is quite expensive but the investment down the road will pay off in terms of providing from what I understand, the Minister of Health can elaborate but, provides health centers to be able to access physicians down south for advice on the assessment of situations.

That's what I understand, but perhaps if the member requires more information, I can ask the Minister of Health to elaborate on that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Minister of Health.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may make a supplementary. (interpretation ends) It give us the opportunity to network with other health centers, with the southern partners, with the doctors in the hospitals and also for family conferencing. It's an opportunity as well for educational and training purposes for the community where they could have distance education, using Telehealth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas do you have any further questions. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to follow up on that line of questioning by Mr. Barnabas. The minister said there are an existing 15 sites. Are there plans to put sites in the other ten communities in Nunavut in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask the Minister of Health to respond to that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's safe to say and announce that by the end of this fiscal year December 2004, every community will have Telehealth in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister for that reply. Does that mean that we will be seeing a request, if there are 10 more sites, an additional \$1,000,000 for Operations and Maintenance for those 10 sites? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Who is going to respond? Minister Aglukkaq or Minister Brown?

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I ask for a repeat of your question, please?

Chairman: Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks, the minister asked me to clarify it. I am just doing some math; 15 sites, there's almost \$1,500,000, so \$100,000 per site.

So, if you are putting another 10 sites up soon, I think she said by the end of December, I don't if she meant by the end of December or March, but could we possibly see the request for additional \$100,000 per site in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to add that, for the 11 additional sites in Nunavut, any additional funding request will be dealt into the base budget of the Department of Health, but then if the minister wants to elaborate more on that, I will pass it on to her. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown, did you wish to add?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): From my I understanding at this stage, those sites already have and there are three others and they are scheduled to be completed by the end of December. I thank the minister for her responses.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Any other questions? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been hearing quite a lot about Telehealth and how beneficial it is to the North. In theory it seems like it should work in Nunavut because of our vast geographical distance between major hospitals and the fact that we don't have roads and we don't have a lot of doctors.

I am wondering, has the Department of Health or the Department of Finance done a cost-benefit analysis to show how it has worked to date?

I think it was started in 2001, just work to date to show if it has resulted in cost savings. If it's going to save us lots of money, but on the other hand we are getting additional requests for funding, more operations and maintenance funding because of the increased health costs down south.

Then maybe it just doesn't make sense if it will help us save money, and yet we are spending more money. So, I am wondering if the Minister of Finance could comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The detailed analysis of that has been in the works and we are hoping to have that completed by this coming summer. In order to do the cost-benefit analysis, we have to allow for the system to be in operation, to come up with an assessment as to where the major savings are.

One example is an area of medical travels down south. From what I understand, the system is supposed to provide some advice and support to nurses that are in the community in dealing with client care. In order to come up with and finalize that report, we need to allow the system to be in place to be operational and cross referenced back to other areas of the Department of Health budget.

One example is doctors' travels, perhaps to the communities or referring clients down south. So, that's where it's at right now. We expect to complete that by next summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's encouraging to hear that a cost benefit analysis will be done on that initiative hopefully by next summer. Will the Minister tell us if that will be tabled in the house for regular members to review before the next operations and maintenance budget next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the other areas I'd like to add is that, included in the review will also be the area of better services and more efficient use of funding.

In terms of providing that information for the next main estimates, the next main estimates is in February. The report is going to be finalized after that in the year. So, I can't say that it will be tabled in the House in February, but the next sitting after, in June. After June, we'll be able to provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should clarify. That's what I meant, if it's done next summer, we'll get it for the next cycle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I don't think that was a question. That was just a comment.

We're on page 23. I don't have any other names on my list. We're under Directorate, \$2 million 183 thousand. Do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: On the same page. Healthy Children, Families and Communities. \$983 thousand. Do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Turn to page 24, Health Insurance Programs. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 9 million dollars is being requested by the government to meet the increased costs associated with NIHB programs.

Out-of-territory, hospital care, medical travel, boarding homes, dental services and vision care. Is this one time funding for the Department of Health and Social Services for an increase to the department's base budget for the 2005-06 main estimates. Will the department also increase by \$9 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer the individual's question, this is a one time funding for this year.

For next year there is an adjustment being proposed to the base of the Department of Health and Social Services Budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the breakdown for the funding.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The breakdown is 7.5 out-of-territory services and 1.5 is for the cost of airfare, boarding homes, dental care and vision care. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question for the minister is on the out-of-territory hospitals in the description here. Can the minister tell us where all the out of-territory hospitals are located, and do you have a list of their daily fees for patients from Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I will just have to go through the information for a second. The hospital services that are outside of the jurisdiction, and I will ask, as well, if the Minister of Health wanted to add to my list, but hospital services in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Newfoundland, Quebec, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Northwest Territories, P.E.I., and Yukon, as well as Stanton. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. Minister Brown, did you wish to add to that?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These two probably aren't showing, but there's Edmonton and Kuujuaq, we also use their services, but that was an adequate response.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's important that we understand that out-of-territory costs or out-of-territory hospital costs are increasing. I did a little research last year, I talked to the former Minister of Health. The daily rates could range from as low as \$1,200 to as high as \$4,900 per day for patients.

I am not sure how it works, but when a patient from Nunavut goes to the south and they bump the patient from the province off the list and then the hospitals in those provinces charges a fairly significant cost. If the patient is down there for any length of time, for a month for example, you are paying \$4,900 a day, it could add up quite quickly.

I am wondering what type of negotiations does the Department of Finance or the Department of Health undertake with these out-of-territory hospitals to try to reduce our rates so that we are paying at a bit more reasonable level for daily per diems? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of a listing for the per diems for the facilities, I don't have the list in here with me in terms of daily rates. Perhaps the Minister of Health can respond to the question in terms of what negotiations that do take

place with the Health officials to make some such arrangements with other facilities in and out of province. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Brown, would you like to respond?

Hon. Levinia Brown: A lot of those rates we don't have any say on, even if we enter into contracts because they are in different categories.

Say, for instance, if we using an intensive care unit in hospitals down south, they have different rates and the rates are increased according to them down south and we just really don't have a say in that.

This year alone, we didn't know what was going to come towards our invoices because they are going to be retroactive to April yet and we have not seen those rates yet. That's the information that I got from the officials. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I sympathize with the Minister of Health. Sometimes you don't have control over what they are charging down south. That's probably why it makes good sense to have a closer-to-home health strategy and hospital health facilities in Nunavut.

I had the good fortune this summer in July to actually go to Yellowknife and tour the Stanton hospital facility with the Minister of Health and while there, I asked a few questions.

I learned that we are paying \$1,200 a day there. I commented to the executive director there that I thought that was quite high, then I heard that it's more expensive elsewhere.

He made a comment I thought was interesting because of an observation I had while that there seems to be a lot of patients in the Stanton Hospital from the Kitikmeot. I said, maybe you should give us some discounts and he made a comment to me that you should probably be paying \$900 rather than \$1200. So, I was just wondering if the Minister of Health or the Minister of Finance would comment on whether they're going to be talking to the Stanton Hospital, maybe to negotiate a little bit better deal there for Kitikmeot patients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The option of negotiating or the discussions on trying to reduce is always an option for us to pursue in terms of whether the department will proceed with that suggestion. I will leave that up to Minister of Health.

I think in any opportunity where that is an option, it is something that we should pursue and would pursue. In this particular case, as the minister mentioned, sometimes we don't have control over other jurisdictional hospital care costs.

I imagine that the costs that they charge is pretty much consistent to what they charge their citizens or other users. If the minister would like to elaborate a bit more on that, I'll leave it to her. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. Miss Brown, do you want to respond?

Hon. Lavinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising this. We do have an agreement with Stanton Hospital in Yellowknife.

It was a lot more than what they were charging us, \$1200 per day per bed. But, through an agreement that was reduced and I think everyone in Nunavut will be happy to hear that that is why three hospitals are being built in Nunavut to help reduce the cost of out-of-territory care.

