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**DAY 16**

**Tuesday March 1, 2005**

**Pages 911 – 981**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

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**Peter Kattuk**

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**Hunter Tootoo**

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**Hon. Ed Picco**

(Iqaluit East)

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Minister Responsible for Nunavut  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Tuesday March 1, 2005**

**Members Present:**

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

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon. I would like to ask Mr. Alagalak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome Premier, Ministers and the members. Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Premier Okalik.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 055 – 2(2): Appointment of Lew Philip as Warden at BCC**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to make this announcement today. Within the Department of Justice, we have recognized that in order to help make its institutions more relevant to Inuit, it must have Inuit in positions of influence.

About a year ago, the department embarked on an initiative that would see its four institutions managed by Inuit. Since then, the following management changes have taken place:

- Johnny Flaherty was promoted to Manager at the Utaqqivik Centre
- Leetia Kowalchuk was appointed as Manager Trainee at the Isumaqsungittukkuvik Youth Facility here in Iqaluit
- Helen LaRoque was made Manager of the Ilavut Healing Centre in Kugluktuk

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the last of our four institutions now also has an Inuk manager: Lew Philip was recently appointed Warden of the Baffin Correctional Centre.

Originally from Arctic Bay, Lew brings 27 years of experience with the RCMP. He has served in Nanisivik, Igloodik, Pond Inlet and Iqaluit, and has also been in most of Nunavut's other communities on RCMP business.

Lew was the first Inuk regular member of the RCMP and was the first Inuk promoted to Corporal. During his 27 years with the Force, he dedicated much of his efforts to recruiting more Inuit into the RCMP.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that Lew Philip's years of experience in policing, his leadership skills, and his knowledge of Inuit Qaujimagatugangit, along with his fellow Inuit colleagues at the other institutions, will contribute to making the Department of Justice more relevant to Inuit in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Minister's Statement 056 – 2(2): New Public Housing Design**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update the members on an innovative public housing design that has been developed 'in house' by the Nunavut Housing Corporation for use in 2005/2006. This design is based on feedback from local people about how to design houses that fit the lifestyles of Nunavutmiut. It also includes technologies that improve the comfort and efficiency of northern homes.

The housing corporation has focused on the guiding principle of "Aajiqatigiinniq," or "decision-making through discussion and consensus," in its efforts to gather input from Nunavutmiut.

In 2004, the housing corporation consulted with youth, elders, tenants and community leaders across the territory. People were asked to provide feedback on many areas, including designs and technologies. The corporation also consulted with its funding partner, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

As a result, a "made in Nunavut," public housing solution has been developed. The basic design is a single-story five-plex that integrates many ideas from local people. Some of these ideas include a second exterior door that exits to the rear of the unit, and I was particularly pleased that there should be a large storage area, and a country food preparation station with a sink and cutting surface.

Mr. Speaker, this design incorporates energy efficient construction materials that are cheaper to ship. It also uses new technologies to promote safety. For example, if there is a kitchen fire, a system in the range hood will disconnect power and put out the fire. Another feature is a special type of fire-resistant insulation that reduces noise.

The basic five-plex design can be scaled down to create a building as small as a duplex, or expanded to create a six or eight-unit multiplex. The new design also takes the needs of our elders into consideration by offering a simple open concept interior.

Mr. Speaker, the new public housing design developed by the housing corporation is an excellent example of how, through “Aajiiqatigiinniq,” Nunavutmiut play an important role in the development of housing solutions that fit the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ statements. Minister Akesuk.

**Minister’s Statement 057 – 2(2): Second Payment for Sealskin**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of the Department of Environment. I rise to report that my department has continued to make significant strides in revitalizing sealing in Nunavut. As you know, sealing in Nunavut is both an industry and a part of our way of life.

The Department of Environment operates a program, the *Fur Price Program*, which provides assistance to harvesters who wish to sell their furs. The seal skin component of this program provides harvesters with on-the-spot payment for skins, depending on the size and quality. The skins are collected by our Wildlife Officers in the communities and sent to the Fur Harvesters Auction in North Bay.

The objectives of this program are to support harvesters, to provide Nunavut seal skins to world fur markets, to promote Nunavut sealskins as a sustainable by-product of traditional harvesting practices, and to encourage harvesters to continually improve the quality of the skins they deliver. Since the implementation of this program, the market price for Nunavut sealskins has increased significantly. In the 1990s skins sold for less than \$20 each.

I am pleased to report that the increase in demand resulted in a record high average price of \$70 per skin at the December 2004 auction.

Our Wildlife Officers, working with the harvesters to provide information and training on preserving skin quality, deserve much credit for the revitalization of the industry.

Mr. Speaker, our sealskin program is designed to support harvesters, and is actually supposed to cost some money in administration and overhead. However, because of the high prices, we have actually made a profit.

As a result, I have obtained authorization from the Financial Management Board to provide Nunavut seal harvesters with a one-time second payment of \$10 for every seal skin that was delivered to our wildlife offices for the 2004 North Bay Auction. The cheques will be sent out as soon as the paperwork can be processed.

We will continue to develop and deliver our programs in a manner that provides the most effective support to the sealing industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 058 – 2(2): Cold Weather Flight Testing – Iqaluit Airport**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform the House that Nunavut hosted a successful cold weather flight testing of a new EC-725 helicopter in January, an Airbus A-318 and a Hawker Horizon in February.

The flight test program of the EC-725 commenced in early January and lasted for over three weeks. The helicopter and support equipment was transported to the Iqaluit International Airport aboard the world's largest commercial transport aircraft, the Russian built Antonov 124-100. The team of fifteen personnel including the test pilots and flight engineers, praised the support provided to them at the Iqaluit Airport.

The Airbus A-318 aircraft with its new generation engines, was tested at Iqaluit Airport earlier this month. A team of twenty personnel traveled to Iqaluit to support this mission.

This is the third consecutive year that new generation helicopters have been flight tested at Iqaluit. NATO Helicopter Industries flight tested the NH-90 military helicopter in 2003 and Eurocopter tested the EC-155 police helicopter in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, the Iqaluit International Airport is the premier cold weather testing centre for the European aircraft manufacturing industry. As well, the world's largest commercial aircraft manufacturers, Boeing and Airbus, both use Iqaluit Airport periodically for their cold weather test campaigns.

There is a considerable economic spin-off generated for the community of Iqaluit, and for Nunavut as a whole, by virtue of these testing missions taking place at the Iqaluit Airport. I will continue to work with my department to promote cold weather testing across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 059 – 2(2): “Thank You For Making A Difference” Event**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The first-ever gathering of all Nunavut teachers has just finished. Last week was a very busy week, a productive week for the 527 educators gathered here in Iqaluit. There is one special event that I would like to draw briefly to the attention of the Members of this House today: The 'Thank You For Making A Difference,' celebration.

Here's what one student had to say about his teacher: "I learned to do multiplication facts and I learned to read in Inuktitut faster."

This was but one of fifteen hundred letters collected by the Federation of Nunavut Teachers over the course of the past few months. Thousands of students and their parents took the time to think about how a teacher had made a difference to them – and write it down.

The quote I shared with you earlier comes from a letter by Jerry Attiitaaq that was drawn at random from all the entries. He will receive a brand new computer courtesy of the Department of Education, our way of supporting this initiative.

And as for the teacher, Kango Akittirq, Inuujaq School in Arctic Bay, she will receive two First Air tickets to anywhere First Air flies courtesy of First Air.

The 'Thank You For Making A Difference,' initiative began in 1998. It helps increase public awareness of the many positive things that our teachers do.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, taking the time to say 'Thank You For Making A Difference,' is something that is always appreciated by everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 060 – 2(2): Joamie School Opening**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud to announce that Joamie School is officially open for students today, March 1, 2005.

>> *Applause*

The Iqaluit District Education Authority has also announced this good news to all parents, and will be hosting an open house on March 24<sup>th</sup>, to show the building to all interested citizens, and I invite all members to come to our new Joamie School and have a look.

This project was delivered ahead of schedule, and it is somewhat hard to believe that on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003 we lost the school but managed to plan, design and construct the beautiful facility we see in place today, all in between one and one half years.

Mr. Speaker, even with this fast track project schedule, I am proud to report that we were able to include a number of design features that promote energy efficient and sustainable development through water use reduction; optimized energy performance; increased ventilation effectiveness through displacement and low velocity ventilation; use of low

emitting materials; and extensive use of natural lighting supplemented with cost-effective lighting systems.

Mr. Speaker, in addition, the Department of Education encouraged community input through the planning and design of Joamie School. Comprehensive consultation with students, teachers, Iqaluit District Education Authority, and elders have resulted in a positive learning environment including Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.

I am sure, and I speak for all Legislative Assembly members, when I congratulate the many people who worked towards replacing our Joamie School, and the wish the students and staff our best wishes in their new facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 3. Members' statements. Mr. Akesuk.

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

#### **Member's Statement 122 – 2(2): Long Service Awards in Cape Dorset**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to say that I went to Cape Dorset to recognize five, ten year, fifteen and twenty year long term service awards to the people who were employed in Cape Dorset. I would also like to thank Mr. Tapardjuk, who was able to accompany me to Cape Dorset during those service awards; also to Joe Allen Evyagotailak, who accompanied me.

I would like to say thank you and also to our staff, Sheila Kolola and Karen Kabloonaa. I would also like to thank the mayor of Cape Dorset and HR's administrative staff and the long service awards' recipients. I wish you the very best in the future. I would also like to thank the students who throat sang for us during that ceremony and for entertaining us at that time.

When we were in Cape Dorset, the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth was able to have a meeting with the elders and youth council and got a better idea of what the elders and the youth would like to see in their community.

I would also like to thank the Co-op for welcoming us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 123 – 2(2): Quality of Gasoline in Arctic Bay**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I say hi to my wife and my children.

I rise today regarding the quality of gasoline in Arctic Bay. Many of my colleagues have raised this issue already and I would like to add my voice to theirs.

Mr. Speaker, residents of Arctic Bay have contacted me regarding increased fouling of spark plugs and smoky exhausts this winter. I believe this is related to the quality of gasoline that was supplied to the community. All Members of the Assembly are aware of the importance of reliable gas for snow machines.

Mr. Speaker, as you are well aware, the climate in the High Arctic is harsh and extremely cold in the winter. Some of my constituents rely on hunting to provide for their families and thus, they rely on their snow machines to go out on the land to hunt for sustenance and for trapping.

No one wants to be stranded on the land. This is clearly a safety issue, in addition to being an issue of increased cost of maintaining these machines. I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Any nays. There are no nays Mr. Barnabas, please proceed.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. As I was saying earlier, this is a safety issue, in addition to being an issue of increased cost for maintaining these machines. Frequent spark plug changes are not cheap.

Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling photographs of fouled spark plugs and I will be asking the minister questions on this issue at the appropriate time. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite my constituents of Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord to contact me if they have any concerns to the quality of the gasoline in their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member's Statements. Mr. Arreak.

#### **Member's Statement 124 – 2(2): Qikiqtarjuaq Hunters and Trappers Creates Masilik Corporation**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge the Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization in Broughton Island for setting up a 100 percent Inuit-owned operation called Masilik Corporation. The community of Qikiqtarjuaq has a very high unemployment rate. With the creation of this corporation, they will create much needed job opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I also recognize that fisheries in Nunavut are very hard to bring up and I am well aware that there are people out there who know how hard it is to set up these types

of corporations. On behalf of the people of Qikiqtarjuaq, I would like to congratulate this organization for setting up this corporation. And I would like to encourage the fisheries organizations to keep going. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member's Statements. Mr. Mapsalak.

### **Member's Statement 125 – 2(2): Medical Travel Policy and Escorts**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise a concern that many of my constituents have spoken to me about the medical travel policy on escorts. My constituents have told me that elders and unilingual Inuktitut speaking people traveling out of the community are sometimes not provided with escorts. That also includes people with handicaps.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult for me to provide an answer to my constituents, but I am aware that the government has a client travel policy. But this document does not explain how medical professionals decide when an escort is really needed.

(interpretation ends) Fellow members have raised this issue more than once. In fact, on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004, the Minister of Health and Social Services specifically stated that if a unilingual elder is going south for medical treatment, then they are to bring an escort. In response to a question asked by my colleague from Quttittuq, the Minister of Health and Social Services indicated that she would ask her staff to publicize the policy to Nunavutmiut through the media and perhaps through the CBC.

Mr. Speaker, there seems to be confusion about this Department of Health and Social Services client policy for escorts. At the appropriate time, I will be asking questions on this issue. Qujannamiik, Uqaqtitiji.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member's Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

### **Member's Statement 126 – 2(2): New Renewable Resource Officer for Panniqtuuq**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before coming down to Iqaluit, I had a public meeting in the community of Pangnirtung. I don't know if they will be able to watch television tonight because they have a power outage and so the television and the phones are out of service. I am not quite sure if they are going to be able to watch the proceedings today.

It has been quite a number of months now that we have not had a Renewable Resource Officer and at this time while I have the opportunity, I would like to thank the minister for being able to provide us with a position. That individual will be placed today as

Renewable Resource Officer. They have a lot of responsibility to cover, including the fisheries and the environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member's Statements. Mr. Tapardjuk.

