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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, May 2, 2005

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): I would like to ask Mr. Netser to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers and Members. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Picco.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 116 – 2(2): Nunavut Teacher Education Program at Nunavut Arctic College

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform my colleagues that this year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, or NTEP.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Teacher Education Program has been in place since 1979. This program is designed to prepare Nunavummiut to become classroom teachers. I am proud to inform the House that to this day we have had 228 qualified teachers graduate from this program, and of those 107 have furthered their education to obtain the Bachelor of Education Degree with McGill University. We currently have 159 teachers who have graduated from NTEP that are currently teaching of in principal's positions across Nunavut. There isn't very much in this world that is 100 percent guaranteed, but graduating from NTEP almost guarantees you a job and a career.

Mr. Speaker, one of the four very first NTEP graduates was Ms. Peesee Pitsuilak. Ms. Pitsuilak is now the Campus Director for the Nunatta Campus of Nunavut Arctic College here in Iqaluit. Another graduate of NTEP is Ooloota Maatuisi, who is now the principal for the Nunavut Teacher Education Program at Nunatta Campus. Other examples include the Deputy Minister for Human Resources, and our own Education Assistant Deputy Minister, Ms. Phoebe Hainnu, who are also graduates of the program.

Mr. Speaker, the tireless teachers, instructors and other staff of the program over the past 25 years, like Mr. Noel McDermott, Mr. Dave Wilman and many other have contributed to the success.

Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues to join with me in congratulating, once again, all the graduates of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program since 1979. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 117 – 2(2): Climate Change and Our Arctic Warning

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues. (interpretation ends) On *International Earth Day*, April 22, about 1,000 Nunavummiut and invited guests gathered on the sea ice near Iqaluit to “Put a Human Face on Global Warning.” We formed a massive image in the shape of a drum dancer, with the words “Arctic Warning” in English and “Naalagit” in Inuktitut.

(interpretation) An aerial photo was broadcasted globally to draw attention to the issue of climate change and the challenges it brings to the people of the Arctic.

International Earth Day was an appropriate day for this meaningful event. It was also an appropriate day to congratulate Ms. Sheila Watt-Cloutier for being awarded the Sophie Prize for Environmental Leadership

>>Applause

And for being named one of the world's seven *Champions of the Earth* by the United Nations for her hard work on climate change and other environmental issues.

(interpretation ends) As Inuit, we have first hand knowledge of environmental conditions and are now witnessing the impacts of climate change in Nunavut, its land, wildlife and environment. It is critical that people around the world realize that we, in the north, are already experiencing changes. These changes will increase in the years to come unless we take significant corrective action now.

I would like to acknowledge everyone who participated in this Arctic Wisdom event, including Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Global Green USA, Natural Resources Defense Council, Union of Concerned Scientists, Rainforest Action Network, The Loreto Group, The Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, Kyoto USA, and actors Selma Hayek and Jake Gyllenhaal. Thanks to all of you, we are bringing our message of concern to the rest of the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 118 – 2(2): Hairdressing Program – Territorial Skills Competition

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to speak a little about the Hairdressing Program run here in Iqaluit at Nunatta Campus of Nunavut Arctic College. Students from across Nunavut have been studying Hairdressing here in Iqaluit under the guidance of Instructor, Suzanne Laliberté for the past two years. Students from the Hairdressing Program recently competed in the Territorial Skills Competition in Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sheila Aoudla, from Iqaluit, who won gold; Jennifer Twerdin, High School student from Iqaluit who trained with the Hairdressing Class and won Silver; as well as Matilda Kaput, from Rankin Inlet, who won bronze. This demonstrates the high quality of the Hairdressing Program offered at Nunatta Campus of Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Sheila Aoudla and Jennifer Twerdin the best of luck when they attend the National Skills Competition in Edmonton in June 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 119 – 2(2): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members of this Assembly and as Nunavummiut, we often speak of the role of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in Government.

We know that as a part of Canada, under laws, rules and a Constitution that are certain processes and procedures we need to follow. We also know that there are many areas where the Government of Nunavut does have control over what we do and how it is done, and in these cases we would like to see Inuit Societal Values guide our activities.

Since September 2003, the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit, a group of wise and talented people from outside of government, have been serving us well and have contributed greatly in the progression of Inuit Societal Values in the administration of Nunavut. They have been available and have been invited to comment on and respond to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit issues within the Government of Nunavut.

The appointment of the members of this prestigious group will now come to term in July 2005. As it is the Government of Nunavut's desire to have Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as a

continuing and living part of all the work we do. Shortly, I will send out a letter to my colleagues, Hamlets and Inuit Organizations, asking to nominate potential new or current member of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot emphasize enough on the value of this group and I could not thank them enough for the contribution they have made to this government.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the recent passing of an important member of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit: Albert Nuvviaq who was a respected Elder in his community of Hall Beach and a valuable contributor to the Government of Nunavut. We will miss him greatly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister Aglukkaq.

Minister's Statement 120 – 2(2): Crown Agency Letters of Expectation

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the appropriate time I will be tabling the "Letters of Expectation" from the five Government of Nunavut Crown agencies: Qulliq Energy Corporation, Nunavut Arctic College, Nunavut Housing Corporation, Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and Nunavut Development Corporation.

Letters of expectation are an important means by which the Government, as the key shareholder, provides direction to its corporations in meeting government priorities. They set out both corporate and financial objectives and will serve as important performance benchmarks on Crown agency activities and accomplishments. This is the Government's first tabling of such letters, which will be undertaken on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, these letters respond to recommendations from the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability as well as from the Auditor General of Canada. While Crown corporations are set up to function more at arms-length from the Government than regular departments, they are still subject to direction from the responsible Minister and maintain important statutory requirements in following Government policies and guidelines.

The Government of Nunavut is committed to providing sound guidance on the corporate, statutory, human resource and financial practices of its Crown corporations.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we established the Crown Agency Council. Among its mandates, the Council plays an important role in advising Government of Nunavut ministers and senior officials on the activities of Crown agencies. As a means of streamlining Government oversight of Crown agencies, it has recently undertaken a review of all Government statutes and policies to determine their applicability to our corporations.

As I mentioned in the Legislature last week, the Government of Nunavut recognizes that an on-going commitment to sound financial management is needed to achieve the objectives of an accountable government. Providing clear and transparent directives to its Crown agencies is an important part of achieving this goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 121 – 2(2): North American Occupational Safety & Health Week

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, again Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker. North American Occupational Safety & Health, or NAOSH, Week will be held from May 1st through 7th this year. The goal of NAOSH Week is to focus the attention of employers, workers, the general public and all partners in occupational safety and health on the importance of preventing injuries and illness in the workplace and at home. NAOSH Week was first launched in June 1997, marked by an agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico.

For many years, responsibility for NAOSH Week activities in the North fell to the Workers' Compensation Board. Six years ago, the Workers' Compensation Board extended an invitation to business, labour and government to join them in promoting this important event. I am pleased to report that this partnership has proven to be very successful. These organizations, along with members of the youth committee, have brought new perspectives and fresh ideas to the event and it continues to grow in importance.

In 2004, our own Nunavut Arctic College placed first in the safety competition for their efforts during NAOSH week and throughout the year by promoting a safer workplace.

The theme for this year's NAOSH Week, "Equip, Educate, Empower" draws attention to the ever-present need for ongoing safety and training in the workplace. This is especially critical in the North with our young and ever increasing workforce.

The 2005 NAOSH Week organizing and youth committees have several exciting events planned – an employer contest, video launches and safety demonstrations, to name a few.

May 2nd will mark the first National Launch of NAOSH Week North of 60. I encourage all members to get involved in NAOSH Week this year and strengthen their commitment to occupational safety and health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 306 – 2(2): Congratulations to Isuma Productions

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a statement in regards to the community of Iglulik.

Isuma Productions has been instrumental in promoting Inuit culture in Iglulik and throughout Nunavut Territory as a whole. Everybody is now aware that they were the producers of the film, *Atanarjuat* and they are now currently working on a new film about when Greenlanders first came to Nunavut.

They are currently in production and they will contribute over \$1.5 million to the community's economy through actor's wages and perhaps another million to other communities. I was pleased that this past Friday, Isuma Productions received the Industry Recognition Award by the Nunavut T.V. and Media Association.

I urge my fellow colleagues to congratulate along with me, Isuma Productions for their endeavours and I wish them success in their new production. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 307 - 2(2): Education System in Nunavut

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I say hello to my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about opportunities. Mr. Speaker, the youth of Nunavut deserve every opportunity to receive a good education, to graduate from high school and to go onto post-secondary education. The youth of Nunavut are the next generation of professionals. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Minister of Education announced the addition of 82 new positions in Nunavut schools.

He mentioned that his department is working towards a 20:1 people/teacher ratio. I commend the Minister for his work in addressing some of the issues that are facing our education system. Mr. Speaker, in the smaller communities such as those within my constituencies, changing the people/teacher ratio isn't going to mean a lot.

In the community of Grise Fiord, for example, there are fifty five students in four classrooms. Currently there are only four teachers. There are four teaching positions. Establishing a 20:1 people/teacher ratio isn't going to change anything. We do need new staffing positions to meet the needs of our students.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my fellow colleagues. As I was saying, even though they will be creating new staffing positions, (interpretation ends) especially when there are less than ten students in one grade level.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that a teacher is able to provide the necessary attention to those children who are just beginning their education in the Kindergarten class.

Mr. Speaker, at the other end of the spectrum, it is very difficult for our Grade twelve students to work on the appropriate level of a subject such as math or language arts, and get the necessary teacher support when they are sharing a teacher with Grade nine and ten students. Academically and socially, there is a big different between a student in Grade nine and a student in Grade twelve.

Both of their needs cannot be adequately met during the same teaching session.

Mr. Speaker, these circumstances greatly affect the potential success of our Grade twelve graduates. They are not getting the opportunities they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the government to be flexible and creative when it comes to making changes, especially in our smaller communities. The number of students in Grade twelve or Grade eleven not be great but their needs are just as important as their peers in the larger communities. Their opportunities for continuing with their education should be the same.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker I be asking the appropriate Minister on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 308 – 2(2): Fund Raising Event in Kugluktuk

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week there were games called Natiq Frolics in Kugluktuk.

I send my regards to the people of Kugluktuk at the games. In the fund raising event, there were many volunteers. First of all, I would like to thank the many volunteers. They would serve breakfast in the mornings, eggs and bacon during the Natiq Frolics.

I do not have their names and I apologize for that, they are too numerous to name. On behalf of Kugluktummiut I would like to thank everybody for the King and Queen Fund Raising event during the Frolics. Adam Qaqpak and Jolene Titaluk were crowned king and queen. Also, during the Frolics, whenever these frolics are held, the man who wins the most events is titled Mr. Coppermine and that was David Inugaluk and in the female categories, Mona Himiaq was named Ms. Coppermine.

In the seal hunting event, Frankie Pakuhak was the first to return. Jimmie Rasmiut came in second. Collin Adjun came in third. In the lady's seal hunting event, Millie Dupont was the only female seal hunter in this category.