I really hope that we will see a significant decrease in the budget that we're spending out of the territory, expenditures that are being spent out of the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the comments from the two ministers. I think a lot of hospitals out-of-territory hospitals, they're under financial pressures themselves.

They recognize a golden goose when they see one. The business opportunity is there for them to kick their patients out and charge higher rates for our patients.

We have to really be concerned about the health of our residents up there so we really don't have much choice, except to pay the going rate. I urge the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Health to keep negotiating with those out-of-territory hospitals and see what kind of progress you make.

We look forward to the health facilities and hospitals opening in Nunavut so we can keep our patients home and save some money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is more of a comment.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I have no more names on my list for questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my question relates to under treatment programs. There is a \$1,000,000 set aside or they are looking for increase costs

associated with the costs of agency nurses and my question I know, I remember, vividly asking the former health minister about the agency nurses and had indicated at that time that there was a decrease in requirements for those nurses.

Because I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, what specifically accounts for these increases in costs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The increase costs relates to the difficulty we're having in recruiting full time nurses in Nunavut.

To address that gap we've been dealing with agency nurses to sell those vacancies as we continue our efforts to vacancies in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the tables have turned. It was not too long ago, the former was indicating that they were getting more nurses in the communities and throughout the territory and having to rely less on agency nurses.

My question is how many of these agency nurses do we have currently working in the territory and how many are we getting specifically with this \$1 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the breakdown in terms of how many agency nurses have been hired or are working term or contracts or what not, but perhaps the Minister of Health has those statistics readily available to provide to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Would you like to respond.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes. We are in shortage of nurses and also we have over 100 nurses.

I don't have the actual numbers. I don't want to give you a guesstimate, but there are close to 60 vacancies. I do have the information in front of me, but I can't find it. The agency nurses just keep going back and forth to the communities.

That is one of the reasons why it is expensive because the expenses incur for transportation of the nurses and pay and benefits. It is very expensive. Although I do want to respond adequately to your question, I don't have the information, I can't find the information, but when I do, I'll provide you with an appropriate response. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the former minister too will remember and other members of this House would probably recall that one of the concerns that was raised with the use of agency nurses over indeterminate positions is the fact that as an indeterminate nurse, a position within the Department of Health and Social Services, it had a lower pay, no VTA, you had to pay for housing.

With the agency nurses, the contract nurses, all of these things are paid for by the government. I'm just wondering if and also the fact that they got per diems for meals at the going per diem rate.

My question is, is that still included with the contract with agency nurses, that those things are all paid by the government and is included in this \$1 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, in the \$1 million identified there, it's to cover the agency nurses. In the last year there has been an increase in demands for agency nurses, particularly in the Baffin and Kivalliq.

The department has contacted the international recruiting as well to address some of those gaps on that. To address your question directly in terms of what it includes, what I can see here, it includes their wages, their travel to and from the point of hire.

I don't believe it includes vacation travel. I don't think that is what's included in that. In terms of the arrangements they have for accommodations and meals, I'm assuming it's part of that, but perhaps I can refer this to the Minister of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. Would you like to make a supplementary response.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes, I would like to make a supplementary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The nurses, in total there are 169 in Nunavut and 123 permanent resident nurses, indeterminate nurses and there are 62 nurses that come as agency nurses. I can't respond to you whether there was per diem.

That information has never been given to me so therefore I cannot respond to the per diem issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would assume I guess, then that the contract hasn't changed with the agency nurses and those things are all still covered off in that.

More, for clarification for the Minister of Finance, I wasn't saying that they get VTA's, but these agency nurses, ones that I've talked or have to talk to about what other indeterminate nurses say that they can pick and chose when and where they want to go.

If they want to come up for six weeks to work, they get their way paid up and their way paid back. They get their accommodations and they had their accommodations paid for and they got per diems.

It was basically like the equivalent of a VTA of being able to hire from down south, brought up to the north to work and then flown back down south again and plus receiving a higher pay than an indeterminate nurse that is here and made that commitment to live in Nunavut.

My question, really I don't know if the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Health was saying that 62 agency nurses are costing over \$1 million. This is to provide \$1 million for the increased costs associated. What is the total cost that we're looking at for agency nurses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to follow up on the earlier comment, to hire agency nurses, yes we do have to pay for those individuals to go from their point of hire to the community.

They are not indeterminate employees, so the agency nurses, the individuals themselves, pick and chose when they want to work and when they don't want to work, and select communities, so that is correct.

The airfare alone, I would not equate that to be equivalent to vacation. I would equate that to be more in the area of duty travel. That's part of the reality. We have to ship these individuals to the northern communities where we have vacancies to provide health care services.

Unfortunately, due to a shortage of staff, that's what we have to resort to. The other area, in terms of the \$1 million, this is in incremental dollars to the existing budget. The fiscal year 2003-04, the health covered \$6.5 million for agency nurses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, if that 2003-04 figure of \$6.5 million for agency nurses, I wouldn't mind knowing how many that covered or was that just the 62 or less than 62 because there is more of a demand this year.

It's over \$1 million in nurses. Maybe I should become an agency nurse. Some people might think I look nice in one of those uniforms. With this increase of \$1 million in this year, would one be correct in saying then that they're looking at a total of \$7.5 million so far for the 04-05 supplementary that we're looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount is 6 and not 7. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So it's down a half a million dollars from last year. Is that what the minister is indicating. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For this year, that is the estimate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it up or down half a million from last year. With this million dollars, is it going to be \$6 million estimated this year. Is that what the minister is indicating. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is what I am stating. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe there was a wish or a hope on behalf of the Department of Health that they were going to continue to not need as much agency nurses as they were before, so therefore they budgeted for less than they required last year.

Again, I know it's a question that Mr. Peterson asked in other different areas. Is this going to be a permanent increase to their base, or is it going to be something that will be cut again next year and then another supplementary for it possibly in the time to come again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I responded to Mr. Peterson's question on that earlier.

For this particular year this is what we're requesting. Further review will be done on the Department of Health and Social Services base budget for the next fiscal year, but at this time, the request is that million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know Mr. Chairman, the minister had indicated that the agency nurses get to pick and choose where they want to go and for how long they want to go. Do they have any information on how long the average turn over rate is for these nurses.

Are they coming for a month and going away, taking six weeks off and then coming back again six weeks later to work in a different community. Do they keep track of that kind of information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the simplest way to explain agency nurses is that they are like contractors. They, as a contractor, would decide what projects to take and which one not to take.

It is very similar to that, in terms of how many days or months they are here. I don't have that information. The Minister of Health and Social Services may have that information but I don't have that type of statistics for the Department Health and Social Services, on agency nurses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo. Minister Brown, do you have a supplementary.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you. It's no different from any other department, where they have a lot of casuals, if they don't enough permanent workers. It is manned the same. The only thing is in the communities we don't have a lot of nurses that are available so, we have to go through contract and put down agreements with that contract person to hire nurses.

The other part to that is that I believe the department would have that information that the member is asking about, about the travel and what the turn over rate is or how long they would stay. We would have that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister commit to providing members with that information and also, do they keep track if, say if this certain

particular agency nurse comes in and does a six week tour and then takes six weeks off because her contract is only for six weeks, I understand it's all done on a contract basis.

But then they're coming back again in six weeks. Is it a different community or the same community, the same person. Is that type of information that the department keeps track of, and if not, could they also provide that information to the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I believe that question was directed to the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can look into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo. We're on page 24. Total health insurance program, \$9 million. Do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Health protection. Total health protection, \$166 thousand. Do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Treatment programs. Total treatment programs, \$3 million 539 thousand. Do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total department, \$15 million 831 thousand. Do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Turning to page 25. Environment, operations and maintenance. Branch. Corporate Management. Total Corporate Management, \$413 thousand dollars. Do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Program Development. Total program development, \$481 thousand. Do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In here there is an interdepartmental transfer of \$11 thousand to Community and Government Services. I'm just wondering, is that just a transfer of existing dollars for that position with the transfer of that function going to the other department, or is something else in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand it's a transfer to cover the cost of leasing. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. But is that \$11 thousand what it costs to lease that facility per year or is it an additional cost. Is it a straight transfer because of a transfer of responsibilities from one department to another, or is it an increase cost. If it is an increased cost, why are we seeing an increased cost. Did they get a bigger office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let Bob Vardy respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The \$11 thousand is a transfer from Environment to Community and Government Services to cover the leasing costs this current year of office spacing in Chesterfield Inlet.