### **Member's Statement 127 – 2(2): Recognition Awards**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the people of Iglulik and Hall Beach. I would also like to announce that last month or at the beginning of February, the Nunavut Commissioner went up to Iglulik to recognize individuals for contributions they made to their communities.

The ceremony went extremely well and there were awards given to people for bravery and for saving lives. One particular incident was Rachel Ujarasuk, recognized for the contributions she made to the people of Iglulik through Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. And again, another elder was recognized for helping the people through medicinal practices, Theresa Ijjangiaq, who is also my aunt.

I congratulate these two people for having been recognized and also for bringing Inuit culture to date. They have made huge contributions even through hard times. There was another individual who is not an elder. This individual was also recognized for pulling out teeth and helping people with tooth aches. His name is Natalino, who has made a huge contribution.

Again, for a few individuals for bravery and for saving lives, I would like to congratulate them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. Peterson.

### **Member's Statement 128 – 2(2): Cambridge Bay Long Term Service Awards**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to recognize a number of my constituents in Cambridge Bay who recently received long term service awards from the Government of Nunavut on February 16, 2005.

Elected politicians determine the policies and approve the budgets for the government. It is our dedicated employees on the front lines who deliver our programs and services to the public that we are elected to serve. The employees were honored by the presence of many community elders, as well as the Premier and the Minister of Finance.

Although I was an 'unofficial' photographer for the event, I doubt my work will be hanging on the walls of the gallery any time soon. Mr. Speaker, the employees who received long term service awards for five years were: Robert Karr, Eva Komak, Frank

Flood, Guntis Rozitis, Jamie Taipana, Donna Lee-Ekpakohak, Mike Kaiyogana, Patty Bligh, Joas Angohaitok.

For ten years: Mary Ekpakohak, Richard Kurtz. For 15 years: Deanna Clugston, Cathy Rowan and Elizabeth Kaosoni. And then for special work for 30 years, I've mentioned this gentleman before last year, Doug Crossley.

Mr. Speaker, we should also recognize the very hard work of the Department of Human Resources staff that make the awards ceremonies possible in communities across Nunavut. I ask the house to join me in congratulating all 2005 long term service award recipients in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 129 – 2(2): Food Bank in Arviat**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try and not make a mistake. Thank you. I rise today to announce an event in Arviat. I do want to send my appreciation. I know that at times it's very difficult to make ends meet. Simona Baker, who had gone to Winnipeg to further her education, has been working very hard in our community to start out with food baskets to help the less fortunate.

She started out the food bank in Arviat and she worked very hard to operate this food bank. We have heard that Manitoba food bank has now sent 10 thousand pounds and it is equivalent to 100 caribou. And, that is a bit too much and it is amazing how they can assist us because Manitoba people are sending food to our community because the caribou have migrated very far from Arviat.

That individual is not just a student, she is an adult student. I know that she wants to work very hard and learn more on what she is doing. I really appreciate and I do want to send my appreciation to the helper Christa Bergus who resides in Arviat, she is a volunteer to make sure those Arviarmiut elders and youth have enough food to eat.

So I would like to send my appreciation to all Arviarmiut who do volunteer work to make sure that everybody is fed so they came up with this good food bank. There is a lot of food now that has been made available. I do want to send my appreciation and there are times when there are 45 people who go to the food bank twice a week.

Because, like if we need assistance in getting more groceries, they go to the food bank and I want to thank all the people of Arviat for doing a good job. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member's Statements. Mr. Picco.

**Member's Statement 130 – 2(2): YEAH Group in Iqaluit**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. YEAH, Youth Educating About Health North is an exciting, new education program that trains youth in an innovative and interactive activity to create an environment and opportunity for our youth to take ownership of their health.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, I was invited along with other community members, to join with the YEAH group to participate in a special gathering along with Mayor Elisapee Shieutiapik and Premier Paul Okalik. The rate of teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases in Nunavut is alarmingly high. The goal of this program is to educate the youth about healthy sexuality and all that entails, i.e. decision making and healthy relationships and arm our youth with enough information, not only make them make healthy decisions, but teach other youth to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, the evening started with a meet and greet with the youth and we were invited with some trivia-based games that focus on youth on sexual health and that was run by the YEAH health kids. The YEAH kids have designed games that stumped many of the adults, including yours truly.

One of the games involved putting on blurred goggles to simulate a person who may be intoxicated, while wearing gloves and searching for a condom to put on a phallic device. Mr. Speaker, while graphic it seemed to many of the participants, to be very real and certainly informative. Mr. Speaker, by combining humor with sexual awareness, our youth will be better informed in making decisions about sex and their health. In the coming year, the youth hopes to branch out more into our community and territory to spread their knowledge to other youth. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Leddie Eastwood, Courtney Sequin and all the other YEAH youth for their excellent work on behalf and for our youth and people here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member's Statements. Member's Statements. Item 4 on Orders of the Day. Returns to Oral Questions. Back to Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Barnabas.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an individual who has visited us. First of all, Mr. Bill Harding who is the Senior Administrative Officer for the Municipality of Arctic Bay. He has been very supportive of municipal operations on funding requirements. He informs me of the developments so he's been very supportive to me. Also, I would like to acknowledge my CEA, Ms. Willie. She'll be here with me this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause



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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say, “Hello Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven,” and to my mom. I would like to recognize the lady from Taloyoak, Alukie. She is involved with the lady’s group as well. She’s able to be here today so I would like to recognize her.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge one of my former neighbours who is here and is now the president of the Nunavut Investment Group, Johnny Mike.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Item 6. Oral questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curly.

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

#### **Question 164 – 2(2): Approval of Rate Rider Increase**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Energy. Yesterday, together with the Minister of Finance they made an announcement that there is going to be a small increase of 3 cents per kilowatt hour. A 15 percent increase is still a bit too expensive for some of the communities. I am, however, glad that this is a lot smaller than the request by Qulliq Energy Corporation.

My question is: they will be receiving \$8 million when they apply the 15 percent but according to their needs, they still require \$4 million for the operation of Qulliq Energy Corporation. That’s before the price of fuel. Yet, we still have to pay for fuel; the customers will have to pay for that. Why did the minister approve it? Do we need a separate rate rider? Why did you approve that without having seen that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 15 percent increase amounts to approximately 3.18 cents a kilowatt hour. And, the member is correct; it is a lot less than what was anticipated.

The power corporation's rate proposal looked at a postage stamp rate and that's why the rates would have increased so much across the territory. That was rejected. However, the Utility Rates Review Council realized, like every other utility across the country that uses diesel fuel to create electricity, there are sudden spikes in fuel costs.

To recognize the sudden spikes in fuel costs, they allow utility companies in this case the Qulliq Energy Corporation, to have a fuel rider. The rider would only kick in when the fuel account would be plus or minus \$1 million. That's the trigger. In that case, the extra costs of fuel will be covered in the rider, and therefore and thus the rate itself does not have to go up.

So, that was one of the recommendations. The URRC rejected all the other riders except for the capital stabilization rider. So there are two riders in the URRC report that we accepted. There is nothing out of the ordinary here.

It was in place with the old Nunavut Power Corporation. It is in place in the west. It is in place in other jurisdictions. It's a standard recommendation, in most cases, with utility corporations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister further. The minister is certainly not obligated to approve the unknown fuel rider if it's introduced.

My question is still this: why would the minister approve such a hypothetical situation when, in fact, there may not be a requirement to impose additional rates to the consumers of Nunavut?

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member has hit the nail right on the head again. Because if there is no need for an increase, there is no need for a rider; then there won't be a rider. I would agree with the member. There is a hypothetical rider right now because we don't need it.

On April 1, 2005, it's a test year, going out from that point, if the fuel stabilization account is plus or minus \$1 million, then the opportunity exists for the Qulliq Energy Corporation to come forward to the minister and say, "We want to apply a rider." Then they would calculate what is needed in that expenditure program. For example, if the price of fuel or diesel is \$44 a barrel and the cost last year was \$50 a barrel, then it's considerably less than what the costs were and they may not apply the rider.

The rider allows for extra money to be made when those costs go up, instead of having to go back and doing a general rate application and increasing your electrical rates. A rider is a temporary mechanism used to restore those fuel costs and pay for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The average consumer in Nunavut particularly unilingual consumers of electrical rate power in Nunavut, couldn't differentiate between the general rate or fuel rider.

It's all going to come out on the same bill, and they're going to be required to pay that amount to the Nunavut Power Corporation. The government is responding by proposing and agreeing to recommend a supplementary appropriation for \$22 million for fuel. Why couldn't you just add that amount that you think is going to be needed to the appropriation bill instead of asking the Nunavut average consumers to pay for it?

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The \$22 million is a separate process than the rider. The whole GRA application process in this rider is set for April 1, 2005.

We've said continually in this House, the members have made that point in the House, especially before Christmas in the November session, that the public of Nunavut should not have to pay for those expenses incurred by the corporation when politically we froze the rate and tried to ascertain what the revenue requirements for the corporation were. And that's the \$22 million.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation was directed not to pay their POL account. That's what we asked them to do. We knew what the amount was and that's coming forward. If we had to ask the public to pay that amount then the Government of Nunavut pays 80 percent of all electrical, clear off the top.

So that means this government last year or the year before last, would have had to come up with \$18 million out of its budget and give it directly to the power corporation. The \$22 million that the member is talking about goes directly to the Qulliq Energy Corporation and comes right back to the Government of Nunavut.

It doesn't go to Saskatchewan or anywhere else, it comes right back. It's an internal transfer for the accounts receivable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister appeared to have already made up his mind that additional public hearings are not required, based on the fact that he has already agreed to a hypothetical figure that the fuel rider may be required.

Couldn't the minister ask the Utility Rates Review Council to hold additional hearings, whether in fact this particular additional expense should be paid by the consumers?

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That option is there. In the year 2003 when the power corporation came forward and asked for the fuel rider, which was already in place, I actually went out to the Utility Rates Review Council and asked them to review it.

The power corporation at that time, asked for five cents, then they asked for ten cents. The Utility Rates Review Council looked at it and said, "We are not sure of the revenue requirement." We went in the middle and they said 7.5 cents.

So, that option is still there. If the Qulliq Energy Corporation comes forward and says we need a rider of 15 cents or something I have the option, in consultation with cabinet, again to say, "Look, this seems like too much of an increase, ask the Utility Rates Review Council to review it." So, that option is there and the member is correct, and I would suggest to you that's probably what we would do. But again, these are hypothetical questions because we haven't got there. The mechanism is in place and we can use that trigger when it hits either plus or minus \$1 million in the fuel subsidization fund for the rider. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 165 – 2(2): Rehabilitation Programs**

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice. Last week I made a statement in the House about Nunavut's unacceptably high crime rate, especially violent crime. I noted that alcohol and drug abuse is closely connected with crime.

During our last sitting, I posed a detailed written question to the same minister regarding the recidivism rate of offenders in territorial custody and the success of our rehabilitation programs. The minister's response to my question revealed that the recidivism rate for adult male offenders is 51 percent, for male young offenders it's almost 75 percent.

(interpretation) Those who commit crimes again get incarcerated again. (interpretation ends) In other words, half of our adult male offenders re-offend after they are released and almost three out of four male young offenders do so.

The response to my question also revealed that the department is not being very successful in bettering the success of these rehabilitation programs in helping to reduce the rate of recidivism. My question for the minister is this: which of his department's rehabilitation programs work and which do not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are trying different programs at this point. We can do better. Right now, we have been doing a pilot project out of Rankin Inlet for spousal abuse. That's one program that has shown some promise.

As I said in the past, one of the most positive programs that we have had in the past is the outpost camp program and I would really like to see more throughout Nunavut. The rate for those repeat offenders is a lot lower, particularly for young offenders in those camps.

So those show some promise and as I announced today, we are trying to put more Inuit in charge of these facilities so that these facilities have more cultural ties to the offenders. We can then introduce more of our cultural healing and more appropriate programs in these facilities. So, we are trying to do various things all at once. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for the present work that he's doing in supporting our youth. (interpretation ends) Almost 50 percent of male offenders do not re-offend. What accounts for their successes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information with me at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Iqaluit Center, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Question 166 – 2(2): Inuit Employment and Contract Requirements**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services who deals with contracts and any of the employment requirements in contracts with the government.

Can the minister give a brief explanation about how that works and what the requirements are, say for contracts that are let here in Iqaluit by government, for Inuit employment levels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Community Government and Services, Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): I first would like to apologize; I didn't quite get his question. Is it in regards to Inuit employment within the contracts? Perhaps, he can clarify his question for my benefit. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I know when I used to work for the housing corporation they would specify for a contract that they let out under NNI and that there would be a requirement of the contractor to maintain a certain percentage of Inuit employment under those contracts. I would like to ask him to explain what the levels were here in Iqaluit for government contracts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were a number of different contracts, bigger projects here in Iqaluit depending on the number of those projects and the size of those projects. There have been impacts on the requirements under the Inuit employment plan. So, there have been some effects on the type of projects and the types of projects that were being undertaken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will use a specific example of a contract that is out there right now. I noticed that there was a request for proposals or a tender out for tenant improvement for a new building down behind the Iqaluit Housing Authority. I understand that the requirement for Inuit employment under that contract is 25 percent. I am just wondering if the minister can say if that is normal, 25 percent, or is it usually higher for that type of contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated, I have seen requirements much higher than 25 percent. I will just give an example. In the community, if there is no other construction taking place except for one or two projects, that will indicate already that there are a lot more Inuit in the community that can possibly take advantage of the employment opportunities and thus the Inuit employment numbers will be increased. I was looking at the availability of Inuit employees.