(interpretation end) Mr. Speaker, Ryan Evanaluk has won consecutive races, he came in first in all races with the exception of team relay on 340 cc and 440 cc races; for those events he came in second, team relay. The first place winner was Don Qamarjuk, Valerie Mijuk.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues.

The team relay first place winners were Don Qumujuajuk, Valerie Mijuk, Monica and Ronald Anguhiatuk. The Snowmobile drag race first place winner for 340cc and 440cc was Bobba Pattuk . Also for the little snowmobile race, there were two names that were written down were Keith Qaturina, who came in first place, and my grandson, Darien Evyagotailak who came in second.

Also, there were a lot of other snowmobile races that were not mentioned here. Valerie Mijuk was one of the winners for the snowmobile long distance race. She came in first. Ryan's wife came in second place. I forget who the other name was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker for allowing me to make my statement. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 309 – 2(2): Language of Instruction

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the District Education Authority of Coral Harbour for the care and thought that they have put into finalizing the Language of Instruction model for our community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister of Education for meeting with my constituents to discuss the community's options for language of instruction in its schools.

I am sure that by now, he will have received the relevant correspondence from them and I encourage him to give full consideration to the plan that they have brought forward and I ask him to be responsive to their requests.

Mr. Speaker, the Coral Harbour District Education Authority has recommended that K to twelve English with Inuktitut as a subject be the model for schooling in the community. The District Education Authority has brought forward a comprehensive implementation plan, beginning in the 2005/06 school year and finalizing the transition by the 2008/09 school year.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the Coral Harbour District Education Authority have worked long and hard on this issue and they have recognized the needs and wishes of the community. They have taken into consideration the resources and support that will be necessary to make this plan a reality. They have presented the package to the Minister of Education and look forward to the promise of the future.

Mr. Speaker, all levels of our educational system play important roles in ensuring that our children have the tools and means available to get the best education possible.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I cannot stress enough the important role that we as parents play in the education of our children. A strong foundation in our mother tongue comes first from our mothers and fathers. A sense of pride and knowledge of our culture is passed down from our parents, our grandparents and the Elders in our community. We are educators in the home as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 310 – 2(2): Iqaluit Swim Team

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to bring Member's and the public's attention to a very wet group of young individuals and that's our Iqaluit swim team.

>>Applause

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This extraordinary group of young athletes will be participating in a swim meet in Ontario in the coming months and have been actively fund raising to try and raise the money that they need to be able to travel down and to participate in this meet.

Some members will recall a little while ago, I was going around selling chocolate bars and I still have some if Members would like to go and buy some. They can go and see Amanda in my office. They are \$3 each or two for \$5. I have some right here and they're very good.

Another fundraising activity that they are doing is a raffle. The raffle tickets are; for the first prize is a trip for two to Ottawa from Iqaluit, compliments of First Air; the second prize is a Jordon Tootoo autographed Nashville Predators jersey, donated by Jordon; third prize is a dozen roses from Aakuluk Flowers; and fourth prize is a gift basket.

So if you don't win the jersey, it is not the one that is hanging in my office, it is a different one. The flowers; it might be a good time to get them for Mother's Day coming up next week. I urge all members if they can drop in and see Amanda in my office, or any member of the swim team, or the parents or the staff of the pool, to buy some tickets.

I wish them the best of luck in their fundraising and at the meet. I would like to ask all Members to join me in wishing the best in this great endeavour that they are going to participate in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): I would like to welcome Mr. Alagalak to the House. Welcome Back. Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 311 – 2(2): Panniqtuuq Students Land Trip

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to welcome Mr. Alagalak, first of all, we have someone who has a birthday, Amy Alivaktak, "Happy Birthday." I would like to say hello to Kevin in Broughton Island, also to my grandchild Allison.

I rise today to inform the House about an annual event that was coordinated by the teachers and the students in the schools. It's usually a very happy event. This year they were sent out to Nasaujaq; it's usually an overnight event for the bigger students.

I would like to thank the Education Authority in Pangnirtung, the principals of the schools, and also to an organization that makes a very huge contribution in regards to their food and equipment that is required for that number of people.

When the students are out on the land they are taught how to prepare for to go out on the land, what equipment to bring and they are taken hunting as well as fishing. They are also taught survival techniques on the land that you can't teach in a school.

I am grateful that they are able to teach this and I wish them a good trip. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 312 – 2(2): Photo Shoot on the Ice

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, Mr. Akesuk mentioned the massive image that was made from volunteers, including adults, elders, students and young people from Iqaluit on the sea ice near Apex.

Mr. Speaker, that image has been broadcasted and shown across the world in newspapers, TV and on the internet. The day of the photo shoot was windy and very cold. Some participants were in the sea ice for most of the afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, with my son, Paka, we participated and I would like to thank all the people from Iqaluit, who took the time to participate in this photo shoot. It was a huge undertaking of logistics with helicopter and people coordination.

Ms. Sheila Watt-Cloutier, city officials and staff, Mayor Sheutiapik and her team are to be congratulated for putting a human face on global climate change. It wouldn't have happened without our local volunteers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved, especially our young people and our elders, who stayed on the ice all afternoon until the photo shoot was finished. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 313 – 2(2): Back in Iqaluit

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

>>Applause

I am very pleased to be here in the House. I did not do this intentionally. We usually have a five day blizzard, but this turned out to be a ten day blizzard. It has been awhile since I last saw you.

To further supplement, a long time ago when the only mode of transportation was by dog teams, on the long trips, some of the dogs used to come back limping; now that I am here I have arrived limping. I am looking forward to having meetings with you this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Orders of the Day. Item 4. Item 5. Recognition of the Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two individuals today. First of all, from my riding, our hairdresser, Madam Suzanne Laliberté. Welcome.

Secondly, is someone you all know, he has been to the House before, this individual is very well known throughout Nunavut and has represented all the people of Nunavut, he has also signed the land claims agreement back in 1993, and that is the reason we are here today.

I began working with him in February 4, 1985. He has been elected three times to represent the people of Nunavut. I have only been elected twice, so I will have to catch up with this individual to whom I am referring to, Mr. Paul A. Quassa. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to recognize a few individuals in the gallery.

First of all, as our Premier pointed out, thanks to his hard-work and dedication that we are here today. Mr. Quassa, as many Members will know, is a relative. His relative is a great uncle, I do not know how the exact terminology would be for it, but his father and my grandmother were brother and sister.

One thing that I treasure very much is a pair of kamiit that belonged to Paul's father. Whenever I wear those, it reminds me of where we come from and where we are going. I am very glad that he is able to join us here in the gallery today.

Secondly, Ms. Laliberté, a good friend of mine and I believe it is her sister who is up here visiting her from the south. I would like to welcome her to Nunavut and to the gallery as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce our pages; they are from Cape Dorset and Kimmirut.

On my left is Pasa Oqutaq and Louisa Jaw from Cape Dorset. On my right is Robert Ikkidluak and Mary Ikkidluak from Kimmirut. They are students at their high schools. Please welcome them. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Center. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 388 – 2(2): Number of Reports on Workplace Harassment

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Last week the Minister of Human Resources, in response to a question I posed on workplace harassment, had indicated that if employees felt that there was a wrongdoing or breaches of policy, procedure and practices that were monetary or other things that didn't comply with policies and practices of the government, that employees could confidentially report that to the Internal Audit Division of the Department of Finance.

My question to the Minister of Finance is: how many, if any, reports of the audits that have been made by the Internal Audit Division have been carried out as a result of information received from employees within the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last fiscal year, Internal Audit conducted fifty three audits, and eighteen audits that are still ongoing. As far as his question is concerned, I am aware of one case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicated that she was aware of one case. Does that mean that all the rest of the audits, for sure; are just routine audits that the Internal Audit Division decides to do on their own? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There may be more than that; I am aware of one. I can get back to the Member as to how many more audits there were as a result of someone going forward to Internal Audit to investigate findings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister, while she's looking that up, also determine and report back as to what, if any, disciplinary actions were taken as a result of those audits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will look into that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to hearing the results. Employees take a big step in coming forward to report things like this. I just want to let them know, through these results, that their comments or queries are taken seriously and looked into by the government that they work for.

Mr. Speaker, the final supplementary that I would like to ask the Minister, in the one case that she is aware of, does she know what the results of that audit were and if there were any disciplinary actions taken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to reassure the Members in the House that every comment or concern or any information that goes before Internal Audit or to our department is investigated and taken very seriously.

We don't stop the process of confirming allegations or issues that are raised. Every matter is taken very seriously. As far as the last question asked, that particular file is before the courts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. The Member for Cambridge Bay. Mr. Peterson.

Question 389 – 2(2): New Positions to the Schools

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. Last week the Minister announced an increase in the allocation of staff for Nunavut schools. That increase included 14.5 custodian positions, 8 counsellor positions, and 40 student support assistance positions.

My question, can the Minister tell the House how many of these 82.5 new government positions were formerly filled by employees hired by district education authorities. In other words, how many of these new positions are, in fact, reclassified from DEA positions to Government of Nunavut positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: None. Zero. Mr. Speaker, the process that we put in place was to create new positions. Over the last few days here in Iqaluit I have been meeting with the local DEA chairs for the three DEAs that are present in Iqaluit: Apex, the Francophone DEA, as well as the local DEA, that question has come up continuously.

The announcement last week of the 82.5 positions are new positions. They are new positions. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if there are any you Nunavut Employees' Union new or FNT new; that is the classification process. So, the answer to the Member's question is none. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Minister for the short answer and then thank him again for long answer. My supplementary, will the Minister confirm for this House that for the 8 new school counsellor positions, the decision to hire guidance counsellors or a school community counsellor, that it will be a decision made by the district education authorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was in Cambridge Bay with the Member about a year ago, one of the requests being made, and when I did meet with DEAs from the Kitikmeot, was the issue that there were no school counsellor positions; I believe that there is only actually one in the whole region.

So, we have allocated the lions share of new counsellor positions, there are 8 new positions, to the Kitikmeot, including to the member's community.

If there is an issue with the DEA where they would like to have the school counsellor position made a career guidance counsellor position, then that is the opportunity within the funding dollars that are available to the DEA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that response. I have heard that the Department of Education called up the DEA and told them, "This is the position that you are going to get."

So, my next supplementary question for the Minister is, will he confirm for the House that the Ikaluktuutiak DEA was fully consulted by the Department of Education with respect to the decision on the type of high school counsellor positions that they required for their high school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been many issues around the special needs of our students. There has been a given shortfall within the opportunity for students at risk and needs, and that covers the gambit for every community in Nunavut, to have the specialized skill of a school counsellor in place. So, we tried to allocate within the budget allocation, as I mentioned earlier, the 8 new positions for school counsellors.

Every community and DEA was consulted, as well as input from some of the MLAs, for example, on positions that they felt were needed. I have not personally received a letter from the DEA in Ikaluktuutiak asking specifically for a school counsellor position. However, there has been an allocation made based on some of the conversations that we have had in the Kitikmeot and in Cambridge Bay in particular.