There is a new wildlife office being built, but it won't be ready for occupancy until next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Vardy. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, was an office there before that they supplied or is this a new office space. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It is my understanding that it's space that they already occupied. There has been a delay in building the new wildlife office to accommodate the wildlife officer in that community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, if I'm interpreting what this fine young man is saying over here, is that they had planned to be in the new facility, they only budgeted enough lease cost until they anticipated that the new facility would be ready and therefore, they wouldn't need that lease anymore, but because the new facility isn't ready they have to extend the lease on the existing facility. Is that a correct interpretation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: That would be correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on page 25. Total program development, \$481 thousand. Do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total department, \$594 thousand. Do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Turn to page 26. Community and Government Services. Operations and maintenance. Branch. Directorate. Total directorate, -\$99 thousand. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Similar to my last question, there is \$471 thousand here being transferred to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to complete the departmental reorganization for NNI function.

Again is this just a straight transfer of already budget approved dollars for a function that has been, now is the responsibility of a different department and there's no change in the originally budgeted numbers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the document there is an interdepartmental transfer, that would mean that the funding had already been appropriated in the previous list, but where there is a change from one department to another, we have to show that in the books as an interdepartmental transfer.

At the end of the day, there is another side to deal, but it is to complete the reorganization of the department as indicated in the supplementary bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other part of that is there is no increase at all. It's the same amount that was budgeted in the other department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: It is just a transfer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is pertaining to the \$150 thousand that's being transferred from the operations and maintenance budget to the capital budget within the Department of Community and Government Services for the operation of the Panniqtuuq Sewage Treatment Facility.

Can the minister tell us if this is a one time expenditure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be correct. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us what accounted for the extra costs. It's a fairly significant amount and you would think that the department would have budgeted for those costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you. From what I recall, it's an interdepartmental transfer, again, going from CG and S operations and maintenance to operations and maintenance from capital. It went from operations and maintenance to capital. That's basically what it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I go back to \$471 thousand. Does the government know the final costs on what it costs to complete that reorganization last March. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the premier announced the restructuring of the government departments he stated that there would no additional costs, but rather interdepartmental restructuring and dollars being transferred from one to the other. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the minister could just remind me how much the total cost was for the government to complete that reorganization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to clarify, what was the cost for renovations, the total final cost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had stated earlier that there were no additional costs to complete the restructuring of the department. In terms of the question he is asking about renovations and what not, from what I understand, there had been no additional cost associated with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are on page 26, (interpretation ends) Directorate, Total Directorate, -99,000 (interpretation) agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Community Support, Total Community Support, \$406,000, (interpretation) do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn to page 27 it's the same branch, Community Services, not previously authorized, oh, Government Services, sorry, Total Government Services, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Finance, there is \$1,676,000 that has been requested for the continued investment of the telehealth network, is that for the other 10 or 11 Telehealth sites that you mentioned earlier in the meeting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. It would be for all sites. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Just to clarify, Mr. Chairman, is that 25 sites, or 15 sites? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am trying to get a clarification in terms of exactly how many sites are up and running now, but I can ask Bob to respond to the second part of the question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Community and Government Services component is for the satellite costs and the telecommunications costs of the network. The Department of Health pays for the hardware and the other costs within the department.

This is the additional amount of dollars provided to Community and Government Services for this service. I am not sure if there was an existing budget for that purpose in the department. All I know is this is the incremental cost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Vardy. (interpretation) We are on page 27, Total Government Services, not previously authorized, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the Minister of Finance could clarify this; is that for 25 sites or 15 sites? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to ask the Minister of Health to clarify, once and for all, how many sites are in place now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown, could you clarify that?

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there's some, is this about Telehealth? Okay. There is a completion, the information I got, the last one to be installed is in Whale Cove in Nunavut. Everybody else has it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With those amounts and the previous amount of over \$1,400,000 it is going to be over \$3,000,000 being requested in total in the supplementary appropriation bill for telehealth related health.

I am wondering if the Minister of Finance could confirm that these are all going to be one-time costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For this submission, yes, for the next go around, we will have to go through the base adjustment for the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this gets back to our earlier conversation that it's going to be very important that we have a cost-benefit analysis done and see how Telehealth works.

Like I said, in theory it seems it should work here in Nunavut, but we have to start seeing some of that information to support these supplementary appropriations for this and other budgeting requests to confirm this major investment is going to prove cost effective for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Peterson raised an excellent point and the Financial Management Board had directed the department to come back to the cost-benefit analysis for that exact reason to invest in Telehealth, but with this type of money, we need to be able to demonstrate as well and evaluate the merits of it.

So, yes, we did request that and I mentioned earlier that we are looking to have that report completed and the other area I mentioned as well is we are looking to see areas where it can improve services to patient care, as well as part of the evaluation, not just the dollar side of things.

So, we are looking to that information and look into it forward and reviewing that information that I will share with the members once it's completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's another significant note on that page. There is \$2,000,000 for increased cost in utilities for Government of Nunavut buildings and it lists a whole lot of services or fees. Do you have a regional breakdown for the \$2,000,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The breakdown that I have, the shortfall for Baffin was 1.631 and in the Kitikmeot it's 1.22. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there an amount for the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: The other area was another 200. There is no listing for Kivalliq on this information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There seems to be a large disparity between our regions for some reason. Baffin is higher, significantly higher.

Do the utility costs include costs incurred by any of the schools across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That question was phrased as well during question period and that adjustment will be made in the proposed adjustment, will be made in the upcoming main estimates to transfer as well to CG&S from the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have asked this question before. Are those one-time costs or are they going to be costs added to the base budget for the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I notice that same question has been asked from each page and for this time, yes, and we will also review the base for that department in the upcoming year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Peterson. That's it. We are on page 27. (interpretation ends) Government Services, Total Government Services, not previously authorized, \$4,003,000, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to follow up on the minister's response to Mr. Peterson's question about the schools being included in there and she responded to that question in an answer earlier, but in interpreting that answer, I guess the minister is saying that those are not included in these numbers; is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, Mr. Peterson's question was: are we looking into dealing with education and the response was yes.

We are looking into dealing with that, not in this document, not in this supplementary appropriation bill, but in the base for the main estimates that will be released in February. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then the question is: is any of this funding going to any of those utility costs in any of the schools throughout Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That resource for education is still within the Department of Education today. They are able to cover that.

Come the main estimates next year, we are looking at proposing that those security costs be covered and transferred to Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A very nice answer, but a simple correct, yes, it's they are not included in there was all I was looking for or none of it is going towards our schools.

Will the government then be looking at making any similar type of contributions to the Department of Education to offset those same costs that are borne by the schools and other educational facilities throughout the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No request from the Department of Education has been made for incremental dollars associated with gratuity costs.

From what I do understand from the Minister of Education is that they are looking to transfer the responsibility of those utility costs to the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be fair to assume that if all other government facilities are requiring a total of \$2,000,000 to cover off increased costs for utilities that the schools would be in the same boat and

I know that the Education Minister and all the Members of this Assembly are saying that education is still one of the top priorities and keys to the success of our territory's future. One would assume if nothing comes forward by the Department of Education that they are meeting that amount internally.

But would the minister commit to taking a look at that and seeing if they could, instead of having the department eat it internally, bring pay to subsidize those costs like they do to into every other department and allow those dollars to be put into the classrooms where they belong? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I said earlier, we went to the department and asked and to see if they required incremental dollars, like we ask any other departments before we bring forward the supplementary appropriation bills, the response was no.