And on to the specific contract that my colleague is referring to, I would have to check on the circumstances surrounding the setting of the Inuit employment plan numbers at 25 percent on that contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that tender is out right now and the minister has indicated, depending on the number of projects that are going on in the community, the availability of work would determine what the levels of Inuit employment should be, given the timing of this tender that is out right now on this contract. If all the other projects that are going on in communities are shut down for the year... . So, I am just wondering if you are going to look into that and determine exactly how and why only a 25 percent target was set for that particular contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a point well taken. I will definitely look at the reasons for it being set at 25 percent but I'll also look into at the same time, if it is because of commitments of possible employees that may not have been able to take advantage of this project.

I totally agree with the member and I will, in my consultation with staff, get the reasoning behind that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

### **Question 167 – 2(2): Seal Skin Prices for Harvesters**

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

As he stated earlier in regards to seal skin prices that people are buying more seal skins and the harvesters who sell seal skins are quite happy about that, I would like to ask the minister about how he indicated the average price was \$70 per skin. Some of them might be even higher or lower. I would like to ask him how much the harvesters will be paid when they send out their seal skins. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we first started selling sealskins we would see small increases in the prices they received at auction. At that time, prices were around \$30 per skin. In recent years, those prices have increased and we have increased the first payment to hunters. In the past year they reached \$40, \$50, \$60 with the minimum price being \$30. The price differences are based on the quality of the skins which currently ranges between \$30 and \$60. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): First supplementary, Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry; maybe he didn't understand my question. He didn't answer my question. Usually, \$60 is the maximum that is paid out to the harvesters. Will the harvesters be paid more than \$60? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The auction prices vary from year to year. The December 2004 auction prices were the highest since we started selling sealskins. Looking at the next year, we can't really predict how much buyers will

pay at the auction in North Bay but if it keeps going up, we would have to review how we as a government can make this more beneficial to the harvesters. For example, down the road if prices keep going up, we could look at a \$10 per skin increase. In some years, we lose money and we have to dip into our revolving fund.

Maybe in the New Year depending how it goes, we can re-examine the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Second supplementary, Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Presently, when harvesters sell seal skins they get paid right on the spot. Should they be expecting an increase in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They will be expecting a \$10 a skin increase as a second payment but like I said, we will be looking into the payment grid further, depending on how well they do in the auctions this year. If they are bought for a higher price in North Bay, then we would look at raising prices in the foreseeable future. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand his response. Harp sealskins are not presently being bought. Will they start buying harp sealskins? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we can get good quality sealskins, I am pretty sure that we would promote to the buyers. In Greenland, they deal a lot with harp sealskins but in Nunavut, people are more in demand of ringed sealskins. So, we will have to check into the buying of harp sealskins.

The Department of Environment will keep marketing and promoting the selling of skins at higher prices especially when it benefits Inuit in Nunavut. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

#### **Question 168 – 2(2): Client Travel Policy**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I indicated that I was going to address the Minister of Health and Social Services.



Back in November, the minister indicated that she would direct her staff in regard to escorts for people who have to go on medical evacuations. Has this been looked into by the minister? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to his question yes, all of the health centers have been given policies directly on the matter of people leaving to go to hospitals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister provide an update on what specific activities her department has done to date to clearly explain the client travel policy to Nunavutmiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been brochures and pamphlets made available throughout Nunavut and at all of the health centers. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister direct her staff to inform especially my constituents in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, because I am sure there are a lot of people who want clarification? I wonder if she can direct her staff to go into those communities and explain this policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can check into this and see how our department can assist the communities of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. The Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

### **Question 169 – 2(2): Update on Polar Bear Quota in Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Environment in regard to the polar bear memorandum of understanding that was signed by the minister and Nunavut Tunngavik.

In my riding, there has been no change in the polar bear quota. I had a meeting with the hunters and trappers organizations in January. The minister at that time said that he will

look at the situation in Sanikiluaq. Could the minister give us an update on what is happening with this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of polar bears is very important in Nunavut. There was some agreement as well as disagreement with the decision that was made by the government. Then again, we can't please everyone at the same time. There have been a few communities that are still waiting to see some kind of improvement in their communities.

In regards to Sanikiluaq, the government will have to have a meeting with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board who we work with on the issue of polar bears. On the issue of polar bear quotas, we will have to look at zones that are set for Nunavut. But, I would like to tell the member that I will be having a meeting on this issue at the earliest possible date.

**Speaker** (interpretation): First supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the quota that has been proposed around the Hudson Bay area, could the minister tell me when that is going to take place? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have it in front of me, but I will inform the member when we are going to conduct the polar bear population study in that area. Once I have the information, I will get together with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. He has taken the question as notice. Oral questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Question 170 – 2(2): Fuel Stabilization Rider Increase**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for keeping our lights on, the Minister of Energy. Earlier in the minister's response to my colleague's question about the rider being affected, that is going to kick into place, and that was in reference to the fuel stabilization rider. Does the minister have any idea what and how many dollars are going to be needed for the other stabilization rider that was also approved by the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Utility Rates Review Council did recommend and accept the process for two riders for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, one being the capital stabilization rider and then the fuel stabilization rider.

We have asked the Qulliq Energy Corporation to come back within 90 days with the proposal on the capital stabilization rider so I don't know at this time, what that amount is or what the proposal is. So we have to wait to receive that. Again, they've been given a very tight timeframe to do that based on the URRC recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the minister should get a hold of the capital plan that he said he would provide to the House earlier this week. That might give us an indication of how much the corporation is going to need for capital for the year.

Is he indicating that they don't know how much capital requirement that they're going to be looking for in the next year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The capital stabilization rider is to compensate for the higher costs. Right now, we have community-based rates in Nunavut.

I gave the example because that's the last plant we've actually built, also with the Baker Lake one but Clyde River is a good example. We built a brand new plant. It cost \$4 million. Under community-based rates, the people of Clyde River are supposed to pay the costs of that \$4 million plant. The URRC reviewed that and said that is not equitable, it is not fair. You can't expect a small customer base in Clyde River, over 20 years on an amortization scale to pay back that \$4 million.

So, they said one way of accomplishing the same thing is to have a capital rider in place. What form that takes we will know within the next 90 days. If there is a new plant being built and if that rider is applied, it would be applied in a pot of funds that would be drawn down by the corporation for these types of capital expenditures so that you would not have rate shock in a given community.

So Pond or Clyde River or Coral or any of the small communities wouldn't have to pay the full costs of capital improvements in their community. That's a good news story for Nunavut especially in our smaller communities.

The capital plan that is being approached right now has already been budgeted for in the budget of the corporation. The member just said the minister said earlier this week that I would make the capital budget available to the House. I said it yesterday. So, they're actually getting that information right now and I would hope to be in the position in the next 48 hours to table that in the House as requested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I won't argue with the minister saying that it is a good news story and I would like to thank him again for the wonderful story on how it is supposed to work. I understand that.

What I was asking for is, the minister doesn't have an idea, and the corporation doesn't have an idea how much capital they are going to be spending this year. Thus, they should know how much money they're going to need to come up with in that rider to cover off that capital. He says it's been approved already. If it's been approved already, they should know what they're going to need.

So again, I ask the minister, how much money the corporation is going to need to come up with that rider, and how much are consumers going to be asked to pay for that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I said that the amounts have been approved, the capital expenditures for the corporation and the budget for the corporation have to be approved by the board of directors of the corporation. They met last week. I believe it was here in Iqaluit. They approved the upcoming budget for 2005-06, which includes of course, a capital component. So, that's why the amount was approved. I don't have the amount with the exact dollar values here. That is why I won't be saying what they are but, I will make the capital budget and everything available to the members. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for clarifying that they do know how much capital they are planning on spending next year.

Aside from providing the capital plans of the corporation, can the minister provide us with the information on how much consumers are going to be expected to pay on this rider, to cover off the capital that the board has already approved for the next fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I can't, because that process, the 90 day process that we just talked about that the Utility Rates Review Council recommended... . So, we have within 90 days to come back down to me with what that capital rider should be and what the percentages would be and what the amounts would be. So when that information comes back to me, that information will be made public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. The member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

**Question 171 – 2(2): Funding to Qulliq Energy Corporation**

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since yesterday's announcement on the Qulliq Energy Corporation subsidy, the government over and above the Utility Rates Review Council has stated that they would make it available.

I would like to ask the minister for the Financial Management Board about a supplementary appropriation of \$22 million. This \$22 million will be given to the Petroleum Products Division. If it is going to be handed to the PPD, how is the government going to get that money back?

**Speaker** (interpretation): The Minister of Finance, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I did announce yesterday that an additional contribution of \$22 million will be made available to the Qulliq Energy Corporation. As in the past, I have explained that we have made contributions to the Qulliq Energy Corporation in lieu of the fuel rider. The funding that has been distributed to the Qulliq Energy Corporation has been in the form of a contribution agreement and every single month the fuel corporation is required to produce the bills to receive that funding. So once we have those financial records, we then distribute the funding on a monthly basis to the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not fully sure whether the public is fully aware that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is to be annually given a grant of some kind, whenever they appear to be having a shortfall in some areas.

What I understand is the \$22 million is to be transferred from one account of the Government of Nunavut to another account. I assumed that would be the PPD revolving fund. Revolving funds are guided by the legislation of Nunavut, and the funds that the PPD revolving funds are to be recovered through the sales and so on. How is the Qulliq Energy Corporation going to pay for this \$22 million?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is well known by all members that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has not been able to generate revenues for the corporation the last two years and in order to proceed with the rate process, we needed financial statements, at least of actual costs of operating a power corporation in Nunavut.

Prior to that, the corporation was a Northwest Territories operated organization. So, the two years that it took for them to produce their statements, it was evident that they were short of funding because their rates were not actually reflective of the costs to operate a power corporation.

Having said that, they have not been able to pay for their fuel and we have been paying funding to the corporation in lieu of the fuel rider, repaying that to the Qulliq Energy Corporation and then Qulliq Energy Corporation would then pay the funding to Petroleum Products Division. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your second supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that the Petroleum Products Division revolving fund is capped at \$110 million to pay for the re-supply requirements from every public whether it would be Dick and Jane, and whatnot and what have you, including the aviation fuel and so on.

Is the \$22 million additional funds for Petroleum Products Division... . So, that would mean, in my estimation that would raise the amount of \$110 million to \$132 million?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The supplementary appropriation that would be going forward, the \$22 million, will outline the breakdown on how that distribution will be made.

The current information I have on that breakdown is that there are outstanding payments that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is required to pay from previous years. They haven't paid the Petroleum Products Division fund. There's also some funding available for the necessary capital and additional costs of fuel in the last year. So, it has been some previous expenses, and that information in more detail, will be available in the House in the supplementary appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your last supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. (interpretation ends) It doesn't seem how this \$22 million is going to be paid, is going from the Financial Management Board to Petroleum Products Division. What about the \$110 million revolving fund that will have to be paid back by legislation so Qulliq Energy Corporation is not going to be returning this \$22 million, then? (interpretation ends) We have to pay the supplier and the retailer. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the funding will be paid to Qulliq Energy Corporation to pay the Petroleum Products Division funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Netser.

**Question 172 – 2(2): Assistance for Fish Plant in Chesterfield Inlet**

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

In Chesterfield Inlet, there is a very small fish plant where they can catch fish up to 100,000 pounds but it has to go through the Rankin Inlet food processing plant. The Rankin Inlet food processing plant can only receive 10,000 pounds and that 10,000 pound capacity is filled right away.

Can the minister give some assistance to the Hunters and Trappers Organization when they fill the capacity to 10,000 pounds, perhaps by sending the fish to Winnipeg or to Yellowknife if you can find interested customers? Perhaps the minister is willing to assist the Chesterfield Inlet residents that way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For his question, within the year we will complete the fisheries strategy policy. We are now working on that.

We are strategizing on how we can give more support to the communities in regard to fish plants so that there could be more economic opportunities for our people. But, we have to abide by federal regulations when it comes to dealing with food such as arctic char. We have to follow their regulations and we will have to carefully review these regulations and abide by their policies.

On fisheries diversification, I am sure this is going to assist our people once the estimates have been dealt with. There will be more assistance made available. Right now, we want to work to develop fisheries. When we were down in Boston, they were able to purchase approximately 5,000 pounds of fish. So, we are going to market our fish in the United States when we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. The HTO in Chesterfield Inlet, perhaps you can visit them and work with them because they have to be involved. The Keewatin region has to be involved.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, all the communities I am sure, would like to sell their arctic char if they can find the market, and

improve their marketing of arctic char. But we face challenges as we progress and develop the fisheries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 173 – 2(2): Infrastructure Funding from the Federal Government**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community Government and Services concerning infrastructure funding. In a news release a few weeks ago, under a new deal with Canada, the minister announced that Nunavut will receive \$37.5 million for 5 years.