As I said earlier, the cost of a career guidance counsellor position, I believe that in all of Nunavut there is only one right now working, those extra dollar values will have to be made up within the allocation that is made.

If the high school, for example, in this case in Cambridge Bay, wanted to have a career guidance counsellor, then an option would be available to them within the funding dollars that are available. We would then look at helping the school out, if there is an opportunity within the budget, in that case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for his response.

It wasn't clear whether the Minister said that if the district education authority sent the letter to him that they would get a school guidance counsellor. I thought they would have to anticipate mitigating that process through the Department of Education in Kugluktuk.

My question for the Minister, can the Minister commit to me and the House that if Ikaluktuutiak District Education Authority requests, through the Department of Education, a school guidance counsellor, not a school community counsellor, that they will in fact get a school guidance counsellor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, what we have tried to do with the number of positions that is available, there are over 80 positions for the first time; you would have to go back to the early 1980s to find anything even close to this number of new positions being put into our schools across the board.

In this case, we are putting over 80 new positions within the schools. We're trying to bring the pupil-teacher ratio down to 1 to 20. With these numbers across the board, we are there by community and by school.

Mr. Speaker, the opportunity for Cambridge Bay, as I said earlier in my response to the Member, was that we have budgeted for a school counsellor position there; however, the position for career guidance counsellor that the Member is talking about, there is a higher priced dollar value on that. If the district education authority has an opportunity within the funding dollars that are available, they have the opportunity to move those dollar values forward so they can actually hire the higher level of paid position.

As I said earlier, and if they do that and they find that there is some type of shortfall, then there is an opportunity where the department may be able to help them out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. The Member for High Arctic. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 390 – 2(2): New Positions for Grise Fiord

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a follow-up to my Member's Statement, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, can the Minister confirm whether or not the community of Grise Fiord will receive any newly allocated positions in its' school, and if so, what will those new positions be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can confirm that Grise Fiord will receive new positions under the allocation.

Every school or every community in Nunavut has received an allocation of the 80 positions. In this case, for Grise Fiord, there will be a full-time indeterminate new position put in place in the school, which will be a special needs position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister update this House on what initiatives are being considered by his department to specifically address the needs of small schools in small communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are quite a few different things being put in place not just for smaller schools but all schools across Nunavut.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, with the influx of the 80 new positions in place, we have lowered and brought the pupil-teacher ratio in Nunavut to 1 to 20. Mr. Speaker, those

numbers brings us, the Government of Nunavut, the people in Nunavut, the schools in Nunavut, among the top percentages in the country when you look at the pupil-teacher ratio across the board. So, that's step number one.

Step number two is increasing, in this budget we put in over 40 new special needs positions to help with the remedial, academic, and other special needs of Nunavut students, which is inclusive of small communities. So, in the Member's example, Grise Fiord would receive 1.5 new positions under this new formula, including a .5 custodial position as well as the special needs position that I just spoke about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his clarification. Although some teachers have to work closely with senior high school students, there are other students from the different grades that the teachers have to work with.

(interpretation ends) Can the Minister update this House on what his department is doing to provide all of our grade 12 students with equal opportunities to graduate and move on to post-secondary education? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will just use the Member's good example of Grise Fiord. In Grise, there are 53 full time students. There are 3.5 teaching positions. The PTR is quite low there if you do the numbers and do the math.

On top of that, reporting in another special needs position within in the community, so that would be 4.5, which brings the ratio considerably down. With those types of support in place, it gives the teachers and instructional staff within the school an opportunity to deal with remedial and some of the other issues so that the students can perform at the maximum ability, not only academically but socially and so on. Those are the types of things we are putting in place right now.

At the same time, we are looking at issues with the curriculum and the resources, and Nunavutizing some of those issues, especially at the grades 10, 11, and 12 levels where we do the final exams before graduation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not talking about the special needs students, although we can include them. I am talking about "A" students: when they are included in the same classroom as special needs students, what kinds of assistance are they provided? That is what I am looking at: if there is a problem with students, what about high school counsellors for the "A" students.

My colleague, the Member for Ikaluktuutiak, was asking the same question, will they be providing that kind of position for all the smaller communities like Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Kimmirut, and Arctic Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the Member's help and about another \$12 million in our budget, then I will be able to do that.

In all seriousness, the Member should be quite pleased with over 80 new positions being created for our schools. We have taken the extra money that this House voted for and put those resources, based on the need of each community and the population size, in the classroom. This is a good news story.

I agree with the Member, we need to have more support in the classroom and in our schools. Mr. Speaker, what we have done here is a fundamental shift in the way we deliver education in Nunavut, increasing not only the student supports, like special needs, what we have heard from every district education authority, and I have met with them, to over 40 new positions in place. I hope to be in a position in phase 3 of the funding formula arrangement for our schools to be able to build on some of these resources.

I am not arguing with the Member, but I cannot make a commitment right now to say that across Nunavut, in 42 schools across Nunavut, in 25 communities, that I could put this same position. We are talking about a lot of dollar values. I can say that for the first time, across Nunavut, we have brought the PTR down to 1 to 20. That is a fantastic first step.

The next step is to deal with some of the other issues in our schools, for example, bringing back specialized programs like industrial arts, music, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik. Mr. Netser.

Question 391 – 2(2): Cargo Inspections

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

During the session in March, I had asked a question to the Minister regarding boat owners who are no longer allowed to carry cargo until their boats have been inspected by the Canadian Coast Guard. The Minister said that he was going to get more information on that. If it's possible, I would like to get an update on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are in the process of reviewing how we can make the cost of cargo cheaper in Nunavut with the Department of Transportation.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As this is still under review, I am sure that you can ask the Coast Guard to go to the communities; the community has these boats that want to ship cargo. Perhaps you can ask them to go and inspect them, because it has been a long while. Can he can ask the Coast Guard what the reason is for taking so long. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since you asked the question we started working on it right away, but I will ask the Coast Guard again if they can go to the communities and deal with this important issue. It is important and beneficial to the community and I will certainly look at that again. Thank you.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When are you going to ask them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My officials are listening and watching now, as we speak. They will write begin writing a letter to the Coast Guard. I am sure they are working on it right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He is saying that they are watching the proceedings, so I can look forward to receiving a copy of their correspondence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. The Member for Tasiujarjuak, Mr. Kattuk.

Question 392 – 2(2): Bad Gasoline Report

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

This past winter, we heard in some communities about a concern over bad gasoline. There was consultation done in some of the communities. I am asking the Minister if this study has been completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the study is completed and they have gone to the communities. Thank you.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that they have heard the concerns from the communities what is the next step that the government will take in regard to that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After compiling the reports, we compiled the responses and I am happy to say that under our Orders of the Day, in Item 13, I will be tabling that document on the interviews that were done: how many were done, when they were done, which communities, where we got the gasoline from, the company, Shell Canada. I will be providing that information under that item. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I was going to ask him to table such a document.

But to ask him again, what will be happening to those people who have had their engines break down? Have they decided what the government is going to be doing, compensation-wise, regarding the broken down engines? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those hunters whose machines broke down, we got the report from Shell Canada as to what they will want to do. I feel that it's not quite complete from Shell Canada. We have asked Shell Canada to work with them more to answer those questions that we had. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, is the Minister saying that those people whose machines broke down were because of bad gasoline? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the time of our last sitting there were representatives from Shell Canada here. It was very difficult at that time to identify if it was from the gasoline, but after that inspection it has become clear that the majority of them went through many spark plugs.

After the consultation with the communities, in the interviews, there were a high number of people. We heard from people who have snowmobiles, outboard motors, vehicles. We heard from all those individuals who were concerned; there were 179 responses that came to us. They are itemized, and I will be tabling the report at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. The Member for Iqaluit Centre. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 393 – 2(2): Fuel Re-Supply

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe my question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services and the Petroleum Products Division. We all know that our fuel is purchased once a year. I believe that the Petroleum Products Division purchases the fuel for the Nunavut Power Corporation, or Qulliq Energy Corporation, as the Minister responsible likes to refer to it.

I am just wondering, has the government purchased the fuel for this year's re-supply, in relation to NPC's fuel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think as we speak the Petroleum Products Division is in the process of completing its inventory list for all the communities in Nunavut as a whole, which will include the Nunavut Power Corporation, to determine the quantity of fuel products that they will order for the coming re-supply sealift. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister give an indication as to when they anticipate placing that actual order? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to back up, correct myself on my last response to my colleague. My notes tell me that the products were to be determined as to how much they were going to order for issuance to Woodward's by March 1, so that should have been finalized by now, to put in the order for this year's inventory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The order has gone in to Woodward's already; does the Minister have an idea of when that fuel will actually be purchased? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just not exactly sure as to the date when this will be purchased. However, I think in our last appearance in the Committee of the Whole we also indicated to the Members that after we determine how much fuel to order for the coming year, the gas companies also require time to mix this batch for us, which will be done over the coming months before the summer's re-supply.

Unfortunately, I am not able to respond to my colleague as to exactly when and if this purchase has taken place already. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One would assume if when you place an order, they give you a price for that order. I would like to ask the Minister if he would check on that. And if they don't already have a price per litre, the price per barrel that they purchased it for yet, as soon as he has that information, when it is purchased, could he provide that to the members of this House along with a comparison of the cost of the price per litre or barrel for last year's purchase. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if my capable staff watching on TV will be able to get me the exact cost of the products as we speak today; however, I wish to assure my colleague that my capable staff will be getting the response together for my colleague and the House. I will provide that information, once I have it available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. The Member for the High Arctic. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 394 – 2(2): Passport Photos

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You have probably noticed that I have been raising a lot of questions on passports. On CTV they mentioned that passports are needed to go down to the United States. There are a number of problems that have risen in dealing with passports, so we are trying to find out how we can be assisted.

I want to ask the Minister if he is aware of the concern about a statement that was made where Canadians will need a passport to go down to the United States. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that there have been some discussion by the federal authorities in the United States, since September 11, 2001, that there have been issues around security. The federal government in the United States has come forward with the proposal that non-residents of the United States entering the country would need a passport, they also said that Canadians would be included in that number.

It is my understanding that our federal officials have been working with our immigration partners in the United States to see if Canadians can be taken out of that formula and not be included in the numbers of people that are visiting the States who need a passport.

Right now it is my understanding that that discussion is still continuing. Our federal partners have gone forward to say that they feel Canadians should not be in the position where we need a passport to go into the United States, but it is still up for debate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After discussing this, our Member of Parliament, Nancy Karetak-Lindell, requested names, and also there was to be a certified photographer who would travel to the communities to take passport photos.

Is the Minister willing to have this photographer travel to the communities for those people from Nunavut who wish to apply for passports? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just recently I had an opportunity, with my family, to have our photographs done for passport purposes.

Mr. Speaker, it is an onerous process and indeed it entails a lot of specialized work by the photographer. We were fortunate that there is a photographer in Iqaluit who can take passport photos.