The response in the House and the Minister of Education was that, in the next year's main estimates, he will be proposing that the utility costs for education be covered through the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that and I recognize the minister's response. Even though they found a way to eat up those costs internally and not come forward for a request for additional dollars.

What I am asking for is: would the minister commit at approaching them again and asking them to determine how much more they had to pay for increased utility costs and like they do in every other departments, offset those and allow those dollars that they were going to eat up internally to go into the classroom for this year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand from my officials, the question was very specific to that issue. Do you require additional utility cost funding? The response we received from the department is they have adequate funding. So, I will leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then if that's the case, one could assume that the Department of Education's budget was the only accurate one out there because one would assume that all these other government facilities with other government

departments are in all the same communities as the schools and yet the schools or the Department of Education are the only ones that had accurate numbers in there so they didn't need to come back for extra money.

I guess that's necessarily would be a correct interpretation of how this is unfolded and I guess it seems kind of ironic, too, that this comes on the heels of the Minister of Energy's statement, in the Minister of Community and Government Services statement last week on the Government of Nunavut becoming energy efficient. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the issue here is that it's not about whether it's accurate or not. I think has more to do with whether it was adequate or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very interesting response from the minister that government is putting forward inadequate budgets; is that what the minister is indicating by some departments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite see what he interpreted. We have to deal with the issues around increased costs as anywhere else, and like I said before, some departments were adequately budgeted for that other department.

So, we are trying to address through this issue. We can debate that if the terms are accurate or adequate back and forth, but at the end of the day, those incremental dollars required to cover the utilities for facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then if that's the case, that there were inadequate projections brought forward by the department and approved by this government, that the Department of Finance takes a lead in developing the main estimates. That would, again, keep track of incidents to try and tighten up so that we will not have to look at these types of things. There will always be some, but if we could try to find ways to eliminate some areas where there are weaknesses and deficiencies. Like I said, if we are seeing something like this historically coming from a department that should send up some flags, if there are some lessons that could be learned there for future years' budgeting practices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think in all cases when we try and put budgets together, we try and ensure that the information before us that we are working with is as accurate as possible, to try and project and put forward the information as adequately and accurately as possible to this House.

Occasionally, as you all know, we have to put forward supplementary appropriation bills to deal with some of the unexpected events that occur, not only in the areas of budgeting, but there are other things that do come up that we have to deal with, for example, the Iqaluit school fire. These are things that you can't plan for, we can't project these things.

So, everyday, as much as possible, and every department is responsible to try and put as much accurate information forward to the Department of Finance in taking the coordinating role in monitoring all the information that is presented to us and try and verify that along with the departments and work with the departments and try and put that forward.

It's always an ongoing budgeting practice that is in place, but if the deputy wants to elaborate more on that, I will let him.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to add a couple of comments to what the minister has already said, the situation we are dealing with here is the result of increased world oil prices and the Department of Finance and the Government of Nunavut don't have a lot of expertise in forecasting world prices of petroleum products.

The prices that have come in over the last while are higher than anyone has projected, even oil companies themselves, in any of their annual reports or any of the top economic think tanks in the country.

So, the fact that we didn't have allowances built in our budget to cover high costs of petroleum products that were higher than forecasted by everyone, I don't think it makes our budget inaccurate.

Whether some department got enough money in their budget to cover off this increase, and some others don't, it's an adequacy issue. In the specific case of education, they indicated that they got enough money in their budget for utilities to cover the increase. The other areas of government indicated that they needed more funds.

As always, we try to forecast every unknown, but something like the world price of oil, I don't think we can be faulted much for not predicting where the prices are right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do appreciate that and I guess maybe the people budgeting for the Department of Education should be doing some work with some of the other departments because they seem to get their numbers right and the other departments didn't.

As far as adequacy goes as far as the overall budget, I think when you look at this stuff that we are looking at, it goes anywhere from \$224,000 to the highest of \$15,871,000 for department and that's Health and Social Services that in previous years has been under funded.

So, when we talked about realistic budgets, I don't think, in some cases there may be and in some cases there may not be. I think we need to try and do what we can to ensure the accuracies of these budgets so that we don't look at supplementary appropriations or even if we say, okay we are going to have a deficit, but we have to meet these needs.

This is what we know we are going to have and not just say we are only going to budget this much, knowing full well that the Department of Health is going to need a \$20,000,000 bail-out part way through the year.

To me that's not accurate budgeting and I think that is something that we need to, even if it shows we are going to have a deficit. That's not a dirty word if we need to provide those services and we are not getting enough resources to do it, we still have to provide those services.

So, that was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We are on page 27, (interpretation ends) Total Government Services, not previously authorized, \$1,003,000, (interpretation) do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page to page 28. Are there any questions? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a note here to provide funding of \$1,000,000 for the costs associated with...I am getting dry here, I am losing my voice...to provide funding of \$1,000,000 for costs associated with the implementation of the first phase of the fire protection strategy. Could the minister tell us what specifically the \$1,000,000 will be spent on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a plan for additional resources for fire marshal's office equipment and personnel, and to provide additional training and

to promote and provide public education and awareness for fire services safety and prevention programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Miss. Aglukkaq. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister clarify how many additional personnel that the fire department, the fire marshal's office will be hiring? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have here, there will be a deputy fire marshal, dedicated PY. Second internship candidates and one headquarters administrative support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Evyagotailak would like to make a comment.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I believe we don't have a quorum.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. We don't have a quorum at this time. Please ring the bells.

We now have a quorum. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess people got tired of me asking questions, so they left.

You mentioned that the first phase of fire protection, it implies that there is going to be a second and third and fourth phase. Does the government have an idea of what the total costs of the will be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that this program in the long run will save the Government of Nunavut funds for lost prevention initiatives. The department has put a lot effort into training in the last year and throughout Nunavut and the amounts that I have in front me will probably require additional \$2,000,000 in the base, perhaps next year to continue on with the efforts of training fire fighters throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I applaud the government for making that move because when I was with the Nunavut Association Municipalities we had some serious losses when some of our municipalities' buildings burned down. We learned from

our difficulties that we didn't have sufficient fire protection and education across Nunavut and I'm very happy to see the fire department is working to help educate the fire departments and train them across Nunavut.

The municipal training organization is doing a lot of great fire training work. So, I think this is an area that as the minister said, we could make small investments now that will pay big dividends down the road by protecting 20 or 30 million dollar infrastructure buildings and other projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman...

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I don't think that was a question. We were on page 28. Total protection services not previously authorized. \$1,122,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Capital planning and technical services. Total Capital. Planning and technical services not previously authorized. \$609,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Not previously authorized. \$6,700,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page 29. Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Operation and Maintenance. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 29, \$300,000 is being requested by the government to implement the NNI function in the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. How many PO's have the contracting supplies or forward hearing to date and how many decisions has it made?

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand the \$300,000 in this supplementary bill is to set up this shop for the NNI monitoring and training units, which will include approximately 3 or 4 employees and the setting up of the office. In terms of the statistics of the work that has been done by the individual responsible for managing NNI program, I don't have that information. Perhaps the minister, I don't have those statistics in terms of the delivery and the monitoring of appeals for NNI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Evyagotailak. Is that it?

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): That is it

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Page 29. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a follow-up on a line of questioning. Can the minister commit to giving that information to us by the February session? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Yes, we'll certainly get that information that is being asked for. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Peterson. Is that it? We're on page 29. Corporate Management. Total corporate management not previously authorized. \$369,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Department of Economic Development and Transportation not previously authorized. \$659,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn the page. Page 30. Total Transportation. \$367,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total department not previously authorized. \$1,404,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page 31. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The total for uncontrolled expense shortfall is \$7,700,000 and there is a figure in there of \$2,900,000 for uncontrolled expense shortfall of the local housing authority.