The minister indicated in our November sitting that he will be seeking 1 percent or 1.5 percent under the new deal. My question for the minister: \$37.5 million is .75 percent; can the minister tell the House why he was unsuccessful in getting 1 to 1.5 percent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** I can tell you right now Mr. Speaker that it was not due to lack on our part. This was a joint effort with the federal government with the two other territories. He is correct when the member uses the 1.5 figure, which was used by the federal government, to give out for the territories. So, in discussions with Infrastructure Canada, at the end of the day .75 was even higher from some of the figures that we were hearing from them in the consultation process. I can assure the House and the member that we had lobbied for 1.5 percent which would have seen \$80 million over the first five years. But, being unsuccessful was a result of other pressures from other jurisdictions and provinces. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response. That should highlight the problems we're always going to have in Nunavut when we are looking for money from the federal government. We're competing with 2,000 other agencies, provinces, and territories for a limited amount of money.

It is no secret that Nunavut has a municipal infrastructure deficit that clearly needs \$300 million. Being in the Arctic, extreme weather conditions age infrastructure a lot faster than down south. We need the money now and not in five years. I am wondering how the minister will make \$37.5 million for five years stretch to make a dent in our \$300 million infrastructure crisis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should go into a little bit more detail as to what will follow after the first five years of the gas tax funding that we will receive from the federal government.

It is during the first five years, \$37.5 million which will be allocated to Nunavut. However, after the five years, each year until the program is cut off; we're looking at an additional \$15 million annually. And that's been a commitment by the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that explanation.

I did read that there is \$15 million a year after five years, but that leads to my next question. The new deal is back loaded. We get less upfront. It's like mutual funds. There, you pay less up front and get more at the back. What we get now is targeted at environmental infrastructure, but we know a lot of our infrastructure is not environmental.

We have community halls, ice arenas, airports, and other infrastructure so I'm wondering if the minister could tell the House where he'll find the infrastructure funds for these other municipal infrastructure requirements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In just trying to be too specific to the specific question, you don't really get a chance to explain the other undertakings.

I'm glad to report that at this time, the MRIF and SIP programs are also being negotiated with the federal government. And, as the member knows, these programs have been used very well by Nunavutmiut and received very well by Nunavutmiut. So, we have other negotiations on top of the gas tax money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm aware of those other programs and I'm aware that they can be cancelled at any time. Reading some of the New Deal information, it's a grant based program. So, it could be there for five years, or it could be there for two years; we don't know if the funding will be there for ever.

So, can the minister guarantee us, the House, today, that the federal government is going to give us this \$37.5 million over five years and that the \$15 million that they promised

per year after that will continue to be received by the Government of Nunavut for our aging infrastructure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The gas tax money for the first five years being at \$37.5 million, and the additional \$15 million annually thereafter, is a commitment by the federal government to the territory.

It is one that I've been assured which, as we heard, was mentioned in the federal government's budget speech. Those are committed dollars for those years and the \$15 million annually. On the other shorter programs that we've been successful in negotiating with the federal government because those are geared more towards a certain number of years and for certain types of projects, I cannot guarantee that at the conclusion of the program we will have that funding committed to us by the federal government.

However, I will assure the member that my department and I will pursue negotiating these contracts to try and lower the Nunavut infrastructure deficit that we find ourselves in today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Tasiujaqjuaq, Mr. Kattuk.

#### **Question 174 – 2(2): Size of Sealskins**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the environment minister's statement: the second payment for sealskins, how large does the seal skin have to be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is asking some questions that I don't really know how to answer. I apologize.

The HTO's in the communities purchase sealskins and set their prices on the size of the skins and the quality of the skin. That's what they go by. His question on 'What size of sealskin should be purchased,' I don't have that information at hand, but they sell the skins through auctioneers down south. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): First supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the minister can table the policies or regulations on what the quality of sealskins has to be and on the size and quality of the skin. Perhaps, he could table the regulations or policies for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can table that document under “Tabling of Documents”. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is now over. Going back orders of the day. Item 7. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Barnabas.

#### **Item 14: Tabled Documents**

##### **Tabled Document 077 – 2(2): Photographs on the Condition of Spark Plugs**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I am tabling some photographs from my community that reveal the bad condition of spark plugs in the community of Arctic Bay.

The photographs show when the ski-doo is running, an exhaust is black where the ski-doo is running. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Back to Orders of the Day. Item 15. Item 16. Item 17. Item 18. Item 19. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Tabled Document 52-2(2) and Bill 8. Mr. Netser in the Chair. We will take 20 minute break.

Sergent-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:22 and resumed at 15:54*

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

**Chairman:** Thank you very much for coming back. I would like to call this Committee of the Whole meeting to order.

In the Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Tabled document 52-2(2); and Bill 8. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of Bill 1 and the Main Estimates for the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Does the Committee agree that Minister Picco and his staff go to the witness table? Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed

**Chairman:** Mr. Picco, you can proceed to the witness table.

Thank you, Mr. Minister. For the record, can you refresh our memory and introduce your staff? Thank you.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Joining me at the table today on my immediate right is Ms. Hine, Deputy Minister of Education, and on my immediate left is Janis Mopps, Director of Finance and Corporate Comptroller for the Department of Education.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco and your staff. Welcome. We are on Page G – 5. Yesterday, I had Mr. Tootoo on my list.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am at a loss for the Homelessness Secretariat contribution. I am going to leave that for now, and just ask, the minister has indicated at one time contributions to DEA, the \$100,000 that was taken at this year's budget, can he indicate on any specific projects that were, that the funds were used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as we were saying yesterday the \$100,000 had been allocated in the budget last year and it was for issues around special needs. That was above and beyond that was funded within the budget of the Department of Education.

There had been no budget for 2003-2004 and it actually appeared in the Main Estimates of 2004-2005 for that special reason. In this budget I think there is over \$2 million dedicated and when we get in that page in the budget then we can have some good discussions on it, specifically for special needs in Nunavut.

This would have been one off money, the \$100,000. Out of the budget of over \$180 million is less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> of one percent. That was again monies allocated based on special needs within the Territory. It could have been remedial reading in community, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it wasn't that much, I am sure the minister can provide us with a list on what that money was used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will make that available to the member.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Any further question Mr. Tootoo?

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, it deals with the Homeless Secretariat. I know the Minister of Education is the homelessness minister, I know that federally under the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation and that whole area. I know a word that the Minister as the former Health minister was using quite a bit, was this continuum of care. At the federal level they seem to want to try and keep this entire spectrum, you know your homeless to your houses all under one umbrella.

I'm just wondering if there is any thought of this government doing this same thing and if the Homeless Secretariat is falling under the housing corporation. It was announced last year, the staff housing was in Public Works and Services before, and it was given to or handed back to the Housing Corporation now, for that exact same thing, of trying to keep everything similar together.

I'm just wondering if that's something that there's been any thought of on here to try and make better use of available resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, we had a half PY position that we were able to fund in conjunction with the housing corporation for the issue around homelessness.

The monies for homelessness come directly in our case as a jurisdiction for the Federal Government and it comes through HRDC. I must say for the record that Mary Jane Adamson who is the local operative for the federal department here in Nunavut, based in Iqaluit, has done the yeoman service on the file for Nunavutmiut.

So, it makes sense because of the other interactions that we have with HRDC under education to coordinate that funding of the \$100,000 under this ministry. Again, it's because I'm the minister responsible. It would be difficult for me to give instructions, for example, to one of the other ministers, the Minister of Housing, to give their staff instruction on issues when we already have a housing minister.

So the Premier, when he set up the position and portfolio, again, it's the only jurisdiction in the country other than the federal government to have one; it was to deal with issues at the time around the homeless shelter and because the federal government was moving in a way to deal with the issue of homelessness on a national level. That was the reason for it.

Now we've progressed in the last four years to the point where we've actually targeted about \$100,000 that we would use for grants and contributions to support homelessness and homelessness initiatives in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Anything else, Mr. Tootoo? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like further clarification in respect to the trades' policy.

Could the minister indicate to us if he will be tabling a report or giving us a report back once it's completed? We heard very good comments yesterday but is it possible for the minister to report to us once that's finished? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would make that commitment to report back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Anything else? Education Branch Summary. Directorate. Total operations and maintenance, \$1,222,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Go to G-7. Education Branch Summary. Policy and planning. Total operations and maintenance. \$982,000. Do you agree?

**Some members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Go to G-9. Oh, I'm sorry. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an area that the minister had indicated that dealing with the legislation and with the funding formula development and stuff like that. And also, with their new research and policy, strategic planning and coordination branches of the department.

I am just going back to your Business Plan. Here, the policy and planning seven PYs, it is the same as last year; one person in legislation, two in Corporate Communications and four Directors in the Director's office; a total of seven.

Here, is this where the main work on developing the new *Education Act*, that is going to be coming out of division within the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The policy and planning branch of any department can govern; it is probably one of the most crucial and important. It looks at and analyzes detailed information in regards to direction that is given by either the Minister, by the government and by members. It looks at upcoming trends. It tries to project the way things are going in a federal, national or a territorial level, again to be able to move that department within that timeframe and the work done by the policy people is very important.

Yes, the department, the policy and planning branch of the department has the responsibility for planning and consulting, as well as doing the analytical work, as well as a lot of the administrative work on the research and coordination for the legislative proposal which includes in this case the *Education Act*.

There is a lot of reviewing, for example, issues around the PVT training school that we talked about before, the Folk School, and so on. So that type of direction comes from the policy and planning branch of the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this area also the area that came up with the changes that were going to be in the funding formula for the schools? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What has occurred in the School Funding Formula is the consultative work that has gone on with the local DEAs with the Education Advisory Committee that I have appointed to the Minister and input from the members here, for example and teachers across Nunavut.

That work is coordinated by the policy branch. It is referred to the school section of our department, the budget that would be the K – 12 sections. What section is that? School operations, it is on Page G – 19. That is where we would have the information on the funding formula, so that is where impact would be, at K – 12, so it would be G – 19.

Here the policy and planning the member is correct. The legislative framework, for example, for the *Education Act* would be developed and proposed here. And then the analyzing of the analytical data when we go into the community consultations would be performed within the policy and planning branch. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister also indicated that in here, they do the research and analytical work for trends and things like that for the department. I would like to just thank the Minister for his very substantive response to my written question, albeit the format leaves a little bit to be desired. It doesn't really show you anything page by page like that. I am very pleased that he is able to provide that information.

I know that sometimes requests for detailed information may seem trivial, or we just want to see if you can do it or something like that. In fact, it is an important step in working together to try and address some of our most pressing needs.

Just a comment, I would suggest when the ministers do provide answers to written questions, that they would probably provide greater clarity if those questions were referred to the formally tabled document, rather than referring to unedited Hansard for the wording and spelling of the question.

Mr. Chairman, the department's policy and planning branch provides services including research, policy development, planning and development on standards, and so on and so forth. And therefore and thus, I would like to ask the Minister how the data collected on the drop out and truancy rates are being used to identify trends or patterns across Nunavut schools.

Based on my scan of the raw numbers, it appears that some schools are more successful than others in keeping students in school. I think it's important that we learn from our success stories where things are working and where they're not and try and develop models based on practises that do work.

I've noted that there seems to be some general trends in these numbers. For example, when you look through the pages, I noticed that Grade 10 seems to be a really difficult time for a lot of students across Nunavut. What is it about grade 10 for example, that seems to lead to a peak in the percentages of students playing hooky or dropping out of school.

Maybe the Minister can respond to that, if he can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under the policy and planning branch, the member is correct; we try to ascertain what the trend lines are.

So, in this case the member is talking about a cohort of students at Grade 10 and across the board in Nunavut we have seen an attrition rate, especially when you get to 9, 10, 11 and 12. That's where the highest drop out rate or attrition rate is occurring.

I said earlier, for every 100 children that enter school in Nunavut at Kindergarten, only 25 will graduate with grade 12. That's an attrition rate or a drop out rate of almost 75%. It has been slowly improving but the numbers are not that well moved forward enough to be able to be reflective in a position way. I think that would be safe to say.

So, what has occurred here is that when the trends are brought forward and they have been, and the member has seen them, is that each regional office of the Department of Education reviews those and then we try to find the specific reasons and so on. So there is a lot of work that goes on amongst that.

The other part of this of course falls into the legislative side. There have been a lot of issues raised under the *Education Act* on how we actually deal with truancy and then attrition and the ages and so on.



That was one of the stumbling blocks the member may remember in the last *Education Act*, when we looked at what was the age of consent of the child when they wanted to drop out of school themselves. What were the penalties and fines that were in place for truancy?

All of those types of things are being collated and correlated and then you move forward with the process for the *Education Act*, as well as trying to determine what those trend lines are. We know what the trend lines are because the member has just pointed out that in Grade 10 you can see a high truancy rate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering that if they do look at this information and analyse it and try and solve it, you know the Minister had indicated that they, and the old Bill 1, that they came out with different kinds of penalties and ages and things like that, when kids drop out of school, but after looking as the Minister would say, dealing with it right here, we need to go upstream.