Mr. Speaker, we are looking at opportunities to see if this photographer would be willing to help us out with taking passport photos. I did have the opportunity to speak with him about this. The opportunity may be, Mr. Speaker, where we have government charters going to specific communities where we would ask this gentleman to come along and provide that service to Nunavummiut.

Nunavummiut who are getting their passport pictures taken, like in Iqaluit, will have to pay the photographer. So, we may have an opportunity here where we can actually help get that photographer out into the communities. The Premier and I have discussed this. We take it very seriously and we're trying to help facilitate where possible.

There may be an upcoming opportunity, for example, in the Member's riding with meetings we may be having there. That's something that we have looked at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it costs about \$89 for a passport.

I wonder if Nunavummiut will pay additionally in order for that photographer to go their community to accommodate people who wish to get passports. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The photographer who does this work does it as part of his job. When he takes your picture, he has expenses as well. The cost right now is about \$40 per person. So, for example, if it was a family of five in Resolute Bay that needed their picture taken, it would cost \$200.

Then, Mr. Speaker, there is a cost to the federal government to get your passport. So, if there are five people in the family, with each passport, it would cost about \$400. Then the cost for a family of five in Resolute Bay or anywhere else in Nunavut, is around \$600 to get passports issued for each individual in the family.

Mr. Speaker, we would expect that what we're trying to do, as a government, is help facilitate the photographer getting into communities. Those costs for buying your passport like every other Canadian in Canada and for getting your picture taken like every other Canadian, it is up to the individual to pay for those costs. Those costs are not covered by the Government of Nunavut or the federal government. Those are user-pay situations.

What we're trying to do is help the photographer get out into the communities and take these pictures, and the opportunity may be where we have government charters going into communities and if the photographer is able to come with us and to facilitate that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When would this photographer be able to travel to the communities? We'll have to fill out our applications. For those specific communities, can you identify which communities the photographer will be able to visit first? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, one opportunity is when we have a government charter going into a community, and if we can work the logistics around at that time, that the photographer would like to go into a given community and be able to do these photographs, then that would be an opportunity for us to look at.

So, in the coming weeks, as we play this out, we will be able to identify the communities where there may be a charter going, and if the photographer has the time and the schedule to be able to travel into said communities.

That's something that we are working on right now, to be able to coordinate not only the charter schedule but the photographer's schedule, because if the photographer is going into a community for three to five days, for example, then that means that he is not available in his studio to do work. So, it's a cost issue for him also.

So, we are trying to help out not only the client-base, but also the photographer and the business side. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 395 – 2(2): Funding for Fish Plants

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Environment in regard to the budget allocation for fisheries. The communities that have fishing plants, are the funds available to them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Fisheries Development and Diversification Program funds are available now. When the budget was approved in our last session, those funds became available to all Nunavutmiut. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): First supplementary. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fish plant in Chesterfield Inlet, I mean the hunters' and trappers' organization, has been looking for funding. Would you be able to set money aside for them through that? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have historically set aside these funds, and we have added on some more funding on top of that for this fiscal year.

Yes, we would like to work closely with them to see how we can assist them more with fisheries in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his excellent response. Maybe he could get one of his staff to go down to Chesterfield Inlet to assist them in requesting more funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will ask my staff or get someone who works for the hamlet to work with them in regard to this issue, to look for funding for fisheries. Thank you.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When would he be directing his staff to do this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, when someone becomes available to deal with fisheries in Chesterfield Inlet, I will direct them to do so. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay. Mr. Peterson.

Question 396 – 2(2): Water Rates in Cambridge Bay

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, I recently received a copy of a letter signed by several of my constituents to voice their concerns that our recent water rate increase in Cambridge Bay discriminates against them as tenants of private sector homes.

Under the Hamlets Act, Section 53.94, hamlets are allowed to offer utilities and set water rates. My question for the Minister is, can the Minister tell the House how his department monitors hamlets when they are setting water rates, to ensure that they are fair rates for the residents of the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that my staff was in contact with the SAO from Cambridge Bay regarding the water rates that the hamlet was proposing. So, there has been contact with the SAO on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under section 53.94(2) of the Hamlets Act, hamlets that set water rates are subject to the Utility Rate Review Council, which is commonly known as the URRC. Currently only the Qulliq Energy Corporation has had utility rates reviewed by the URRC.

Can the Minister tell the House whether or not his department has considered hamlet water rates being reviewed by the URRC? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just not sure if my department has been following up on this with the URRC. When the hamlet sets a rate, it is a council decision and the process that has been followed in this was to discuss this, and the staff at CGS was able to point out some of the alternatives.

Again, after that, it has been a council decision, as it is everywhere else. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am reading a copy of the Hamlet Act; it clearly says, in 53.94(2), the municipal corporations, et cetera, Utility Rates Review Act, I appreciate what the Minister is saying, as a former mayor I am totally aware of all that.

I am wondering, can the Minister tell the House what is the department's position with respect to whether the Utility Rate Review Council should be involved in setting water rates in hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just not aware if the discussions that have taken place between Cambridge Bay and our staff have included this matter, with the two parties involved. However, I will definitely follow up with my department staff to see if that was considered or discussed with the two parties involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his commitment to follow up. The Hamlet Act is for all the Hamlets Nunavut-wide; it is not just an issue in Cambridge Bay, it could be an issue in any community in Nunavut, as a hamlet.

I am wondering, can the Minister tell the House if the Government of Nunavut might propose water rate regulations to ensure a fair water rate setting by municipalities, so residents aren't unfairly discriminated against. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It will definitely warrant it if we get the numbers to put in such a request and to look at the regulations. As we speak today there has been nothing brought forward to me which would warrant the development of such regulations or guidelines.

As in my response to my colleague on his earlier question, that is also something that I can check to see, if there have been any other communities that are expressing similar concerns regarding water rates and any other rates for that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 397 – 2(2): Commercial Power Rates

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Energy. I have been instructed to ask on behalf of our Co-op on the commercial rates on their concerns. Due to the utility rate increase they will have to come up with the \$20,000. The smaller communities that do not have the financial resources are very concerned about this. I would like to ask the Minister if he will be able to work with the companies and the stores in the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Power Corporation, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member raises an important question, and that is the impact that the electrical rates increases that we put into place effective April 1, 2005 would have on individual communities.

I am very pleased to say that overall, our good friends at the cooperative movement as well as at the Northern Stores, which are the two major retailers in Nunavut, both are quite pleased with the rates that were announced because they weren't the 60 to 70 percent amounts talked about.

What is involved there is that there is, for small businesses that generate less than \$2 million in sales per year, there is a rebate available for their power bills. Also, we have increased the income support amount, again, in this past budget, that the members can all be very proud of. That increase is over 15 percent over the last year.

Those types of things will mitigate and negate any of those types of costs that the member is talking about. The actual increase is around three cents for a residential customer within the targeted amounts allocated on the April 1 increase. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to ask the Minister if he can work with the businesses in the smaller communities. The Co-op store in my community has some concerns with the impending increases and their effects on their business. That was my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer is yes. If there is a specific request from the Co-op in the Member's community, concerning how we could logistically and administratively support them, with the increases that have been announced, then that's something that we're prepared to do.

Again, across the board, I believe it's very safe to say that many of our member co-ops, as well as the Northern Stores and other businesses, were pleased to see that the increase was about 16.5 percent for commercial clients, and that was considerably less than what was talked about. However, there may be some issues within the Member's community that we'd be prepared to look at.

If the Member would speak to the Co-op or if they would like to address a letter to me or something like that, then that's something that we'd be able to follow up with the member as well as with the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Everyone in the communities needs power and with the ever increasing costs for utilities, it seems like we're heading towards the dark ages. I am especially concerned about the smaller communities, and I am asking the Minister if he can work with the retail outlets.

I do not have any other questions, but there are concerns out there from our constituents and, of course, the communities would like to have a brighter future. That is one of the major concerns of the communities, and I urge the Minister to work with the companies and the retail outlets to come up with a solution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the government has been very proactive in looking at the needs of our constituents across the board. Maybe it is a good opportunity just to point out that almost 80 percent of our constituents reside in social housing units through our local housing associations.

Mr. Speaker, those rates have been frozen at six cents a kilowatt hour. There is no increase for 80 percent of our constituents living in social housing. However, Mr. Speaker, if you owned your own home, as a good example, those rates have gone from 15.22 cents up to a little over 18 cents per kilowatt hour. People who have their own homes, it has been reflected are maybe in a better position to pay a little bit more of that three cent increase.

When you look at the business side, Mr. Speaker, on the commercial customers, the increase was only up to 16.5 cents per kilowatt hour. That was a bare minimum amount. That is why many business communities up here, across Nunavut, are quite pleased with the amounts.

We know, based on the URRC recommendations, that the power corporation is still going to have a revenue shortfall, they're short about \$4 million. I committed to this House and to the Members that I would hope that the power corporation, being more efficient, would bring that loss for the next fiscal year down below that \$4 million into about \$2 million. At the same time, look at a probable rate increase again sometime in the near future, and there are some issues outstanding with the URRC.

We, the government, and I am sure the Members, are very willing to move forward to work with the customer base and the corporate base where we can, as I earlier stated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Oral Questions. The Member for Iqaluit Centre. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 398 – 2(2): Education System

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister Picco, who just happens to be the recipient of my next question in his capacity as Minister of Education.

My question to the Minister is, our education system across the territories is an inclusive system and as far as I know, anyone who wishes to attend school is able to. I would just like to ask the Minister if he could confirm that in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The school system in Nunavut, like most public school systems across the country, is public school system, not a private school system. By nature of a public school system, Mr. Speaker, then a definition would be inclusive of students as well as well as the student enrolment population. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question, as the Minister has indicated, is on an inclusive system. That would mean that this is open for students regardless of any disability, handicaps, or learning problems they may have at the schools. Any child who wishes to attend school regardless of any disability, the schools would open the doors for them, is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Speaker, that is not correct. It depends, again, on what the student's special needs are. In most cases, the local education authority and local schools try to accommodate the student within the school system itself. The member's question was so broad and I guess in general that it would be very difficult for a minister, and for this minister included, to give an affirmative answer to the member.

A good example would be if there was a student who was mute, who was blind, who was deaf, and who had other issues, then if that student was from Grise Fiord or Resolute Bay or any of our communities, it would be very difficult for our teachers, the school, or the district education authority to be able to provide assistance to that student.

Mr. Speaker, the school system in Nunavut is inclusive within the broader means, administratively, logistically, as well as the ability of the staff and the teachers to be able to deliver that assistance to the student. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, I guess it's almost inclusive. In an instance where someone with a disability wishes to attend school, what steps does the department take in trying to accommodate that individual within the school system?

I won't use any other communities; I'll deal specifically with Iqaluit here. If there was a student with a disability who wanted to go to school, how would the department accommodate that individual so that they did have an opportunity to go to school and to

learn and to progress and not just be left to fall through the cracks? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each student is unique and each situation is unique when you're dealing with the special needs of a student.

I guess from what the member is saying, he's speaking about where a student may have physical and or mental disabilities that have put them in that position. In that case, the first thing is when the parents approach the school, and in consultation with the DEA, we have special needs people who are in the school working, for example, in Iqaluit, that the member is familiar with.