Can the minister tell us what specifically \$2.9 million dollars will be use for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The increase is to cover prior uncontrollable expenses in the areas of utility

costs and it is to offset the impact of the fuel price increases of August 2004. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It says 4.8 million for the financial impact of the fuel increases, but can the minister be more clear on what the 2.9 million will be used for. What type of utility costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount will be used for fuel prices as well as for the water and sewer costs for new public housing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the inevitable happens, when we have the power prices increase, will the local housing authorities organizations get an increase in their base funding to cover the increase in power rates across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had said earlier, during the session that we would be dealing with the whole issue what is going before cabinet regarding the proposed GRA application and the recommendation from the URRC when that recommendation has gone to cabinet, we will be reviewing all those elements that will effect, not all those elements but the impact it will have on AGC's, not only government and we mentioned many times that the Government of Nunavut covers 80 percent of those costs away so we need to look at that.

Come February we'll be in a position to talk more in details of what that will all mean. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much does the Government of Nunavut provide to each local housing authority in percentage terms for O&M and other costs associated with the maintaining buildings and providing services to the tenants and the communities where they have public and social housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand from my officials the amount is quite high. They don't have a strong revenue base, but it is

unfortunate that the minister is not available here. I can commit collecting that information in terms of how much each community receives from the territorial government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: I read a newspaper story on CBC report story last May where we had \$6,000,000 and rental arrears and \$1,000,000 in damages that had not been collected over, I think it said 30 years.

I'm sure the department is making efforts to get that under control. It seems to me that there has to be money that comes from the government to cover those costs. You just cannot collect that money. You need money to repair your buildings, you need money for O&M. I've read a figure somewhere that cost an average of \$18,000 in O&M for the Government of Nunavut to operate one housing unit in Nunavut.

If that is not offset by equal amount of revenue then the government has to pay quite a bit. If you're only charging \$60 a month in rent, that is not going to amount to \$18,000 to break even. I'm just wondering how much money the government, the housing corporation provide each housing authority to operate their houses in their communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize the member's concerns and I think some communities are much more active than other communities in collecting rent as well as dealing with individuals that are not paying rent and one example is in Cambridge Bay. There has been a lot of coverage on potential tenants being evicted for not paying so.

He raised an interesting point. In terms of how much each association receives from the territorial government, I don't have that information available, and I mentioned earlier that it is unfortunate that the minister is not here but I will commit to providing that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Peterson. Is that it? Thank you, Mr. Peterson.

We are on page 31. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Branch. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Nunavut Housing Corporation not previously authorized. \$8,009,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Appropriations. Operation and Maintenance. Appropriations. \$45,502,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Supplementary Appropriation. Operation and Maintenance. Act II, 2004-05. Definitions One. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Going to page 2 under schedule. Operations and Maintenance. \$45,502,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Supplementary Appropriation. \$35,502,000. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Item 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Item 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Item 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Item 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Item 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: The Bill as a whole. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Bill 2 is now ready for third reading. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Bill 3. Supplementary Appropriation. Capital Act. We'll take a 5 minute break before we starts with the next one.

>>*Committee recessed at 14:54 and resumed at 15:16*

Chairman (interpretation): We can proceed. Our next item is Supplementary Appropriation Capital II, 2004/05, Bill 3. Let us go to page 4. Finance Capital Branch. Comptrollership. Total Comptrollership special warrants. \$39,000. Total department. \$39,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Human Resources Capital. Branch. Directorate. Total Directorate special warrant not previously authorized. \$100,000. Do you agree? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Here we are seeing \$100,000 being transferred from Department of Human Resources' O&M to capital, to complete the renovations in the Trigram Building. I know I asked the questions earlier supplementary amount in there, in the O&M.

Is this just the debit or credit of that earlier entry in there, or is this additional funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. He has raised the same questions and we are dealing with the item in the O&M sup-Bills, this is basically to show that same amounts under the capital sup-Bills. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We are on page 5. Branch Directorate. Total Directorate not previously authorized. \$100,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$100,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We will turn to page 6. Branch. Directorate. Total Directorate, special warrants. \$229,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Registries and Court Services. \$634,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Special warrants. \$84,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total department. \$947,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Turn the page to page 7. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth Capital. Branch. Directorate. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$111,000 is being requested as the carry over for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, capital funding for community heritage elders and youth centres.

Will the department table a comprehensive annual report next year on its 2004/05 capital spending, including which projects were funded? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will pass that on to the Minister responsible for the department to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just wondering if we could ascertain that the Minister would be willing to provide us with that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that I just answered that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas, can you ask your question again?

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): My question to the Minister is \$111,000 is being requested as a carry over Culture, Language, Elders and Youth .capital funding for community heritage elders and youth centres.

Will the department table a comprehensive annual report next year on its 2004/05 capital spending, including which projects were funded? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will bring this up on the report, 2004/05, and it will have a list of what the funds were used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. We are on page 7. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to hear and look forward to seeing that information in the House. Just below that there is an additional \$15,000 for more renovations to the Trigram Building.

I am just wondering if this is on top of the other money that was there in Human Resources. I know that the Minister had indicated the other day the total amount.

I am just wondering if this is additional that are included in the total amounts that she had indicated yesterday? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount that is shown on page 7 is Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's portion to the renovation of the Trigram Building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Chairman, I am just wondering if Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's portion of those renovations but yesterday the Minister had indicated that this was a contract for both departments. And there was an amount that she mentioned yesterday.

I am just wondering if this amount was included in that total that she gave us yesterday, or if it is an additional amount on top of that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To clarify the comments made, there was a question made in question support in regards to an overall figure for the renovation of the Trigram Building, and I had stated at that time, it was one project for the overall seven hundred figure that was discussed yesterday.

And the question before yesterday was what the difference is. Who covered what? And I had mentioned at that time it was one project. In terms of the \$100,000 we were discussing yesterday, under Department of Human Resources, in that amount is that \$15,000 Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's portion.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That \$20,000 that is there and it states Nunavut various, in regards to recreational facilities. Twenty thousand is not a big amount. Which one is it for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: The \$20,000 figure is the carry over from that line item to this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We are on page 7. Branch. Directorate. Total. Directorate. Special Warrant. \$146,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: \$146,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 8. Education. Capital. Branch. Corporate Services. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): On page 8, \$3,959,000 is being requested capital for carry over for numerous Department of Education projects.

Can the minister tell us which of the projects are over budget or behind schedule? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the communities that are behind schedule I believe those are listed in the page 8. That is where those projects are, behind schedule, so we're putting forward those amounts to this new fiscal year, and on the bottom it states that the transfer is taking, is going from one fiscal year to the next fiscal year and there is no increase in the original approved capital projects for those communities listed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Does that mean any of them are over budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no increase in funding. There is no change from the original amount. We're basically carrying the funding from

the old fiscal year to the 2004-05 fiscal year, to finish the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Mr. Chairman, can the minister tell us which of those projects are under budget or ahead of schedule? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the projects listed there, they are all behind schedule so that is why we are transferring the money to the next fiscal year to finish the projects.

Once we are closer to the end of the project, we'll have a better idea whether they are under budget, or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak, Are you done? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the minister's comments of what these municipal operations is doing in transferring money that was appropriated last year into this year.

But they are the same amounts but that doesn't necessarily mean that all of them are on budget, and on time, or under budget, but out of the ones that are listed there is the minister aware of any of them going to being over budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not at this time. We're not aware, as far as we know that that is the amount that is being transferred to complete the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there any requirement for the Minister responsible for Education to inform, I don't know whether it would be the Minister of Finance department or Department of Community and Government Services, or whoever is administrating those contracts, if and when they discover that they are going to end up being costing more than appropriated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a regular basis there is a strong working relationship between Department of Community and Government Services and Department of Education and the Department of Finance to monitor all the capital

projects and at which time we are aware we will go forward with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now that we have the illustrious, electrifying Minister of Education with us, I was wondering if he could indicate on page 8 of the 2004-05 Supplementary Appropriation, Capital number 2, the list of project for the capital projects for the Department of Education, if he is aware any of them that may be running into over budgeting problems? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To repeat my response in the presence of the minister, at this point and time, I stated that Department of Finance, Department of Community and Government Services and Department of Education are working together on a regular basis to monitor the progress of each of these projects. As far as we know at this point time, they are on target and should that information become available, I committed to the members that information will go forward in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, did you want to add on to this?