Why are they leaving? Not deal with them after they're gone. Why are they leaving? Does the Minister's staff have any idea? Has anyone looked at if we know that that's why we're losing the majority of our students? Why is it? Something is going on. Does the Minister or his staff have any indication as to why it seems to be peaking at that rate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is not an easy question to answer. What we like to be able to do is have an upstream approach. And getting into an analogy before in the House, where a lot of people think downstream. That is where the body is floating, down the river. You try and take the bodies down the river and find out why they have died. We have to go up the river and stop them in following down the river. That is the upstream approach that we like to take.

In this case there are several different reasons that have been identified for drop-outs. Parental support at home, peer pressure, on the students themselves, disinterest in the programs that are offered in the schools and other opportunities they may have found themselves in the community.

There is a whole range of issues around truancy, and so on. So when we held meetings and held meetings with the District Education Authorities and the Chairs, one of the things that have been coming up are issues around truanancies and attritions. That is something we hope to deal with, again stronger in way of the legislative way of the *Education Act*.

On the greater side again with the local District Education Authority on how they deal with it at the local level. Again, those elected officials have a better feel for what is happening in their schools and recommendations that they bring forward would be implemented by that school to look at the issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I might be of the opinion when they are at Grade 10 that is already down river. The problem seems to be when you want to go upstream from that, you have to look at the lower level grades and make sure that the students are prepared to take on the higher challenges in the high schools.

I believe it is given to the Grade 10 level in school that you are strictly into the Alberta curriculum. They are higher standards about what you have to know and what you can do.

I have met with the District Education Authority here and they tell me they have kids in high school that are illiterate that come up through the system locally and are shoved into high school illiterate. You wonder why they drop out if you are not given the tools that you need to be there. That has got to be pretty demoralizing and demeaning for the poor kids. They feel bad about themselves because they don't know how to do it and these other kids can.

So my question to the Minister is, what are you going to do to try and curb that upstream if not at the Grade 10 level but before they have to get there? So, what plan does the department have to try and address this issue so that we don't have illiterate children, at no fault of their own, set up to fail by the system, to be able to succeed at the high school level?

That is where some focus needs to be made on is how we can address the problem. What is the problem? Why are we having kids entering into high school that can't read? There is something wrong here.

I would like to get a response from the Minister on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are several reasons why a child would enter Grade 10 and not be able to compete at the academic stream. It is a fallacy to say that every child when they go to Grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 doing the Alberta curriculum, that is not the case. There are multiple graduation options within our schools.

We don't expect every student to be academically inclined and be able to do X number of things. However, after saying that, our teachers have been doing their very best. We've had some fantastic successes in education in Nunavut in the past, especially in the past several years.

For the first time ever, we've graduated our first nurses this past spring with degrees. These nurses can nurse anywhere in Canada. For the first time ever this spring, we'll be graduating our first trained lawyers, trained and educated right here in Nunavut.

We have the first Inuk ever, attending Harvard University, one of the best schools in the world, in the United States. Right now we have hundreds, literally hundreds of students in the south, Inuit students, Nunavut students attending post-secondary education. We've got a lot of good things to be proud of in Nunavut. However, a teacher only has a student for five hours a day.

One of the biggest issues we see and continue to see is when a student comes to school and they haven't been able to get a good night sleep, if they're hungry, if there's issues at home, how do you expect that child to be able to learn?

What this budget does to address a lot of the things that the member is talking about and I'm not disagreeing with him, I am in agreement with him, is we're putting more money into remedial education and to special needs. We catch those issues at Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4, where they're learning issues and special needs issues with the students and that helps them get the academia that need to continue on to be successful.

However, you can have the best education system in the world but if you're not providing that support at home, the best teacher in the world is not really going to be able to accomplish more than what they can do for that five hours a day.

School and education is a partnership between the government, the school and the parents, and most importantly, the student. I think it's about time in Nunavut that we start looking at some of those issues and encourage our students to stay in school. That's why I say when you get to Grade, 9, 10, 11, and students find some other things to do, part of it may be because of issues around the academics but as the member said earlier, if it starts earlier, and that's why we're saying that we're front loading money into special needs in this budget.

It will have a huge impact on our communities across Nunavut to be able to deal with some of those issues. So, I hope that helps answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess, as the Minister pointed out, I'm not saying that you can take a look at some of the people in this room, that Inuit aren't intelligent. They are probably some of the smartest people around that I know.

If they are given the opportunity to learn, I really believe that our system, I'm not saying the system is 100 percent responsible, but the way our system is set up for setting our kids up for failure. I think that we have to admit that and look at trying to address it

instead of saying we've got all of these wonderful success stories and things are getting better.

Even while that's going on, we have high school students that can't read. So, I think that we don't try and put a different spin on it for something that isn't there. The problem is still there and it needs to be dealt with.

Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry for going off on that but again, going back to response to the written question that the Minister provided, and certain trends are sorted out according to gender. I think that shows an important aspect of how our society is evolving especially when we compare this information to other information broken down by gender such as employment statistics or suicide attempts.

Can the Minister tell us whether the Research Division of its policy and planning branch will be analysing this information and developing strategies to address these findings?  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just under the member's comments on students going into high school and they are illiterate, there are definitions for literacy and illiteracy. A good example is if you look at the standard norms across Canada and in the United States right now, almost 20 percent of university entries, people who have graduated Grade 12 and who have applied to university had to do remedial upgrading programs in English and Math as a fact. That's not to say that the education system has collapsed across Canada or the United States to say that.

What I am suggesting to you is that the partnership has to begin at the home and that in a lot of cases when we look at the teaching in the classroom, the basic academic surveyor. However, the student needs extra support, and maybe the extra supports are needed outside of the classroom.

I believe there is a lot of success going on. What I am trying to say when I show you how many graduates have graduated, these are the people that have been successful through the education system whether they are from Coral Harbour, from Cambridge Bay or from Iqaluit. That's what we should be proud of. If those people can make it through, then so can our other students, but there may be some special needs that need to be presented at those lower levels like the member has said.

That's why in this budget for the first time; we are dedicating a huge part of the money within the budget itself when we go further on into the budget for special needs, which will have an impact across all of our schools in Nunavut. That will deal with some of the issues around remedial education to help on the literacy side of things. So I think that's important to point out when we look at the success or failure of a system.

On the written question component, the member is again correct. There was a lot of detail asked for in the written question and I want to thank the staff, one of our senior policy analysts right now, Mr. Mark McKay is there with us. I would like to suggest that Mark and his guys worked many, many hours and had to contact all of the different schools and then the District Education Authorities to get the information asked for in the written question formed by the House before Christmas. So I would like to thank him for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo your time is up, I have two names here and you can speak after them if you wish. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was curious about some of the unilingual students that may be recommended for high school when they couldn't read. If that's a fact, I would like to ask the Minister if you would table that information publicly so we can deal with it.

It has been very hard for me to try and accept it in the Assembly that there are students in high school that can't read. I know number one, there are many students in high school that can't read Inuktitut nor speak Inuktitut, even some of the majority of the public, some of them are in this Chamber too that can't speak and read in Inuktitut.

I have never heard of anyone that is put into high school who can't read. If so, could you table those figures for us, whether it would be a report to the House? I think this is a very serious charge to say that we have students in high school that can't read English nor Inuktitut. Would you be prepared to table that report, if any, so that we can address it? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the last count we had over 8,700 students in 42 schools across Nunavut, when you look at that number that is a lot of bodies in a lot of schools. I am not aware of any data, documentation, letter or any official format to me as Minister of Education, that said in a given school, in a community, in Hard Luck Bay, Nunavut, seven people in Grade 11, or seven people in Grade 12, or one person in Grade 10 has been put in that Grade and can't read or write.

There are situations where, because of the truancy rates and so on, where some of them are 15 or 16 years old or they might be in Grade 8 or Grade 9, based on the peer passing that was in place in the past. They are still in Grade 8 or 9, but maybe they are in an occupational program. For example, there used to be a Terry Fox program here where you had some people who had some academic issues with reading and writing but they could do other things.

That may be the case. I am not aware of any facts and figures or a correlation of that. That would have to be ascertained by going to each individual school. I agree with the member that to throw out things like that I don't think it helps the debate. I am not in the

position to table it unless I have it, so what I will do is I will take the member's comment seriously.

At the department we have some people right now making notes on this. I will see what those numbers are if that is the case, and how do you ascertain that?

As a former Adult Educator I can tell you that I would do different testing that has been approved through adult basic education and English as a second language program which tested literacy levels. Those types of tests are valid when taken on a spectrum that it has been used for. Those cases are used by adults who take in life-long learning before and after the fact, and enhance the academics that may have been already learned.

The quick answer is as the member asked me if I am aware, I am not aware of any stats and figures. However, if they department has made a note of it, then I can make that information known to the member if that is the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to add pressure to that because I don't believe that the Minister did not qualify my colleague's comments that there are students that may be in high school that cannot read. I think it is your responsibility to either qualify that or assert whether or not. You now indicated to me that you are not aware. I appreciate that.

My point is that I don't believe these students can just walk into the high school and say I am going to take now Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 even though I cannot read. I don't believe that any student can actually be qualified or accepted if that was a fact.

If it were to happen, if that were a fact, I don't believe it is a student's problem. I believe that the management of the teachers and the principals of the schools would be more of a problem to me than the student who tries to walk into the high school without the ability to read and write in either of the official languages.

I don't think it is exclusive to Inuit if that were the case. That will be another very serious charge and I now would like you to say that you should make a memo to all the principals that no student that have qualified with the official languages, without the ability to write should be granted as a student in those schools in Nunavut. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Do you want to respond to that, Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Ed Picco:** We are getting into a debate on some of the issues on grading and academics. Just very quickly, each student is an individual and each case has to be different. As I said earlier, if a student only comes to school half the time if they only come in the morning and they miss all of the afternoon, and they are supposed to be in Grade 8 and they don't pass, they fail the Grade for three years in a row. Finally, they put

them ahead to Grade 9. Maybe that has occurred. Sometimes you see that within the system with what they call peer passing or peer assistance.

However, if you say that you cannot read, you have to look at what the level is. This is what the member I think is trying to say. You can read at a Grade 3 level but you are in Grade 9 and you cannot read at a Grade 9 level. That is not the fault of the teachers. It depends on what the condition and the status of the child is. Does the child have a learning disability that had not been identified? Is there an issue with the parental structure at home?

So all those types of factors have to be taken into account, which is why you have to look at it in that concept. But to say that there are students who are in school and cannot read, yes, there are probably lots of them in Kindergarten but you bring that cohort forward into Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, and if that student is attending 60, 70, 80, 90 or a 100 percent of the time, then I would suggest to you that the percentage would be that child would be doing very well. If the child only shows up in the afternoon, shows up three times a week, shows up four times a month which happens a lot, not just at the high school level but the other grade levels, then that's an issue.

Our teachers are consistent, they work very hard for our students and when there are issues identified with learning issues and learning disabilities, that's why I said in this budget for example, there will be more assistance on special needs and remedial help. So if the teacher identifies that little Eddy in Grade 3 is having some issues, then that teacher will have an opportunity for extra support for little Eddy and help him with his work.

So I hope that helps answer the member's question, and again, I think we need to be focusing on the budget itself and how we move it forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. There's one more person. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was also raised with my constituents where the students are being passed onto the next Grade. I think this is getting too obvious in Nunavut in different communities even though it is the responsibility of the Department of Education.

I wonder where the problem lies where maybe the teachers don't have enough authority. Maybe we should give more authority to the teachers. For some of us former students we were taught intensively and strictly.

Nowadays if we walked into a school, we would notice that the students are not getting enough discipline. I don't think we are supporting our teachers enough. We should identify where the problem lies. I wonder if the Department of Education has ever done studies on where the problem lies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is something I think the member is referring to what is commonly called peer passing, and that's where itself, within the education system, if you are 14 years old and you are continuing to fail, now you are 15, now you are 16, now you are 17 and you are 17 or 18 year old is now in a grade with the 14 year olds because he continues to fail. It's better for the self-esteem and the opportunity for that child to learn if you continue to bring him forward instead of failing him. That's called peer passing or peer grading.

That's something we could address in the new *Education Act* in Nunavut; how we deal with passing; how those types of things are facilitated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I understand what the Minister said but we have to look at it from two ways; how the students are, and the abilities or powers for the teachers. Maybe we don't give them enough powers in the schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We are on G-7, please remember that. (interpretation ends) Do you want to take this Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. Those are the types that govern the issues and the legislative issues that would be in the new *Education Act* when we bring it forward, what are the designated powers. So I would agree with the member on that comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We are on G-7. Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation ends): Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple quick questions here for the minister and I will put them both together.

I am just wondering, he mentioned this is the division where they are working and developing the new *Education Act*. I am just wondering if he could provide us with an update on the development of it and enlighten us as to what specific consultation activities will be undertaken by the department in developing the new *Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been a lot of work done preliminary to the next consultative stage of the *Education Act* already. First of all very quickly, the *Education Act*, we are hoping to be in the position to introduce that in the Assembly in the spring of 2006. A Legislative Coordinator has been hired. Ms. Manitok Thompson, Mani is well known to the Members and to the people of Nunavut. She has been the former Minister of Education and a former teacher.