There are special needs students with physical and or mental disorders that put them at a disadvantage with other students. In all cases, the DEA, as well as the school, try to accommodate that student within a regular structured classroom environment or setting.

In some cases they may not be able to do that based on whatever the special need is. It's very hard on a generic basis to be able to say in each case what occurs. Each case has to be judged by its own situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that one of the individuals who is staying in a boarding home here in Iqaluit has been refused entry into a school.

Is the Minister saying that the Department of Education has no role to play in that, and again that it's one of the lovely duties that it has delegated down to the district education authority to deal with?

My question to the Minister is have they just left the district education authorities to do that dirty work. If this is the case, in this particular case where the student has been refused access to the schools, will the Minister of Education and his department act to help rectify this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of the case in question, so it is difficult for me to say how the department or the DEA or indeed the school has reacted to this given case.

It is my understanding, having been involved in the school system for quite a while as a parent as well as now as the Minister, that there are processes with checks and balances through the system. However, each case is based on its own merit. If the member has a specific case that he speaks about, then that information can be made known to myself as

the Minister and then certainly we would follow up and see what has occurred. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question Period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Committee Report 005 – 2(2): Report of the Rules Committee

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been honoured today in presenting the first report of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures, and Privileges.

The Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures, and Privileges was constituted by way of motion in the House during the First Session of the Second Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

The committee finally met in February of 2005 to review a number of matters concerning the operations of the rules of the Legislative Assembly, which have not been substantially amended since their initial adoption in 1999.

The committee's first report addresses a number of concerns that have been raised by Members and marks the first milestone in the committee's work.

I would like to briefly highlight three issues addressed by in the committee's report; the necessary motions to amend the rules will be moved at the appropriate time later this week.

At present, the rules of the Legislative Assembly do not provide a fixed time within which a Return to an Oral Question must be provided. Returns to Written Questions must be provided within 21 calendar days unless a provisional return is filed with the Clerk.

The committee took the position that the rules should be amended to provide a fixed time within which Returns to Oral Questions must be provided. Given that an Oral Question generally requires less detailed responses than Written Questions, seven days was determined to be an appropriate time limit.

During the First Assembly, concerns arose with respect to the issue of the status of Bills following their referrals to Standing Committees.

At present, the rules are ambiguous with respect to how to advance the Bill to the next stage of the legislative process in the event that the Standing Committee does not report back within the 120-day period provided for in the rules of the committee's scrutiny of the Bill.

A majority of the committee members were of the view that greater process clarity could be achieved by amending Rule 68. The proposed amendment to the rules would provide a formal mechanism to advance the Bill to the next stage in the event that a motion to extend the review period was not passed.

It is also important to note that a motion to move a Bill into the committee of the whole would itself be voted upon by all Members of the House. The end result would be a clear indication as to the will of the House with respect to a given legislative initiative.

At present, the rules of the Legislative Assembly provides for documents to be formally tabled when the House is sitting. The rules do not provide explicit guidance with respect to making documents available to Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public during periods of prorogation or extended adjournment.

From time to time, such documents as Reports of Independent Officer, Returns to Written and Oral Questions and Annual Reports required by statute are prepared during periods of time when the House is not sitting.

The committee was of the view that it would be desirable to provide formal clarification as to how to treat such items with a view of expediting their public release. The committee is of the view that the formal process of backdoor tabling would serve this goal.

Mr. Speaker, I will move, with that, that the report be received and adopted by this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree that the committee report be received and approved by the House, pursuant to Rule 91(3) and that it be recorded as read? Thank you.

Some Member: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report on Bills 005 - 2(2): Bill 18 – Powers of Attorney Act

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 18, the Powers of Attorney Act has been reviewed by the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit and that the Bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(5) and have Bill 18 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion to waive Rule 68(5) and to have Bill 18 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 18 is now ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole for today.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Kilabuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 133 – 2(2): Nunavut Energy Management Program Pamphlet

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are approximately 518 houses and they cost approximately \$14 million a year for utilities and heating fuel.

I would like to table a document from the Government of Nunavut and the Department of Community and Government Services regarding conserving energy consumption. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 134 – 2(2): Ministerial Meeting Report – Northern Premiers Forum, April 16, 2005

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the minutes of the Premier's Conference that took place on April 16th. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Tabled Document 135 – 2(2): Letters of Expectation

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following copies of the letters of expectation as per my Minister's Statement earlier today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 136 – 2(2): Government of Nunavut Department of Community and Government Services Gasoline Survey and Follow-up.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to table a document from the Government of Nunavut from the Department of Community and Government Services. It is in regards to the gasoline study that was done and an update on other reviews that were done. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Akesuk.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 15 – Act to Amend the Wildlife Act – Second Reading

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, as always, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Pangnirtung that Bill 15, an *Act to amend the Wildlife Act* be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the comprehensive new *Wildlife Act* was enacted in December 2003. The government expects to bring it into force later this year, once the necessary regulations and orders are ready.

Before the *Act* is brought into force, it requires amendments to make a number of housekeeping changes and two substantive changes. Most of the amendments reflect minor clarification of wording to better reflect the original intent of the *Act*.

The first substantive change is to repeal a consequential amendment to the *Travel and Tourism Act* to allow a separate licensing scheme under the *Wildlife Act* and the wildlife aspects of the business.

The second substantive change relates to the *Victims of Crime Act* to allow a surcharge under the *Wildlife Act* to fund the Natural Resource Conservation Trust Fund. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. All those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Bill 15 has been read for the second time and is now referred to Standing Committee. Second Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Bill 19 – Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendments Act – Second Reading

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay that Bill 19, *Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendments Act* be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of these amendments is to clarify the duties of the Integrity Commissioner and to address liability concerns. In addition, the amendments clarify when Session can be convened as well as providing a process to assent to Bills outside of the Legislative Assembly.

The amendment also brings the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Act* in line with the requirements of the federal *Income Tax Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. All those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Motion 021 – 2(2): Bill 19 “Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act” to Committee of the Whole

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 67(2), I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Cambridge Bay that Bill 19 be ordered into Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister is seeking consent to waive the Rule 67(2) to read Bill 19 for the second time today. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Ms. Aglukkaq. The Bill has had its second reading and is now referred to the Committee of the Whole. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Tabled Document 100 -2(2), Table Document 101- 2(2), and Table Document 102 - 2(2), I apologize, Bill 18. I am sorry I made a mistake. Bill 16, Bill 17, Bill 19 with Mr. Evyagotailak in the Chair.

We will take a break for 20 minutes.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:36 and resumed at 16:11*

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

Chairman (Mr. Evyagotailak): Welcome back from your break, committee. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Tabled Document 100-2(2); Tabled Document 101-2(2); and Tabled Document 102-2(2); Bill 16; Bill 17; Bill 18; and Bill 19. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to deal with Bill 18 being followed by Bill 19, after that we will continue our review of Tabled Document 100-2(2): Government of Nunavut Leased Properties. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 18?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for Justice to make his opening remarks.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way in which we carry out our business of finance in Nunavut has changed radically over a short period of time. Sometimes we move faster in this regard than the legislation that we have in place.

At the time of division the Northwest Territories did not have a Powers of Attorney Act, and because of that situation Nunavut we must now create such legislation. Due to the fact that Nunavut does not have such an Act, it is not possible for a person living in Nunavut to give a power of attorney that would remain in effect even after the person who made it is no longer of sound mind.

It is of greatest importance that we have legislation allowing us to delegate to others some of the tasks and responsibilities that from time to time it may not be possible for us to do so as individuals.

This proposed legislation will provide Nunavummiut with the maximum flexibility in the manner in which they manage their financial affairs so that the individuals who are appointed as attorneys in the power of attorney document will be able to carry on the financial affairs of the donor in the absence or incapacity of the donor.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are my brief comments and I will be pleased to respond to any questions that members of the committee may have. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Premier. Do you have any witnesses? Does the Chairman for the standing committee have any comments? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Ajauqtiit committee had an opportunity to review Bill 18 in regards to the Powers of Attorney Act. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recognizes at the time of division, the Northwest Territories did not have Powers of Attorney Act and for this reason Nunavut does not has such legislation at the present time.

Mr. Chairman, this Bill will provide a tool to Nunavummiut to be able to grant a present day power of attorney to be able to conduct their financial affairs in the event that it may be necessary should they leave the country or if they become incapable to do so.

Mr. Chairman, during the review of Bill 18, the committee felt that section 5 (1) required further clarification with respect to the restrictions of disclosure on health information. Therefore, an amendment to this section will be moved at the appropriate time in clause by clause review of the Bill in English, French and Inuktitut.

Mr. Chairman, the committee also requests clarification on section 16(1)(a) as to under what circumstances could the termination of a power of attorney can be declared.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee generally supports the Bill at the clause by clause stage of standing committee review and would like to see similar legislation with respect to personal care in the future. This concludes my opening remarks. The committee recommends the passage of the Bill to other Members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. I guess I am ahead of myself again. I would like to welcome you Premier Okalik. For the record, please introduce your witness.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate left, my Deputy Minister, Markus Weber, and on my right Thomas Druyan, who is from the Legislation Section. Thank you.

Chairman: Before we proceed I would like to remind Members of the following, according to Rule 77(1) you have ten minutes speak and in accordance to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the chair, a Member may speak more than once to the matter under discussion but not until every Member wishing to speak has spoken.

Are there any general comments from the committee? Bill 18 as amended, *Powers of Attorney Act*. Clause 1. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Just a moment. Mr. Netser.

Committee Motion 009 – 2(2): Amendment to Clause 5 - Bill 18 Powers of Attorney Act

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. I move that Clause 5 of the Bill be amended by striking out Sub-clause (1) and by substituting the following:

Where a power of attorney comes into force on the physical or mental incapacity of the donor, information respecting the donor's health shall be disclosed on a request to a declarant described in sub-section 3(3), a member of a prescribed professional group described under sub-section 3(4) or the court to the extent necessary to determine whether the date or contingencies specified in a stringing power of attorney has occurred. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Clause 5. As amended, all those in favour.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 8. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 10. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister, on Clause 10, it states, “the donors attained 19 years at the time, he or she executes the power of attorney and the power of attorney”, why was the age of 19 selected and not 18 or 16 or another age? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under our general legislation, age of majority is 19 so we are being consistent with other pieces of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Premier. Mr. Peterson. Does the committee agree with Clause 10?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 16. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 17. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 18. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 19. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 20. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 21. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 22. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 23. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 24. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 25. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 26. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 27. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 28. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 29. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 30. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 31. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: The Bill as amended, are we in agreement.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. The Bill is ready for third reading. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Premier, Mr. Druyan and Mr. Weber. Are we ready to consider Bill 19? I would now like to ask the Speaker to make his opening remarks. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to appear before the Committee of the Whole to introduce Bill 19, Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act. I would like to begin by thanking Members for their contributions during the development of this legislation.

The initiative before the Committee today is intended to clarify or modernize a number of provisions contained within certain statutes that fall under the jurisdiction of the Legislative Assembly. I would like to briefly review the highlights of the Bill.