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must say that since the new minister stepped in the role of finance is not like the other role, but with the other minister, it was like pulling teeth to try and get information out and endorsing the minister.

So, there were 12 requests to carry over capital projects. It is my understanding that the 12 projects listed in the mains of page 8, all have contractual agreements for carrying over requests and basically just to ensure adequate cash flow for successful completion of the project.

I don't see any indication where the project has gone over budget and that's certainly not the reason for capital carry over. It is the contractual arrangements on the schools that are going forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the projects in there is the replacement of the Joamie School that was lost in the fire. My understanding, Mr. Chairman, is if that project is ahead of schedule.

I'm just wondering if minister responsible could indicate when they're projecting the project be completed and students will be able to go into their new school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Aglukkaq, did you want to respond?

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the figures that are before us, to complete the project the carry over is required because it falls in between two fiscal years.

In terms of when the grand opening will be at the school, I believe that is the question that Mr. Tootoo is asking of the Minister of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. The Joamie School project by all expectations is moving forward very quickly. The landscaping has been basically completed on the outside indeed. The final work is being done inside.

We would hope to be in a position to move in earlier than expected. I believe the date that we looked at was some time in March, when the final building is finished all the shake downs and so on. Maybe the students could be in as early as this spring in April or May, maybe earlier?

Again, it depends when the project is complete. When all the shake downs of the building are done and the finals are complete. I think that is really good news for Iqaluit residents who have been waiting for the school to be finished. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other area project on there, that little interest in, I'm not sure that this is one that current Education Minister is very familiar with is the Aqsarniit School addition.

I know that the minister is aware that when the school was built, it was built to house three grade levels and right from day one when it opened it only had the capacity to house two and this addition I think is something that is long overdue.

I'm just wondering what and when we can expect to see some work being done on this? I see there is \$98,000 in here. Is that just for design phase of the project? When can we expect to see the work being done on the school? Why is this being carried over, is it just because the work that we are getting done was not completed in the prior fiscal year? Or it is just more work that is being carried on over two fiscal years and what work is that? There still hasn't been any signs of any construction anything up there so. That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand the project is entering its first year of construction phase and now it is on the final committee as well to look at the design and what not and to continue on with that project, the funds have been transferred to the next fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are you finished? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just thought this was a something that was a design function that was committed to have been done the last fiscal year. Is there any specific reason why it is taking so long to get done? There is a requirement for it to be carried over if they are going to be starting construction this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the majority of funding to initiate this project will be in this phase. The carry over is the smaller amount from that actual budget for initial review of the building, and what not. From what I understand the majority of the funds are coming this fiscal year in the capital that was just approved two days ago. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to get a clarification in regards to Sanikiluaq. Is the new Sanikiluaq School for \$97,000? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that \$97,000 figure is for the design phase of the new school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They've already worked on the design. Isn't the design completed yet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The transfer of the \$97,000 is from the fiscal year 2003-04 capital project. This document is transferring that figure to the currently fiscal year of 2004-05 and I believe that funding was allocated to initiate the design phase of the actual school. The construction of that school has not started. And the funding was to initiate the design so that we can go to the next step of going forward with the capital project for the actual construction of the school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've seen the design already. It has been up and shown through the local channel. The design has been seen. So, my question is the \$97,000, will it be used for, I've seen the design in the local channel in the last two years. The design was done and I just wanted to find out what the \$97,000 is being used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The majority of the project for the design phase was completed in 2003-04 which the member states has been advertised and the original target funding for that design phase was \$650,000 and the remaining balance of that \$96,000 is what we're transferring into this new fiscal year.

The design phase from what he said is done but to go forward the construction that is why we need to transfer the funding that was left over. This is basically the balance of what was not spent in 2003-04. We need to transfer it to this capital year of 2004-05 to conclude that design phase of that project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We're on page 8. Capital. Grants. Corporate Services. Special Warrant. \$3, 859,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$3,859,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 9. Health and Social Services. Capital. Branch Directorate. Total Directorate. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a large amount here \$30,630,000. I'm wondering if the minister could tell us of any of these projects are ahead of schedule and whether they are on budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of again, I'll state that this funding that is being transferred from one capital project year to the next fiscal year, the 2004-05.

In there it basically says that there is no additional funding and there is no additional funding required for that. The projects had been initiated in that one fiscal year and in terms of where they are at the building and development, each date. I don't have that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many years can you carryover from one fiscal year to another but can you carry over two fiscal years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can carryover funding that was approved in one fiscal year to the next fiscal year, if there are balances in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. How many fiscal years can you carry money over, if the project is behind schedule and not on budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can carryover the funding from one fiscal year to the next fiscal year until the project is completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister tell me if the Kitikmeot health facility is on schedule and on budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I know, the Kitikmeot health facility is on budget and on schedule. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I ask that question, as Member of the Legislative Assembly for Cambridge Bay, I don't know that the schedule is. I had heard that it was going to be finished by October 15th then November 15th. Now I'm hearing March so I don't know if it is on schedule so I thought I'd ask that question.

Can the minister tell us if their Department of Finance has made a decision on how they are going to finance the new building? Or, are they planning to lease it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand in terms of when the building will be completed is January. There has been no decision yet made how what arrangement will be made for that facility in term so of managing or what not.

I believe there has been some discussions that have been initiated how we will proceed with that, but at this stage in time, there is no decision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the answer. Can the minister indicate or tell us when you expect a decision to be made on whether to build or own versus lease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That decision will be made within the next couple of months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We're on page 9. Capital. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on there, there is \$25,000 carry over for renovations at the regional hospital here. I know that there is a need for a great many renovations at the hospital there.

I'm just wondering if the minister has a list of what that what renovation projects that \$25,000 consists of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the fiscal year 2003-04, 103 was allocated for minor renovations at the Baffin Regional Hospital, and the carryover from that amount is \$25,000. I think that anyone that walks into the Baffin Regional Hospital will see that the entrance area has been completely redone, where there is much more privacy in the lobby area where people and patients wait to see their doctors.

I believe that is the project that the member is referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess if there is still a \$25,000 in there, does that means that there is more work that has to be done in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, again that is a carry over from the project from one fiscal year to the other, whatever project remains in that area that will be covered by this cost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if the Minister of Health might be able to give it a better breakdown of what that \$25,000 is going to go for. Is that going to be to further enhance the conditions at the entrance area and the waiting area at the Baffin Regional Hospital? Or is it for some other renovations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not an enhancement to the project. This is to complete the project of the Baffin Regional Hospital. The original amounts are located in the 2003-04 appropriation for the renovation project was \$103,000, this is the balance remaining that needs to be carried over into the 2004-05 year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the minister, herself had indicated that if you walked in there you would see that things have changed quite a bit and that is true but they are not working in there anymore.

What I am getting at is it looks like they are done. If they are not done, what else are they going to be doing in there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The project is the same project, and this whole basis would be from the safety budget document to ensure that we follow rules to transfer funding that are remaining in an old fiscal year, that we are not spent, gets transferred to the new year so the project could be completed. There is the requirement to transfer funding that is remaining in one fiscal year to another fiscal year.

So it will be to complete that project, if it has not already been completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't expect the Minister of Finance to know whether that project is complete or not. The Minister of Health and Social Services is here, if she could indicate whether or not that project is complete. This is just in fact money that have not yet been invoiced or paid out that is being carried over? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I tried answering that question twice. Perhaps the Minister of Health and Social Services can confirm if the project is completed or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the project has been worked on for over two years and I think they are finalizing it now. It is not quite completed but it is near completion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you for making that very clear, Madame Minister. Maybe if you could indicate as I asked if it wasn't complete, what still has to be done up there because as you know yourself, and anyone that has been in there lately, that they are no longer doing any work in there. So I am just wondering what else is yet to be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I said before the funding is transferred from one year to the next year. It's to complete the projects for the renovation of the hospital area. For all that I know the project could be completed at this point but in terms of accounting for those dollars from one fiscal year to the next fiscal year, when there is a balance at the end of one fiscal year, there is the requirement to transfer the project funding to another fiscal year.