She will be leading consultative meetings on a regional and community basis in the coming months. We will start with the original draft of the old Bill, Bill 1 and move from there. There is a Steering Committee that is already in place. This includes an Elders Committee from Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated as well as the Department of Education and the Association de Francophonie of Nunavut is involved. We are also working on the *Education Act* website. We are also looking at working on a booklet to assist Nunavummiut.

So a lot of the logistics as administrative work has gone into the process and planning. Once the budget is approved in the House then Ms. Thompson and her group in earnest her consultative work, to consult Nunavummiut on the *Education Act*, itself. So I hope that helps. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to ask for the record. Yesterday, I know the Minister indicated that they were going to look and take into account all the presentations and concerns that were raised the first time around. I don't know if it would be a good idea for Bill 1 and start from that because we know what Bill 1 is like. It may be better to take a look at some of the concerns that were raised and go to the existing from there, food for thought. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We are on G-7. (interpretation ends) Education Branch Summary. Policy and Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance, \$982,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Page G-8. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. G-8: it indicates adult programs and services under Business Plan from H-19 to 23. They are replaced by FANS. The funding for FANS is not very high for students. While they are attending school they try and earn money elsewhere when they owe too much to FANS and if their income does not meet those requirements.

I wonder if they are given more assistance on top of that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would agree with the Member that there are issues around FANS. But FANS is down on G-12 and I would be in a position to discuss that with the member when we are on G-12. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** My sincere apologies, Mr. Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Yes, I will raise this under G-12.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. G-8. Education Branch Summary. Total Operations and Maintenance, \$2,081,000. Do you agree? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that Division of Corporate Services, there is an increase of one PY. I am wondering what the position is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the re-establishment of our IT position for the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Anything further Mr. Tootoo? We are on Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,081,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Going to G-10. Education Branch Summary. Income Support. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Under the Income Support Program which is under the minister's portfolio and I am sure that he gets headaches having that as one of his responsibilities.

There has been some concern about people who are dependent on the Income Support Program and then there's the claw back which created a big headache to some of the people in there who use those services. We know that there are claw backs. For example, the Co-op dividends are deducted from the income support that the recipients receive.

Do you have any additional reports on the claw backs and old age pensions and other sources of income that the recipients get? Could the minister explain to us on exactly how this works? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Curley. For the record, could you please introduce your witnesses Mr. Minister? Thank you.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am joined by Ms. Sandy Teiman and Sandy is the director for policy and programs under the income support branch. She has been at this field for many years and many of the members recognize her for her continuous appearance during budget time in the House. So I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Sandy Teiman to the table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Welcome. If you would respond to Mr. Curley's question, Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I think the members of this House should be quite pleased in that in less than 12 months if this budget goes forward, we have actually increased the income support amount by over 15 percent for the first time. So I think the members should take some leadership and pat themselves on the back for that.

At the same time in this budget, the issue of claw backs have started to be developed and be dealt with. The first claw back was on the, and it's still in place until this budget goes through, was in place for the Co-op dividends.

In that case, any money that was received from the Co-ops, lets say a \$3,000 as a patronage dividend that meant that that total amount would then come off the income support.

So instead of getting a check for the full amount, they would claw back that amount of the patronage dividend. That's basically what the claw back means.

In this case on the Co-op amount, we are proposing that the patronage dividend no longer be accounted for as income, it's an unearned income and thus it would not come off their income support amounts.

When we look at other benefits under the program for example, straight income support or indeed as the member has talked about the old age pension amounts, and so on, the territorial supplement amounts, and those are still subject to claw backs. For example, if someone won bingo that could be clawed back on their income.

We had some issues with that. I made the point at one point with some of the members here that if I won bingo in Iqaluit at the Elks, a lot of people might not know that but if you won \$10,000 bingo in Coral Harbour, everyone would know you won it.

So we could claw it off in Coral Harbour because everyone would know about your winnings, but they probably would not know about it in Iqaluit or one of the larger communities. So is there fairness there?

We had another case where a parent was living in Ottawa and paid for two tickets to bring his grandchildren down to Ottawa so he could see them, then when the kids went back to the community the mother and the two kids, they were told; look, you just got a gift of whatever the ticket cost was and thus their income was clawed back.

So those are some of the issues that we are trying to deal with right now, we've moved on to patronage dividends. I would be very pleased to accept a recommendation from the Standing Committee of the House during this budget debate, that the department review claw backs as the members said, and see what we can do about it at some point.

Like the members did on the Co-op dividends with the help with the members, that we were able to move that forward coming out of the Arviat caucus. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you. Anything else, Mr. Curley?

**Mr. Curley:** I would like to get the witness as well that say, the minister to see if she has any further comments on that because it is a really complex issue. It is not so much that I want to change it or anything. It is important that the recipient fully understands exactly, what is subject to claw back and what is not subject to claw back, because most of the time the lack of information or understanding really creates a problem to those dependent on income support system. Thank you.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All of the items that are considered claw back or reduction of income support are under regulation. We carried those regulations over from the Northwest Territories and it takes time to make those changes.

Every time a regulation gets changed for these types of things, we have to go forward for a budget change because it costs money to change the Income Support program. So we are working away bit by bit at it and the dividends were a big one to be able to have it considered exempted income.

There are over 21 different types of exemptions under the Income Support program and it's understandable that most income support recipients don't understand what's clawed back, what's half claw back, what's not clawed back? We do have a communications package in place and the income support workers are fully briefed on the regulations. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. For the benefit of the members, it might be important for the members to be provided with a copy. We don't have to table it but just say we do have a copy in our file because we do get subjected to a lot of telephone calls, and so on.

I want to go to who now qualifies for income support; this is another huge area that really Members of the Legislative Assembly in communities get daily telephone calls pretty well, in some occasions.

I had one constituent who literally was grieving because under doctor's orders and because of health reasons, a young man who wasn't allowed to work based on the injury not so much from an injury from work, but was born that way, pretty weak. Mrs. Ipkarnaq's son, Mr. Ipkarnaq, the guy would try to work but he was under orders by doctors not to work, and yet he never did qualify through local for income support nor any other.

How does an individual in that state get any attention?

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm quite surprised at that Mr. Curley, that the person would be denied. Under income support legislation any one with the age of 18 and over is entitled to apply and there is an assessment done on a monthly basis. If that person has a doctor's certificate that says they can't work for work related accident, that puts them off the job or some sort of mental impairment or anything like that, as long as we have a doctor's certificate on file, there should have been no reason for that person to be disqualified from income support, unless they are receiving income from the federal government or another pension plan. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** I appreciate the response I certainly understand that, but I know that even the mother did cry when they telephoned me. But I, as myself as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, just couldn't go and try to change the local social workers.

My thinking in that regard is, not only should the Members of the Legislative Assembly be aware of who qualifies and who doesn't. Like you indicated there are so many programs out there.

I believe that social workers need annual leave workshops to deal with cases of that kind because they're sitting there with outdated procedures and policies and I once referred to the social workers that now need compassion into it. It's so standard now that they just go through the regulations quickly and there is no compassion or communication to that effect.

I did call a young man to try and get me the record. He had given up on getting any assistance, they just let him go but actually he's not mentally impaired. He's sharp, he's willing but he has a weak spine and everything. He will try and work. At that expense, he works pretty hard. I'm really appealing not only for him, but, there are many other cases out there because there is a lot of information. I really believe that your social workers work really hard and I think they need more input and more training. At least bring up to date exactly who qualifies because I won't want to cast any doubt on many of the hard working individuals. And therefore, I personally have not intervened with them because I try to let the process go through.

So, if you will try and agree that there needs to be additional workshops maybe that would really help us out with our people. I do have one more question after that, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Minister or Ms. Teiman.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that we have had two regional conferences with workshops for training that the member was talking about. There will be another one this March, so that is being followed up.

Also, the job as the member had said is very stressful in all of our communities when you're an income support worker because of issues around appeals, denials and so on. We respect that and we acknowledge that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had one more question with respect to, a couple of them actually. I didn't ask how the income support earner had acquired some dollars. They are sitting and saving it. Whatever little saving she can get, whether it's some part of the income that she saved from the income support and was saving for transportation in the summer months, like ATVs with a person who is not 100 percent able to walk carrying groceries, someone that needs transportation, so she had saved up about \$500 in one account.

Your workers found out about it and now he did not qualify. She phoned me crying. Here was an elder who was crying. What can we do for people who save a bit of their income from that and elect to put part of their dollars into it or is absolute zero, you don't qualify. We can't do anything about that. Same thing with furniture, so say these people can not even save for furniture.

What can we do for those people who are provided with housing or beds that are due for replacement? That's my question. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't comment on the veracity of the comments and what was held back and so on and what was allowed under the system. There are policies and procedures in place. So, I'll ask Ms. Teiman if she could probably go through in those two specific instances that the member relayed, one on the furniture and the other on the ATV and give us an overview of exactly what occurred from the income support worker's perspective, when she does the assessment on that client's file. That way, the members can have a better understanding on where it's coming from.

So, we'll ask Ms. Teiman to respond on both those cases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Please, Ms. Teiman.

**Ms. Teiman:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the case of the furniture situation, if we have someone who received gifts or gratuities, or bingo winnings or items like that, we do allow them to use that funding towards purchasing furniture and all they have to do is show the Income Support worker the receipts. So, if somebody wants to use that to buy a washing machine, so as long as we see the receipts, then that is fine.

We also provide a furniture allowance under Income Support to those who qualify. Anybody who walks through the door as an assessment on a monthly basis, so the different types of income is taken into account. So that is the case of the furniture.

For the person who saves money and has it in the bank account, it is a really tough question because Income Support is a program of last resort. So you are not supposed to come to our doors if you are able to save money and I guess the premise right across the country.

Unfortunately as the assessment stands, and if the person has savings, then we discount that from Income Support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Are you done? Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if I will be asking a question that is on the same line as the page. The elders who receive pensions are always short of money and they don't have any other opportunities to make money and pay their bills, their children and grandchildren depend on them.

As I have heard that there is going to be some assistance from the federal government for the elders. Will you be increasing the program for elders? Thank you.

**Chairman**: Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, when a person is a senior citizen and receives a comparable senior citizen's allowance from the federal government and that person is also eligible for a Territorial Elders' Support that is called the Territorial Senior Supplementary Benefit. The current benefit is a \$135 a month. The federal government announced in the budget that there is modest increase for elders across Canada, including Nunavut.

Right now, there are 587 seniors in Nunavut. So in all of Nunavut there are 587 that receive the old age pension guaranteed income supplement and the Nunavut Senior Citizen Supplement Benefit is across Nunavut.

One of the things that the department does on an on-going basis is conduct review of the current rates to determine whether or not there are enhancements required in the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Does that answer your question, Mr. Arreak? Do you have any further questions?

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for looking into this. Also, are you going to do some kind of research or study because the seniors can't keep

up with the cost of living? Are you going to do some kind of research on that? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department will do a current review and current rate structure that are in place to see if there is a need for enhancements through that program. So the quick answer to the member is yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This section here, I know that it says responsibility for overall policy development. I have been raising this with the minister since last year about maybe taking some of this funding and developing another program for remote work assistance program. I mentioned yesterday that it might require a policy change.

For the information of members, several years ago when I was with another organization, we prepared a report and crunched a lot of numbers to show that if we used 20 percent of the funding under a program like this, it would generate substantial returns to the government in terms of putting people to work and collecting taxes. You would receive your money back ten times over.

I tabled that document last year, Mr. Chairman. So I am wondering if the minister or his staff had the time to review it. Would he give me an update today and what they think of that suggestion? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member mentioned this to me last March when we were in Cambridge Bay and we were meeting with the mine training group with Mr. Bruce Rigby and other people. At that time I thought it was a good idea and I agree with him.

The department has done some good work here and I am going to read into the record of exactly what is occurring right now so that the member and other members will have this information.

Right now, the officials within the Income Support Division which is Sandy and Michelle are in the process of reviewing and revising the operational guidelines so we could include a prevision for income support recipients. So that's someone who is on income support, to receive additional assistance in the amount up to and including the cost of a one-time one-way airfare from their home community to an employer point of hire in order to secure and begin employment.



So for example, if you are in Cambridge Bay and you are offered a job in Kugluktuk and you are on income support, then we would provide that one-time support for you to fly from Cambridge Bay to Kugluktuk and take that position. I think that's what the member has been talking about.

At the same time, travel to remote worksites for those on income support would also fill the bill but it would be under that one-time payment as we said. I would expect that if you are working in a remote site lets say the Lupine Mine, then Lupine would probably have covered that cost for you to take you back and forth from Cambridge Bay.

So I hope that helps answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good to hear that. Under the Nunavut Impact and Benefit Agreements, Article 26 of the Land Claims Agreement, all Inuit of Nunavut can qualify but the point of hire would be say, Cambridge Bay.

If an individual from Broughton Island or Grise Fiord wanted to work at one of the mines in the Kitikmeot Region and the people in the Kitikmeot were fully hired down there and there are more vacant positions, would that program help that person get to Cambridge Bay or Kugluktuk or wherever the opportunity is? Would that help them get there and be reimbursed?

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** I think the concern we would have on the program is that we wouldn't want to fly someone from Rankin Inlet and send them to Igloolik or fly them from Rankin Inlet and send them to Broughton Island for example for a job and then when they get to Broughton Island, they don't have the job. Then that person is stuck in Broughton Island because no one is going to fly them back. What we are saying is that if you are secured a job in a community, then we would help you with the one-way airfare from your community to that place of hire or that point of hire.