The Bill amends the Integrity Act to clarify the duties of the Integrity Commissioner, and to protect the position from court action when the office-holder acts in good faith in performing duties under other pieces of legislation, such as the Nunavut Elections Act. Members will note that this amendment will have retroactive effect.

Mr. Chairman, the Bill also amends a number of sections in our Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

The Act has been amended to more closely parallel language contained in the Nunavut Act, which requires that the House sit at least once every 12 months. This will ensure that the accountability of the executive to the legislature remains strong.

The requirement that a new session be convened by the Commissioner, every year has been dropped. This will allow for a more limited number of Throne Speeches to be

delivered during a government's term of office. The Act has also been amended to provide for greater flexibility in our Assent procedures.

The Bill also amends the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act* to ensure compliance with federal income tax legislation. The *Legislative Assembly Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act* is being concurrently amended to maintain consistency between the two statutes.

That concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to responding to any questions or comments that members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the witness table?

Sergeant-at-arms. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, please introduce your witness for our records.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To my right is our Clerk, Mr. Quirke.

Chairman: Welcome to the witness table, Mr. Quirke. Are there any general comments? I have no Members on my list for general comments.

Bill 19. Legislative Assembly Statutes Amendment Act. Clause 1. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do Members agree to Bill 19 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do Members agree that Bill 19 is ready for Third Reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I would also like to thank Ms. Cooper.

We can go back to Tabled Document 100-2(2). Minister Kilabuk, do you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the witness table? Please proceed to the witness table. Minister Kilabuk, please introduce your witnesses?

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Chris Clark, our Director. To my left, is our Deputy Minister, Tom Rich. Thank you.

Chairman: Welcome to the meeting Mr. Clark and Mr. Rich. Does this committee have any questions to Tabled Document 100-2(2) Government of Nunavut Leased Properties. Any questions? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the Minister and his officials. I hope he had a restful weekend. I want to ask about some of these expired leases that you have listed in your document. They expired in 2004; the lease document shows that they are expiring in 2004.

I am looking at this one here in Rankin Inlet, Ilagittuq Limited for 15 years, \$249 thousand and then there's another one in Whale Cove for the length of 20 years expiring in 2004 for \$12 thousand 784; there are a couple like that and then you have more expiring in 2005.

I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could tell us what happens with those contracts that expired in 2004; did you find other space or are they in an overhaul position? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In several cases, we have leases that were renewed for further periods of time, and in a couple of cases, we have leases that were either terminated or renewed only for a short period of time because of new construction coming on line.

For instance, in a couple of places, lets say Rankin Inlet for instance, we are able to consolidate some of our leases in Rankin Inlet with the new health centre coming on line and we have other situations like that where we have had short-term leases.

I will have to let Mr. Clark give you the specific details on the ones associated with 2004 and 2005 so I don't give you the wrong information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rich, but can Mr. Clark provide some explanation for those specific contracts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you get Mr. Peterson to ask that question again, please? Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are the leases that I am looking at; the ones that they say they expired in 2004. One is the Rankin Inlet lease Ilagittuq Limited. The other is the Hamlet of Whale Cove 2004. I am wondering if they expired. What is the position of the government now with respect to providing leased office spaces for employees of those two communities where these facilities were located? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The lease in Whale Cove is in over-hold and we are looking at putting out possibly an RFP on that. The lease Ilagittuq expired in 2004, I will have to check that but I believe that's an over-hold that could possibly be a renewal on that, but I would have to check and get back to you on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Clarke for his response. I noted that in the section called Notes, there are other leases where you say in Note 3 and Note 2 that the leases are an overhold. In these particular leases you do not have any notes. So the lack of clarity there would lead anyone reading these reports that the leases expired last year and then that you have other located property somewhere in the community.

I would suggest Mr. Chair that in the future that this lease report should provide more detail and clarity in respect to leases that expire in certain years. They should note what the government's plans are and what they are doing with those leases. Are they renewing them or are they in an overhold position, and so on?

I would also like to suggest, Mr. Chair, that in the future that when you provide a report, it describes the Lease Property Landlord. This does not really tell us that much, it just tells us who the landlord is.

I would like to see another column that provides a description of what the leased space is or if it is another type of building, and some detail on what it is for, and in another column if they could indicate whether it is a P3 type of lease or other type of lease. That

would provide a lot of clarity. As Members of the Legislative Assembly we ask these questions, it is like we are trying to be detectives here trying to get information.

I know that when this gets out into the public that the public doesn't have all the opportunities to ask the government for information. If your document was a little bit clearer and provide a little bit more information then it would provide a lot of clear information to the general public and others who are interested in leased commercial space in different communities.

I strongly recommend that when you table the lease next year that the report is more detailed for us so that we do not have to ask these nit picky types of questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is no intention of ours to be giving you information that may have not appeared complete. However, having said that, initially when this was presented to committee of the whole for the deliberations, we knew that there may be information in here that will be asked but not ever having to go through this process was very difficult to see what kind of questions would come. Also some of the information that we have has been used by the department. This time around is a learning process for us too here at the witness table. By all means, we will look at improving our presentation in the future and also with the members' input.

Then again Mr. Chairman, when this was presented to committee of the whole not knowing what kind of questions would come forward we knew that there might be questions on information that was not asked to be here, which will lead to some information we will have to give back to the members. I think in fairness, Mr. Chairman that would be said in record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister for those comments. I agree with the Minister, it is the first time for him, and it is the first time for us. I am not sure of what template to use. I am sure there are probably templates across Canada that he could have looked at to help him with the presentation. I am very hopeful that the next time you do present that it will be more detailed.

I have been getting questions, people are emailing me and phoning and even stopping me in the street here telling me that they see this on television. People across Nunavut are really quite interested in the leasing aspect of the government. I don't think a lot of people pay attention to leases. When they learn that we have 59 to 60 leases and that there is \$82 million value for the leases, I guess that is a number that really grabs people's attention and generates a lot of interest.

I know the people across Nunavut are very interested. They would like to have more details, they support the Government of Nunavut and all Members of the Legislative Assembly to promote openness, transparency and accountability. I think that's what we should strive for.

This process that we are in right now is a good step in the right direction and I applaud the Minister and his officials for their initial foray into this area. I know it hasn't been easy. I am sure that the next time we meet, I am not sure it will be easier, but you will be better prepared, as will we. We have a lot to learn about leases and I think leasing property in the future for the Government of Nunavut is going to be very critical to our ongoing success as a public service.

We can't just sign leases and not get good value for them and our money is short. We can't sign leases that are long-term and not a good economic value for us. We are taking money from other areas of our government that could be useful to deliver programs and services to the people that we have to serve.

I think this process is very good and I am looking forward to the next time around when we have even more detailed report on those leases. I am sure that the various Standing Committees are going to take a very serious look at leases after this process is complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess last week to close my comments on this learning process, I will also add that the next time that we appear in front of the Committee of the Whole, we'll try and better outline, define, translate and interpret the sensitive natures of leases. This will be specific to areas or information that may be confidential or sensitive and we'll try to have some better outline for the House in our next appearance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to turn Arviat's Specific and Western Public Sector Finance. It had a contract for five years and it seems like it's the first time I've seen it. What is that? It seems like there is a deficit in here and I am not sure what company or what sector this is. Could you clarify that part, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is not for a house, it is for a service that is provided for the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is quite a number. I think that there are about 10 or 12 and they are going to be terminated in 2004-2005. And then there are some contracts that are going to be ending in 2005-2006.

I know that there are many businesses in Nunavut that would be more than willing to get their properties leased by the government through the request for proposal process and since it wasn't a public tender process and they were awarded to particular companies, I'm sure that there are other companies out there who would like to bid on these.

We keep hearing of government just renewing leases without informing the public, this only serves the investors for these leases and when the public hears of this they are not very pleased with the government about leases that were just renewed without going out to the public tender. With leases that are ending you should just go out to the public and not just renew contracts. There are people out there who would like to try and there are quite a lot of business people out there.

These groups tend to think that the tender or RFP will be put out and they'll apply like everyone else but they tend to be of the opinion that they'll get the contracts because they automatically have the best options. So, for those leases that ended in 2004, I think they've just been extended or renewed without ever going out to the public. How does it work, the public out there is waiting for business opportunities.

I would like to ask the Minister exactly how the process works in these matters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an agreement initially and then over and above that it says that when the lease is ended they should be able to be extended for another year or two.

There are clauses that have been used at the end of an agreement. With some companies, when the end comes, it is terminated and put out into the public. To date, we're starting to get a better picture of what the Legislative Assembly would like to do and what we're hearing is that they should be putting those tenders out to the public instead of renewing them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do believe that there are renewals or extensions.

There are many problems on extensions or renewals taking place without ever going out to public tender and renewals are for one company only. It seems like there is no process

that is used. When a lease is ended, that is that, it is ended, it should become available to the public.

I believe that there is a government policy that says so. It may very well be awarded back to the same company but it would be more public and it would go smoother if it was put out to the public. There are companies out there that would like to be involved and when a lease is renewed or extended, they become very unhappy and as a Regular Member, it becomes a difficult when people turn on you and blame you for these extensions or renewals.

My question is, are you going to be opening every single one of them out to the public at the end of a lease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Anyone of the members, if you are aware of renewals that have not gone out to the public, I would like to be informed so that I could have answers prepared for these types of questions.

If you can tell me which one of these has gone through that process, please tell me. And as I stated, I would like to restate briefly that these lease agreements, and before these leases end in five to seven years, usually what happens is that they have to be included into the budget or if the lease agreement is going to be good or if there's going to be an extension.

Mr. Chairman, those are my comments. I apologize. And it became clear, especially for one particular issue where we were not properly prepared. We would like to be prepared in every case, and if you have a concern or if you need clarification, my department is open anytime if you want any assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe what you are saying, but it seems like we can't get assurance from the government that this is not going to be practiced anymore.

If there's another renewal or extension without going with it to the public, I know that I will have to work with your department. It's not very good for the businesses out there to sign a lease again or to extend it. I'm sure you know Minister, that this hurts many people, especially when there is a lot of money involved. I would like you to be more aware of this when these leases and contract come up for renewal.

I would like to see more of these open to the public. This is not a question. I will just leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know my colleague from Cambridge Bay was asking questions on the format and what types of information was on here earlier, and after receiving the requested information on the expiry dates, just once that information was put in there, it seemed like the column is all evened up better.

It looks like that information was there already on a copy that the department had, and I don't know if that's the case or not, but if it was, is there any other information that's on the copy that we don't have versus the copy that we have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand my colleague's question correctly, no; the copy that I presented to the Members was a copy I had, I believe the first day we appeared here and then we had them photocopied for distribution to the Members in this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good to know. I hope, as my colleague pointed, we could see some other more useful information on there as well like what the facilities are being looked at.

Last week there was some indication that it is normal practice of the government when they're looking at any major leases, that it's a five to seven year lead time when they're looking at different options. It was mentioned earlier that there is one, two here, three, four, three leases that are in over hold. I'm just wondering what the process was on those ones that were indicated.