So, in terms of whether it's done, or not. It may be done. I don't know. The Minister of Health and Social Services, again, could probably respond to that better than I can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What my understanding is that there is very minor stuff left over to do. This project was initiated by then the Minister before me, Minister Picco. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, very much for that Minister for providing some clarity to that. Just for the Minister of Finance's sake, that is what I was trying to get at. I knew that she wouldn't know whether or not a project was complete or what had yet to be done there.

That is all that I was trying to find out. We can't expect someone to know everything. Too bad that is why the other ministers are here and that is what all the members asked in advance to make sure that they would be here to be able to answer those questions, and not to be deflective about information.

Mr. Chairman, my next question, and maybe the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Health will be able to answer it. There is \$108,000 being carried over for Hospital Code Evaluation and Design. How much of the total project that was approved for that and is this all tied to the code changes that will be required as a result of the attachment to the new Regional Hospital that is being built up there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The original invested for that project was \$804,000 again to continue on with the project, it is an ongoing project. The balance from one fiscal year to the next fiscal year is what being proposed to transfer to the fiscal year 2004-05. The amount of that is \$108,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other part of my question was is that a result of the code changes that will be required as a result of the new hospital being attached to the existing hospital? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I know that is the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. On page 9. Health and Social Services Capital. Branch. Directorate. Total. Directorate. Special warrants. \$30,635,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total. Department. \$30,635,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 10. Environment. Capital. Branch. Program Development. Total. Program Development. Special warrants. \$908,000. Do you agree? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In here there is \$46,000 in there for the Sylvia Grinnell Park. I am just wondering if this is funding that is being carried over to the bridge that is supposed to be built over the river in the park? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$46,000, yes it is a carry over from one fiscal year to the next fiscal year. Whether that is for the bridge, I don't know. Maybe Mr. Akasuk may be able to answer that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Minister Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is mainly for upgrading the Sylvia Grinnell Park poster and discussion on the bridge with the federal government that we are trying to figure out how much money will be used from the government. I believe that there are people that are involved from the community that is doing also fundraising to make sure that we have a bridge coming for the Sylvia Grinnell.

I think we still don't have the actual amount of money that we will be spending for the bridge, so this is for other various projects that are outstanding in the park. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am a little concerned to hear that comment from the Minister of Environment. I don't know if there was an appropriation for that particular project made in this House in the past, or there was some, and I am pretty sure that there was, it's not in here. The bridge isn't there so where is the money that was appropriated for that?

Also wasn't there any other kind of contributions made for that project from outside sources as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the Minister responsible for the Environment can discuss or provide more information on projects that have been discussed, or what not. I am not prepared to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been there for a while but the money that Mr. Tootoo is referring is the \$25,000 that are to remember from the past that we used that money to get a feasibility study, where we are going to put in the bridge and how it is going to be built.

We have already done the feasibility study. We are just waiting for an answer from the federal government on how we are going to get the funding from them or how they are going to help us out in building the bridge. The Fundraising Committee for the bridge, we

are still working with them, they still have their money somewhere that is stashed to help us out with the funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding that the whole budgeting process in the capital plan is initially, as the Minister has indicated, that there was design, basically a feasibility study being done. There should have been some funding followed up with that for either design or the construction phases. That is the usual process that that follows.

I guess if that is something, like the Minister had indicated, that the project has fallen off, or when can we expect to see some money in the capital budget to finish off the project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that my colleague mentioned that there has been some discussions and follow ups in regards to that feasibility study to see if there are any outside source funding to could provide support to developing that bridge.

We all say that we are short of funding for capital, housing, and what not, and this is one of those projects that can perhaps be funded in partnership with the federal government, and I believe that the Minister indicated that the study is completed to initiate discussions with the federal government.

I imagine with whatever the outcome may be of those discussions will result in the next steps we take as a territorial government, whether to proceed partially funded, or fully funded, and what not. I believe that he indicated that those discussions are ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other part of that question that I previously asked was any idea when we can expect to see that, in any type of form in the budgeting process. When are we actually going to see something happening down there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just two days ago we approved the fiscal year 05-06 capital project, I don't believe that it is in that. Depending on how it goes with the discussions with the federal government, perhaps in this fall's upcoming capital projects. That will also depend on the minister himself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the actual minister responsible would be able to give a better idea of when we could see that project starting to move ahead. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We still don't have the actual dates yet, but we are much closer than we were last year. The costs of the bridge with different numbers that we played around with, I think that we'll probably have something in mind in a year or two on the budget. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question and probably a quick answer here. How many visitor's centers do we have in Nunavut? I see that there is \$62,000 budgeted for carryovers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, I don't have that listing and I believe that the minister is the better person to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the information. I took my binder up there earlier during the break and I didn't take them back down.

There are a few visitors' centers and I could give you the numbers once I get the numbers, even before this session is over, just now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It just occurred to me when you put a note Nunavut various, and you put visitors' centers, I think it should be a little bit clearer. Is the money used for all the visitors' centers, or is it for a specific project that you have in mind? That is what I was looking for clarification on, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member raised a good comment and we'll try and address that in future documentation. Perhaps that is also the information that the Minister of Environment mentioned that he would try and provide it and include it in there, for any future supplementary appropriation bills to try and provide more specific information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Page 10. Environment. Capital. Program Development. Total program development. Special warrants. \$908,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total department. \$908,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 11. Community and Government Services. Capital. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking down the list I see that the one that jumped out at me is the Government of Nunavut – Iqaluit contribution agreement of \$3,306,000. Why did that funding have to be carried over? What was the problem there with the city? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand the city has been developing its capacity to deliver the project. Work is now proceeding on major projects, including sewage plants in the next year. There should be substantial work in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This came up here in the Committee of the Whole, when we had the minister here. He told us that the annual contribution is \$4 million but the city had to match the funding of their own, and all the projects had to be approved by the Department of Community and Government Services.

When I saw that large figure jump out in there, if they are getting only \$4,000,000 and they are carrying over more than three quarters, I think that should be a concern to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will note his concern and pass it on to the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask a question on that \$36,000 on Kugluktuk's replaced water supply line. I am just wondering whether the water supply line is completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Kugluktuk project was a project that has been completed last year and the funding for it is for the final detail work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the status of the Nanisivik facility's technical evaluation; is there going to be any funding available for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the member referring to the amount \$157,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, under page 11, Nanisivik, there is \$157,000 and I wanted to know what the status of that is.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you for that clarification. From what I understand and the information I have in front of me is that the technical evaluations of the buildings were completed last year and the funding for that amount is being carried to continue to work to determine how the materials might be salvaged for use by Arctic Bay community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) We are on page 11, (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services Capital, Branch, Capital Planning and Technical Services, (interpretation) turn the page, (interpretation ends) Special Warrants, Total Capital, Planning and Technical Services, Special Warrants, \$10,782,000, (interpretation) do you agree? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want a clarification on the note there to provide funding of \$1,543,000 for tenant improvements costs, moving costs, and other various costs to determine departmental, and other related costs to address departmental space requirements in Iqaluit. Could the minister clarify why the Government of Nunavut needs to spend this amount of money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. He doesn't understand it. Can you clarify that? Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding that the member refers to again is tenant improvements and moving costs related to office space requirements in the community and basically, that covers the Inuksugait Plaza, as well as 1079 Brown Building Second Floor, as well movement of office from one to the other. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Which departments are involved in this expenditure? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are four other departments involved in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is any of this funding related to the March 2004 reorganization? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the reorganization, there were no additional PY's with those changes. It's basically to accommodate better what was already in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister give us, in a bit more detail, a breakdown that the \$1,543,000 paid for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can go through the list here. The \$10,079 on the building, the total is \$27,500. For the Inuksugait Plaza, it is \$616,000 and the other amount for \$675,000 and another additional funding for \$10,079 for another amount of \$224,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just found that odd that you stick a bullet note with few words in there. I did a calculation, 22 where it's \$70,136 per word. When we see these things and that should probably be in a bit more detail in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. (interpretation ends) I don't think that was a question. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask a question on page 11 on the Kugluktuk replacement water supply line and on page 12 there is another one for Kugluktuk replaced water tank. Is that completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information I have in regards to the Kugluktuk water tank, basically there has been some delays in completing that project due to weather and the transfer of the funding will be to complete that project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And just below that, there is a sewage lagoon. Is this for the study or is it to start up the sewage lagoon in Kugluktuk for \$19,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The study was delayed as has now been determined and design work is underway. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 12, Total Capital, Planning and Technical Services, Special Warrants, \$10,782,000, (interpretation) do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Not previously authorized, \$1,393,000, (interpretation) do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 13, Branch, Petroleum Products, Total Petroleum Products, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister update us on the status of the Cape Christian environment impact study? There is \$300,000 there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, very much Mr. Peterson. (interpretation ends) Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In going through the information I have, I don't have the listings from the department outlining the status of that project itself.