So I think we want to be sure on that so that we don't get into a position where we are flying someone somewhere and they get to Baker Lake and then all of a sudden they don't like the job.

The other concern would be that once you are helped, you are on income support and you are flown from Broughton Island to Baker Lake for a job and now you are in Baker Lake and after two weeks you don't like the job, then you are going to be responsible for your own airfare back to Broughton Island.

So it's for a one-way airfare. It's to help facilitate the opportunity for people to have employment outside their home community and cover off that expensive airfare issue that the member had raised way back in March.

So I am very pleased that we are able to move on it and I hope that meets the member and the other members' expectations of the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Peterson, do you have any further questions?

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would thank the minister and it's a good start. So I'll look forward to seeing it once it's implemented, how it works out. If there's some tinkering that has to occur along the way to make it really fully useful for the folks that we represent, and then we should monitor implementation.

I want to clarify in my own mind who delivers the income support programs administered to the three regional early childhood service offices located in Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. So you have three people but it's not really the social workers that deliver the program. There is an individual in each region. Do they work through hamlets or other organizations to deliver the Income Support program? Could the minister clarify that please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** No, the way we would have it set up for administrative purposes would be for example, if you're Clyde River, you would go through the Income Support regional office. The Income Support worker in Clyde River would be able to facilitate the ticket and the regional office would be in the position to help coordinate it. You wouldn't have to apply to regional offices. The finances for the program would be held in the regional offices. For example in the member's case, it would be in that regional community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify again, maybe the minister misunderstood me; you have an individual in Cambridge Bay working in your offices, but who actually delivers the Income Support program to the people that apply for it. I'm not referring to the Remote Worksite program. I'm referring just to income support in general. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Income Support worker in each community would be administering and facilitating that program and other income support programs for the department. It's the Income Support worker. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Yes, that clarifies it because one of my colleagues down here was mentioning social workers but I know social workers do a lot of good work but I don't think they are all involved in income support.

Just to carry on with that, I've been hearing that there is a lot of and I have used this expression a lot in the last week, red tape associated with getting income support cheques. You said the money was held in the regional offices but how is the money moved to the hamlets so that they can disperse it to the income support recipients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Depending on how the member breaks it down, if it's the delivery of the Income Support program itself, it could be through a community transfer initiative, something like you see in say Cape Dorset, and some of the other communities.

If it is a straight transfer of money from the government, it could be by government cheque for example, from the regional office to the hamlet. So, it depends on the program that the member is asking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I'll try to clarify; the money that people would get every month to buy food, where would they apply? Would it be to the office or would it be to the Income Support worker? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What would happen is that in any given community, you would approach the Income Support officer at their office. When you walk in that door, there would be an assessment done.

If you're over the age of 18, any individual is allowed to apply for that program. The assessment is done and if you qualify, depending on what the period is, the Income Support worker has cheques in their office under the Government of Nunavut's impress system. They would be able to write a cheque then to the client, if that client qualifies and depending on how much the candidate or the client qualifies for, then that is what the amount of the cheque would be issued for.

I hope that helps clarify the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it does help a little bit. In terms of tracking the monies that are dispersed to clients, does the department have an electronic

tracking system? Is it all manual? I know there are high turnovers over income support workers. It would be important to have an electronic system or a computer system where you could key in an individual's name and he'll pull up all the information on that individual, making it a lot easier to process payments or find out the history of that individual.

So I am wondering if the department has a system like that or if they don't. Are they moving to a system like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification purposes, on page G-10 it is a policy around Income Support. The actual monies and dollars of Income Support itself are on G-14. I will answer the Member's question.

No, we don't have that type of electronic system in place. We are working system for Nunavut. One system that the Member is talking about at the present time, it is not in place and the Income Support monies are all on G-14, the actual dispersal of the programs. We are dealing with policy issues in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to the Minister. This confused me last year as well as you had Income Support mentioned here and you have Early Childhood Services delivering Income Support. It is one of those ones that the department should sort out. Keep Income Support where it should be in the departmental budget.

I have a few more questions, but I will save it until we actually get there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Is that a question? Would you like to answer that, Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Well, the format that is put together for the books in our budget debate is Finance Department rules. That is why there is a strict process in place for contracts and contribution agreements and actual allocation of dollars and then by Director and category.

So that is the reason why for the little confusion. Again, I will be really pleased to move forward to G-14 and agree to all the other pages in between. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Are you done Mr. Peterson? Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question for Income Support. If a person turns 18 years old as of today, how long is the waiting period for looking for assistance from Income Support cheque, or something like that? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most calendar dates a person age advances at 12:01 am. I would suggest to you that the Income Support office would probably not be open. A person can apply at 8:00 or 9:00 in the morning as soon as that office opens, as soon as that person who turns 18 years old, they can go to the office to apply for Income Support.

Whether they would be eligible or not, they would have to be assessed by the Income Support Worker. The answer is once they turn 18 years old they can apply for Income Support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I was told is that if you become 18 years old today, you have to wait at least 2 months in order to get first assistance cheque. So I think that I was given the wrong information then. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Do you want to respond to that Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. As long as they are 18, as soon as they turn 18 years old after 12:01, they can apply for the program. Again it depends on the case when they review it. So the Member is correct when they turn 18 years old they can go to Income Support and apply. That is not saying they are eligible, but they can apply. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another concern. I am glad you are working with the young people in the communities. Has the minister tabled this at the witness table? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Yes, it will be at the witness table at some time. Are you done? We are on G-10. I don't have anymore names. Education Branch Summary. Income Support. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,232,000, agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We will go to G-11. Education Branch Summary. Adult Learning and Post-Secondary Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the minister, again with respect to Nunavut Arctic College; college contribution is quite significant at \$15,707,000.

I do believe that at least this house and the people of Nunavut, Mr. Chairman, I am going to wait until the witness departs.

**Chairman:** For the record, could you please introduce Mr. Max Clendenning? Thank you.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you. First of all, thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Ms. Sandy Teiman for sitting in with us during the income support profile. I expect that Sandy will be back when we get to G-14.

Joining me now on my immediate right is Mr. Max Clendenning. Max is the president of Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you. Welcome Max Clendenning. Mr. Curley, you have questions.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First a very short opening remark, the amount for contribution for college contribution is quite significant and it's in excess of \$15 million. I think it's a very important investment and I really believe that each member of the house here fully supports expanding the investment for the future.

I need to further remind the minister, I know the minister is committed but I also would like to hear from the president of the Nunavut Arctic College, Mr. Max Clendenning. Because I do want to understand exactly where you stand with respect to, not only agreeing with us that expanding the Nunavut Arctic College with particular respect to the training section, training requirements of our young people really should be one of the highlights of the Nunavut Arctic College.

We are not going to train all of them into doctors, teachers, nurses, and academics in Nunavut. They are eventually going to have to be exported down to some of the provinces to have a long-term career in the field of academics and what not.

But the majority of our people really are interested in trades as well, but really, we don't have any particular investment directly to the regions because I believe the government can't quite make up their mind as to where it should be located. That should not be hindering the government, in my view.

To know that the communities are really fighting to have a trade school is a good thing. That's significantly important. I can tell you too, Rankin Inlet my constituency, is not going to become a hub like Iqaluit, full of civil servants and so on.

It's going to become the hub of the private sector. It has the spirit of private sector and so on. The business community may be small but they don't hold any bars. They don't hold that opportunity.

That's their future, Rankin Inlet and the people of that nature. I am much more interested in the private sector and private business and getting into business and to enter into contracting relationships with the mining companies in the private sector area. Private financing is probably quite significant, a lot less government contribution in terms of business operating in that region.

So I'm suggesting that the delay in investing into trades schools in places like Rankin Inlet, I don't believe because of the lack of the will of the community, to the young people. I think it's bureaucratic.

I want to ask the Minister and Mr. Clendenning exactly what your implementation or plans may be for the next few years to make this important trades school a reality in places like Rankin Inlet in the Kivalliq Region. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Before he responds, I have an announcement. All those people that were being searched for in Cape Dorset, they have been found and they are safe and healthy.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Minister or Mr. Clendenning.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I appreciate the comments of Mr. Curley. I appreciate his support for a Pre-vocation Training Program within a facility in Nunavut.

I've had an opportunity to speak with the Nunavut Arctic College Board of Governors and the Chair, Mr. Robert Leonard and I think there is some concurrence there with the Board, also that we need to move very aggressively and strongly toward having our own pre-vocational training facility in Nunavut itself.

Right now we deliver pre-trades programs and trades programs. However as Mr. Curley is pointing out, the College is not base funded for trades programs. So when we deliver those types of programs right now, we're doing it on an ad-hoc basis and by third party funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the Minister could explain it to us a bit because third party funding and these sites where the trades are being taken, particularly with respect to mechanics and heavy duty mechanics, I believe they're all over the place, even welding.

Of all the places I was disappointed when I heard one constituent saying in order to have materials for welding in a place like Goose Bay, they had to use scraps of metal because the new supply that you paid for were stored for some important other projects.

Does the Minister really keep track of which locations and if not, if he doesn't know, could he dig that up and table those sites where the trades are being taken by our young people in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** When we say trades, there are different types of programs that are delivered by the college and other colleges across Canada not just unique to Nunavut, that are considered apprenticeship or programs. Those can be the traditional trades for example, Mr. Chairman, like carpentry, plumbing, electricians. It can be the non-traditional trades for example, it could be hair styling or culinary, under cooking and so on.

So to be more specific, I'm going to go through and give some examples of programs. Here in Iqaluit as an example, there is under way right now, a pre-employment program, a health careers access program, a pre-employment carpentry program as well as a culinary arts and a hairdressing program. You could make the case for example, Mr. Chairman, that jewelry and metal working program can be considered an apprenticeship program because you're actually developing your skills and moving forward.

There have also been pre-employment trades programs in Grise Fjord, Hall Beach, Pangnirtung and Resolute; a pre-trades program in Pangnirtung and Igloolik, a heavy equipment operator program in Hall Beach, as an example of some of the programs that have been delivered.

As well, enrolments by the campus, the program and the location in Rankin Inlet for example, we've had an intro to carpentry and framing. As of January of 2005, there are 13 people in that program, another pre-trades program that's being delivered in Baker Lake, 13 people are in that one. We also have a pre-trades program in Arviat. There are 15 in that program.

Again, we have an introduction to mining program going on in Repulse for the mining industry. We have nine students in that right now. We have a pre-employment program in Kugaaruk. There are eight in that program right now.

So Mr. Chairman, I think across the board in Nunavut, there are a lot of different programs going on right now. The issue for the college is there is no base fund within the \$15 million that accounts for, or is specifically tied to the trades' fund. That's funding for trades programs itself, but they're not based for it.

So the college, the adult educator or the regional campuses, they have to access money whether it's from Kakivak, other third party funding, other labour market development agreements with HRDC under skill investments and so on, or mining companies may purchase X number of seats and help us deliver a program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



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

**Mr. Curley:** Yes, thank you. I appreciate the minister's response. I just want to assure him that it is an ongoing interest of the public and the members of this assembly know that we need to start preparing for the future.

I really don't believe we can rely on an ad-hoc basis any longer to try and invest into the future of the young people we really need to establish and plan for permanent locations for some of these training facilities in Nunavut, in that regard.

I still ask the minister exactly what his plan of action will be, more specifically though with respect to Nunavut Arctic College, you do offer a good program for interpreter/translator training. I believe it's a certified training program. I believe it's a three year course or something to that affect.

I do know that you did announce at one point that you were establishing a training facility for that kind of program in the Kitikmeot region. I can tell you, one is definitely needed in the Kivalliq because that is an important field. The services are not only required by the government but also the private sector, as well as the federal agencies.

Could the minister or Mr. Clendenning assure this house that you will look into this and if so when, and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would ask Mr. Clendenning just to follow up on the projection for the interpreter/translator program. He may have some pertinent information. So, I'll ask Mr. Max Clendenning to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Okay. Go ahead Mr. Clendenning.

**Mr. Clendenning:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's question. The language and culture programs that we offer through the college are a very important part of our program. The program here in Iqaluit which is our base funded program, is a two year program which has the interpreter option in the second year. It certainly has been a very successful program and provided our graduates a lot of meaningful employment opportunities, not only in the south but in the communities as well.

The member is correct. We did start a program this past year in Cambridge Bay in the Kitikmeot for an Innuinaqtun interpreter/translator program. We are currently doing the access year for that program this year. It's been very successful. We understand the needs for programs in the Kivalliq region and we will look at the feasibility of offering that program and to look at how we can access funding so that we can expand the program to that region as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm surprised that you would have to go through the feasibility study again because if it's feasible in the Kitikmeot, why wouldn't it be feasible in the Kivalliq?

Having to spend that kind of money again to me is really not required. There is a demand. Why would you want to go hire a consultant and do all the study again? I want to ask the President of Nunavut Arctic College what it would take to implement a program and establish a training program. We do have facilities that are most of the time, can actually be filled to occupy a program. So what would you need from this Assembly in order to make it happen? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think what Mr. Clendenning was saying was that when you look at the opportunity for a feasibility study, if we don't see the feasibility study, we try to ascertain what the cohort or group amount would be for a number of students that would partake, or have an uptake on the program.