I believe it is the one that is, note three, is four and the two that Mr. Peterson asked about in Rankin Inlet that expired last year as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The leases in over hold, the one here, extension number 8, this is a dental clinic in Baker Lake. We have kept that in over hold. We haven't actually been able to get in touch with the landlord. It's been recently purchased so we're trying to get that straightened out.

The other one that I could not answer before, which I believe I have now, is the lease in Rankin Inlet which was listed as 2004. That was actually the last. The final option of renewal was taken on that. So that expires in 2009. And the answer would be the same for the Hamlet of Whale Cove, the answer that I had given before which was that it was in over hold at this time.

Yes, we could make proper notes to every one of those if the situation warranted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Were other options not looked at, at say the one in Rankin Inlet that has just been renewed again? They're worth about \$250 thousand.

Which building is that. Is it an office building. What is that being used for. I am just trying to get my mind around which building it is. If you could give me an idea, so I could follow up with questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Mr. Clark to explain that for my colleague. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Clark.

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the Ilagittuq Centre Building in Rankin Inlet.

That houses the Human Resource regional office and is also the Petroleum Product Division Headquarters. In this case, this expired in 2004. This sheet perhaps is not updated as it should be but there was a final renewal clause in the lease term. That option was taken in 2004 to extend that lease to 2009. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What, if any analysis, was done in looking at that property prior to signing on the last renewal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Sorry, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Okay, thank you, Minister. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of that predates me, but as I understand it, there were several things taken into consideration. One is that there was currently a reasonably favourable rental rate or lease rate on the property.

Secondly, the tenant was pleased with the space that they were in. Thirdly there were no construction plans within that area that would fit that so, at that particular point in time it made a lot of sense simply to renew it for that period of time.

There is no exact science to making a renewal option. There is a whole number of factors that need to be determined. As I said, if the lease is favourable, is a reasonable lease, and is a reasonable lease in the community, which in that case, it was.

If the client is satisfied and if we have good renewal terms for the lease, then it often makes sense to renew that lease because of a disruption that causes to, in this case, the departments, to move them out of a suitable facility lease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if what you are saying if everything looks favourable, then as long as everyone's happy, no else has a chance, like Mr. Alagalak had pointed out earlier, that he would like to see some of these things go out to public tender, even if it is an RFP, when its expiring, and there is no RFP put out, how do you know if you are going to get a more competitive renewal rate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two issues there. One issue is whether or not, in fact, there is space available, or likely suitable space available and we quite regularly look at communities to see what space is available so we know. The second is we also track what renewal is going for in other facilities, if there had been rentals, and we also look at the cost of living increases.

You certainly could argue that you could automatically re-tender a lease every time. There is a two-fold risk to doing that. One risk is that over time rates inevitably go up. In many of our leases we have some favourable renewal options which have insulated us at lower rates and the cost of living increases.

The other thing that I mentioned the disruption that you have to factor in that it costs, because of the moving expenses, or the remodeling expenses that may be. So all of those factors have to be taken into consideration. It is not unusual at all in a leased portfolio, for office leases that those go on for a reasonably long period of time, as long as the original lease is a reasonably good lease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After a certain length of those, like fifteen years for that lease and now it is going to be a twenty four year lease, after this last renewal. This is twenty four years of locking up the market place for such infrastructure. You talk about wanting need to develop more infrastructures in the community and people know that a year or two ahead of time, with this process that you guys have outlined over the last week, you know far enough ahead of time whether you want to look at something or not. Even as a preliminary thing it might be five years prior to a lease coming due, just during an RFP out there to see what you get. You may get the same thing. You may not choose anything. You may choose to renew.

At least one year you are not crippling opportunity for other entrepreneurs, or people in the community to have a crack of providing or developing some infrastructure for the government.

I just know as my former colleague from Baker Lake would say, it is no secret that there is a desperate need of infrastructure throughout the territory. If someone builds something and there is something else existing already there, I am sure that it probably wouldn't be too hard for them to try and find another alternative use for it.

I am just wondering if that would be something that you can look at considering doing, instead of for twenty four years in this particular case, monopolizing the market with one who will handle it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The leases that this government has entered into or as you know, a lot of them have been open for a long time, and we have looked at different factors that we feel really should be considered.

Just to highlight a couple, Mr. Chairman, we are also looking at shorter-term leases and also to allow more competitive prices in the community levels, we are looking to do as many of these as we possibly can for those leases expired or there may be more than one facility in that community.

But again, in communities that don't have the infrastructure, as my colleague indicated, a lot of our communities do lack the infrastructure and it will be hard to get away from leases where no other facilities may exist for space needed.

So we are looking at a number of things to improve and also to listen to the concerns that have been expressed to us on these leases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I would like to remind Members to make sure that you look around before you leave, if you are planning to leave because I know that you have a lot of work to do as well; we have a lot to finish here. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In light of the comment that I made last week on the work done ahead of time and looking at different options on contracts, I am going to go through in no particular order, I guess, on this, but there's one, see if they were numbered, too, it would be really good and we could both say we are looking at number 27.

Anyways, on the second handout that we got with the expiry dates, there's one there for Sand Leasing, I think it's the third one with the 2008 expiry date; the five-year lease, \$151 thousand roughly in Rankin Inlet. I am just wondering what that one is for.

And also, you mentioned earlier, like all of these other ones, that there are a few 20-year leases with the renewal options' clauses in there. Does that one also have renewal clauses and what, if any, work has been done to look at different options, whether they are going to go with renewing or not or whatever in that particular case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The lease, for Sand Leasing, that's for the Rockland building in Rankin Inlet, which houses the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. That lease goes until January 31, 2005.

So as far as I am aware, there are no renewal clauses on that but again I would have to check that and get back to the Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to the Minister providing us with that information. I'm going to go down the line there.

The next one is again this year, 2005. It's expiring this year. It was a five year lease and I'm wondering which building that is and if the decision has been made on what to do with that one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That office was with Health and Social Services. That is in over hold until June and that lease will be terminated at that time.

Over hold is basically a month to month, as you pay the rent term. Once the health facility is ready and the staff can move out of that building, that lease will be terminated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going down the line. I'm starting off in Rankin Inlet because I was on that page and I'm familiar with what the buildings are there and I'm going to get up to the other ones as we go along. I'm not picking on anyone individually.

The next one on there expires next year or in 2007. I'm just wondering which building that is and what the plans are with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just trying to get a hold of the information here.

Yes, that is the Sharp building in Rankin Inlet. That's used by the Department of Justice and yes, the expiry date is in 2007. We will be looking at what we're planning to do with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, nothing has been started on that one. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nothing has been done with that at this point. I'm not sure how much space that is. As you can tell by the price, it's probably not a lot of space.

So, we will be looking at perhaps keeping that or putting out a Request for Proposal for that or possibly moving the staff from there to somewhere else. We're still currently looking at that one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll go down two or three more at another Sand Leasing one, five year, 2005, \$102 thousand 500 a year.

I'm just wondering which building that is and if it's expiring this year or if you could tell us what the status is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That Sand Leasing is the Siniktarvik Building in Rankin Inlet, currently with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

We have an request for proposal going out as soon as I can finish it but it will be the month May, so that will be this month to look for the public's input and whether or not there is other available space of the same size. I think this is expanding a bit, this division here, so that will be going out this spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that the building that is down by the power plant? I don't know if Mr. Clark is familiar with that area in Rankin Inlet or not. I am just wondering if that is it. I am pretty sure that that has been more than a five year contract. I used to work in that building when I worked for the Department of Economic

Development and Tourism in the Northwest Territories. So I am just wondering if that is that building or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Siniktarvik building as I understand it, I have not spent a lot of time in Rankin Inlet, but the Siniktarvik building is right in the middle of town. That is the hotel isn't it? Okay. They did.

I am mistaken about which building that is. Mr. Tootoo is more familiar with Rankin Inlet than I am, obviously. I just know it's the Siniktarvik building. I know that we have an RFP out for other office space there. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Clark. For the Members please use the Chairman to ask questions for the benefit of our interpreters. Thank you. Go ahead, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to you and the interpreters for that. For someone from Rankin Inlet I know that the Siniktarvik building and the Siniktarvik Hotel, they are not the same, but if someone is not familiar with it I can see how they get confused.

I am pretty sure that that building is the old Economic Development and Tourism building because I worked upstairs in that building when I worked there about ten years ago.

I am just wondering why someone told us that it is only a five year lease and the government has been in that building forever. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe that it's a five year lease, I just believe that it indicates that it's a five year term of the lease. It has been there that long, I am sure that is probably one of the final terms of the renewal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Clark. Your time is up, Mr. Tootoo, and I don't have anybody else on the list. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to go to page one. I know that there are a number of leases that are expiring in 2005. This is the same process. We have identified a building and ask to get an update from the Minister, or Mr. Clark, as to where the government is with respect to leasing.

In Iqaluit the Midnight Sun Management, it is a two year lease, expiring in 2005. Could the Minister or Mr. Rich, or Mr. Clark identify the building and what the current status is of the lease? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I am on the right one, it is the warehouse space for the EMO, which is ending November 20, 2005. Is that the right one? Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if the Minister is asking me a question but Midnight Sun Management, three years, 2005, \$24 thousand. It's here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll refer that to Mr. Clark.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Clark.

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this lease expires on November 30, 2005. We're evaluating whether EMO needs this space. That's what it was for. It is the small part of a warehouse area out on the road to the federal building on the left hand side of the road there. I can't remember the number off hand but it's just a storage area for the emergency measures organization.

This lease was taken out three years ago when we were a different department. We're evaluating whether that is still required or not and that is where it sits today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Clark. Continuing down the page to the next one. It expires this year. It's in Iqaluit. It's Nunasi Corporation. It's a five year lease expiring this year in the amount of \$466,897 dollars annually. Can we get an idea of what that building is for and what the status of the lease of is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That building is the court house building here in Iqaluit which houses court services and so on.

The lease expires at the end of this year. I don't believe there is a renewal term on that but the plans are that the new court house will take the staff that are in that building and the lease will be terminated, depending. We'll be looking at that. We are looking at that but the plans are to move the staff from there to the new court house building in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Clark. Further down the page in Iqaluit, Coman Arctic Limited, it's a five year lease expiring 2005 for \$121,842.

Could Mr. Clark or the Minister tell us what that building is used for and what the current status of the lease is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This building is the public health building which has been with us for a number of years.

In actual fact, since this document was printed and we had our first from this lease, we had one final five year option on it which has been taken and that expires now in 2009. That building looks after the needs of Health and Social Services and a number of their programs that they operate from there. That is what is in that building. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Clark. This is good information that you guys are giving us. That's the kind of information that we would like in our next report. Further down the page, Kugluktuk, Mulco Limited. It's a two year lease, and it expires in 2005, \$26,000 annually. Could you give us an update on that lease and what that building is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That building is actually just an office building in Kugluktuk, that is actually owned by a company now called HTR Transport. Again, this was taken at the request of the Department of Justice.