Again, this is to transfer the funding that had been previously approved in one fiscal year, but I apologize to the member and I will commit to getting that information for you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Is that it? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it would be good if I could get that information as soon as possible for all of us on this side. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will commit to the members to get a status report on the construction phases on items on page 13. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. We are on page 13, Branch, Petroleum Products, Total Petroleum Products, Special Warrants, \$3,979,000, (interpretation) do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department, Special Warrants, \$14,761,000, (interpretation) do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Not previously authorized, \$1,393,000, (interpretation) do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 14, Economic Development and Transportation Capital, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$3,549,000 is being requested as capital carryovers for numerous Department of Economic Development and Transportation projects. Which of these projects are over budget or behind schedule?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The status of these projects, I can't speak to that. I don't have that information, but I can just for the record, that the amounts that are listed here were previously approved in one fiscal year and are being transferred to the 2004-05 fiscal year, but I will ask my colleague to respond to Mr. Barnabas' question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the information on which projects are over budget, but most of them are completed now and have been completed in this fiscal year.

For example, Qikiqtarjuaq's replacing airfield lighting is completed, the TCAP Government of Nunavut funding component, \$300,000 was delivered. Resolute Bay is completed; Igloolik is completed; Qikiqtarjuaq airport garage is in progress; Iqaluit regulatory infrastructure is repairing work, it's in progress; Coral Harbour is completed, that's rehabilitating the airport garage; the Coral Harbour airport earthworks has been completed; Rankin Inlet completed; Bathurst Inlet road and port is ongoing; Pond Inlet, construction is underway; Chesterfield Inlet access road is almost completed; the Coral Harbour airport terminal is in progress; \$10,000 is to be reallocated to ATB projects; in Gjoa Haven, work is underway; the studies of the habitat and Manitoba road are completed; and the ATB design engineering studies have been completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What specific budget will be \$300,000 in TCAP reports funding be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that actual information with me right now, but I can certainly provide it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to thank the minister for giving me some information. (interpretation ends) What exactly is the \$77,000 in airport regulatory infrastructure in Iqaluit going to be used for?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: That was work that had to be done because of new regulations imposed by the Canadian Air Transport Safety Security Authority. It's work that had to be done in the terminal building to bring it up to code, up to the new regulations after September 11th. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those infrastructure projects will be \$438,000 for those Strategic Highway Infrastructure Programs? What will this funding be used for?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Which line was he asking about please? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Barnabas, which line were you asking about?

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Nunavut various Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program, \$438,000 line item. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. I am not able to get the two pieces of paper to match up here. Give me just one second, please.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that is that ongoing work of the construction of the Pond Inlet air terminal building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What specific project is the \$184,000 in feasibility studies that is being used to look at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: That was work done on the Manitoba-Nunavut road feasibility study that's going on. A portion of that work has been completed, and also it included the fish habitat study that was being done in Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Nanisivik Highway upgrade, what is that going to be used for? I need that clarification. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Yes, that is for regular maintenance on the highway itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question, (interpretation ends) what is the status of the Bathurst road and port study?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that study is ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We're on page 14. Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Capital. Branch. Transportation. Total Transportation. Special Warrants. \$3,549,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total department. Special Warrants. \$3,549,000. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 15. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Capital. Branch. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Total Nunavut Housing Corporation not previously authorized. \$200,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Nunavut Housing Corporation. \$200,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Turn to page 2. Page 2. Here we are. Summary of Appropriation. Total Capital Appropriation. \$56,537,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Move on to Bill 3. Supplementary Appropriation. Capital Act, Number 2. 2004-05. Definition clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Application. Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Supplementary Appropriation. Clause 3. Go to Schedule Page 2. Supplementary Amount. Appropriated for fiscal year ending March 31, 2005. Vote one. Capital. Total Capital. \$56,537,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$56,537,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Supplementary Appropriations, Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Notice of Appropriation. Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Lapse of Appropriation. Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Accounting. Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Announcements. Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to Bill 3 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that Bill 3 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to thank Minister Aglukkaq and her staff. Madame Minister, do you have any closing comments?

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my Deputy Minister, Bob Vardy, as Paul Reddy, Director of Expenditure Management for all their support. I also want to thank the Department of Finance employees as well as all the departments for assisting in this process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you very much, Madame Minister, for all the good responses to the questions that were posed during the committee of the whole session. Thank you. Mr. Reddy: You want to make a wish. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated yesterday that wish was just out there already. So, right now, I would like to move that we report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We have a motion on the Floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Those opposed. Those abstaining. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Arreak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 2 and Bill 3 and would like to report progress that Bills 2 and 3 are immediately ready for third reading. I move that the report of the committee of the whole be agreed to. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the Floor. Is there a Seconder? Ms. Aglukkaq. The motion is in order. All in favour. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 1 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4 2003-2004 – Third Reading

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

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the Floor. Agreed. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Bill 1 has had third reading. Third Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Bill 2 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2 2004-2005 – Third Reading

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 2. Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance Act 2, 2004-05 be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Bill 3 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2004-2005 – Third Reading

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. Agreed. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Bill 2 has had third. Third Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

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

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. All in favour. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Bill 3 has had third reading.

Third reading of bills. Thank you. Before we proceed with the Orders of the Day, Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if the Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the chambers to give assent to bills.

Assent

**Bill 1 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4
2003-04 – Assent**

**Bill 2 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2,
2004-05 – Assent**

Bill 3 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2004-05 – Assent

Bill 4 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2005-2006 – Assent

Bill 5 – An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act – Assent

Bill 6 – Electronic Commerce Act – Assent

Bill 7 – An Act to Amend the Evidence Act – Assent

Deputy Commissioner: Thank you. Please be seated. As Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut I hereby give assent to the following Bills. Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance, Act 4, 2003-04. Bill 2. Supplementary Appropriation. Operations and Maintenance Act 2. 2004-05. Bill 3 Supplementary Appropriation. Capital. Act 2. 2004-05. Bill 4. Appropriation Act. 2005-06. Bill 5. An Act to amend the Legal Profession Act. Bill 6. Electronic Commerce Act, and Bill 7, an Act to amend the Evidence Act.

I wish all members a safe trip home to their communities and a restful and relaxing holiday and be good to your spouses and rest and have a safe trip home. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): I would like to make a brief comment. Yesterday, the member for Iqaluit Centre, tabled a document which reported on Government of Nunavut sole sourced contracts.

As I have some concerns regarding the tabling of the document, I am directing the Clerk to remove the document from the working papers of the Assembly, pending further consideration and a ruling on the matter.

Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for Tuesday, February 22, 2005:

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
 - Motion 005 – 2(2)
 - Motion 006 – 2(2)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters
20. Report to Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We will be taking our Christmas break and the Second Session of the Second Assembly will be closed over the holidays. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas. The House is adjourned until Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:47*