So if there are 100 students that wanted to take the program in the Kivalliq, then you should be prepared for 15 in their 20s and you do the feasibility studies to see if you could actually get the accommodations where they are coming from.

So that's the reason why you would do that. You just don't want to go and say we are going to offer a program and then have 100 people apply and then not have to get back to you. I think that's what Mr. Clendenning is saying.

What needs to be put in place to be able to run that program, we already have the course outlines; we know what the curriculum resources, the text and so on are needed because we have been delivering the program.

There are some issues again, around the costs. We have one base funded program right now that's delivered under the campus. The other one in the access year that's being run out of Cambridge Bay for example, that's been funded out of third party funding.

To be able to run the program in the Kivalliq lets say starting it in September, if we are able to pull that off through the access year in September and pull that off, then that means we would have to have the funding available for it which we don't have right now because that's third party funded. Which means it doesn't come out of the base of the college, but we had to find someone else to pay for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through you Mr. Chairman, I asked Mr. Clendenning exactly what he needed. I don't believe he said all that and what the Minister supposedly is thinking that Mr. Clendenning is a witness.

So I am asking him exactly why it would be different from Kitikmeot if the feasibility and the demand are there in the Kivalliq. What factors do we need that may differ from Kitikmeot or Iqaluit when many of our participants, particularly with Iqaluit programs have been participating here and they could very well likely prefer to have that kind of training in Rankin Inlet?

So I am asking Mr. Clendenning through you Mr. Chairman, exactly why would Kivalliq be treated any more differently than Kitikmeot?

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

**Mr. Clendenning:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It basically comes down to an issue of funding. In order to start a program in the Kivalliq Region, we would have to have funding which is not in our base right now. As the minister indicated, in order to do a program like that we would have to find a partner who would be prepared to fund the program.

We do have the resources in terms of the curriculum. We would need to be able to find qualified instructors to teach the program and get the necessary funding to be able to employ them and do the program properly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask Mr. Clendenning again that if this Assembly and the Cabinet were to agree to be your partner and approve certain funds, that you would then be able to develop the program pretty much sort of, maybe and expand part of this program in Iqaluit to Kivalliq Region and once the funds were approved by the House, then you would be able to begin a training program for interpreter training. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Clendenning:** The minister approves base funding for programs for the college and as President it is my responsibility to implement the program once the base funding has been established.

So until we know what the base funding would be, I wouldn't be able to comment to say that we could implement that as soon as September. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I'm sure Mr. Clendenning, through your board; you have a capital planning or program planning program.

Would your board be willing to consider expanding that program and recommend through either the minister or agency who you would want to partner with that there is a demand, have you actually demand study, what not, if not why not?

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

**Mr. Clendenning:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can tell you that the board fully supports the expansion of our language and culture programs and would like to see that program become an integral part of all of our base funded programs.

We haven't dealt specifically with the need for an expansion of the interpreter program into the Kivalliq region but I'm sure the board would support taking that next step. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, I appreciate that, and I am getting the information which are important not only to me but to the house because I said earlier, Rankin Inlet will not become the base like Iqaluit for civil servants.

It's going to become the centre for private sector willing to expand and create opportunities in business-related business. Interpreter training is one of them, that they can get into the private sector and use their services for the government as well as the federal agency, including the backlog that we have with the court justice issues, so I'm asking you, will you treat this requirement as one of the priorities for the coming year? Thank you.

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

**Mr. Clendenning:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as we develop our business plan for the coming year, we will look at that issue and ask the board to consider how we might be able to accommodate an extension of the program into the Kivalliq region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Clendenning. Mr. Curley, your time has ended. If you have any further questions, I'll put your name back in later on after the members ask their questions. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to ask the minister, we've been doing a lot of talking in the last five or six months about Nunavut trade school since Arviat, I'm wondering if the minister can comment on the present status of the Nunavut trades board committee. Is there such a thing in existence? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are several boards and agencies working within the trades' area in Nunavut.

A good example would be the apprenticeship trades board that's in place that works on the certification of apprentices and so on.

Under the labour market development agreement that we have in place, we also have committees that we set up looking at the training aspects, we have also the line training committee is another group that are looking at opportunities on careers and professions under that type of occupation.

So I think a quick answer to the member's question is yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson,** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you minister for that information, I think I'm more interested in the status of the apprenticeship trades board since this seems to be more related or in reference to a Nunavut trade school.

How active is the trades' board? Is it very active? Does it meet once or twice a year? Do they meet at all? Do they get any funding from our government? Could the minister respond please? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The apprenticeship board is an active board. It was set up after the division of the territories, the money that is in place for the board comes out of the Department of Education in this line item.

The apprenticeship board itself includes the maintaining of our registry of indenture of the apprenticeship, maintaining the relationship with the board itself, undertaking the initiative with the training and providers and so on.

I don't have the information to tell you when the last meeting was held of the board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Apprenticeship Trade Board receive direction from the Minister in respect to their duties under any Acts in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just received that extra information on the Trades Board. The Apprenticeship Board meets 3 times a year and tries to meet in each region of Nunavut.

The next meeting was held in February 2005 that means they just had a meeting of the Board. The funding of the Board comes from the Department of Education. The mandate of the board again is to meet as well to meet the issues around apprenticeship and trades in Nunavut itself.

I don't give any direction to the Nunavut Apprenticeship Board, or NAB. I don't give political direction to the NAB. They are an independent quazi-judicial Board that works outside the encompasses of government. It doesn't take direction from the Government or the Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure that there is an interesting one announcement of a Nunavut Trade School. So I am wondering if the Apprenticeship Trades Board will be involved. Will it be involved in continuing discussions and debates on the establishment of a Nunavut Trade School somewhere in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Myself as the Minister of Education, I haven't got issued any political direction to the Board itself. The Board reviews and receives all appeals under the *Apprenticeship Act* and will perform the duties the Minister imposed within the *Apprenticeship Act*, itself. I haven't imposed under the Act itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't asking if you are imposing anything under the Act. Will the Trades Board be actually consulted in continuing discussion on the establishment of a Trades School in Nunavut or some parts of the Trades School depending where? You have hairdressing in Iqaluit and you say something related to mining in the Kitikmeot. Will they be involved in those discussions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the work of the Board would in consultation with the Department of Education on the Pre-vocational Training. So I guess the short answer would be yes. We would expect with the Apprenticeship Board would be consulted on any type of logistic, administrative work that would be going further on the Vocational Training aspects for people.

That would be a whole part of the Adult Learning Strategy that we have talked about and the mines training strategy that is done already where that consultative work would be in place.

So I would expect Mr. Chairman, the short answer would be yes, consultation work with and to conquer with the Nunavut Apprenticeship Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your peripheral vision is good today. I hope you see the right wing during the hockey game.

Could the Minister tell the members the make up of the Board and where they come from? How much annual funding they get from to deliver their mandate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The apprenticeship board is made up of representatives from the public, from the business and from the trade community. The funding that we have in the budget enables the apprenticeship board to fulfill its mandate by meeting face-to-face, up to three times a year, once in each of the regions and we've just said that.

The funding would also enable the Chairperson to represent at national apprenticeships meetings where feasible and plausible. The amount of money within the budget itself can be found on tab G-11, I believe. The amount that's there is about \$106,000, again that includes issues around travel and so on with holding meetings.

I know it's a moderate amount of funding but that's what's been budgeted and it's been pretty consistent. So, it is \$106,000 Mr. Chairman, that's in place before the apprenticeship board under tab G-11. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to turn to page G-12, the college contributions. I understand that the department conducted an external review, I think in October 2004, and the report was titled Time to Move Forward.

Could the Minister tell us what that report said and what the major recommendations were in that report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I first became the Minister of Education, I met with the Board of Governors of the college and I directed the college to do an external review of the college on its programs, its services, the financial aspects of the college.

The report was an internal report to me as Minister. I gave a copy of the report to the President, Mr. Bob Leonard and a copy of the executive summary was adopted by the Board of Governors just recently at their last Board Meeting.

There were 75 recommendations in that report to help move the college forward. Some of them were fiscal, some were financial, some were administrative and some of them were logistic. We have adopted the 75 recommendations through the Board of Governors and we're following through. For example, on the fiscal side the college was cut by a little over a \$1 million last year in its base budget like the Department of Education which was cut over \$3 million. One of the first recommendations was to try to restore that. That has occurred in this budget.

We have also moved forward with some of the issues around the current deficit that the college had. That is being addressed with a deficit reduction plan in place by the college. So, there are a lot of logistic as well as administrative and financial issues in that report, out of those 75 recommendations, that are being acted on and will be acted on. That is the status of the report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 75 recommendations sound like a lot. I don't think the Power Corporation had that many recommendations.

Is the Minister prepared to table that document in the House for the information the members? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The whole process and point of an external review of the college was a private document that was made available to me as Minister because I had requested it. I was following up on that report with an external review of the NTEP program. The report itself is not for public consumption.

There were some issue raised in the report itself that I found to be in the mode of character assassination in some of the comments that were made and I would not be in a position to table that. However, what I would do to the members is in consultation with the chair of the Board of Governors of the Nunavut Arctic College, to speak with him and to see if there was acquiescence on their part to agree with me to table the Executive Summary of the report which would include the recommendations which the Board of Governors has adopted. I would be in a position to do that.



Our senior managers are actually meeting in Rankin Inlet today to deal with the recommendations of the report and then bring that information back to the president, Mr. Clendenning as well as bring it back to the Board of Governors.

So, the recommendations are being acted on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister piqued my interest when he said character assassinations. It would be quite interesting to read but I understand that there might be some sensitivity there. However, I think it's important that we see some of that information. If the Minister could commit to talking to the President or the Chairman so that we can get that document tabled in the House tomorrow, the Executive Summary at least, I would appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I will have an opportunity, I am sure, in the next 24-hours to speak to the Chairman. I don't know if the Chairman is available.

Again, the report was made, was asked for by me. The document was forwarded to me as Minister and at any given time, ministers have an opportunity to do review and so on that is not usually brought out to the public function.

However, public money is spent for public interest as Mr. Curley said. So again, I find myself in agreement with Mr. Curley and this is causing some headaches to me over the last couple of days, Mr. Chairman.

I would hope to be in a position to do what the member has said. I would be in a position I think, to be able to table the Executive Summary hopefully by some time tomorrow afternoon, but again I have to have the concurrence and I would like to speak to the Chair of the College Board of Governors and everything beforehand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

### **Committee Motion 001 – 2(2): To Defer Adult Learning and Post Secondary Services**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Curley said that it's in the public interest, its public monies. So I would be prepared to suggest that maybe we defer consideration of the college contributions of \$15,707,000 until the minister tables the Executive Summary tomorrow for us to review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I would like to ask Mr. Peterson, are you deferring the motion, making a motion to the Adult Learning and Post-secondary Service?

**Mr. Peterson:** Yes.

**Chairman:** To the motion. Are you agreeing to the motion?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do all of you understand the motion to defer Adult Learning and Post-secondary Service? The motion? Are you all in agreement?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We will go to G-14. Education. Branch Summary. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just for clarification purposes, I never had a chance to speak to the Committee Motion.

In most cases under the Committee Motion, every member has an opportunity to speak to that motion. In this case I just want to ask a point of clarification. I'm not voting against the motion or anything like that. I just want to know in your motion, what the deadline was. So for example, tomorrow at 2:30 in the afternoon when we get to that point on the agenda, when you can do tabled documents and I table the report then when we get back to Committee of the Whole, we can return to G-12 to Adult Learning and Post-secondary Services, I'm not trying to delay this process.

I think as an Assembly and to show respect, I should have an opportunity to speak to the Chair Mr. Bob Leonard, before I table it in the House and make the document public. That's all I'm saying. I have copies of it right here with me but again I would like to have that opportunity to speak to Mr. Leonard.

If you could rephrase and tell me when and if you would agree if that's the focus of your motion that indeed after I speak to Mr. Leonard and if I table that tomorrow, we can go right to the G-12 and get the college budget approved. So, that's all I'm asking for a point of clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Okay. Thank you, Minister Picco. To the motion, I would like to ask the mover, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister's concern for us to clarify yes; I would like it if it's tabled by 2:30 tomorrow, approximate time, then we would go back to this section during Committee of the Whole tomorrow afternoon, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. We're on G-14, Education. Branch Summary. Career and Early Childhood Services. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): I would like to take this opportunity to report progress.

**Chairman:** Okay. Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. It's not debatable. Are you agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I'd like to thank the Minister and your staff for being at the witness table.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Back to the orders of the day, Item 21, Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Evyagotailak.

### **Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 8 and the Main Estimates and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Mapsalak is the seconder. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed. Abstained.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Motion is carried. Orders of the Day. Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Mr. Quirke:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder there is a meeting of the Management Services Board tomorrow morning at the Tuktu room and Regular Members' Caucus tomorrow at 11:00 in the Nanuq Board Room.

Orders of the Day for Wednesday, March 2nd.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notice of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
  - Motion 11
18. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 13
  - Bill 14
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters
  - Tabled Document 52-2(2)
  - Bill 8
21. Report to Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We will reconvene on Wednesday, March 02, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:07*