There is a shortage of office space in Kugluktuk. We will be looking into whether the Department of Justice needs more space or we will continue with this. We will be looking at that over the period of the rest of this until that term is up on the that lease, it is a very small office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was the end of my line of questioning on leases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my colleague and I kept going. One thing that Mr. Clark had indicated that that one lease, and I further remember that the Siniktarvik building, I helped build that building when I was 15 years old.

So I have checked the structural work on that one, I know there were guys that were doing some of the hammering there. I remember breaking one of those bubble windows on there, I think I was 16 or 15 at the time. That building has been around for quite a while.

I wondered if you had indicated that there was our last five-year option or a five-year option on that, why would that who just as a five-year lease and yet some of these other ones were showing like a 15-year lease with the carryovers and renewals and stuff like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it all boils down to this being our first presentation of this. I think we are finding out from the questions being asked what exactly we should have on this document.

There has been confusion when you ask how many years are left to go in the lease, how many years is that for. I think we will be a lot clearer in the future on the way we present this so you can see I think all of the issues that you have brought up here with regards to the cover sheet and the information on it would be much improved in the future. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Clark. I notice this is a learning curve for all of us, and I appreciate their efforts in providing the information.

Yes, I think that would be something worth looking at having on the format as well as length of lease, how many renewal options there are there on it, and how many have been taken already in that so I get a more accurate picture.

The other one, I think we almost met in the middle, my colleague was asking about leases on page 1, there's one there for, just above the MOCO one, It's a 20-year lease with Enokhok Development in Kugluktuk expiring in 2007. I am just wondering what building that is and what are, if any, work is being done to look at evaluating and assessing that one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are working at this one in Kugluktuk; That is the Enokhok Centre building in Kugluktuk.

The main situation from having looked at this one now is the ownership that's still under a legal review, so that's where that's sitting right now, the actual ownership of the building, the termination of the lease in accordance with the land lease; that's an issue that's before us right now.

I don't want to comment too much further on it until we have a solid decision on that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not a betting man, but we just went through that whole process with the other Enokhok Development Corporation lease in Cambridge Bay. My guess is those two leases are probably pretty much the same in the outcomes, maybe, but I am just guessing if they are, so I don't know.

But regardless of wherever the outcome of whatever is on there, we are looking at a lease that's expiring in a year-and-a-half lets say, and we are talking about lease time for RFP or our expression of interest to be put out prior to this so that if someone did come up with a different option for you, or if I know far enough in advance so that they can plan, and they can see if you can get more of a competitive edge, pencil sharpening on behalf of the developers and the landlords, if they know ahead of time. There is going to be another case where we are stuck with that lease again.

That they are looking at it in a year and a half so that in six months or a year, or however long it takes for this legal issue of ownership to get sorted out. By the time leases expired no one is going to have time to have anything ready, you won't even know if anyone is interested in having anything ready to replace that at a better rate or not.

I am just wondering if they are looking at putting out some type of expression of interest or an RFP, in this particular case, to see if there are other options that may be more favourable out there. Maybe not, but we won't know unless we ask. I am just wondering if they looked at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a somewhat unique situation, this is also a shared building with the Hamlet of Kugluktuk, they take about 22 percent of the building. We have been having for than a year now, two and three party discussions. Discussions with ourselves and the community, and also with the landlord.

As Mr. Clark mentioned, there is a very interesting legal question about the ownership of the building. Obviously it is to our advantage if that is settled in our favour. As a result we have been primarily looking at that option because it is the desirable office building for the Government of Nunavut.

There is still, in fact, is time if the legal question is settled in a way that is not to our favour, there is still is time to do an RFP for other office space if that is what we wanted to do, because there is time on this one.

Certainly both of those options are open, depending on what happens with the legal question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there is time in 2007, like in a year and a half, one sealift probably before a developer would want to know to have stuff on the boat, in that case on the barge to get that and also the time it takes if there is a proposal put together that is of interest to the government to go back to that individual, who is probably going to have to, in most cases, have to secure financing everything like that.

I don't know if that is a whole heck of a lot of time, or if that is an adequate amount of time to let the market to be able to respond to a potential needs like that, without like I figure I was informed by someone from Rankin Inlet on an RFP that was put out for the Liquor Warehouse, targeted specifically for the facility that its in. Some one from Rankin Inlet told me that they never had a chance to do anything on it because they said that we need something that is there already.

How do we find a way to do it in a timely enough fashion to be able to allow what is real or perceived this notion of targeted towards somebody that is already there and other people won't have a chance, whether it is real or perceived.

How to we try to find a way to get out of that so that people don't look at it in that way throughout the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For a more timely process and a more transparent process, we have to look at training our staff in our regional offices and also at headquarters and to make sure that the programs that we use for the planning process is also transparent region to region and also within the headquarters.

There are a number of things that we can do to improve the process and also I think an emphasis needs to be placed on more training for all parties involved whether they be at the regional headquarters or the headquarters office and that all our software programs are also the same where applicable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think my colleague asked about this particular one before and I think it's here in Iqaluit. It's on page one of the second one with the dates with the expiry dates, six from the bottom.

I believe that Mr. Clark had indicated that it was the public health building. Public health has been there, it is showing as a five year lease, expiring in 2005. Is that correct that it's the public health building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is the public health centre. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, it's showing as a five year lease, expiring in 2005. Again, I know I have been here for more than five years and public health has always been in there.

I just wanted to double check, when we look at having some consistency in the presentation of numbers. That's obviously longer than a five year lease. It might have been a renewal term or something like that on there, but for future reports it would really make things a lot easier for all of us to have the information spelled out like that just to avoid confusion by anybody.

I just wanted to check that fact on that on, if that is what is was. There was another indication of that, I look forward to that being addressed in the next report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, and like the other factors that were mentioned to us today and a couple of days before this, we will try and make improvements to our layout and presentation for the committee's review when we appear next. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get a further clarification.

Under the lease and looking at about five years ago when Nunavut came into creation in 1999, some of the leases with ten years, the time is almost approaching in the leases for 20 years. Sometimes, with certain leases, there's a few ending in 2017, who originally signed those leases, was it the Government of the NWT, it seems like we've inherited a number of them.

I'm not too sure on these leases. When the leases were under the Northwest Territories 14 years ago and with an expiry of 2006, for example. Would the Minister be able to briefly explain and clarify the history of these leases? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak . Your name went to the top of the list because you were out too long. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of these leases were signed during the Northwest Territories day and we inherited them when we became Nunavut. When we started operating these properties as the Government of Nunavut, there are also some regional offices that are holding some of these leased properties. Just recently, through our department, we put these under one.

It seemed like some of the information was not complete and we had a problem with one because they were held by another government before. As we went along we started finding out more information and we are going to be getting out truer information some time soon. We will be able to respond to your questions with a quicker turnaround once we get all the information on the properties that were signed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand. If I use this as an example, and I am not focusing on any particular lease, for example, in Arviat there are quite a number of private properties and they are not just two companies over there.

It seems like there is going to be the end of some of these leases when we are just a new government. Apparently those leases were signed by the Government of the Northwest Territories and we inherited them. There were some in other communities. It seems that they average about the same number of years. Some are going to be expiring and some are for a number of more years.

What I am trying to say is that when these leases come to an end, and when you don't have the information in front of you, at times when there is not enough room for negotiations or if there is not enough time before the end of a lease then the lease is extended or renewed.

If we look at public housing it seems that we can't do any renovations but it is possible that there might be new companies that will be building houses or office buildings that can get the government to lease their buildings. The employees can either use staff housing or public housing. For non-government employee they cannot rent a government staff house. The only houses they can rent is public housing. Government of Nunavut staff have a lot more room or a lot more options in getting housing. Could you elaborate on this further? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify your question, are you talking about public housing or government housing or are we talking about office leases. I apologize, I didn't understand your question.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Please rephrase your question Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Yes, well I guess I was talking about too many things at the same time.

If I talk about public housing, government employees have the option of either staying in Government of Nunavut staff houses or in public housing, but non-government employees cannot rent government staff housing and the only housing available to them is public housing.

Why is that? If I was working for the government, I have the option of renting a public housing unit or renting a Government of Nunavut staff house. I would just pay the local housing authority if I stayed in public housing, but I also have the option of going into Government of Nunavut staff housing.

If I was a Government of Nunavut employee, I would have these two options. It seems like there is a problem here. Is there a policy that states for example, that if you're a Government of Nunavut employee that you cannot rent a public house. I'm just using that as an example to clarify my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was kind of anticipating that you were asking questions on the issue of housing but we're currently working on the leased properties.

There are 59 of them and we're focusing on the Government of Nunavut office leases. That's for the information of the Member, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the questions, either public accessing public housing or Government of Nunavut staff housing, we're not working on that.

I could have a personal meeting with the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to this issue, there are some here. You're just focusing on the rental of office spaces. There are two in Arviat.

There is a 20 year lease and a 15 year lease. Those are both office buildings. There is nothing about staff houses for example. We haven't included this in this listing, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we have in front of us are office spaces in the various communities, or facilities that are housing government services. We don't have any information on Government of Nunavut staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course there is also staff housing that is leased by the government. Are we going to be seeing a listing of those? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize again, Mr. Chairman.

I'm not sure whether he wants that listing from Community and Government Services or some other department. Could the Member please elaborate. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well it has to be a separate listing if we're going to be talking about Government of Nunavut staff housing. I'm not pushing you as the Minister but I'm sure that you'll be able to have an answer for that one soon.

If we're going to be talking about leased properties there has to be another listing about Government of Nunavut staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be able to give the information to my colleague from my other portfolio. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no other questions on this issue. I would like to report progress at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Alagalak I would like to ask you on why you are reporting progress.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): The reason why I said that is because we still have tomorrow.

Chairman: Okay. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favor of the motion. Those opposed. The motion is carried and I will now rise to report progress. Thank you, Minister Kilabuk and your staff.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please be seated. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Evygotailak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Evygotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 18; Bill 19; Tabled Document 100-2(2), and would like to report progress that Bill 19 is immediately ready for Third Reading, and that Bill 18 is immediately ready for Third Reading as amended. I move that the report of the committee of the whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Who is the seconder? Mr. Netser. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Abstained. The motion is carried.

Orders of the Day. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Okalik.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 18 – Powers of Attorney Act – Third Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Qamaniktuq that Bill 18, as amended, the Powers of Attorney Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstained. The motion is carried. Bill 18 has had its third reading. Third Reading of Bills.

Item 22. Orders of the day. Ms. Deputy Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Deputy Clerk (Ms. Tupik): Meeting announcements for tomorrow. At 9 o'clock Standing Committee Ajauqtiit in the Nanuq Room. Standing Committee Government Operations and Accountability at 10:30 in the Tuktu Room.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, May 3rd:

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. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of documents
14. Notice of Motions
15. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 100-2(2)
 - Tabled Document 101-2(2)
 - Tabled Document 102-2(2)
 - Bill 16
 - Bill 17
20. Report to Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 19
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, May 3, 2005, at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sergeant-at-arms

>>*Session adjourned at 18:05*

